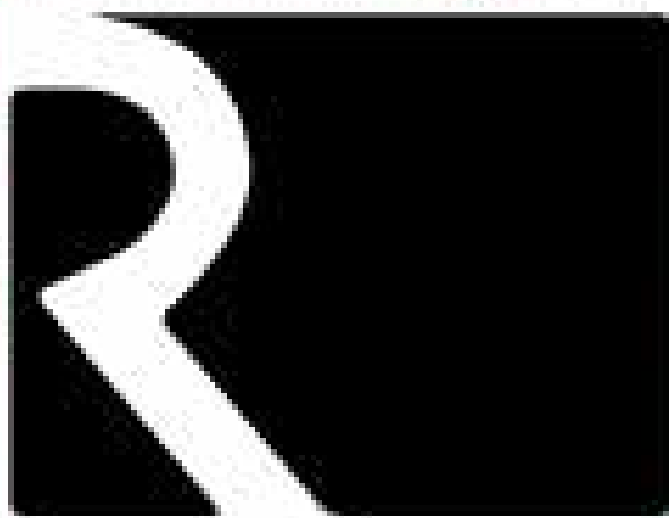
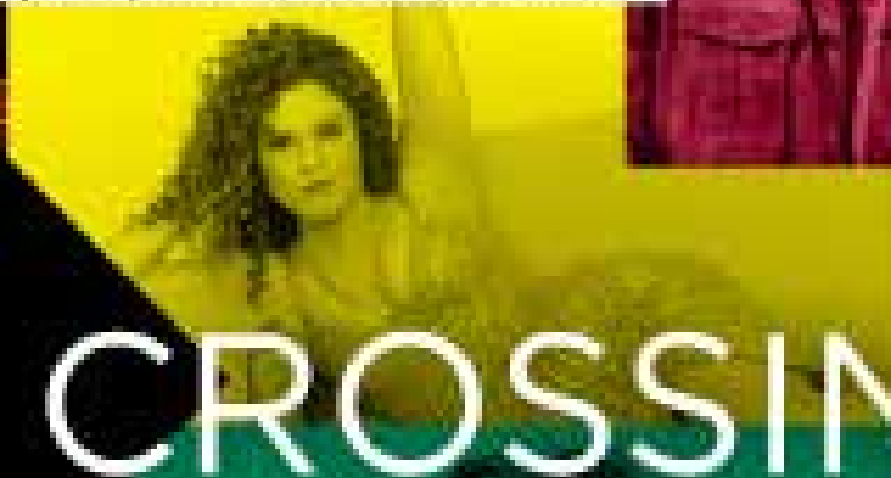


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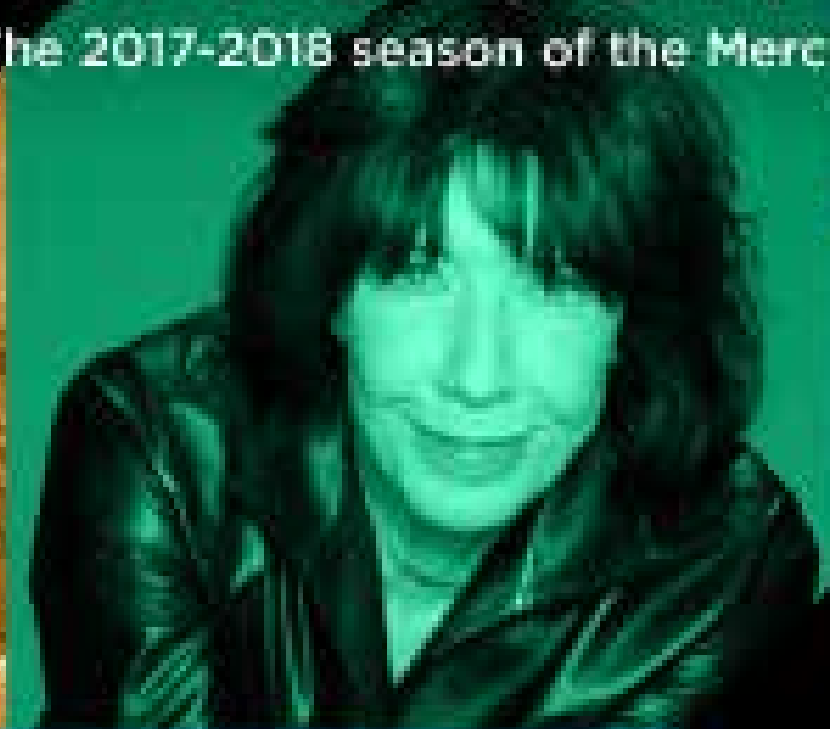
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July 5 - July 18 / Vol. 7, No. 140 erieireader.com



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From the Editors

In with a bang

Like fireworks popping overhead, summer is coming in with a bang!

The smoke will eventually settle. The childlike wonderment might fade from your eyes a bit, but you still know that there's something special in the air. Summer is our time to get things done, and ideally, those things are pretty damn fun.

With 8 Great Tuesdays, the Sunset Music Series, Mid Day Art Breaks, and Block Parties underway, there are plenty of chances to hear some live music in the breezy open air. Whether you're settling down in your folding chair or dancing it up right by the band, it's easy to fill your schedule these days.

The Fourth of July's display of explosive bursts won't be the only time you hear noisy combustion this month. One of Erie's most polarizing events is revving its engine at our doors, as Roar on the Shore begins on July 12. The well-heralded motorcycle rally is now entering its 11th year. Some locals can't stand it. They consider it noise pollution (not to mention the more traditional air pollution) at best. Some regional riders see it differently, as a chance to show off their ride and join in on the party. Then still, there are the visitors, making their annual pilgrimage to the Gem City and loving every minute of it. No matter what your take is, it's pretty difficult to ignore when you're in downtown Erie.

Meanwhile, another event has sprung up as a direct reaction to Roar on the Shore. After last year's complaints that local food vendors were being shut out in favor of out-of-town suppliers, the West Erie Plaza started up Gears & Grub. Now in its second year, the weekend event is finding its footing, with a packed parking lot of local performers and food trucks alike.

More events are gaining traction as well. For the third year in a row, the King's Rook Club is hosting "Purple Jam," a unique event where some of our area's best musicians get thrown into the mix together and wind up playing a brand new set of original music. For fans of the harder stuff, the 814 Fest is celebrating its sixth year in action. Metal fans won't want to miss the weekend filled with 20 bands livening up the Wattsburg Erie County Fairgrounds.

Finally, it's also never too early to look ahead, as the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture (MIAC) just released the details of their impressive upcoming 2017-2018 season. We take a closer look at the lineup, which features a handful of well-known names along with some less familiar faces boasting incredible talents. As we've come to expect from MIAC, it's another world-class parade of the arts, all right here in our own backyard. So, as summer truly begins, rest easy knowing that there are plenty of good things in store.

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Erie At Large

Lobbying for ECGRA



BRAD TRIANA

By Jim Wertz

July marks the official start of summer in Erie. The beaches are open, the lake water is warming, and we enter a sustained period of fun that is family friendly, culturally enriching, and (mostly) free.

Many of those events are made possible by funds from ECGRA, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Without ECGRA support, many of the events we enjoy each year would be less robust, would carry a cost for admission, or would simply cease to take place.

Consider that these events added value from the millions of dollars gambled at the Presque Isle Downs and Casino. The real benefit, one might argue, comes from the millions of dollars in funds awarded to the Erie School District and other county schools, colleges, and universities; or grant money awarded to community centers that program after school activities, summer programs, and life-skills training for at-risk youth. And we have yet to mention the significant funding of business and industry innovation that will carry this region into the 21st Century, even as some in our community would seem content to

mire in the vestiges of mediocrity.

Last year, ECGRA invested more than \$6 million in this community, exceeding its revenues by nearly one million dollars thanks to a large reserve that was established to support multi-year projects and to insure security should there be a catastrophic change in gambling legislation, like the bill proposed in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives last month.

That bill included language that would dismantle agencies like ECGRA and place gaming revenues in the hands of local elected officials. Such a change is made more curious by the tacit support for it by the Erie delegation in House. While the Democrats voted against the bill because it allowed video gaming in bars – technology many believe will impede upon casino revenues – they still supported the provisions that do away with ECGRA, despite the fact that Rep. Scott Petri, a Bucks County Republican who chairs the House Gaming Oversight Committee, lauded ECGRA as a model for the entire state at a hearing last March.

Our local officials point to a lack of organizational transparency and the fact that ECGRA spent gaming funds to hire a lobbyist (to protect gaming

funds) as primary reasons for their support of turning ECGRA's \$5.5 million share of gaming revenue over to Erie County government.

Neither charge has merit. ECGRA's website includes an archive of meeting minutes that are comprised of verbatim transcripts of requests for funds, detailed inquiry and analysis by the ECGRA board, as well as rationale for what was, and was not, funded. It is more than the expanded generalizations of agenda items typically found in governmental minutes. Check out the January 2017 minutes to see the thorough vetting of a request made by Rep. Flo Fabrizio and affiliated parties for funds to build a new ice rink at Family First Sports Park, which has, to date, gone unfunded because the requestors failed to show how the market would support another ice rink.

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And while lobbyists and lobbying have become pejorative terms during the past two decades, ECGRA needed a lobby to help secure the gaming revenues upon which our community has come to rely, in part, because it could not rely upon our legislative delegation to do so alone.

But then again, maybe the real objection resides in the fact that legislators don't like this lobby because it allows the rest of us to see how government really works in Harrisburg.

Jim Wertz can be reached at jWertz@ErieReader.com or you can follow him on Twitter @jim_wertz.

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News of the Weird

Rented friends and ketamine carrier pigeons

By: Chuck Shepherd

Update

Three weeks ago, News of the Weird touted the "genderless," extraterrestrial-appearing Hollywood makeup artist known as Vinny Ohh, but then Marcela Iglesias announced (following a leaked TV clip) that she had formed an agency for would-be celebrities who had radically transformed their bodies (and that Vinny is now a client). Iglesias' Plastics of Hollywood has human "Ken" dolls (Rodrigo Alves and Justin Jedlica), the Argentine "elf" Luis Padron, a Jessica Rabbit look-alike (Pixee Fox), and seven others who, Iglesias figures, have collectively spent almost \$3 million on surgery and procedures (some of which are ongoing). (Padron, 25, seems the most ambitious, having endured, among other procedures, painful, "medically unapproved" treatments to change his eye color.) [Daily Mail (London), 5-26-2017; 5-3-2017]

Recurring Themes

Richard Patterson, 65, is the most recent defendant to choose, as a trial strategy, to show the jury his penis. A Broward County, Florida, court was trying him in the choking death of his girlfriend. (Patterson called the death accidental, as it occurred during oral sex, and there was conflicting medical opinion on whether that could have proved fatal.) Patterson's lawyer said his standby position was to show a mold of the penis, but insisted that a

live demonstration would be more effective. (Update: The judge disallowed the showing, but in May the jury found Patterson not guilty anyway.) [South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 5-30-2017]

In rare cases, a mother has given birth for the principal purpose of "harvesting" a baby's cells, ultimately to benefit another family member with a condition or illness that the cells would aid. However, Keri Young of Oklahoma gave birth in April for a different purpose. After learning while pregnant that her baby would not long survive after birth (because of anencephaly), she nonetheless carried it to term just to harvest organs for unspecified people who might need them (though the grieving Keri and husband Royce admit that some might judge their motive harshly). [Houston Chronicle, 4-19-2017]

In some parts of traditional Japanese society, it remains not uncommon for someone to feel the need to "rent" "friends." For example, relatives at a funeral bear grief better if they realize the many "friends" the deceased had. Or, a working man or woman may rent a sweetheart just to help deflect parental pressure to marry. In northern China, in April, a man was arrested for renting "family" and "friends" to populate his side of the aisle at his wedding. Apparently, there were conflicts plaguing each family, and police were investigating, but the groom surely worsened the plan by not coaching the actors on his personal details, thus making interfamily small-talk especially awkward. [BBC News, 5-1-2017]

Our Litigious Society: (1) David Waugaman, 57, fell off a barstool last year and needed surgery, and of course he is suing the tavern at Ziggy's Hotel in Youngwood, Pennsylvania, for continuing to serve him before he fell. Wrote Waugaman, "You're not supposed to feed people so much booze." (2) Robert Bratton filed a lawsuit recently in Columbia, Missouri, against the Hershey chocolate company because there was too much empty space in his grocery-store box of Reese's Pieces, which he thought was "deceptive" (even though the correct number of Pieces was printed on the label). In May, federal judge Nanette Laughrey ruled that Bratton's case could continue for the jury to decide. [PennLive, 5-15-2017] [KCUR Radio (Kansas City), 5-17-2017]

Latest From Offended Classes: (1) Some minority students' organizations, commenting on the planned extensive renovation of the University of Michigan's student union building, recommended ditching the current interior's elegant wood paneling because it gives off an "imposing, masculine" feeling that makes them seem "marginalized." A spokesperson for the students, attempting to soothe the controversy, said the marginalization was more based on the building's "quiet nature." (2) In Australia, Chanel's just-introduced luxury wood-and-resin boomerang (selling for the equivalent of about \$1,415) came under fire from aboriginal groups for "cultural appropriation." (Hermes had issued its own luxury boomerang in 2013.)

[The College Fix, 5-15-2017] [Sydney Morning Herald, 5-15-2017]

For not the first time in News of the Weird's experience, a man shot himself but had the bullet pass through him and hit a bystander (except this time it was fatal to the bystander). Victor Sibson, 21, was charged in Anchorage, Alaska, in May with killing his girlfriend even though he had aimed at his own head. Investigators were persuaded that it was a genuine attempt, though he survived, but in critical condition. [KTUU-TV (Anchorage), 5-22-2017]

More Animals With Affordable Health Care: In April, the annual report of the Association of British Insurers on its members' policies for pet owners noted that among the claims paid were those for a bearded dragon with an abscess, an anorexic Burmese python, a cocker spaniel that swallowed a turkey baster, a cockatoo with respiratory problems, and even a "lethargic" house cat (which nonetheless cost the equivalent of \$470 to treat). [BBC News, 4-17-2017]

Legal "Experts" Everywhere! American "sovereigns" litter courtrooms with their self-indulgent misreadings of history and the Constitution (misreadings that, coincidentally, happen to favor them with free passes on arrests and tax-paying), but now, the U.K.'s Exeter Crown Court has experienced Mark Angell, 41, who said in May that he simply could not step into the courtroom dock to state a plea concerning possession of cannabis be-

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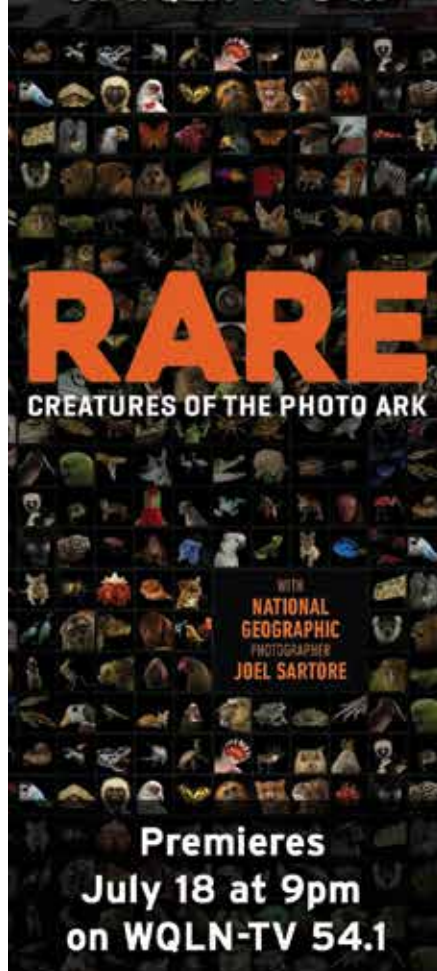
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NEWS & VIEWS

cause he would thus be "submitting" to "maritime law," which he could not legally do on dry land. Judge: "Don't talk nonsense. Get in the dock." Angell was ordered to trial. Before leaving, he gave the judge a bill for his detention: the equivalent of \$2.5 million. [Devon-Live (Exeter), 5-19-2017]

More Third-World Religion: In March, Zimbabwean pastor Paul Sanyangore of Victory World International Ministries was captured on video during a sermon telephoning God. Clutching a phone to his ear, he yelled, "Hello, is this heaven? I have a woman here, what do you have to say about her?" (Her two children, one epileptic, the other asthmatic, are then confusingly described by "heaven" as being "changed," and Paul ended the call to resounding cheers from the congregation.) [AfricaNews (Lyon, France), 5-23-2017]

More of the World's Third-Oldest Crime (Smuggling): (1) In the latest awesome drug-mule haul of gold (into South Korea, where it fetches higher prices than in neighboring countries), 51 people were arrested in May for bringing in, over a two-year period, a cumulative two tons, worth \$99 million, by hiding it in body parts befitting their biological sex. (2) Customs officials in Abdali, Kuwait, ap-

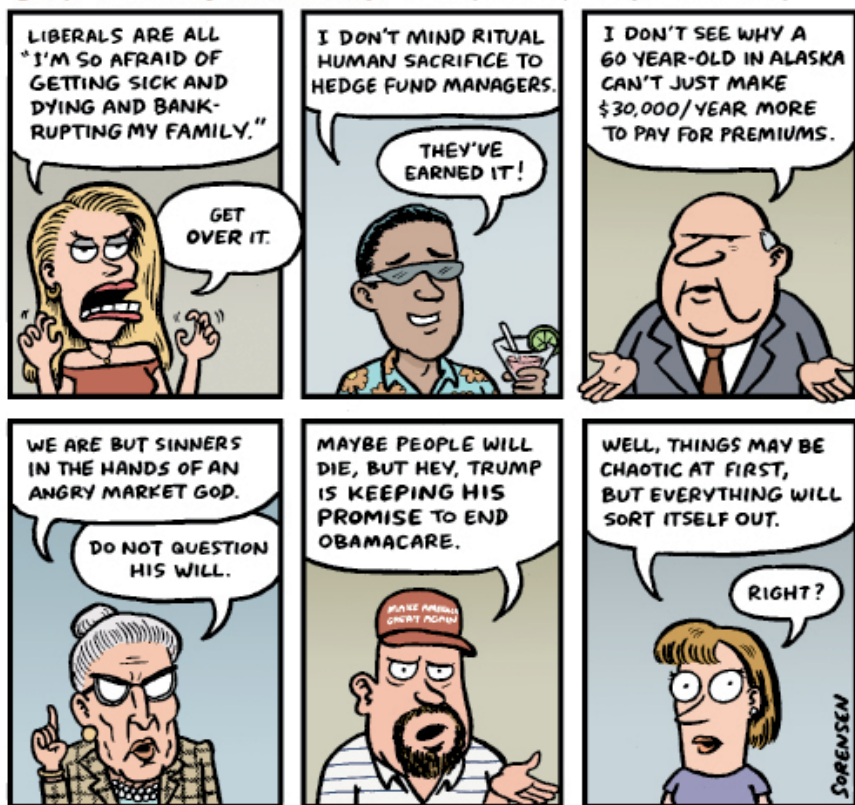
prehended a pigeon in May with 178 ketamine pills inside a fabric pocket attached to its back. [Daily Mail (London), 5-24-2017] [BBC News, 5-25-2017]

The Aristocrats!

Almost an Epidemic: Men suffering from compulsive public masturbation recently: (1) In the midst of evening rush hour in the New York-New Jersey Lincoln Tunnel, Ismael Esquilin, 48, stopped his minivan and engaged (May 11). (2) In downtown Portland, Oregon, Terry Andreassen was arrested engaging "vigorously" because he "hates Portland" (and was charged with "felony" public indecency (May 3)). (3) In Dunbar, West Virginia, Tristan Tucker, 27, allegedly broke into a relative's home and stole security camera recordings of him engaging (April 23). (4) Vix Bodziak, 70, allegedly engaged at a McDonald's in Springfield, Massachusetts (April 20). (Bonus: Police found a paper-stuffed tube sock bulging underneath his pant leg.) [New York, 5-12-2017] [KATU-TV (Portland), 5-12-2017] [WCHS-TV (Charleston), 5-16-2017] [The Republican (Springfield), 4-22-2017]

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Driving Rain and Driving Thoughts

A cross-town drive leads to a hopeful destination



Despite the occasional pothole, the road back home is often paved with welcoming familiarities.

know exactly where to stop outside Valerio's to let people out, while still making the green light myself.

I know Erie.

I've lived here my whole life. I grew up in Millcreek, where my friends and I (in our charmed eyes) ran our neighborhood. My years at Gannon gave me a profound respect for downtown, and my education was often enhanced by its urban setting. Now, I work in Harborcreek and live in the center of the city — two areas

MICK WARREN

By Meredith Wilcox

I was recently driving across Erie county — Harborcreek to almost-Fairview — in a relentless downpour. My husband and I planned on going to Virginia for the weekend, but the weather stopped our trip before it really began. So, I got back into our rental car — we always rent for trips since our family vehicle has never heard of good gas mileage — and headed across town.

Our attempt to take the highway was downright awful; our GPS was giving us grief (Virginia inexplicably wasn't on the map? At all?), and the rain was coming down in the sort of buckets that render windshield wipers useless. We turned around, headed home for reprieve from the rain, then realized we'd have to return the rental to the airport. I was anxious about driving in the rain, but we set off.

Almost immediately, I noticed I was calmer. The rain didn't let up, and traffic was picking up since it was now lunchtime rush hour, but my little hatchback was no longer a nest of anxiety.

It wasn't until I was about halfway through town that I realized why.

As I was navigating between potholes and puddles on West 32nd, singing along to Rocket 101's lunch hour, it hit me. I know these streets. I know when to head north of Peach to avoid the traffic lights, and I

that quickly became as comfortable to me as that subdivision I grew up exploring.

The county itself is familiar, it's home and it's comfortable. The variables are what keep it exciting. I'm proud of my fellow rose-tinted millennials; where so many people have been quick to write off this apparently stagnant city, we are embracing our unique situation and making it into something wholly new.

I love the way we embrace seasons so fully — it's amazing to remember that this saturated blue June sky will soon be impenetrable white, the clouds heavy with snow. I even love the potholes in a way, their gaping cracks a reminder of the change in temperatures we experience like no other city.

My drive across Erie this week was, truthfully, nothing more than an errand. And with the circumstances, it should have been aggravating, a frustrating waste of time. But, like the city I drove through, there was an undeniable charm to it. Finding that charm is what's kept me irrevocably in love with this city. I hope that's something we can all hang on to.

Meredith Wilcox is a freelance writer and photographer who happily lives in the city of Erie with her husband. Find her at meredithann109@gmail.com and at meredithwilcox.com

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Between Erie and Me

The struggle we share



FRED FIEDLER

By Derick Fiedler

Erie has the fourth highest percentage of its population diagnosed with depression in the country. More than 300 million people in the world suffer from depression, and I am no exception; I have dealt with mental illness since I was just a child at the age of 12. Nearly half of those diagnosed with depression also face anxiety disorders and panic attacks. That's where it started for me.

Throughout my childhood I was impacted by anxiety with the most intense, crippling panic attacks. I would describe panic attacks as having the physical symptoms of stomach flu, a heart attack, a hot flash, and breathing through a straw simultaneously, all while your brain thinks it's being chased by a grizzly bear ready to eat you — when in reality, you're nervous about going to a party. Panic attacks can become so severe that if the person

does not know what is going on, they might believe they are having a heart attack or stroke and end up in the hospital, only for the doctor to find nothing physically wrong with them. In high school, I struggled going out to eat, being in class, or traveling in the car for extended periods of time. In college, I was on the track team and we would travel 2-3 hours for meets. All the while, I clenched a bag full of things such as mints, Advil, Pep-to-Bismol, or a water bottle in my lap just in case I had an anxiety attack. But by college, that just became the norm. I loved college. I loved where I was at in college. I had great grades, teammates I could call family, and a girlfriend. By junior year, I had won conference championships in the heptathlon. There were high expectations for me to go to nationals my senior year and break the school record.

During the summer, going into senior year when I was 21 years old, I was blindsid-

ed by depression. It's a slow process. At first it sank into my skin, with things like hanging out with my friends suddenly seeming pointless. But then depression reached my bones; I couldn't get out of bed. I couldn't reach for a glass of water or feed myself. Hell, I couldn't even change my clothes. Finally the infection reached my heart, and every moral and passion I ever had was vacant. It's during this time when the unthinkable is possible. I couldn't get to track practice. I skipped my classes. Like so many others, I drank my pain away. I quit the track team. I thought I was going to have to drop out of college just two semesters away from graduating.

I was scared to lose my life. I remember sitting outside of class waiting to take an exam, deciding if I should

Depression can be an overwhelming force in a person's life (top). The path to a new state of mind (right) is difficult, but not impossible.

go to class or turn out the door and drive myself to the hospital. A piece of my brain was stolen from me. I was sure of it. With the incredible support of family and friends, I survived. I survived and was lucky enough to not be a part of the 800,000 people who take their own lives every single year. That's the population of Erie more than eight times over. I still graduated on time, but along the way lost my last year of track and the chances of going to nationals, something I can never get back.

Do I regret my depression and feel like the last few years were a waste of my life? Absolutely not. Those experiences, the darkest, loneliest times are what molded me into who I am today. Without my experience with mental illness, I don't think I'd have half the courage I do now. Mental illness has helped me realize how beautiful life is, and how to completely get lost in its simple joys. That

smell of a hot cup of coffee in the morning, laughing hysterically with friends, putting my phone down and having dinner with my parents, reading a book that made me feel something — if I had been comfortable, maybe I would have missed these things. If I would have had it easy, maybe I wouldn't have become so passionate about life. If anxiety didn't allow me to feel everything at once, maybe I wouldn't have as much empathy for others as I do now.

These illnesses are terribly misunderstood. As a culture we have blurred the line between someone's character and someone's disease. As a result we have created stigmas that are preventing people from getting the help they need for a potentially fatal yet highly curable illness.

Depression was named the largest disability worldwide by the world health organization. Yet still, those of us afflicted with depression feel the need to lie to our boss-



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es, our significant others, and our families. We do this because we're afraid they'll think we will never be able to contribute to society again. I lied to so many people. I made up so many excuses because I was embarrassed and ashamed.

What other disease in modern times has been turned into such a phantom because of ignorance? What can fly under the radar and cause so much damage without being properly diagnosed or recognized? If I could give someone who has never been through mental illness one piece of advice, it would be this: don't try to understand it. You don't need to. Don't avoid the conversation because you don't have something profound to say. The greatest thing you can do is just show up. The people who made the largest impact on me while I was struggling had absolutely no idea what

depression was. They just trusted me that it was real and took me seriously. The first step to saving people's lives from depression is making the topic of mental illness casual enough to talk about around the dinner table.

Personally, the largest myth for me to hurdle was that of antidepressants. Like a lot of people, I was extremely skeptical of medication. Eventually, I didn't care anymore. I had to weigh the pros and the cons. Could the medication be possibly more damaging to my body and life than what I was putting myself through without it? I couldn't imagine so. Or was taking medication going to be like putting on a set of glasses for the first time, seeing things with a clearer vision, only realizing how bad the quality was prior to that. I can honestly say that taking the medication was the first time since becoming depressed I felt like

myself again. I had no idea it was possible to become as mentally clear as I am now. Before, I was convinced that I was simply a pessimistic per-

What other disease in modern times has been turned into such a phantom because of ignorance? What can fly under the radar and cause so much damage without being properly diagnosed or recognized?

son with constantly jumbled, racing thoughts, and that's just who I was. I have my life back; I can start to work on relationships again and trust myself to make rational life

decisions again. But please do not misinterpret this as being a magic solution. From my experience, the best treatment has been a balance of therapy, medication, fitness, diet and meditation. Antidepressants still have a long way to go and not everyone reacts to them in same way. For now, it's a step in the right direction. I still have issues just like everyone else — but that's it, *like everyone else*. How relieving is it to be irritated about a bad day at work without feeling like your entire world is coming down forever? Irritated like a healthy person should be.

At the end of the day though, you can have the best medication, therapists, and support system in the world but if you don't want to help yourself, you will never get better. I had to fight to get better. I had to want it more than anything in life. I had to put aside relationships,

jobs, and everything else. My mental health had to come first. The perfect girlfriend or dream job wasn't going to fix me. I had to fix me. I had to trust myself that if I put my health first, the rest would come on its own — not the other way around.

There was a workout we had once a year in college track called the 200 challenge. The workout isn't over after a given time; it's over when you either stop making the minimum pace, or give up. I ran that workout. I was the last athlete left and not because I didn't make pace. I ran 19 laps until I literally hyperventilated and collapsed to the floor. The last thing I remember saying is "I can't see." My coach asked me how the hell I ran for so long. I said, "I've been here before."

Derick Fiedler can be contacted at djf4506@gmail.com

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Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture 2017-18

Cross-disciplinary, cross-generational, cross-community

By Matt Swanseger

Dr. Brett Johnson joined Mercyhurst University five years ago as a theater specialist; now, in his first season as programming director for the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture (MIAC), he has evolved into a full-time collage artist. Not only has he pulled together a compelling 2017-18 lineup from a variety of artistic disciplines, but he has also come to recognize the role the arts play in unifying the disparate elements of a population.

"We have the attitude that our program is a gift to the Erie community," says Johnson. "The programming we strive to offer lifts the spirit, galvanizes the intellect, opens a forum for conversation, and nurtures open-mindedness."

"For the 2017-18 season, we wanted an array of iconic entertainers and other equally accomplished world class artists who perhaps weren't household names."

Robust attendance figures (four consecutive sellouts to end 2016-17) and positive feedback suggest that the appetite for MIAC's highbrow brand of entertainment has grown, despite recent challenges faced by the university. Balancing a budget is a trapeze act worthy of Cirque de Soleil, and in recent years, declining enrollment frayed at the proverbial ropes – Mercyhurst was teetering. Often the arts are the first casualty in such situations, but in the case of MIAC, Mercyhurst's President Michael Victor has been the safety net. Under his direction, the plunge in enrollment has been broken (2016 welcomed a record incoming class) and MIAC is still flying high.

"We're experiencing a revitalization of the institute, not only on campus but in the community," says Johnson.

The lineup is a bit leaner than years past at eight shows (compared to 15 in 2015 and 10 last year), but Johnson af-

firms the cutbacks are only in quantity, not in quality. "For the 2017-18 season, we wanted an array of iconic entertainers and other equally accomplished world class artists who perhaps weren't household names."

Without further ado, the *Reader* will now introduce you to (or reacquaint you with) each piece of that vision come to fruition.

Bernadette Peters



When is it: Thursday, Sept. 28 // 7:30 p.m.

Where is it: Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Who is it: Besides being one of the most esteemed Broadway performers of all time, Peters is also an accomplished singer, film and television actress, and the author of three children's books. She has won two Tony awards, three Drama Desk awards, and four Grammy awards (as part of a Broadway ensemble). She is most noted for her interpretations of composer Stephen Sondheim's works of musical theatre, including *Into the Woods*, *Gypsy*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Follies*. She has appeared in 17 films, including *The Jerk*, *Annie*, *Silent Movie*, and (the Golden Globe-winning) *Pennies from Heaven* and been a frequent presence on television as well (*Mozart in the Jungle*, *Smash*, *Ugly Betty*, *The Carol Burnett*

Show, *The Muppet Show*). Not a bad way to open the curtains on MIAC season.

Pilobolus Dance Theater



When is it: Tuesday, Oct. 10 // 7:30 p.m.

Where is it: Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

What is it: In a word, fascinating. Pilobolus is a dance collective that bends the mind while bending their bodies into a panoply of shapes and patterns. The choreography highlights human collaboration by integrating multiple performers into singular, almost mechanistic displays. Equal parts strange and beautiful, Pilobolus has garnered extraordinary acclaim and was named one of the Dance Heritage Coalition's "Irreplaceable Dance Treasures." You'll want to stay flexible for this one, both thought-wise and schedule-wise.

An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin

When is it: Tuesday, Nov. 7 // 7:30 p.m.

Where is it: Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Who is it: Out of many (accomplishments), one (Lily Tomlin). Out of one (Lily Tomlin), many (characters). The comedienne has been an American staple for the better part of five decades, from Rowan and Martin's *Laugh-In* to the Netflix original series *Grace and Frankie*. On this evening, she will reprise many of those roles in what



LILY TOMLIN

has been described as a "greatest hits" collection, including Ernestine, Edith Ann, Mrs. Beasley, and more. She has garnered enough career accolades for nearly every one of them – the 2016 Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2014 Kennedy Center Honor, the 2003 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, two Peabody awards, five Emmys, two Tonys, a Grammy, a Writers Guild of America Award, and both the Crystal Award and the Lucy Award from Women in Film. This just goes to show that it's okay to have split personalities – as long as they're all funny.

Danu: Feile Na Nollag (A Christmas Gathering)



When is it: Wednesday, Dec. 6 // 7:30 p.m.

Where is it: Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

What is it: The Green Christmas you've always dreamed of. In case you're not aware, the Irish have a penchant for



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celebrating, and this Emerald Isle ensemble does not disappoint. There's no place like their home country for the holidays, where the Yuletide traditions are as rich as a pint of Guinness. *A Christmas Gathering* seeks to capture the Irish community spirit through song and dance, with fiddles, flutes, button accordion, percussion, and vocals in both English (tradition) and Gaelic (tradition extra stout).

Imago Theatre: La Belle



When is it: Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018 // 2 p.m.

Where is it: Mary D' Angelo Performing Arts Center

What is it: A tale as old as time with a charmingly modern treatment. This is *Beauty and the Beast* as you've never seen it – in the engine room of a steamship and appropriately well-greased with imagination. Imago Theatre is a whimsical blend of puppetry, shadow theatre, song, drama, and comedy that has been an international fixture for over two decades. Humans become props, and props in turn become human, opening up the whole gamut of

comedic and emotional possibilities. Discounted ticket prices also open the opportunity to bring the entire family, including your little princes and princesses.

Turtle Island Quartet



When is it: Thursday, Mar. 15, 2018 // 7:30 p.m.

Where is it: Walker Recital Hall

Who is it: A string quartet (two violins, viola, and cello) operating as a jazz quartet (which customarily consists of chordal instrument, wind instrument, bass and drums). Turtle Island Quartet was born 1985 in the San Francisco Bay area, the brainchild of violinists Darol Anger (no longer with the band) and David Balakrishnan. They too are collage artists, marrying bluegrass, funk, Latin, and European and Indian classical music with jazz for an eclectic (Turtle) soup. Balakrishnan, violinist Alex Hargreaves, violist Benjamin von Gutzeit, and cellist Malcom Parson conclude a weeklong residency at Mercyhurst with *Bird's Eye View: The Legend of Charlie Parker*, a tribute to the seminal jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker (a.k.a. Bird). Soar with the quartet through Parker classics interpolated with original and borrowed

phrases from bebop and beyond — and scoff at the genre conventions that are so beneath you.

An Evening with Judy Collins



When is it: Thursday, Apr. 26, 2018 // 7:30 p.m.

Where is it: Walker Recital Hall

Who is it: A seasoned singer/songwriter with 50 albums to her credit over a career spanning 50-plus years. Judy Collins had her breakthrough in 1967 with the Joni Mitchell-penned "Both Sides, Now," which charted on the Billboard Pop Singles Top 10 and won a Grammy for Best Folk Performance. She followed this success with "Someday Soon," "Chelsea Morning," "Amazing Grace," "Cook with Honey," and another Grammy-caliber offering in "Send in the Clowns." The 1975 single was nominated for Best Pop Vocal Performance, Female and won Song of the Year (for songwriter Stephen Sondheim). Her clarity of tone, affecting lyrics, and involvement in social activism have preserved a sense of youthfulness even at 78 years of age. It is not unusual

to find a voice for change and justice on a college campus, but it is atypical to find one with so much experience behind it.

Garrison Keillor



When, where: TBA

Who is it: The American Midwest embodied. Garrison Keillor was the host of the Minnesota Public Radio Show *A Prairie Home Companion* for 43 years, passing the baton to musician Chris Thile in 2016. The highly-syndicated program began as a variety show and featured parody, songs, and skits. The second half of the show centered around a segment called "News From Lake Wobegone," referring to a fictional small town in Minnesota (and the setting for many of Keillor's books). Keillor is noted for his observational wit, insightful commentary, and genius pacing and delivery both on the air and on the page. He has written for *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic*, and *Salon.com* and authored a number of political essays and poems. Listen carefully for the official time and date this fall, and in the meantime, keep your eyes and ears open — there is plenty to be savored in the in-between.



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Spotlight on Erie

July 5 – 18, 2017

Thursday, July 6

Music and Theater Blossoming in July at the LEAF Arboretum



The incomparable Frontier Park off West Sixth Street is an urban oasis for families with small children, runners, tennis players, dog-walkers and cyclists, and once again this summer it will serve as the picturesque backdrop for the Arts in the Arboretum program, presented by the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF) with the support of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 17, and the McCain foundation.

This series of free events begins Thursday, July 6 at 7:00 p.m. with the Ruby Port Band; concerto evenings continue every Thursday night until August 10 with the Familiar Spirit Band, Bangerzz, Breeze Band, Mambo and Tennessee Back Porch. Lovers of theater should mark July 10, 12 and 18 at 7:00 p.m. for performances of Shakespeare's tragedy *King Lear*, while the comedic *As You Like It* can be seen July 11, 17 and 19. These fan-favorites are presented by Gannon University's Theater Department and will be performed instead at Gannon's Schuster Theater in the event of inclement weather.

Guests to the LEAF Amphitheater are in for a rare treat on July 16 and August 13 at noon, when the Erie Philharmonic Brass Quintet and the Erie Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet will perform, respectively, for hour-long midday musical pick-me-ups that are sure to transport listeners lucky enough to visit on their Sunday afternoon.

All concert-goers are invited to plunk themselves down on the famously nifty stone risers or gather

around the LEAF Amphitheater with lawn chairs and blankets. Last year these events were well-attended, and this year should be no different. Take advantage of the free price tag, the gorgeous Erie summer weather and the generosity of both time and spirit that all have put into the Arts at the Arboretum series. — Cara Suppa

7 p.m. // Every Thursday until Aug. 10; see <http://www.leaferie.org/arts-in-the-arboretum/> for the complete list // 1501 W. Sixth St. // Free

Friday, July 7

July's Big, Fat Greek Festival



Not everyone can go to Greece, but they can experience the country's food, music and culture in Erie.

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church's Panegyri (or "Greek Fest"), now in its 29th year, typically brings in tens of thousands of guests from all over the United States, according to Fay Mintsizeris, who will be running the raffles at this year's event.

Mintsizeris, who has been volunteering since the first Panegyri, knows of one California family that schedules their vacation in conjunction with the festival. But every year, she meets someone who's never attended before.

"Every year, we learn something new," Mintsizeris said.

For the first time this year, the Panegyri will operate a small grocery area in the church hall. It will include Greek food favorites like Greek bread.

The festival will also have its usual live music, Hellenic dancers, church tours, several vendors and plenty of food. Guests can purchase lamb, chicken or fish dinners. And they'll have an opportunity to try Greek wine, beer, coffee and even calamari. The Odyssey Dancers are set to perform Saturday and Sunday, but children from the church will show off their dance moves, too. They've been practicing.

Fireworks will be set off at dusk on Saturday, and raffles will take place

throughout the weekend. Among the prizes this year is a trip for two to Greece and a homemade Greek dinner.

Parking and admission are free, and funds raised by the festivities benefit the church and its endowment fund. — Tracy Geibel

2:30 to 11 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. Sunday // Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 4376 W. Lake Rd. // free admission // 838-8808 // erieorthodox.org

Friday, July 7

Playhouse Brings Much-More-Than-OK Oklahoma! to the Stage

From the moment *Oklahoma!* debuted in 1943 on Broadway, the Rodgers and Hammerstein collaboration was a smash hit. Set just after the turn of the 20th century, it tells the story of Curly, a self-assured cowboy set on wooing the beautiful farm girl Laurie Williams, whose independence of mind and spirit only further inflames Curly's determination. *Oklahoma!* joined the elements of music, lyrics and book in such sublime fashion that it ushered in a new era of musical theater, one from which current audiences still benefit, whether it's under the bright lights of Broadway or in a converted warehouse with a rudimentary stage.

The Erie Playhouse clearly veers more closely toward the Broadway/bright lights side, and there has never been more reason to celebrate the manifold gifts this community theater has brought to the Erie area. Now in their 100th year of operation, The Playhouse closes its 2016-17 season with the watershed musical *Oklahoma!*, beginning July 7 at 7:30 p.m. and running until July 23.

There is an exciting newcomer to the stage; Anthony Kirby makes his Playhouse debut as the male lead, Curly. Likewise, the comical Aunt Eller will be brought to life by Playhouse stage freshman Delthia Nolan. Filling out the rest of the main cast are Playhouse veterans, with Maeve Kirby as Laurie, Brendan Daugherty as the lonely, obsessive Jud Fry, Lydia Lent as the flirtatious Ado Annie, and Luke Weyand as her hapless suitor, Will Parker.

The Playhouse website declares, "Oh, what a beautiful musical!" Perennial favorites like "Oh, What a Beautiful

Mornin'," "People Will Say We're in Love," and, of course, the titular "Oklahoma" are sure to remind audiences why this Rodgers and Hammerstein classic has endured for over 70 years. — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. Thursday - Saturday; 2:00 p.m. Sunday; see erieplayhouse.org for the complete list of showings. // 13 W 10th St. // 454-2852 // \$16.40 (students) - \$24.90 (adults/seniors)

Friday, July 7

Adult-Minded, Kid-Hearted Quartet Monk's Brew Mix it up at the Rook



The members of The Monk's Brew reveal their youth in the types of collective interests they share on social media. Ya know, normal kinda-kid stuff: "Partying. Psycho Bears (sic). Prestige," and sausage-and-pepper subs at Teresa's Deli.

That childlike goofiness could, at first thought, seem to belie the Erie-based quartet's ability to create some seriously grown-up, classy, highly elevated jazz music.

But, on second thought, it only makes good sense. After all, jazz (when it's done its due) is like that — a playful, complicated, powerful child, letting it all out, having fun, or frenzy, or whatever it feels, disguised the whole time as a smooth, sleek, all-grown-up character.

Or something like that.

However you describe what it's been cooking up, The Brew has been a fixture of Erie's jazz scene since 2011, when its members started playing together while the four were attending Mercyhurst University. Since that time, they've been regulars at local venues, on JazzErie's annual Jazz Walks, on the air at WQLN 91.3, and opening for the likes of Grammy-nominated jazz great Chris Brubeck.

Next up, they'll be bringing their strong, smooth, signature sound to



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The Erie Art Museum invites you to enjoy the sounds of summer at the *Highmark Mid Day Art Break* every **Wednesday** from **12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** all summer long. Stop down to the Museum's 5th Street patio for **live music**, lunch specials at our **Wave Café**, and **free gallery tours** offered at 12:30 and 1:00 p.m.




JULY lineup

- July 5: *Pine Diary*
- July 12: *Gem City Revival*
- July 19: *Erie Philharmonic Brass Quintet*
- July 26: *Bootlegger's Bible Club*

Visit erieartmuseum.org for a full music schedule.



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the King's Rook Club stage, offering a night of sweet, swingin' jazz.

Diggit, cats.
— Ryan Smith

10 a.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Sunday, July 9

Fuel Powers Basement Transmissions



Of the onslaught of post-grunge hard rock you heard all over mainstream channels and airwaves in the late '90s and early 2000s, some of Fuel's singles — think "Shimmer" and "Bad Day" — were among the most ubiquitous.

Fuelies (that's what they call their hardcore fans) the world over know the Pennsylvania-born band has always been around since then, and, after some lineup changes, Fuel has

been staying fired up in recent years with original lead singer Brett Scallions at the helm.

These guys put on one helluva show, according to fans.

Erie will have a chance to see for itself when Scallions brings Fuel — fresh off the heels of a mega-tour with old-school heavy-hitters Candlebox, Dishwalla, and Marcy Playground — to Basement Transmissions.

And Erie will have a chance to see for itself when Scallions brings Fuel — fresh off the heels of a mega-tour with old-school heavy-hitters Candlebox, Dishwalla, and Marcy Playground — to Basement Transmissions.

Whether you're a bona fide Fuelie or not, there's no denying that's another nice, big show for Erie right there — and it's gonna be one rockin-ass Sunday Fun Day at BT. — Ryan Smith

6 p.m. (w/ special guests Unwill, Well Below Average, Raven's Law) // 145 W. 11th St. // ticketfly.com; facebook.com/basement.transmissions // \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Tuesday, July 11

The Bunny The Bear Crosses Up Basement Transmissions



Experimental music can be difficult to define. Slapping a genre tag on it doesn't really help clarify the term. Experimental rock, folk, jazz — what exactly is being experimented with? Song structure? Instrumentation? Genre fusions? All of the above? That's where Buffalo, N.Y. group The Bunny The Bear steps in.

The Bunny The Bear, whose name comes from the nicknames of the two

founding members, Matthew "The Bunny" Tybor and Chris "The Bear" Hutka, have created a unique style of music that artfully blends elements of metalcore, electronica, and synth-pop, refusing to tie themselves down to just one genre. The band is often lumped in with the "post-hardcore/experimental metal" scene. Other bands in their field have experimented with the two vastly different genres, but few have gone as far as TBTB. The band's earlier work draws a clearer line between their metal and electronica influences, featuring an equal representation of both genres' typical instruments. In contrast, much of their recent work downplays their metalcore influences in favor of synth-pop instrumentation, but the band does this to great effect. It's often difficult to tell whether it's an electro synth-pop group experimenting with metal or a metal band experimenting with electronica instruments.

Opening for TBTB are up-and-coming Erie metal acts Of Shadows, Raven's Law, Verutum, and Familiar Dark, all eager and ready to make a mark on the local scene. — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$15 // All ages // facebook.com/events/295624910881094

MUSIC

Mid-Day Art Break

July 5, 12, 19, 26 — noon to 1 p.m.

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

Singalong with Lori

July 5, 12, 19, 26 — 11 to 11:50 a.m.

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

Guru and Stiletto

July 5 — 5:30 p.m.

Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Fred Oakman

July 5 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Concert Band of Northwest Pennsylvania Performance

July 5, 19 — 7 p.m.

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

Cosmic Rhythm

July 5 — 8 to midnight

Rum Runners, 133 Dobbins Landing cosmicrhythmband.com.

Ron Yarman

July 6 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Arts in the Arboretum Concert Series

July 6, 13, 20, 27 & Aug. 3, 10 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Next of Kin

July 7 — 6 p.m.

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

Dock Boys

July 7 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Salmon Frank

July 7 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Sounds Around Town

July 7, 14, 21, 28 & Aug. 4 — 7 p.m.

WQLN, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Jess Royer

July 7 — 8 to 10 p.m.

Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

51% Fest

July 7 — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com.

Fatal Sting

July 7 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

The Monk's Brew

July 7 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Kevin Howard

July 8 — 5 to 9 p.m.

Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd. pennshore.com.

Stiletto

July 8 — 6 p.m.

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

Dionisio

July 8 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Handsoff

July 8 — 7 to 11 p.m.

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

Green Jelly

July 8 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

One If By, Till the End, Duke Get This, Filthy Casuals and more

July 8 — 9 to 11 p.m.

Bobbys Place, 1202 W.

18th St. facebook.com.

Tyler Pearce Project

July 8 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Ryan Melquist

July 9 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Scarlet Ledbetter

July 9 — 5 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Fuel

July 9 — 6 p.m.

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

The Bunny The Bear

July 11 — 6 p.m.

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

Satisfaction: The International Rolling Stones Show and Ralph Chamberlain Jr. Band

July 11 — 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier porterie.org.

Gem City Jazz Ensemble Summer Concert on the Lawn

July 11 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 5440 Washington

Ave. gemcitybands.org.

Brenna Bone & Sean Clark and Key West Express

July 12 — 5:30 p.m.

Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Claire Stuczynski

July 12 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Black Widow

July 12 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Old School

July 13 — 6 p.m.

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

Tommy Link

July 13 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Rick and the Roadhouse Rockers & Crush

July 13 — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Abbey Road

July 13 — 8:30 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

HOTAfest

July 14, 15, 16

The University of Pittsburgh Titusville, 504 E. Main St. hotafest.com.

6th Annual 814 Fest 2017

July 14, 15, 16

Wattsburg Erie County Fair, 13993 Route 8 E. Main St. facebook.com.

Rick Magee and Roadhouse Rockers

July 14 — 6 p.m.

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

Ruby Port Band

July 14 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

The Highlife

July 14 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Summer Music Series: Tiger Maple String Band

July 14 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Hangover & 1980's Something

July 14 — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Mala Sangre,

CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 11

Music-Lovers Can Get Satisfaction with 8 Great Tuesdays



RALPH CHAMBERLAIN JR.

8 Great Tuesdays — the annual, free, Port Erie-hosted concert series at Liberty Park on Lake Erie — makes for eight great weeknight summertime parties for thousands of show-goers every year.

And 2017's 8 Great lineup is shaping up to be fun (and, again, free) for everyone, with Satisfaction/The International Rolling Stones Show kicking the season off with its performance (along with openers the Ralph Chamberlain Jr. Band) on July 11.

Heralded by *Rolling Stone* (the magazine) as "one of the best tribute shows in the world," the U.S.-based

group has clearly done its homework — dug deep into its homework — and have the looks, vibes and chops worthy of presenting the Stones' half-century-worth of iconic rock.

"Satisfaction is a dead-on portrayal of the Rolling Stones," said the Washington Post.

Well, Satisfaction, Erie's just dyin' to meet you.

8 Great Tuesdays continues every Tuesday from there, featuring Killer Queen - The Premier Tribute to Queen (with openers Radio Age) on July 18; The Common Heart (with The Groove) on July 25; One World Tribe (with Sun King Warriors) on Aug. 1; Stephanie Quail (with Next of Kin) on Aug. 8; The Earthquakers (with Bill Wharton The Sauce Boss) on Aug. 15; Rick Magee and the Roadhouse Rockers 25th Anniversary Party (with Miller and The Other Sinners) on Aug. 22; and, closing the season out, Eric Brewer's Back to School Bash (with Six-Year Stretch) on Aug. 29.

For info about this year's performers, the free public venue, and other details about all things 8 Great Tuesdays, visit Port Erie at porterie.org or call its offices at 455-7557. — Ryan Smith

6:30 p.m. // Highmark Amphitheatre at Liberty Park // porterie.org

Friday, July 14

814 Fest: The Ever-Expanding Family Reunion



BRAVURA

Erie residents could be separated into two categories: those that recognize "lake effect" as simply what precedes a snow warning, and those who also recognize it as the stamp that's followed our hardcore and metal music scene for decades.

This latter category will likely include the people you will find at this year's 814 Fest. In six years, this event has grown from a 20-person, two-band kegger to a 500-person, 30-band festival — what Manokin frontman Miagi Allen likens to "a family reunion

that keeps getting bigger and bigger." "Everyone that goes to 814 fest sees how close everyone is with one another, both the fans and bands alike," Allen says. While metal music is a generally popular genre, hardcore and heavy music as a whole could be considered a niche by some. Allen and other heavy music enthusiasts recognize this, but offer an explanation as to why it connects with such a large local audience.

"Metal bands all play for the same reason in our local scene. It's the passion and talent that goes into making it that keeps us pushing to raise the expectation. This fest alone is a good testament to the scene and its kinship."

On the weekend of July 14th, 814 Fest will return to the Wattsburg County Fairgrounds for a sixth consecutive year. The official 20-band lineup includes New York bands Dredneks and Divinex, whom Allen is most excited about playing with this year. Tickets are \$20 and include a wristband that is good for camping all weekend. — Aaron Mook

The festival runs from 5 p.m. Friday through noon Sunday // 13993 Route 8, Wattsburg // [facebook.com/events/1237395582980879](https://www.facebook.com/events/1237395582980879)

Dysmorphia, Weapons of Choice and Till the End

July 14 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Purple Jam III

July 14 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](https://www.facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

Key West Express

July 15 — 5 to 9 p.m.

Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd. [pennshore.com](https://www.pennshore.com).

Small Town Revolution

July 15 — 6 p.m.

Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row [cjoes.com](https://www.cjoes.com).

Strangers and Liars

July 15 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](https://www.edinborolakeresort.com).

Flight & The Hangover

July 15 — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Cold Lazarus

July 15 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](https://www.facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

Sunday Noon Classical Concerts

July 16 & Aug. 13 —

noon to 1 p.m.

LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](https://www.leaferie.org).

Jesse Weston

July 16 — 5 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](https://www.edinborolakeresort.com).

Killer Queen: The Premier Tribute to Queen and Radio Age

July 18 — 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier [porterie.org](https://www.porterie.org).

Jackson Station and Tennessee Backpouch

July 19 — 5:30 p.m.

Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [discoverpi.com](https://www.discoverpi.com).

Tyler Smilo

July 19 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](https://www.edinborolakeresort.com).

DANCE

Summer Dance Training

July 10, 17, 31 & Aug. 21 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sovereign Ballet, 2539 W. 12th St. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

FOOD & DRINK

Picnic in the Park

July 6, 13 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Gibson Park, 31 W. Main St. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Erie Food Tours

July 7, 8, 21, 22, 28, 29 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Like My Thai, 827 State St. [eriefoodtours.com](https://www.eriefoodtours.com).

BBQ, Beer & Beards

July 7 — 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Mid Summer Wine Festival

July 8 — 8 p.m.

Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. [lakeeriespeedway.com](https://www.lakeeriespeedway.com).

Mind, Body, Beer

July 11 — 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

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

Gears & Grub

July 13, 14, 15 — noon to 9 p.m.

West Erie Plaza, 926 W. Erie Plaza Dr. [westerieplaza.com](https://www.westerieplaza.com).

Wine and Dine in the Woods

July 14 — 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](https://www.asburywoods.org).

Beards & Brews Event

July 15 — 3 to 6 p.m.

Angelo's Salon Development Group, 1205 State St. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Erie ClaySpace Cocktails and Clay

July 15 — 3 to 5:30 p.m. & 6 to 8:30 p.m. & July 16 — noon to 2:30 p.m.

Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. [erieclayspace.com](https://www.erieclayspace.com).

FILM

Extreme Weather

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggreenscreen.com](https://www.biggreenscreen.com).

Flight of the Butterflies

Ongoing — noon & 4 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggreenscreen.com](https://www.biggreenscreen.com).

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Ongoing — 1 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggreenscreen.com](https://www.biggreenscreen.com).

Prehistoric Planet

Ongoing — 2 & 5 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggreenscreen.com](https://www.biggreenscreen.com).

Voyage of the Rock Aliens (1984)

July 7 — 8 to 11 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com/eriehouse](https://www.facebook.com/eriehouse).

Lady Gangster (1942)

July 13 — 8 to 10 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

[com/ErieMovieHouse](https://www.com/ErieMovieHouse).

VISUAL ARTS

94th Annual Spring Show

Ongoing through July 9

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

Recent Painting by Jason Lewis

Ongoing through July 25

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

Erie County Art Teachers

Ongoing through Aug. 11

Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. [miac.mercyhurst.edu](https://www.miac.mercyhurst.edu).

Pairing Similarities: D.W. Martin

Ongoing through Oct. 21

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

Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.

Ongoing through January 7, 2018

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

Ancient Ink: Mark Perrott

Ongoing through January 28, 2018

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

Second Sundays

July 9 — 2 to 4 p.m.

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

THEATRE

Oklahoma

July 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22 — 7:30 p.m. & July 16, 23 — 2 p.m.

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

Arts in the Arboretum Theater Series

July 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](https://www.leaferie.org).

Snake-Eye Sam's Saloon Show-Down

July 11, 12, 25, 26 — noon & July 15, 22, 29 — 5:30 p.m. & July 16, 23, 30 — 2:30 p.m.

Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. [canterburyfeast.com](https://www.canterburyfeast.com).

COMMUNITY

LECOM Health Challenge

Ongoing through July 9

Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. [lecomhealthchallenge.com](https://www.lecomhealthchallenge.com).

Yoga

Ongoing through Aug. 28 — 5:30 & 7:15 p.m.

Barracks Beach at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](https://www.events.dcnr.pa.gov).

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Friday, July 14

Punks and Martinis Both Welcome at Scotty's



PHOTO BY THOMAS P. HEWITT

MALA SANGRE

Scotty's Martini Lounge will be hosting Mala Sangre, Dysmorphia, Weapons of Choice, and Till the End on an evening destined to rattle a few glasses.

At their heart, all four groups are punk rock through and through, each coming at it with their own voice. Mala Sangre (Espanol for "bad blood") have the spirit of '80s thrash with a Spanglish streak. Dysmorphia is a self-proclaimed feminist groove-punk riot band formed in Erie that features an all-female ensemble of band members, whose main goal is to "promote

awareness and intelligence and do it loudly". Pittsburgh's Weapons of Choice formed around their common interest in and love of "old-school hardcore punk". Till the End is a '90s style skatepunk band founded in Erie whose main influences include bands like Face to Face, Bad Religion, and Lagwagon. If you are a fan of punk music and just an overall great atmosphere Scotty's Martini Lounge Friday night is the place to be. - Austin Mitchell

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 301 German St. // facebook.com/events/1218661058235690 // \$5

Friday, July 14

Purple Jam Packs Musical Amalgams



What do you get when you take 46 musicians and divvy them up

into seven bands?

Beats me. We'll find out on July 14. Seven bands, with six or seven members each, will be playing you some supremely original music.

Each band has at least two guitarists, a bass player, a percussionist, and a vocalist. Some of them even have a violist or a theremin player. Either way, they've been tasked to create a full set of original music. Their results are always entertaining, as well as unexpected.

This year marks the third annual installment of "Purple Jam." The Event grew out of local experiments called "barrage bands."

This year marks the third annual installment of "Purple Jam." The Event grew out of local experiments called "barrage bands." Originally piloted by Martin Wolper and taking place at the Beer Mug (and later the Crooked i), the tradition gradually took on a life of its own. This is the third year it's been hosted by the King's Rook Club, with

a new identity honoring a fallen musical comrade. In 2015, Kurt Sahlmann, a lifelong champion of creative collaboration, passed away. In addition to his numerous successful film and music projects, Sahlmann was always a joyful proponent of the "barrage band" movements. Taking its cue from the eponymous color of Sahlmann's last band, Kurt's Purples, the tradition began anew.

On Thursday, June 2, dozens of musicians convened at the King's Rook Club. There, they filled out their name, contact information, and instrument of choice onto a slip of paper. Local musician Adam Holquist (who plays keyboards in the LEC, and creates experimental soundscapes under the name onewayness), sorted them out and made sure each band was properly balanced.

They went out amongst themselves and quickly booked practice sessions. To see what they came up with, make sure you're there that night. One other thing about these "Purple Jam" bands: they're *one night only*. — Nick Warren

10 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // For each band's lineup, find this article online at ErieReader.com // Free admission with member ID // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

by Pontoon

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

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

Lagoon by Pontoon

Ongoing through Sept. 4 — 10 a.m.

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

Presque Isle Lighthouse Tours

Ongoing through Sept. 4 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Presque Isle Light Station in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. presqueislelighthouse.org

Fishing Rod Loaner Program

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Tai Chi

July 5, 10, 12, 17, 19 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

Wednesday Walks in the Woods

July 5, 12, 19, 26 — 11 a.m. to noon

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

asburywoods.org

Farmers Market

July 5, 12, 19 — 3 to 6 p.m.

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

Beginner Tap

July 5, 12 — 4:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

Weight Lifting/ Cardio Fitness Class

July 6, 13 — 9:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

July 6, 18 — 11 a.m. to noon

Highmark Health Insurance Direct Store, 5753 Peach St. reservations.highmarkblueshield.com

Living with Parkinson's

July 6 — 10:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

Children's Art Classes

July 6, 13, 20, 27 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 to 2 p.m.

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

Garden Sprouts Preschool

July 6, 13, 20, 27 & Aug. 3, 10 — 11 a.m. to noon

Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford

st.goodellgardens.org

New Horizons Music Project

July 6, 13 — 4 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

Block Party

July 6 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Griswold Park, 150 W. 14th St. eriedowntown.com

Atlantic Coast Baseball Tournament

July 7, 8, 9

Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. playacbaseball.com

Getting Creative with Acrylics: A Painting Residency

July 7, 14 — 9 to 11 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

Tai Chi

July 7, 14 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

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

Calming the Tween and Teen's Mind: Stress Management for Anxious Kids

July 7 — 10 a.m. to noon

Plasha Yoga Studio, 3330 W. 26th St. plashayoga.com

Tourists in Our Own Back Yard: Luminary Distilling Tour and Tasting

July 7 — 1 p.m.

Fuhrman's Cider Mill, 8270 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

29th Annual Panegyri Greek Festival

July 7 — 2:30 to 11 p.m. & July 8 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. & July 9 — noon to 7 p.m.

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 4376 W. Lake Rd. erieorthodox.org

Chameleon Sunrise

July 7 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza Dr. heathercash.com

Candlelight Ghost Walks

July 7, 8, 21 — 8 p.m.

Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. candlelightghostwalks.com

Harley-Davidson of Erie Bikefest

July 8 through July 15

Harley-Davidson of Erie, 3712 W. 12th St. hderiebikefest.com

5K Chicken Run & Chicken Little Run

July 8 — 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Mercy Church, 837 Bartlett Rd. erierunners.club

Sunshine Storytime

July 8, 22 & Aug. 5, 19 — 10 to 10:30 a.m.

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

Primitive Skills Series: Shelter Building

July 8 — 10 a.m. to noon

Erie Bluffs State Park, 1122 W. Lake Rd. events.dcnr.pa.gov

Dog Days of Summer

July 8 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Icing on the Lake, 940 W. Erie Plaza Dr. facebook.com

Slobberfest 2017

July 8 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Droopy Basset Hound Rescue of Western PA, 15581 Stewart Hill Rd. slobberfest.weebly.com

49th Annual Gem and Mineral Show and Sale

July 8 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. & July 9 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JMC Ice Arena, 423 W. 38th St. gemcityrockclub.org

Erie Handmade Fair

July 8 — 1 to 5 p.m.

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

Pilates Class with Michaelee Curtze

July 9, 16, 23, 30 & Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

Edinboro University New Student Orientation

July 10 through July 14

Edinboro University, 219 Meadville St. events.edinboro.edu

Simple Ways to Keep Your Mind Sharp

July 10 — 10:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

A Look into Cuba's Healthcare System

July 10 — 1 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

The Rise and Decline of the Chautauqua Movement: Lessons for 21st Century Civic Adult Education

July 10 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org

Cruise the Bay

July 10, 17, 24 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier callingallcruiserez.com

Fit for Life Fitness Class

July 11, 18 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

July 11 — 10 to 11 a.m.

Erie Health & Wellness Pavilion, 4247 W. Ridge Rd. reservations.highmarkblueshield.com

Branching Out

July 11, 18, 25 & Aug. 1, 8 — 10 a.m. to noon

LEAF Education Center,

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Visit eriedowntown.com/calendar for details.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 18

Cowboy Monkey Rodeo: The Not O.K. Corral?



Between the long bus rides, extended hotel stays, and paltry pay checks, minor league baseball has often been described as a grind – with the occasional “organ grinder” monkey.

The enormously popular – and controversial – cowboy monkey rodeo returns to UPMC Park after drawing 5,346 fans last summer. Depending on what side of the pole you’re standing on, the event is either home run entertainment or a foul against animal rights. As intended, cowboy monkey rodeo is a cute and (significant-

ly more) hirsute miniaturization of ranching competition. A tiny Capuchin monkey trades its fez for a Stetson and is strapped on the back of a border collie, which instinctively (as a herding breed) chases sheep around the diamond.

Even in a minor league culture that oozes quirkiness and absurdity (e.g., teams named the Hartford Yard Goats and the Binghamton Rumble Ponies), cowboy monkey rodeo is out-of-the-park ridiculous. Audience

Even in a minor league culture that oozes quirkiness and absurdity (e.g., teams named the Hartford Yard Goats and the Binghamton Rumble Ponies), cowboy monkey rodeo is out-of-the-park ridiculous.

reactions have ranged from bemused delight (“WTF am I watching?”) to indignation and outrage. The only thing more chafing than saddle sores is animal cruelty, and many activists perceive it as such. Opponents argue that consigning Capuchins to a life of dumb spectacle is an affront to their freewheeling and inquisitive nature. Furthermore, detractors claim the



monkeys can suffer whiplash while mounted on the shifty collies, which can accelerate to speeds of 30 miles per hour.

Poor monkeys can’t get these damn humans off their backs. Conversely, the SeaWolves will attempt to get the proverbial monkey off *their* backs as they take on the Richmond Flying Squirrels and make a push for their first postseason berth since 2013. The first 250 kids through the gates will eat free, and select draughts will be available in the Bud Light Beer Garden for two dollars. No matter how you feel about cowboy monkeys, I think we’d give these perks two opposable thumbs up. — Matt Swanseger

7:05 p.m. // 110 E 10th // seawolves.com // \$9 upper deck; \$12 baseline; \$15 dugout

1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Computer Basics

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

Personal Safety

July 11 — 1 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Remarkable Women: Harriet Beecher Stowe

July 11 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Roar on the Shore

July 12 through July 16
Various Locations, roarontheshore.com.

Geometric Fox

July 12 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza Dr. heathercash.com.

Work Day For Operation Christmas Child

July 13 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Grace Church, 7300 Grubb Rd. whoisgrace.com.

How to Spend Your Calorie Salary

July 12 — 10:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tots in Nature

July 13, 20, 27 — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Seeing with new Eyes through Digital Photography

July 13 — 2 to 4 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron Rubber Ducks

July 13, 14, 15 — 7 p.m. &
July 16 — 1:30 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

How and Why America Should Treat Opioids as More Dangerous than Terrorists

July 13 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Experience Pirate Life Abroad the Scallywags

July 14 — 10:30 a.m. to noon
Dobbins Landing, End of State St. lifeworkserie.org.

Rusty Wallace Racing Experience

July 15 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. lakeerispeedway.com.

How to Meditate Program: It's Not What You Think

July 15 — 10 a.m. to noon
Plasha Yoga Studio, 3330 W. 26th St. plashayoga.com.

DiscoverE: Family Recreation Day

July 15 — 10 a.m. to 2 pm.
Beach 11 Pavilion Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Wintergreen Animal Hospital Open House

July 16 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wintergreen Animal Hospital, 9021 Wattsburg Rd. wintergreenanimals.com.

3rd Annual Kenneth Snider Memorial Car Cruise

July 16 — 1 to 4 p.m.
St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 950 W. 7th St. facebook.com.

Troublesome Ticks

July 16 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Little Leaves Program

July 17 & Aug. 14 — 10 to 10:45 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. to noon
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels

July 17, 18 — 7 p.m. &
July 19 — noon

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

An Evening with Mountain Music: The Melting Pot Sounds of Appalachian Folk Music

July 17 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

North East Firemen's Cherry Festival

July 18 through July 22
Heard Park, 40 N. Lake St. necherryfestival.com.

Porreco College Open House

July 18 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Red Barn Classroom Complex, 2951 W. 38th St. events.edinboro.edu.

Garden Court Backstage Erie Tour

July 19 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Garden Court at East Gridley Park, 600 Poplar St. preservationerie.org.

Trump Peace Proposal for the Palestinian- Israeli Conflict

July 19 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Coming Through In The Clutch

Why Gears and Grub is the Must-Attend Event of 2017



By Aaron Mook

Many will recognize Roar on the Shore as one of the biggest events Erie has to offer. But surprisingly, until last year, this celebratory weekend had ignored one large niche in particular: local vendors.

Before we go any further, let's not get it twisted: Roar on the Shore is an amazing event, one that is impressive in both scale and scope. But it also seems to ward off as many locals from the downtown area as it draws in. Last year, Emily Smicker, event planner at the West Erie Plaza, decided it was time to offer a little taste of Erie during this incredibly popular weekend.

"Gears and Grub was planned last-minute as a

response to community demand," explains Smicker. "There was no place for local vendors to go during the biggest tourist weekend of the year. We figured, we have this great big parking lot. The event is in less than two weeks, but hey, let's throw something together and figure it out!"

Calling it "the food court" of the tourist weekend, Smicker goes on to explain that this year, more time to plan the event meant expansion.

"This year, we've expanded to include more local vendors and businesses. There's going to be local bands and local breweries, in addition to lots of family-friendly stuff."

Gears and Grub is perfect for those who may not be ready (or old enough) to handle the

Conceived last year as a direct response to Roar on the Shore, Gears & Grub is quickly taking on a life of its own, showcasing local food vendors and musicians all weekend.

commotion that comes along with Roar on the Shore (although Smicker explains that the West Erie Plaza truly encourages everyone to explore every aspect of the weekend).

"Plus, the event is dog-friendly!" she adds.

For Smicker, the event is a win-win; it actively engages the community and provides them with an entertainment option unlike any other that weekend, but it also gives people a chance to mingle with local businesses, artists, and above all, the West Erie Plaza. For this opportunity, many vendors are grateful.

"We are excited to be a part of the Gears and Grub event again this year," says Keith Groff of Brooklyn Pizza. "It showcases the local food and other vendors that cannot be a part of the Roar on the Shore event. It also provides a more family-friendly environment where parents can bring little ones and not have to deal with the large crowds of downtown."

Brooklyn Pizza is the first of several who offered insight on why Gears and Grub is an im-

portant new tradition for the Erie community.

"Gears and Grub is exciting to me because it stemmed from the heart of the Erie Community," says Tim Grow of The Que Abides, a beloved Big Lebowski-themed food truck. "When the people of Erie found out that our local vendors could not partake and benefit from one of the biggest events the city sees all year, they were quite upset, [and] rightfully so. That's when the great people of VCG Properties stepped up and created

like The Que Abides.

"The outpouring [of] support from our neighbors and the positivity generated from Gears and Grub was palpable and, quite honestly, somewhat emotionally overwhelming," Grow continues. "The sense of community in this city makes me proud to call Erie home."

Smicker hopes that more vendors, more activities and ultimately more advertising will draw in larger crowds to the event this year. They've had more time to prepare, but Smicker explains that even the amount of attention they got last year was impressive considering how little time they had to advertise.

"Each of our vendors sold out every day, and some sold out twice," Smicker says. The attention certainly seems to be indicative of something the Erie community wants, and given the right reaction and reception, Smicker says the plan is to continue to hold this event annually.

"There was no place for local vendors to go during the biggest tourist weekend of the year. We figured, we have this great big parking lot. The event is in less than two weeks, but hey, let's throw something together and figure it out!"

this event that supports all that is local."

VCG Properties are the owners of the West Erie Plaza, and at this point, it's easy to gather that they've spent a lot of time and energy developing personal and reputable relationships with local businesses

Gears and Grub is an all ages event that will be held at the West Erie Plaza on July 13th, 14th and 15th from noon to 9 pm. Admission to this event is free and any questions, comments or concerns may be directed to the West Erie Plaza's Facebook page.



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-  **Arts in the Arboretum Theatre Series**
Presented by Gannon University Theatre Dept.
FREE July 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 • 7PM
-  **Movies in the Arboretum**
FREE August 4, 11, 25 • 8:30PM
-  **New! Photo Contest & Exhibition**
FREE August 27, 28, 29 • Noon-4PM
Entry Deadline: July 15
-  **ArborEAT'em Party in the Park**
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Roarville 'Levenchopper

11th Roar on The Shore Gets the Party Poppin'



A rallying cry: filling the streets of downtown Erie with revving engines, Roar on the Shore has become a popular destination for motorcyclists nationwide.

Some of us lean into the motorcycle mania full-throttle; others sit back and wait for it to pass by. As usual, there is plenty to do (or plenty to have nothing to do with) – and as is our (North Coast) custom, we're all over it. Hop in the sidecar; we'll get through this together, one day at a time.

Wednesday, July 12 — We know you're revved up for this, but it may behoove you to slow down for a moment.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, motorcyclists in 2015 were 29 times more likely to suffer a fatal accident (per vehicle mile traveled) than automobile drivers. The Fallen Riders

Memorial Run pays tribute to deceased bikers and their bereaved families, with all proceeds funneled into the Erie County chapter of the Fallen Riders Memorial Fund (departs from Penn State Erie, the Behrend College at 6 p.m.).

After respects are paid, the Manufacturer and Business Association and Roar Board Chairman and Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott welcome the riders still with us to the Hub at Perry Square. Capping off the night for a second consecutive year is Jackyl, who throws hard rock, heavy metal, and Southern rock into a wood-chipper and spits it all out in a raucously rambunctious display.

Thursday, July 13 — Whatever Machete doesn't Kill you makes you stronger; 2017 Roar on the Shore Grand Marshall Danny Trejo is living proof. Before becoming a prolific bad boy on-screen (335 credits and counting), Trejo spent much of his off-screen youth on the wrong side of the law and battling addiction, lending an authentic edge to his various personas.

To balance things out, Thursday's first ride is dedicated to the good guys. The Randy Polley Faith and Freedom Ride (11 a.m.) honors law enforcement, with registrants traveling from Perry Square to Street Track N' Trail in Conneaut Lake. Afterwards, all those gathered at Presque Isle Downs will follow Trejo into

Capping off the night for a second consecutive year is Jackyl, who throws hard rock, heavy metal, and Southern rock into a wood-chipper and spits it all out in a raucously rambunctious display.

the heart of Erie for the Bringin' in the Roar Parade (6 p.m.). Then, like Trejo, you can flirt with disaster as Southern rockers Molly Hatchet take the main stage at Perry Square.

Friday, July 14 — One day. Three rides. Once bitten, twice shy. Before

By Matt Swanseger

Whether you'd rather take a bike or a hike, the 11th Annual Roar on the Shore is at long last in our sights.

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CALENDAR

blues-rockers Great White perform at 9 p.m., bikers should not be timid about exploring their options:

1) The Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County Ride (departs from Barrack's Tavern at 11 a.m., visits five covered bridges)

2) The Roar to the Microbrews Dice Run (departs from the Brewerie at noon, visits six local microbreweries)

3) Thunder on the Isle: The Mayor's Ride (departs from the Manufacturer's Business Association at 5:30 p.m., circles Presque Isle)

Don't worry – you'll be back well before the '80s leave.

Saturday, July 15 – Praise the Fairy Godmother — your Saturday can be transformed up to FOUR ways and is guaranteed to end with Cinderella (or at least the band's heart and soul in Tom Keifer):

1) A oenophile's dream (the Roar to the Vineyard's Poker Run, departs from Off-Road Express East at 11 a.m. for six local wineries).

2) A legend, including both beer AND deer (A Beer for a Deer Legend Ride, departs from Plyler Overhead Door in

McKean at 1 p.m. for a Pine Junction luncheon).

3) Fabulous prizes (the Off-Road Express Rocket Ride, departs from Off-Road Express West at 1 p.m. and winds through various Erie County backroads before returning to Perry Square).

4) Calories (Hometown Taste and Tour Ride, departs from Smith's Provisions at 2 p.m. Riders can either choose an Eastside tour with Bootlegger's Bar and Grill, Jack Frost Donuts, Nunzi's, and Frogurtz or a Westside tour with Serafini's, Jim & Sue's Lake City Pizza, Heartland Antiques and Gifts, and Chico's Travelers Inn).

Sunday, July 16 — All things must pass, whether it's emission testing or the test of time. Howl for a while at an afternoon SeaWolves game (Roar to the Parks, departs from Rainbow Gardens at 10 a.m.) before roaring off into the sunset. Some will have won. Others will have lost. But Erie will have for sure mounted another rally.

For more detailed information, visit roarontheshore.com/schedule/

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FRI 07/14
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[DOWNSTAIRS]
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COLD LAZARUS
FRI 07/28
TONY GREY & IAN MACIAK
GALACTIC DUO
SAT 07/29
JONES FOR REVIVAL
FRI 08/04
ADDISON MOON BAND
+ BROOKE SURGENER
SAT 08/05
SWEET EARTH
FRI 08/11
LOOMS
SAT 08/12
MCLOVINS
FRI 08/18
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MUSIC REVIEWS

Algiers
The Underside of Power
 Matador Records



Unrelentingly fervent, Algiers' sophomore album is a scorching effort from start to finish. The Atlantan quartet begin by cranking up the energy several notches from their self-titled 2015 debut. The results draw the listener in immediately. From the static rumbles of opening track "Walk Like a Panther," featuring the distorted voice of late '60s Black Panther Fred Hampton, it's obvious that the band has tapped into something unique. The offering ends up being a strange fusion that's part Mike Patton, part Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, and part James Brown. Above all, it's refreshing. A fuzzy, gospel plea, the titular track is a toe-tapping anthem in the world of post-activism. Singer Franklin James Fisher uses his voice to the fullest, powerfully belting out a sermon of notes that stretch and bend in conjunction with the band. The latter tracks of the album further expound on jazz and no wave's sonic experimentations, with moments of punk rock ("Animals") to EDM ("Cleveland"). A truly postmodern band, Algiers blend post-punk and gospel together for a new take. It's a powerful combination. — Nick Warren



Royal Blood
How Did We Get So Dark?
 Warner Bros.



In some lineages, royal blood has been known for not clotting and bruising easily. This is also the case of Royal Blood (the band), although this time high-tonnage riffing (not hemophilia) is to blame. The English duo of Ben Thatcher (drums) and Mike Kerr (bass, vocals) bleed energy profusely on their sophomore effort *How Did We Get So Dark?*, demonstrating that they still have plenty in the bank after their promising self-titled debut. Far from frail and inbred, the band has inherited a sound resembling blues-rock in spirit (a la the White Stripes or the Black Keys) and stoner metal in timbre (a la Queens of the Stone Age or Fu Manchu). Their second record flirts more readily with arena rock, especially on tracks like "I Only Lie When I Love You" and "Where Are You Now?" with their huge snares and cowbell. You'll often find yourself alternating between head-banging and rump-shaking within the course of a single track, perhaps best exemplified by "Lights Out." Kerr's bass buzzes, brays, and snarls before his wah-wah pedal takes the song in a funkier direction. All in all, it's a dichotomy that's royally fit. — Matt Swanseger



Lorde
Melodrama
 UMG Records



In September 2013 (my freshman year of college), Lorde released *Pure Heroine*, a debut filled with gloomy, minimalistic pop poised to stretch the genre and dominate both Top 40 and college radio. Things have changed in the past four years; I've since graduated and witnessed a new school of pop artists following in Lorde's footsteps, and still, she's kept us waiting to see what she would conjure up next. The result, *Melodrama*, blooms with literal and metaphorical colors that Lorde has not allowed herself to show until now. *Melodrama* explores young love through the lens of a house party, and with just as much spontaneity as one. Over 11 tracks, Lorde yelps and croons over piano, soundscapes, and distorted pop fuzz all courtesy of producer Jack Antonoff (Bleachers, fun.). "Green Light" is a bonafide summer anthem that bursts with unbridled energy, but the real gems lie deeper within the album — explosive tracks like "Homemade Dynamite" and ballads like "Liability." The lyrics are overbearing at times, almost to the point of distraction, but in the words of Lorde herself, "I guess that comes with the territory of making an album called *Melodrama*." — Aaron Mook



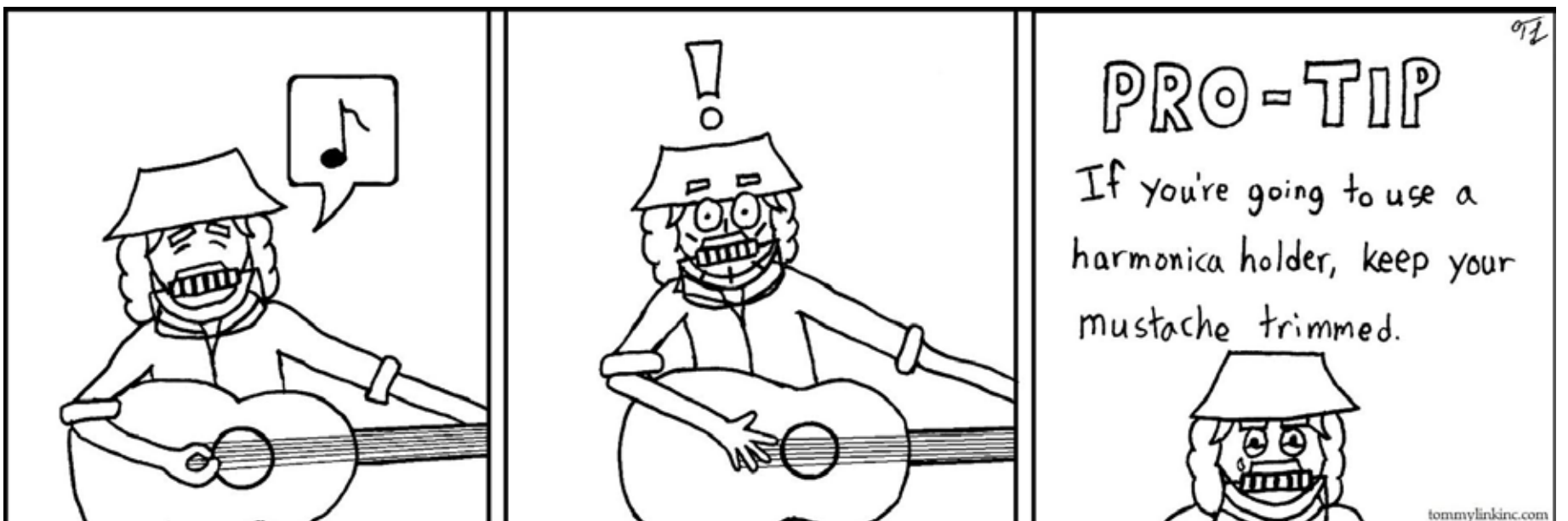
Vince Staples
Big Fish Theory
 Def JAM Recordings



"WE IN 3230," Vince Staples tweeted not long after dismissing his own album descriptor ("afrofuturism") on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah. Staples is one of the funniest interviews in hip-hop, and by the looks of it, his music isn't the only thing that's been influenced by Kanye West. A direct follow-up to 2015 double-album *Summertime '06*, the first thing you'll notice about *Big Fish Theory* is how concise it is. The album refuses to let you come up for air once. Staples wears his influences on his sleeve (check the Amy Winehouse snippet in "Alyssa Interlude"), and at times, the album sounds like the offspring of West's *Yeezus* and Jamie xx's *In Colour*. These songs bounce, grind, and clatter to the sounds of the future, from UK garage beats to grime and house. While the album is bookended by its strongest tracks (the Justin Vernon-aided "Crabs in the Bucket" and "Rain Come Down," a cousin to West's "Fade"), everything in between comes packed with its own twist, turn, or sonic surprise. — Aaron Mook



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



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Superior Court Judge Victor P. Stabile
Thursday, July 20 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.



Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton: Conflict and the Constitution

Historical Interpreters Steven Edenbo & Eben Kuhns
Sunday, July 23 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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July 11 / 4-5:30	Remarkable Women: Harriet Beecher Stowe
July 17 / 7-8:30	An Evening with Mountain Music: The Melting Pot Sounds of Appalachian Folk Music
July 19 / 7-8:30	President Trump's Peace Proposal for the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

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