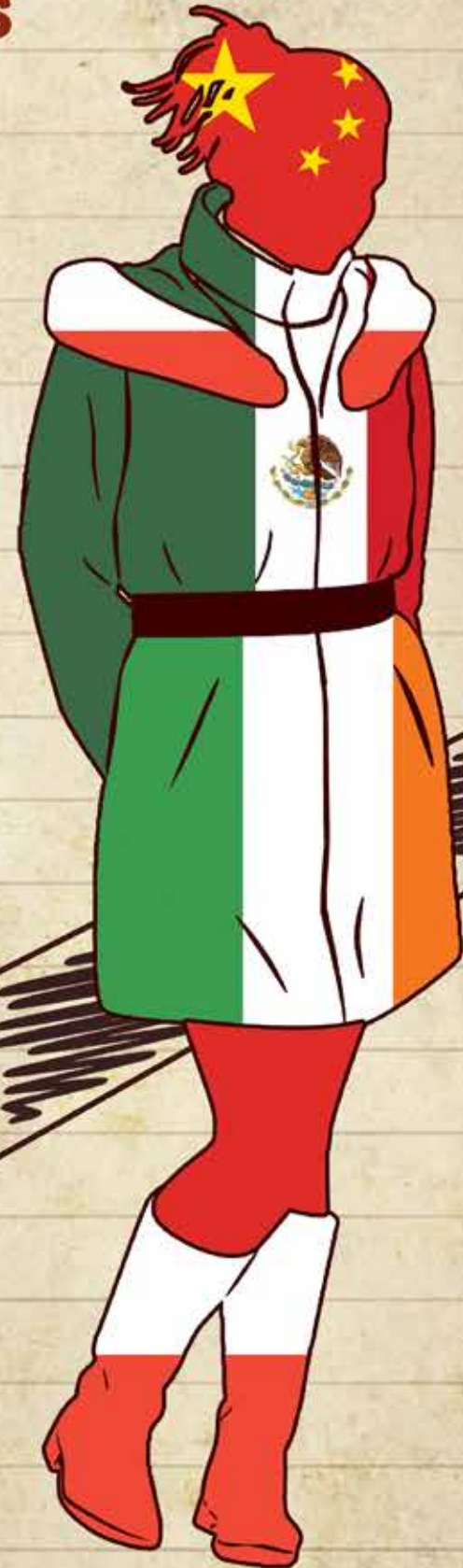


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The Erie Reader is the local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and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



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From the Editors

It's time for summer vacation

As often as we like to focus on our own local community, there's a giant world out there. This time of the year is traditionally one of the best times to go out and see it. Whether you choose to travel by plane, train, or automobile, summer is a time for exploring. Discovering new locations and gaining new experiences can be one of the most fulfilling things we as humans can do. There's just something magical about surveying a landscape for the very first time, or traversing a bustling city street filled with unfamiliar scenes. There's a freshness that we crave. By breathing in new air and feeling new ground under our feet, we plant our very own flags all around the globe.

Our city is doing that same sort of thing. Well, kind of.

Maybe you've walked by city hall and noticed a sign proclaiming Erie's "sister cities." It makes you squint reading it, wondering what exactly this familial designation entails. Matt Swanseger blows some dust off and looks beyond the sign, delving into Erie's estranged sisters. Looking at Mérida (Yucatán, Mexico), Zibo (Shandong, China), Lublin (Poland), and Dungarvan (Ireland), we find the rich, varying differences between five points on planet Earth. Is this all-but-forgotten distinction ceremonial, or is there actually a bond there that's thicker than water?

Some people come from around the world and bring their shared experience and art directly to Erie. Growing up in Ayacucho, Perú, master woodcarver Fredy Huamán Mallqui brings his heritage of training and skill to our arts community. Combining the delicate touch of old-world craftsmanship with a modern mindset and continuing educational growth, Fredy shows us that art has a global appeal and timeless beauty.

Another beauty locked in time lies only 90 miles away from our country. South of the Florida Keys, the nation of Cuba awaits new visitors for the first time in over 55 years. After severing relationships with the Communist country during the Cold War, tourists from the United States were finally welcomed back near the end of the Obama administration. As our current president calls that normalization into question, that open door might become a barely cracked window. Ben Speggen managed to slip in through that window, and gives us a dispatch from Havana.

There's plenty to explore, whether it's out of the country, or in our own county. Take a trip close by, and stop by the Gathering at Chaffee's for its 37th annual festival. One of the longest-running music festivals in the country is ready to set up camp once again in the beautiful fields of Girard.


Take a garden tour with the Bay City Gardeners, pop by the Erie Playhouse during their 100-year celebratory weekend, check out a show at Basement Transmissions, or attend the annual NPAA scholarship exhibition. There are new things to see and do every single day.

Oh, the places you'll go.



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Ten Hours in Havana

Dispatches from an American in Cuba



MICHELLE ELLIA

By: Ben Speggen

With less than three hours left in Havana before we need to board the cruise liner that delivered us from Key West seven hours ago, we stroll along Avenida del Puerto in search of a large marketplace locals encouraged us to visit. There, we were told, we would find trinkets, memorabilia, relics — all locally crafted — to return to the States with us as more-than-photographic proof that we'd been somewhere U.S. citizens had largely been unable to visit for decades.

From the moment my partner in travel and cultural curiosity — and the exploration of life in general — Michelle and I set foot in Cuba earlier in the morning, it'd been nothing but blue skies, occasionally punctuated with clouds so clean and crisp they seemed to be drawn by a divine designer. Now, as an impending storm challenges us to quicken our pace, we hear from folks headed in the opposite direction that the market's closing, the storm inevitable. It will reach land before we reach the bazaar, they report.

We about-face, duck into an alcove housing several vendors, and gather up a few other items. The sellers seem willing to negotiate prices, but for the handful of collectables we want, ten pesos doesn't seem unreasonable. We reckon that whatever upcharge we

incurred is more than made up for in conversation with the locals, a chance at a real people-to-people experience, as they pepper us with questions about America as quickly as we ask them about Cuba.

Aside from the opportunity to strengthen diplomatic and commercial ties, this — an authentic people-to-people experience — served as a driving force for President Obama's move in 2016 to open American relations with Cuba. And it's why and how we got here.

It's hard not to write about American-Cuban relations without making it political. Politics is, after all, what has kept the two countries separated since the 1960s. When my parents were less than half the age I am now, they routinely practiced the drill of seeking shelter under school desks from weapons capable of altering the face of a nation and the landscape of the world. Such worldviews are still hard to shake, even fifty years later.

But some will say fifty years has been too long before the detente. Others will say it hasn't been long enough. Plenty of opinions lie somewhere in the middle.

Following through on campaign promises, President Trump is seeking to roll back Obama's loosening of restrictions, which means what has been made possible now may not be in the near future. So, with a long weekend at our disposal, we booked a

(top) With only scant time to take in the many sights, Ben Speggen stands where, until recently, few Americans have been legally permitted to go. (bottom) Havana's El Capitolio, or National Capitol Building houses the Cuban Academy of Sciences and is currently being restored by the country's government.

cruise, secured our visas, and headed to Havana, if only for ten hours, to get in while we still could. We will leave the politics alone, for now.

Although direct flights to Havana are possible, cruises serve in essence as oversized water taxis, carrying aboard Americans crossing international waters with relative ease. Although we're told we're aboard the smallest vessel in the fleet of the global cruise line company we booked with, its ten floors still give it a mammoth feel — large enough that when hugging along Havana's shoreline, it draws locals who point at it with fingers and cameras, some perhaps in awe and intrigue, some perhaps in disgust or fear.

When approaching Havana by boat, it's difficult to ignore the cranes cropping up along the waterfront. It's equally hard not to wonder what this means for Havana, for Cuba, and for the Cuban people, because in many ways, Cuba appears exactly how you'd want it to: a place unstuck from time's

pace, isolated from the movement of the world around it. Classic American cars dart down streets lined with old buildings. The whites seem whiter, the brights brighter, but not without greys and grit — an optical overload of beauty mixed with dilapidation. A vibrant street murals on eroding edifices. A land impervious to deep change — until perhaps now, as signs point to new construction and companies like Google are expanding technology infrastructure here.

We start our day with a walking tour of Old Havana. Along the way, we learn from our guide that 5 million tourists per year visit (slight overstatement). Cranes, backhoes, and cinderblocks abound because the country wants to more than double that number to 12 million in the next few years (rather optimistic in quantity and time).

The walking tour proves helpful in setting a boots-on-the-ground context and educational experience, with facts like this — as well as guidance in how to properly smoke a Cuban cigar (dip the freshly cut tip into rum so that you enjoy both the taste of tobacco and rum) — sprinkled throughout the as-to-be-expected looking plazas, buildings, and historical sites.

Whether he's truly excited that we're awestruck with agape jaws or it's just theatrics, our tour guide is rarely not



BEN SPEGGEN



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NEWS & VIEWS

on during our limited time with him. Just last year, 500,000 Americans visited Cuba and that number is increasing. And although there's the perception that Americans are going there to bring things back (souvenirs, cigars, and rum), they undeniably take to the island new ideas, concepts, and ways of viewing the world. An open door to Cuba has left a window open more widely to world.

There's money to be made in tourism, today's largest industry on the

There's money to be made in tourism, today's largest industry on the island. More than a quarter of the population now works in the private sector, and lifting an American embargo spells not only an increase in goods but the potential increase in quality of life for a people growing less dependent on the state for their livelihood.

island. More than a quarter of the population now works in the private sector, and lifting an American embargo spells not only an increase in goods but the potential increase in quality of life for a people growing less dependent on the state for their livelihood.

After the tour ends, we make the most of our remaining time: a quick ride in a '53 Chevy (fun!), a few beers and Cuba libres at Sloppy Joe's (delicious!), a ride in a cocotaxi (thrilling!), and a walk along their bayfront parkway (beautiful!), which leads us to our standoff with the approaching storm. We can book it back to the ship and call it a dry end to the day — or not. *When in Havana...*, we say, and push away from the waterfront and into the city.

We don't feel unsafe off the well-worn tourist path. More panhandlers approached us *during* the tour than when we were on our own.

Despite the noticeably crumbling infrastructure, those in these quarters were warm, friendly. While litter dots the streets — evidence of a country still struggling to provide for its people — most are smiling, ostensibly content in spite of, not because of, their lot in life.

As the sky rips open with rain, several locals — their children running

amid friends and family — point us in the direction of a piazza to seek shelter. Others are there gathering to watch the rain.

Women await a dance studio to open. Small groups chat between thunderclaps. Kids dart out into the street to kick up puddles, some create a makeshift slip-and-slide out of metal ramp. Others retrieve plastic cups and begin dousing each other in unadulterated, universal happiness.

As the storm lightens, we hail a pedicab. After a few re-routes — a sinkhole down one alley, another blocked by cars — we hop off and spend our last rainy hour or so in a small, literal hole-in-a-building ground-level bar.

Two Cubans — a cook and a bartender — are working the joint and we are their only company. From the eagerness in their questioning, we presume that we've ventured deeper into Havana than most visitors.

Where are you from in America?

Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Pennsylvania: Pirates or Phillies?

Pirates, I say, learning geography and sports are not mutually exclusive subjects.

Ohio? LeBron James?

Yes, Michelle says, learning sports on the island, although predominantly dominated by baseball, do not diminish the legend of The King, The Chosen One.

Steph Curry — he's better.

We laugh and debate that, a bit, before politics inevitably surface. The two men are curious why Trump does not think or act like Obama. Why would someone want to halt or reverse progress made between two peoples after so long?

We try our best to explain it, but between our now-dwindling time before departure and the language barrier, it is difficult. They're still confused. We are, too. Our questions of what happens after Raul Castro steps down in 2018 (he's said he won't seek re-election in 2018) yield similar unsure responses.

As two women, similarly in search of shelter approach, we toast the men one last time.

To Cuba, we say. To America, they reply.

Ben Spегgen can be contacted at bSpегgen@ErieReader.

com, and you can follow him on Twitter at @BenSpегgen.



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News of the Weird

Off-the-books avocados, nearly stolen stripper poles, and the other occasional misfire

By: Chuck Shepherd

Smooth Reactions

Did you say french fries or FRESH fries? Eiram Chanel Amir Dixson, 25, made a point of ordering fresh french fries at a Coon Rapids, Minnesota, Wendy's drive-thru in May. When the exchange between the dissatisfied Dixson and a Wendy's worker escalated, the employee threw a soda at Dixson, and Dixson fired back by spraying Mace through the drive-thru window. Police charged Dixson with one count of using tear gas to immobilize. [WCCO, 5/19/2017]

Rachel Borch, 21, of Hope, Maine, was Rout for a run in June when a raccoon attacked her. Thinking quickly, Borch grabbed the animal and, despite being bitten, ran to a puddle on the trail and held its head underwater until it drowned. (BONUS: Borch's father retrieved the dead raccoon and delivered it for rabies testing in a Taste of the Wild dog food bag.) [Bangor Daily News, 6/14/2017]

Insult to Injury

It was dark in the wee hours of June 30 in Jacksonville, Florida, and Cedric Jelks, 38, probably never saw the

loaded gun on the driver's seat of his car as he got in, but he certainly felt it after the gun went off, wounding his manhood. When police investigating the report of a gunshot wound arrived at the hospital Jelks was taken to, they added possible firearms charges to his pain after discovering Jelks had a prior conviction for cocaine possession. [News4JAX, 6/30/2017]

Why Not?

A driver in Zhenjiang, China, took drive-thru service to the next level on June 10 when he carefully pulled his tiny automobile through the front doors of a convenience store, requested a package of potato chips and a bottle of yogurt, paid for his purchase and reversed through the doors with the cashier's guidance. Surveillance video shows the cashier waving and saluting as the car pulls away. He posited that the driver might have been avoiding getting out of his car in the rain. [The Straits Times, 6/17/2017]

Finer Points of the Law

A restaurant owner near Florence, Italy, was ordered to pay 2,000 euros in fines in June after judges in Italy's highest court declared it illegal to keep lobsters on ice in restaurants because it

causes them undue suffering. "The suffering caused by detaining the animals while they wait to be cooked cannot be justified," the judges ruled. [Reuters, 6/16/2017]

In a fit of law abidance, a resident of Yorkshire, England, called that country's emergency phone number to report that Queen Elizabeth II was not wearing her seatbelt as she departed the Palace of Westminster on June 21 after delivering her traditional speech at the State Opening of Parliament. Police warned that the 999 system is meant to be used only for emergencies. [United Press International, 6/23/2017]

Bright Ideas

Smoke bombs aren't just for celebrating our nation's birth! Mike Tingley of Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, burned his garage to the ground on July 3 when he used smoke bombs to try to rid the structure of a bees' nest. When firefighters from three townships arrived, fireworks stored in the garage were shooting into the sky. "We really weren't going to celebrate the Fourth of July so much," Tingley said. His home, which was not attached to the garage, was not damaged. [MLive.com, 7/3/2017]

Oops!

Jerry Lynn of Ross, Pennsylvania, is continually haunted by the result of a minor mishap 13 years ago while drilling a hole in the wall of his living room. During his project, an alarm clock fell through the hole and to the floor behind the wall. Since then, the alarm sounds dutifully at 7:10 p.m. (standard time) every day. [Fox News, 6/20/2017]

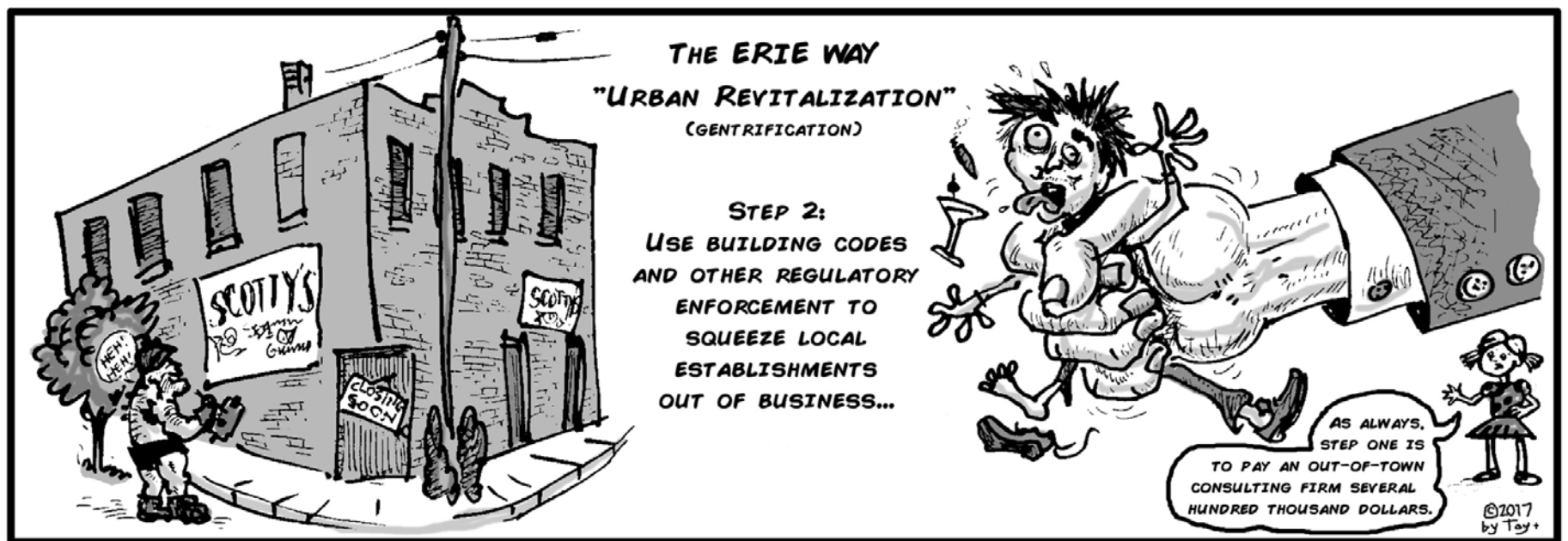
The Entrepreneurial Spirit

Ventura County, California, sheriff's officers charged three produce workers with grand theft fruit after they were caught making unauthorized cash sales of avocados from a ripening facility. Joseph Valenzuela, 38, Carlos Chavez, 28, and Rahim Leblanc, 30, liquidated up to \$300,000 worth of off-the-books avocados. "It's a big product here in California," said Sgt. John Franchi. "Everybody loves avocados." [The Associated Press, 6/17/2017]

Fashion Emergency

To beat June's record heat, male students at Isca Academy in Exeter, England, protested the school's no-shorts rule by wearing the same uniform skirts the girls wear. One boy said the skirts were "quite refreshing." An-

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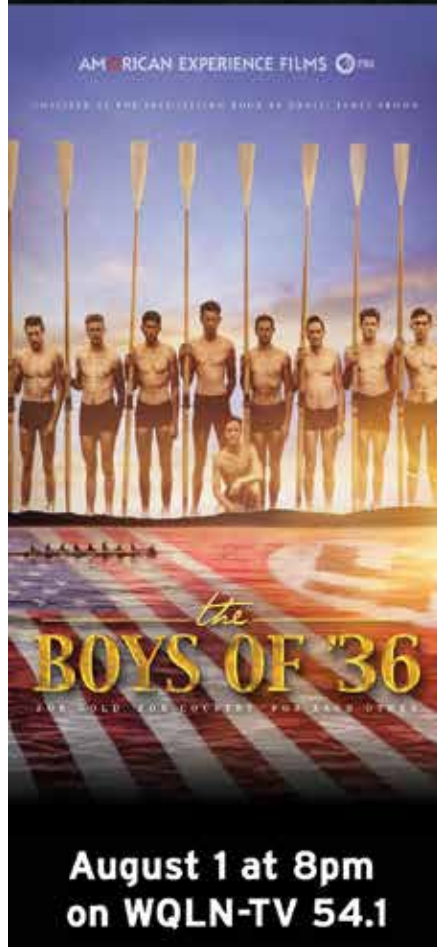
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NEWS & VIEWS

other enjoyed the "nice breeze." [NPR, 6/23/2017]

And farther south, in Nantes, France, bus drivers adopted the same skirt-wearing strategy to oppose the bus company's strict no-shorts policy. Temperatures in the region have reached record highs this year, and female drivers are allowed to wear skirts. The company responded by allowing "shorts that correspond to the uniform's color scheme of black and beige." [United Press International, 6/22/2017]

News That Sounds Like a Joke

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy reported in June that as many as 16.4 million Americans believe that chocolate milk comes from brown cows. In fact, the center's most frequently asked question on its website is, "Does chocolate milk come from brown cows?" (The answer is no.) Almost half of respondents to the center's survey weren't sure where chocolate milk comes from at all. [IFLSscience, 6/16/2017]

Crime Report

Spencer's store at Park Plaza Mall in Little Rock, Arkansas, took on a Jerry Springer vibe on June 21 when

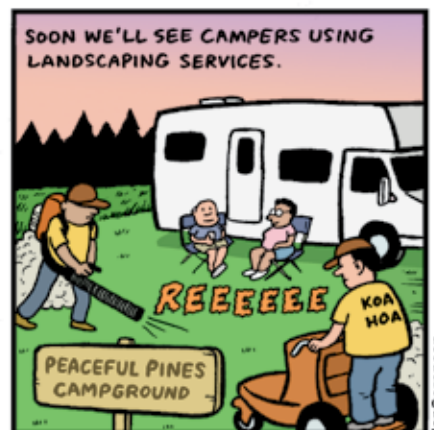
a disgruntled customer tried to steal a stripper pole. A Spencer's employee chased the woman into the mall and in the ensuing struggle was bitten by the customer, who then relinquished the stripper pole and ran away. At press time, the biter was still at large. [Associated Press, 6/22/2017]

Too Much Time on Their Hands

Awesome! An industrious group of Russian mechanics created a huge fidget spinner by welding parts of three cars together in the shape of the ubiquitous toy. The Garage 54 team, based in Novosibirsk, tried spinning the creation with one person in each car, but eventually had better luck with just one driver. [United Press International, 6/22/2017]

Recurring Themes

Two unidentified thieves managed to elude capture even after one of them nearly lost his pants during a Wellington, Florida, car break-in. The man, caught on a security camera June 18 while running back to a getaway car, tripped over his pants and landed face-down, clearly yelling, "My pants fell!" He managed to make it to the vehicle, and the thieves have yet to be identified. [Fox News, 6/22/2017]





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Clean Energy is Our Future

The tragedy of Trump's decisions



By Ed Perry

Among the nations of the world, we are alone — not as a beacon of light or hope, but as a shining example of what happens when ideology trumps science and good sense. Our government is one of only two countries, the other being Syria, that disputes the well-established scientific fact that the planet is heating up and fossil fuels are the cause.

And here is the ultimate irony: in 2009, Trump joined with dozens of business leaders to sign a full-page ad in the New York Times urging President Obama to strengthen and pass climate change legislation and to support action on a global climate change pact being negotiated in Copenhagen. The ad read, in part, "If we fail to act now, it is scientifically irrefutable that there will be catastrophic and irreversible consequences for humanity and our planet."

But it's not hard to understand why some elected representatives continue to reject climate science. The fossil fuel industry has funneled hundreds of millions of dollars to them, many of whom, like Trump, actually believe climate change is happening and fossil fuels are the cause. But as Upton Sinclair once said, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding it."

Even so, those representatives

who are climate change deniers have to strain themselves to continue denying the evidence. For example, from 1991-2012, there were 13,950 articles on climate change published in peer reviewed scientific journals. Only 24 disputed that climate change was happening. Every organization in North America that deals with some facet of climate change accepts the science, and 195 nations of the world signed on to the Paris Climate Accord. The science behind climate change is so solid, and the actual changes we are seeing in the world are so obvious that you have to be in denial of your senses to continue believing that 97 percent of climate scientists are wrong.

Despite Trump's inaction, there is hope. Not only have the nations of the world pledged to step up, but so have local governments, mayors, governors and business leaders all across America. One hundred eighty-seven mayors from around the country pledged to sign the Paris Accord just as Trump announced the pull-out. Closer to home, Ferguson Township in the State College area recently passed a resolution to become carbon-neutral by the year 2050.

Trump has been making misleading claims about the loss of jobs to justify his rejection of the Paris Climate Accord, but the fact is, getting off these dirty fuels will be a huge boost to our economy. Right now, coal provides about

In the wake of Pennsylvania's shrinking coal industry, efforts must be made to advance clean energy technology.

30 percent of our electrical generation, down from 46 percent in 2009. In contrast, solar provides less than one percent of our energy yet already employs more workers than the coal industry. Here in Pennsylvania, there are twice as many jobs in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sector as in the fossil fuel industry. So if you really want to create jobs, solar and wind power is it. And the main reason for coal's decline has nothing to do with any government regulation. It's cheap, abundant natural gas that is putting the coal companies out of business. In just eight years, gas has gone from providing 22 percent of our energy to 34 percent today, while in that same time, coal has declined from 46 percent to 30 percent. Contrary to the president's claim, coal is on its way out and is never coming back. If Trump were president back when the first cars were being produced, he would likely have tried to bring back the buggy whip industry.

One of the real tragedies of Trump's decision is that while the rest of the world is racing to become the leader in clean energy, the great technological engine of the United States is sitting on idle. While China and India are canceling coal plants, Trump is pandering to coal states, claiming to bring back coal jobs, giving false hope to those miners who voted for him.

It's time we stopped fooling ourselves and our people and come to grips what the rest of the world already knows: Clean energy is our future.

Ed Perry is a former aquatic biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He can be reached at paglobalwarmingoutreach@gmail.com

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Photo Credit: A local student tie-dyes at Erie Arts & Culture's booth during JUMP! Back to School Expo 2016

Distant Relatives

Erie still getting its Sister Act together



NICK WARREN

By: Matt Swanseger

You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family. You can't always choose your enemies, either — but through dedicated outreach, collaboration, and compromise, you can attempt to redefine those relationships. This was the original inspiration for Sister Cities International (SCI), which grew out of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's White House summit on citizen diplomacy in 1956. Having emerged from two World Wars and numerous other conflicts, Ike sought to repair rifts between the U.S. and its former adversaries by fostering trade and intercultural understanding. He felt the best way to do this was on the community level, where identities and demographics were more concrete — SCI would be the mortar to bring these communities (and the world) together.

Ideally, these “sister cities” (like biological siblings) would become friends for life. In many cases, that vision has come to fruition. One prime example is Kobe, Japan and Seattle, Washington. Since their initial pairing in 1957, the two have established a flourishing business relationship, especially within the tech industry (e.g. Nintendo, whose Japanese and U.S. headquarters are located near the respective cities). This tends to be the case with larger

cities and their larger economies — they've already developed a notable global presence and cultural identity and thus connect more readily over a broader range of interests.

Ex. 1:

PARIS: “STOP — you HAVE to tell me where you got that architecture. Is that I.M. Pei?”

NEW YORK CITY: “Yes, I'm kind of obsessed.”

[PARIS produces wallet-sized portrait of the Louvre Pyramid; NYC squeals]

Ex. 2:

MEXICO CITY: “What year did you graduate from Spanish rule?”

LOS ANGELES: “1821.”

MEXICO CITY: “Shut. Up.”

That is not to say smaller and mid-sized cities can't click from the get-go — could the union between Boring, Oregon (population: 8,000) and Dull, Scotland (population: under 100) be described as anything but destiny? However, on most occasions, finding the ideal sister city requires a little more effort and research upfront — think digging through genealogy reports as opposed to holding up a sign at an airport. For towns that really have no idea who they might relate to, SCI offers a matchmaking service called “Cities Seeking Cities,” laying the groundwork for a fruitful partnership. Scan the list (compiled from SCI analytics), narrow the choices, connect with representatives, sign the doc-

uments, and reap the benefits.

What are those benefits, you ask? According to Jill Beck, Assistant to Mayor Joe Sinnott, they include “a better cultural understanding, an enhanced industrial economy, educational opportunities and a better quality of life for citizens of our respective communities.”

Erie has formulated four sister city relationships since the program's inception: Mérida (Yucatán, Mexico), Zibo (Shandong, China), Lublin (Poland), and Dungarvan (Ireland). The sister-city designations are somewhat misleading — as they stand, these relationships seem more reminiscent of fifth cousins (twice removed) than besties-by-blood. We might exchange pleasantries at the rare family reunion, but we're definitely not Facetiming one another on the regular.

When e-mailed about the matter, City Councilman Dave Brennan had little to report: “In my time on council I have not seen much activity regarding the sister city relationships. But, I would like to see Erie become more proactive and reach out with more communication

(top) Erie's extended family dots the northern hemisphere. (top right) A view of the Governor's Palace along the arcade in Mérida, Yucatán, México. (bottom right) Flags and crowds of pedestrians line the streets of Lublin, Poland for the city's 440th anniversary celebration.

and start a few initiatives with our sister cities to benefit everyone.” Despite this, he added that “our office still receives updates, invitations, and announcements periodically, so we do keep in touch.”

And now, for your cultural edification, it would behoove us to get in touch with our sisters.

Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico

Sisterhood established: 1973

Population (2010 census): 970,377

Sibling snapshot: Mérida is the capital and largest city in Yucatán, located in the northwest of the state about 22 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. The Spanish conquistador Francisco de Montego y Leon established Mérida on the site of the ancient Mayan city of

T'hó, also known as Ichkanzihó or Ichcaanzihó (the “City of the Five Hills”). Despite the nickname (in regards to its pyramids), the landscape is mostly flat. Already rich in colonial heritage, its wealth exploded around the turn of the 20th century due to the lucrative agave crop (the foundation of tequila, and many a hangover).

Bonding material: Unlike the indigenous Mayans who still make up 60 percent of the Meridian population, the Eriez tribe has all been extinguished from northwest Pennsylvania. Nonetheless, the general resilience of the Mayans can serve as an inspiration for Erieites. Despite their colonizers' attempts to eradicate all vestiges of Mayan influence (although



HERMANN LUYKEN VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



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incorporating the carved stones of T'hó into their architecture strikes me as counter-intuitive), their spirit lives on in celebrations and traditions such as Hanal Pixan (literally "food for the souls," the region's Day of the Dead). Erie would do well to also embrace where we come from, while keeping an eye towards the future.

BFF barometer: Broken — according to Councilman Brennan, the relationship has gone dormant, with no activity in the past two decades. Many relationships fall victim to changing needs, changing priorities, and/or changing circumstances, and our sister city ties are no different. As you'll see, most of these partnerships were forged on behalf of a specific group for a specific purpose — "by popular request," if you will. In this case, the Mérida-Erie connection was prompted by the Catholic Church, which as a whole has had more pressing issues to deal with as of late (declining numbers in the faith, scandal).

Zibo, Shandong, China

Sisterhood established: 1985 (although relations began much earlier)

Population (2010 census): 4.53 million (on par with the state of Louisiana)

Sibling snapshot: Zibo is a sprawling prefecture-level city in central Shandong province. It is comprised of five distinct districts (each with its own

downtown — think New York City's five boroughs) and encompasses 2,293 square miles (that's bigger than Delaware). Its manufacturing sector is thriving, with its major industries being ceramics, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, metallurgy, construction materials, machinery, and textiles. It boasts a wealth of mineral resources as well as a storied history that spans millennia. It is the birthplace of Qi Culture (Qi = the life force or vital energy of any living thing; also the most annoying play in Scrabble) and a primordial form of soccer known as cuju (validated by FIFA as the granddaddy of fútbol). In ancient times, Zibo was a key stop along the Silk Road (silk was a highly-prized commodity, especially in the West) and home to many magnificent structures, such as the Great Wall of Qi, parts of which still stand.

Bonding material: Zibo has taken massive strides in its modernization since former mayor Lou Tullio began negotiating the partnership in the late 1970s, to the point that Erie doesn't appear to have much in common anymore. The Zibo-Erie connection originally came at the behest of the late Henry Fish, chief executive at American Sterilizer, who saw a burgeoning market for his hospital sterilization equipment. Edinboro University and Hamot Hospital piggybacked onto the newly-minted collabo-

native, implementing exchange programs between the two cities.

Tullio's successor, former mayor Joyce Savocchio had deep-seated misgivings about renewing a partnership with China due to the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989, in which hundreds (if not thousands) of civilian protestors were killed after the Chinese government declared martial law. However, after Fish and representatives of Hamot and Edinboro pleaded to preserve the bond, she relented. As a token of their friendship, the Chinese donated two enormous porcelain urns (so huge, in fact, that a special kiln had to be built to fire them) to City Hall. As the cities' economic paths continued to diverge, arts and culture became the hallmark of their communion throughout the '90s.

BFF barometer: Low. Per Councilman Brennan, an exchange program with Erie Public Schools was in the works, but it fell through as the school district's financial crisis took precedence.

(top) Along the southern coast of Ireland, the port on Dungarvan's harbor is a popular spot in the small city. (middle) Though improvements have been in place since 2002, heavy industry has caused air pollution throughout the sprawling metropolis of Zibo, China. (bottom) Generally, knowledge of Erie's sister cities rarely extends beyond this sign at the entrance to City Hall.



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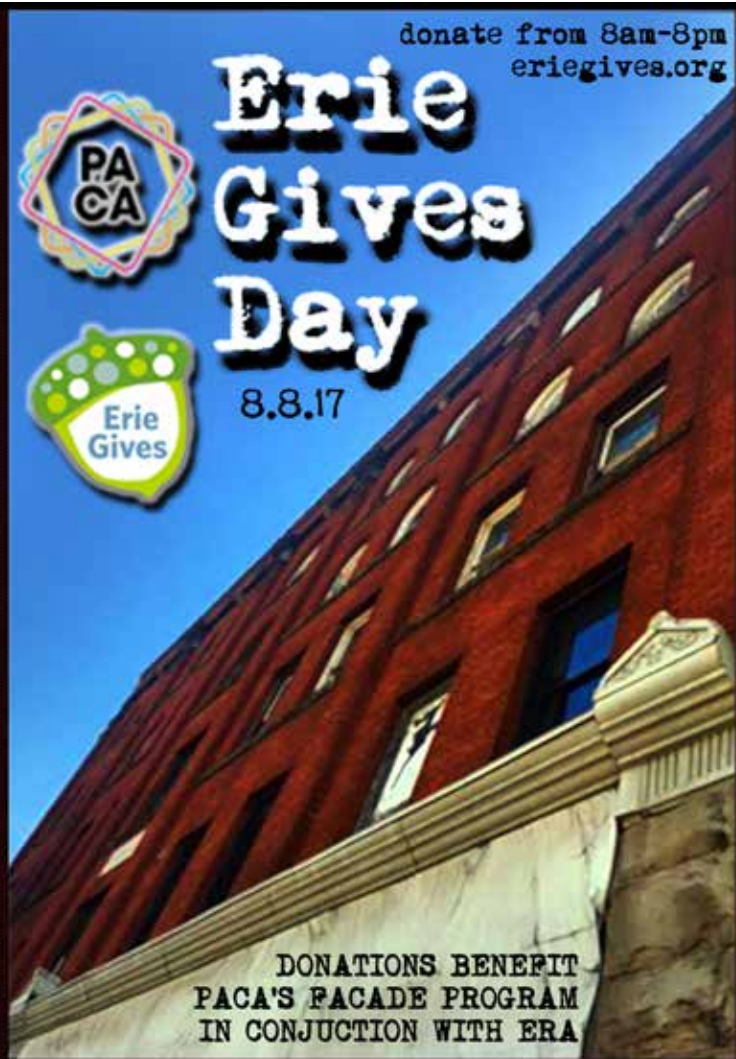
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Lublin, Poland

Sisterhood established: 1998
Population (2010 census): 348,500

Sibling snapshot: Connectivity has been in Lublin's genes for nearly 700 years, linking (Byzantine-dominated) Eastern and (Catholic-dominated) Western Europe. Its centrality on major trade routes and its strategic proximity to Poland's eastern border have lent it longstanding historical significance, both for better (the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which married the two countries in 1569) and for worse (foreign invasions). Lublin is conveniently located between Krakow and the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius (key to its early development as a trading hub), and sits approximately 105 miles southeast of the Polish capital of Warsaw.

Before World War II, it was home to a thriving Jewish community and the study of the Talmud and Kabbalah (schools of Judaism), inspiring the nickname "Jewish Oxford." This ended with Nazi occupation and Operation Reinhardt, codename of the program to exterminate all Polish Jews. Despite the ravages of the war and the political upheaval that followed, Lublin has survived as a bastion of hope (exemplified by the beautifully preserved Old Town) in one of the poorest regions of the European Union.

Bonding material: There's a lot, actually, beginning with

the prevalence of Poles in the Erie area. Our Polish heritage was the primary impetus for the partnership and one of the lasting legacies of former City Councilman Jim Thompson, who passed away in 2010.

"Jim came to me with the suggestion of Lublin as the most compatible city with Erie," recalls Savocchio, who was nearing the end of her term as mayor at the time. "He did a lot of hard work to make it happen."

Beyond the obvious ethnic parallels, Lublin closely mirrors Erie County in population and even more so in its economic trajectory — to a point. Both declined as regional industrial centers (the departure of automotive company FSC being analogous to losses at GE) and have begun reconfiguring towards service economies, although Lublin seems a little further ahead in its recovery. Bruce Kibler, Ph.D., a business professor director of the management program at Gannon University and former European resident, attributes that partially to the European Union's "concrete wealth redistribution mechanisms" which "abate losses for the less well-off."

On a lighter note, Lublin is heralded as a "City of Festivals," something Erie can surely relate to this time of year.

BFF barometer: On the lower end of steady — we haven't lost that Lublin feeling, but we could afford to show a little more of it. Dr. Kibler recently

collaborated with Lublin's Dr. Pawel Pasierbiak of the Marie Curie-Sklodowska University on a paper (and gave a lecture at the Jefferson Educational Society) exploring our striking similarities, so we're at least keeping tabs.

Dungarvan, Ireland

Sisterhood established: 2007
Population (as of 2011): ~8,000

Sibling snapshot: Dungarvan is a quaint and cozy seaside town on the southeastern coast of Ireland. The town's Irish name (Dún Garbhán) translates to "Garbhann's Fort," in reference to St. Garbhan, a 7th century abbot who founded a church at its current site. The Colligan River splits the town into two parishes, Dungarvan to the west and Abbeyside to the east. Dungarvan is the more secular half of town (shopping centers and administrative buildings), while Abbeyside is the more spiritually studious half (due to the influence of the Augustinian monks who established a friary and a college there).

If you're the type of acolyte that believes in an Earth less than 6,000 years old, then the discovery of prehistoric woolly mammoth and giant sloth bones in a Dungarvan cave may seem fishier than a net full of hake (a local relative of the cod and haddock). Those who have followed Dungarvan throughout recorded history know that the biggest thing to happen here was actually man-

made — a magnificent turreted castle erected during the reign of King John (1199-1216 C.E.) However, in the late 1400s, the repurposed fortress (retrofitted to accommodate cannons) was toppled.

Bonding material: Erie and Dungarvan have plenty to talk about, made easier because English is our first language. Like Erie, Dungarvan possesses a (presumably swimmable) eastward-facing bay and markets itself as a summer tourist destination. While Erie's bayfront lacks definition, Dungarvan's is tight (as in homey) and toned (a hangout spot for live music). Its corresponding peninsula does not much compare to Presque Isle, so Erie could feel free to brag about that (over a pint of craft beer, in which we share a strong mutual interest).

Education — not beer — was the social lubricant that got the sister city conversation started. Mercyhurst has been recruiting students from Dungarvan since the mid-'80s, in particular St. Augustine's College (a high school more akin to Mercyhurst Prep). John Melody (owner of the UPick 6 franchise and Erie Commodores FC) and John Deasy (an Irish Parliamentarian), graduates of both programs, made the pitch to Councilman/Sister City MVP Thompson to help officialize the partnership.

BFF barometer: Steady, but only because of the exchange program with Mercyhurst.

Mercyhurst hosts its annual Global Intelligence Forum in Dungarvan and has even established a satellite campus there. Hopefully these traditions shall endure as long as Dungarvan's woolly mammoth and giant sloth remains.

Now that we've circled the globe with a tour of our sister cities, it is time for some of these partnerships to start yielding tangible results. All persons interviewed for this article agree that more could be done to get the BFF barometer climbing.

Says Savocchio: "When you have sister cities abroad and within the U.S., you can pool resources and talents for products. We've got to learn to reach beyond Erie County and north-west Pennsylvania. We should begin to build relationships that are going to benefit and push our future forward, but first we've got to determine what that future is."

Dr. Kibler echoes her sentiments: "We live in a society, not by ourselves. We can't just stew in our own juices." He adds that Erie needs a "conductor running the concert" and "to embrace change" if it is to be a truly international city.

Common ground is not found merely in where we came from, but where we want to be.

Matt Swanseger has no sisters, but can nonetheless be bonded with at mswanseger@eriereader.com

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Alexa D. Potter, *Beachcomber*, 2017. Photo by Mark Fainstein



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Beer on the Bay Bookends Busy Month for Erie Brewing



As if July could not get any busier for the Erie Brewing Company, Erie's most headline-grabbing brewery of the summer will be hosting Beer on the Bay. Set against the glittering waters of Lake Erie under (and around) the recently renovated Highmark Amphitheater at Liberty Park, Beer on the Bay is in its 10th year and shows every sign of making its 2017 event the best yet, with over 50 brewers peddling their foamy wares.

Brew enthusiasts can purchase tickets for either the first session, from noon until 3 p.m. or the second session, from 4 until 7 p.m. General admission for the first session is \$35; the second session is \$40. For those who know they'll need a little sustenance to keep them going through three hours of sampling, Beer on the Bay offers VIP tickets for \$50 and \$55 (first and second sessions, respectively), which includes an expanded selection of beers for sampling, light appetizers, and even access to a hookah. (Designated Driver tickets are \$25 and include VIP access.) Both sampling sessions will also get to enjoy the sounds of DangerBird throughout. If you like your beer with a side of goodwill, you'll be gratified to know that a portion of the proceeds will go toward The ANNA Shelter.

In addition to the breweries, dozens of food and merchandise vendors will be out in full force, including craft ice cream confectioner Northern Scoop, The Que Abides, amAURA Beads, Erie Apparel and Iron Empire Clothing. Guests are also invited to take advantage of the EMTA's free shuttle service to and from Liberty Park. Grab some pals — and some sunblock — and get on down to the area's premier beer bonanza. — Cara Suppa

12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. // Highmark Amphitheater // eriepa.com/beer-on-the-bay

Sunday, July 23

Garden Tour Erie Seeks to Pollinate Interest



Something magical happens in Erie when summer finally makes its long-awaited appearance; suddenly, everything out-of-doors is fresher and sweeter. Just ask Chris DeCrease, president of the Bay City Gardeners, the host group for Garden Tour Erie 2017.

As president, DeCrease oversees what must be the Bay City Gardeners' premiere summertime event, a four-hour "tour-as-you-will" afternoon where primarily private gardens — those attached to the homes of gardeners around the city — are graciously opened to the public.

Says DeCrease, "The purpose of Garden Tour Erie is to create a sense of community and highlight the positive things about Erie around our shared passion of gardening."

Guests are invited, starting at 12:45 p.m. on the day of the event, to purchase the map guide for five dollars from either the JMC Ice Arena or the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF) Education Center. The hope is that, through touring the varying sites, which range in location from private residences in the Frontier neighborhood to the SafeNet Big Backyard at the 200 block of East 9th, "there will be an exchange of information, and forging of relationships, swapping gardening info and maybe even plants."

Many of the gardens featured in the Garden Tour are the property of members of the Bay City Gardeners group or have been recruited by them, while others have noted the group's activity on Facebook and volunteered their colorful space. DeCrease emphasizes the inclusivity of the tour, noting that

this year, there are 30 gardens featured on the guide, with some hosts offering refreshments and even musical interludes.

Whether your green thumb game is strong or you can't keep a cactus alive to save your life, all those who appreciate the beauty and importance of gardening are invited to attend this yearly tour. — Cara Suppa

1 to 5 p.m. // 423 W. 38th St.; 1501 W. Sixth St. // \$5 for maps, locations throughout Erie // www.facebook.com/BayCityGardeners

Sunday, July 23

Basement Transmissions Provides Indie and Emo Foster Home



Emo and indie-rock will find a temporary home at Basement Transmissions, when Fossil Youth, Heavy Hearts, and Sleep In roll through Erie as part of their two-week long, 11-state tour.

Fossil Youth last came to Erie County last August, playing in an actual basement in Edinboro. The Oklahoman band has since released a new album, *A Glimpse of Self Joy*, in March. Their latest differs from previous EP *Intertwined With You* in its de-emphasis of pop-punk, favoring calming and somber guitar licks over hard hitting chord progressions (not to say they're not still present).

On tour with Fossil Youth are New Jersey's Sleep In and Ontario's Heavy Hearts. (I was fortunate enough to see Sleep In open for the Crucial Dudes in New Jersey, and was compelled enough by their performance that I bought their LP *Settling* instead of merch from the band I had been dying to see for years.) Picture a more energetic American Football (the band), and you have Sleep In. Heavy Hearts, aptly named, is the heaviest (term used loosely) band on the tour package, with loud powerful, melodic,

and emotional choruses in songs like "Basement Jesus" and "Bliss".

Local opening acts include The Standby, for fans of Brand New, and The Filthy Casuals, a new ska/punk band that just released their first single, "DJKT." — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$7 // All ages // facebook.com/events/314549122306698

Monday, July 24

Follow Your Nose to Basement Transmissions for Local Showcase



Sometimes it can be difficult to notice something big happening right under your nose. Big things only happen in NYC and LA, right? But in nearby Cleveland, McCafferty is making big things happen for themselves.

McCafferty's album *Thanks. Sorry. Sure.*, just debuted on Take This to Heart Records on June 30, and despite only having been out for a few weeks, they have already been popping up all over the Billboard charts, reaching No. 125 on the Top Current Artist chart, No. 38 on the LP Vinyl Album chart, No. 5 on the Top New Artist list, and the coveted No. 1 spot in the Alternative New Artist category. The band's emo/pop-punk with just a dash of folk is striking a chord with audiences at a rate that few anticipated, so make sure you come see them before they blow up, and you can brag to your friends "I saw them way back when..."

Supporting acts for the show include the indie dream-pop collective Flora (featuring the Reader's Nick Warren on bass), emotional punk/Title Fight wannabes Archway (featuring yours truly on guitar — a little shameless self-promotion never hurt anybody), Erie emo/grunge band The Standby (playing their second consecutive night at BT), and Heel Turn (acoustic

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FRI 08/04

ADDISON MOON BAND
+ BROOKE SURGENER
SAT 08/05

SWEET EARTH
FRI 08/11
LOOMS

SAT 08/12
MCLOVINS
FRI 08/18

IRREGARDLESS
+ DOC ELLIS
SAT 08/19

PERIDONI
FRI 08/25
THE WILDEYES
SAT 08/26

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punk and self-proclaimed “budget rock” from Clarion).

There will be a lot of exciting acts at this show, so don't miss the chance to see some great live music and have a good time. — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$10 adv/\$12 doors // All ages // facebook.com/events/1970325466568139

Tuesday, July 25

Plenty to Come in Remaining 8 Great Slate



After serving up a hefty helping of Satisfaction with the International Rolling Stones Show and some Killer Queen earlier this month, 8 Great Tuesdays — the much-loved, annual, free, Port Erie-hosted concert series — continues through July and August at Liberty Park on Lake Erie.

The next installment presents The Commonheart, a Pittsburgh area-based outfit gaining plenty of traction with fans around the region with their skillful, high-energy, high-emotion, soulful sound and aesthetic. They'll be joined that week by openers The Groove, making for another good summer weeknight at 8 Great Tuesdays.

8 Great Tuesdays continues every Tuesday from there, featuring One World Tribe (with openers 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.

— Ryan Smith

6:30 p.m. // Highmark Amphitheatre at Liberty Park // 455-7557 // porterie.org

Wednesday, July 26

NPAA Scholarship Exhibition Puts Best of Erie on Display

Part art gallery, part awards ceremony and all gala, the Fran Schanz



18th Annual NPAA Scholarship Exhibition combines the very best that the Erie area's artistic community has to offer.

This event is put on by the Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association (NPAA), an organization that has protected, promoted and advocated for the rights and integrity of artists in the Erie region for 43 years. President Kris Risto is busy with the NPAA's many activities throughout the year, but the Scholarship Exhibition is clearly an important and anticipated night for all involved. “Each ticket holder gets dinner for two, a stunning glass-blown flower by the artist Barbara Yerace and a chance to win the art lottery,” he said.

Tickets can be purchased in pairs for only \$110, either online or at the Artlore Gallery, Glass Growers Gallery, or PACA. The lottery Risto mentioned is an incredible opportunity for one out of every 10 lucky guests to win

the chance to choose one of the 85 art pieces on display for their own personal gallery at home. Music will also be a well-represented art form, with the hot, jazzy sounds of the Stephen Trohoske Trio and the incomparable Mackenzie Sprague (a.k.a. Optimistic Apocalypse) on hand.

“Each ticket holder gets dinner for two, a stunning glass-blown flower by the artist Barbara Yerace and a chance to win the art lottery.”

Risto stressed the importance of the organization's mission for the last four decades, and particularly its work in promoting the artists of the future through its scholarship recipients, while also remarking on the specialness of this year's event: “[It's] the first time we are having the event at the Bayfront Convention Center.” With stellar views of the lake and accompanying sunset, the 2017 NPAA Scholarship Exhibition will be as colorful and as memorable as any artistic masterpiece. — Cara Suppa

6 p.m. to 10 p.m. // 1 Sassafrass Pier // \$110 for two tickets // facebook.com/NPAAonline

MUSIC

Singalong with Lori

July 19, 26 — 11 to 11:50 a.m.

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

Mid-Day Art Break

July 19, 26 & Aug. 2 — noon to 1 p.m.

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

Jackson Station and Tennessee Backporch

July 19 — 5:30 p.m.

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

Paul & Ieva

July 19 — 6 to 8 p.m.

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

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

July 19, 26 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Maxi's Restaurant at Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Tyler Smilo

July 19 — 7 p.m.

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

Concert Band of Northwest Pennsylvania Performance

July 19 — 7 p.m.

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

Absence of Despair, One Day Waiting, Slaughter In the Meridian, Ravens Law and Verutum

July 20 — 6 to 10 p.m.

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

Fred Oakman

July 20 — 7 p.m.

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

Smith Carillon Series: Tatiana Lukyanova

July 20 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Arts in the Arboretum Concert Series

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

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

Verutum, Bravura, Glasswing and Familiar Dark

July 21 — 3 to 10 p.m.

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

Dave VanAmburg

July 21, 28 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 3716

Liberty St. jazzerie.com.

Malpractice

July 21 — 6 p.m.

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

Abbey Road

July 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Gem City Revival

July 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

The Vigils Trio

July 21 — 7 p.m.

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

Sounds Around Town

July 21, 28 & Aug. 4 — 7 p.m.

WQLN, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Manokin, Greywalker, Obelus and Sacred Decay

July 21 — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

The Groove

July 21 — 9 p.m.

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

Waiting for Never

July 21 — 9 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Joose and the Standby

July 22 — 3 to 10 p.m.

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

Vendettas

July 22 — 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Jackson Station

July 22 — 6 p.m.

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

Tony Kellogg

July 22 — 7 p.m.

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

Geek Army

July 22 — 9 p.m.

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

Grind "The Alice in Chains Tribute"

July 22 — 10 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Rankin & Schell

July 23 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Clever Norman

July 23 — 5 p.m.

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd.

edinborolakeresort.com.

Fossil Youth, Heavy Heart, Sleep In, The Standby and The Filthy Casuals

July 23 — 6:30 p.m.

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

McCafferty, Flora, Heel Turn, Archway and The Standby

July 24 — 6 to 11 p.m.

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

Gem City Concert Band City of Erie Sounds of Summer Concert Series

July 24 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Currey Schell Apartments, 3909 Shaper Ave. gemcitybands.org.

The Common Heart and The Groove

July 25 — 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier porterie.org.

Bootlegger's Bible Club

July 26 — 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Concert Band of Northwest Pennsylvania Performance

July 26 — 7 p.m.

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

Whitechapel Jack

July 26 — 7 p.m.

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

Bridget Allen & The Tastemakers

July 27 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Brooke Surgener

July 27 — 7 p.m.

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

Smith Carillon Series: Janet Tebbel

July 27 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Flight

July 28 — 6 p.m.

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

Key West Express

July 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Aaron Work & Friends

July 28 — 7 p.m.

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

Jim Madden Group

July 28 — 7 to 7:30 p.m.

CALENDAR

Thursday, July 27

Letting Your Soul Bloom



The Bloom Collaborative is a special place. "We're primarily a healing art studio," explained Heather McBrier, Bloom's director of business development. The art and wellness center, (located between French and Holland Streets on 26th Street), provides a place for people to channel their feelings into something new and fulfilling for the soul. Founded by Stairways Behavioral Health, Bloom understands the powerful force that creativity can play in someone's life.

"We're of the 'maker' mindset, but in a healing way," McBrier elaborated, clarifying that "art is healing in its own way of course, but we work with people who are going through things, first and foremost."

Thanks in part to its partnership with Stairways, the arts center works

with those living with mental and physical illnesses, in addition to at-risk teens and people going through recovery.

It's an inviting atmosphere that strives to have no barriers. "We're not art with a capital 'A,'" McBrier reasoned, reminding any interested party that "art is for everybody."

On Thursday, there will be a special fundraising celebration deemed the *Soul Party*. There will be an open bar along with a botanical garnish section, featuring artisanal meats, cheese, and vegetable treats. There will also be a biscuit bar with homemade jam and honey.

Taking place at BLOSSOM's Clay Studio, the event will also be host to a pottery sale, with the pottery wheels close by and ready-to-spin.

Local indie rock band Pine Diary will be playing throughout the evening too, shaping the evening with the rich, soulful vocals of singer Jess Royer. The night promises to be a funky, soul-enriching time, all while benefiting a good cause. — Nick Warren

5:30 p.m. // 138 East 26th Street // squareup.com/store/bloom-collaborative // \$75 // for questions, call 814.878.3688 or email hmcbrier@bloomcollaborative.org

Friday, July 28

Erie Art Museum's Summer Gallery Night

Erie Art Museum's upcoming Gallery Night celebrates summer with art, live entertainment and demonstrations spread across 15 uniquely Erie venues.

At the museum, people can view Pairing Similarities, a display of cast bronze and aluminum sculptures by D.W. Martin, and admire Ancient Ink, a collection of photographs by Mark Perrott. His work documents the "highly-decorated tribe of tattooed older Americans."

Perrott will speak at 7:30 p.m. as part of an Artist Talk, and a \$5 Romolo's Chocolate art pairing tour will follow at 8:15 p.m. A glass bead demonstration will be offered throughout the evening until 9 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Presque Isle Artists Association will display summer-themed art at the Key Bank Community Room, 801 State St. The Once Upon a Summer exhibit features its members' artwork in the form of many mediums. Artists will attend to mingle with guests.

Other venues are also featuring seasonal art. At the Beachcomber Gallery,

3445 West 12th St, people can see a new *Essential Beach Jewelry* by Denise Walker. The Bayfront Gallery at 17 East Dobbins Landing will display watercolor Presque Isle scenes by Wilda Sundberg and vintage pieces by her late husband.

A complete list of locations, their exhibits and addresses is available on Erie Art Museum's website. Other gallery nights will be held Sept. 22 and Dec. 1. Any local organization, business or studio is welcome to participate, but they must remain open and display original artwork for the entire duration of the show. To participate in the next gallery night, venues must contact the Erie Art Museum by Aug. 7. — Tracy Geibel

7 to 10 p.m. // various locations // 459-5477 // erieartmuseum.org/events-gallery-night // free

Friday, July 28

Baseball Cards, Martyrs and Maybe Some Cracker Jacks

One noteworthy niche in the Gallery Night lineup will be Paul Kuhrman's *ALL STAR BREAK*, at the 319W2 Project Space. The Pittsburgh native, long-time New York City resident and devout Pittsburgh Pirates

Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. jazzerie.com.

Art of Practicing Institute Concluding Concert

July 28 — 7:30 p.m.

Dr. William P. Alexander Music Center at Edinboro University, 110 Kiltie Rd. events.edinboro.edu.

Ultrasonic Rock Orchestra

July 28 — 7:30 p.m.

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

Dysmorphia, BastardBastardBastard, Survivors, Sudden Frost and My Father's Garage

July 28 — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

Cruisin'

July 28 — 9 p.m.

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

Rocket Queens

July 28 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Tony Grey & Ian Maciak Galactic Duo

July 28 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Abbey Road

July 29 — 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Refugee Saturday

July 29 — 6 p.m.

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

Sunday at the Station

July 29 — 7 p.m.

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

100 Years of the Playhouse a Concert Extravaganza

July 29 — 7:30 p.m.

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

Talaba for Two

July 29 — 7:30 p.m.

Universalist Church, 107 Myrtle St. facebook.com.

The Hamiltons

July 29 — 9 p.m.

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

Jones for Revival

July 29 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Adam Mckillip

July 30 — 5 p.m.

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

Two Hands

July 31 — 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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

One World Tribe and The Sun King Warriors

Aug 1 — 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier porterierie.org.

Oliver Spitts

August 2 — 7 p.m.

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

Six Year Stretch

Aug. 2 — 7 p.m.

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

DANCE

Summer Dance Training

July 24, 31 & Aug. 21 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sovereign Ballet, 2539 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

FOOD & DRINK

Cooking with Summer Vegetables

July 19 — 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Picnic in the Park

July 20, 27 & Aug. 3, 10, 17 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Gibson Park, 31 W. Main St. facebook.com.

Pizza Party

July 20 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Erie Food Tours

July 21, 22, 28, 29 & Aug. 4, 5 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Food Safety

July 21 — 1 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Beer on the Bay

July 22 — noon to 7 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier eriepa.com.

Mind, Body, Beer

July 25 — 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Brunch at the Ambassador

July 30 — 11 a.m.

Ambassador Conference Center, 7792 Peach St. erieplayhouse.org.

FILM

Extreme Weather

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

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

Flight of the Butterflies

Ongoing — noon & 4 p.m.

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

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Ongoing — 1 p.m.

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

Prehistoric Planet

Ongoing — 2 & 5 p.m.

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

Angels in America

July 20, 27 — 7 p.m.

Cinemark Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. cinemark.com.

Frankenstein's Daughter (1958)

July 20 — 8 to 11 p.m.

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

Pete's Dragon

July 20 — 9 p.m.

Porreco College of Edinboro University, 2951 W. 38th St. edinboro.edu.

The Sadist (1963)

July 28 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

Captain America Civil War

July 30 — 1:30 p.m.

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

VISUAL ARTS

Recent Painting by Jason Lewis

Ongoing through July 25

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

Erie County Art Teachers

Ongoing through Aug. 11

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

Pairing Similarities: D.W. Martin

Ongoing through Oct. 21

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

Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.

Ongoing through January 7, 2018

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

Ancient Ink: Mark Perrott

Ongoing through January 28, 2018

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

Francis T. Schanz 18th Annual NPAA Scholarship Exhibition

July 26 — 6 to 10 p.m.

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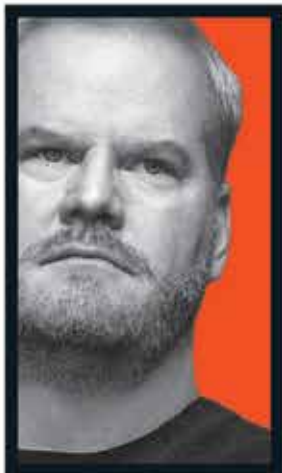
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fan has been exploring, tongue-in-cheek, the intersection of sports, religion, art history and pop culture for more than a decade.

In *ALL STAR BREAK*, we'll see some of his "defaced" baseball cards where he revises the existing card into something more and, in selected cases, a visual pun associated with the player's name.

The space will also feature one of his baseball-themed altarpieces, *St. Sebastian*, where the main figure is tied to a baseball bat and assaulted with baseballs rather than stuck with arrows (you have to know something about Catholic iconography to get the joke here).

Available for purchase at the show will be decks of Tarot de Cooperstown cards, which replace the wands, cups, swords and coins of the minor arcana with bats, gloves, bases, and balls. It can also be used to play a version of baseball.

It may be a small show, but Kuhlman ain't no bush league player. No need for your rally cap here — this one's a winner. — Mary Birdsong

319 W 2nd St // July 22-23 and 29-30, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Also open Fri., July 28 for Gallery Night // For more info call Eyewash Productions, 502-8086

Friday, July 28

Erie Playhouse Celebrates a Century



For the past century, the Erie Playhouse has been a mainstay in the Erie landscape and its performances are part of the city's rich history. To celebrate this major milestone, the Playhouse has planned a weekend of festivities. The 100th anniversary reunion weekend begins Friday with a rock concert and continues through Sunday with a celebratory brunch at

the Ambassador Center.

"We have a whole weekend planned out," said producing director Richard Davis. "It's really cool for us that we get to be here for this — I think it's going to be great."

The fun kicks off Friday at 7:30 p.m. when the Boston band UltraSonic Rock Orchestra (URO) takes the Playhouse stage. This unique nine-vocalist band isn't your typical orchestra. The group performs music from legends like Queen, David Bowie, The Beatles, The Who and Led Zeppelin.

"A wall of sound that reverberated with life had me leaning so far forward in my seat in sheer captivation that I thought I was going to keel over," wrote Tim Miller of the Cape Cod Times in a review.

Celebrations continue through Saturday with food and family fun at a street fair outside the Playhouse along West 10th Street. People can play games, visit vendors and try the Millcreek Brewing Company special "Break-a-Leg" beer, brewed in honor of the event.

The evening ends with a Concert Extravaganza at 7:30 p.m. In what Davis calls a "spectacular" show, about 150 current and past Playhouse volunteers will perform songs from musicals presented throughout Playhouse

history. The program will include songs from 42nd Street, Beauty and the Beast, Chicago, Hairspray and others.

"We started rehearsals on Sunday (July 9)," said Davis. "And some of the people are coming from out of town." But he has no concerns. "We are used to performing."

A complete schedule of events is available at erieplayhouse.org. — Tracy Geibel

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. and Ambassador Center, 7794 Peach St. // 454-2852 // erieplayhouse.org/shows-events/celebrating-100-years // \$80-130 weekend, \$25 URO, \$30-100 Concert Extravaganza, \$30 brunch (\$15 children ages 4-12, free for children under 3) //

Friday, July 28

Galactic Duo Brings World-Class Chops to the Rook

One of the jazz world's (and we mean the whole world's) most outstanding and in-demand bassists (Tony Grey) and one amazingly versatile percussionist (Ian Maciak) — a virtuoso combo known as the Galactic Duo — call Erie their home base, and for that reason, we should all listen up.

[Sassafras Pier npaonline.org](http://SassafrasPier.npaonline.org).

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

July 28 through November 12
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Affinity by Jack Stone & Susan Stone

July 28 through Aug. 29 (Reception July 28 — 7 to 10 p.m.)
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Gallery Night

July 28 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Erie Summer Art Show

July 28 — 7 to 10 p.m. & July 29 — 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. & July 30 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Key Bank's Community Room, 801 State St. facebook.com.

THEATER

Arts in the Arboretum Theater Series

July 19 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Oklahoma

July 19, 20, 21, 22 — 7:30 p.m. & July 23 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

Snake-Eye Sam's Saloon Show-Down

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

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

COMMUNITY

North East Firemen's Cherry Festival

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

Evening Lagoon 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. presqueisleighthouse.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 19, 24, 26, 31 & Aug. 2 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Wednesday Walks in the Woods

July 19, 26 & Aug. 2 — 11 a.m. to noon

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels

July 19 — noon

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

Farmers Market

July 19, 26 & Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 3 to 6 p.m.

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

5 Ways to a Younger You

July 19 — 6 p.m.

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

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.

ServErie School Initiative

July 20, 21, 22, 23 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 2 to 6 p.m.

Erie High School, 3325 Cherry St. serverie.com.

Weight Lifting/Cardio Fitness Class

July 20, 27 — 9:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tots in Nature

July 20, 27 — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

July 20 — 10 to 11 a.m.

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

Children's Art Classes

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

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

Garden Sprouts Preschool

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

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

Get the Most Out of Your Day

July 20 — 12:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

New Horizons Music Project

July 20, 27 & Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 — 4 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Block Party

July 20 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.

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

Balancing Power: Why Citizens Should Care about Current Issues in the Judiciary

July 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

The Gathering at Chaffee's

July 21, 22, 23

Chaffee Landscaping Inc, 8296 Mill St. thegatheringatchaffees.com.

Getting Creative with Acrylics: A

Painting Residency

July 21, 28 — 9 to 11 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Fairy Garden

July 21 — 6 to 8 p.m.

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

Tai Chi

July 21, 28 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

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

Labyrinth Celebration: Peace & Unity

July 21 — 8 p.m.

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

Candlelight Ghost Walks

July 21, 22 — 8 p.m.

Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. candlelightghostwalks.com.

Mindfulness, Confidence and Performance: A Transformative Program for Musicians


July 22 through July 29 — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Sunshine Storytime

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

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




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CALENDAR



Shorter, and many others. His most recent solo album, *Elevation*, was released in 2014 with a band that included his uncle and mentor, the legendary guitarist John McLaughlin.

Maciak is also undoubtedly possessed of the skills to pay the bills, blending complicated hip-hop beats

They're two of the artists who make Erie's music scene plenty worth writing about, and any chance to see them should not be missed.

Need some proof of their credentials? Check this:

Originally from England, Grey attended Berklee College of Music in Boston where he was named an "outstanding performer." He's also earned a Jazz Album of the Year award for his album *Unknown Angels* from the Independent Music Awards, and an Outstanding Contribution to Jazz Education award by the International Association of Jazz Education.

Oh yeah — he also spent more than four years touring with pianist Hirome, and has performed with jazz artists such as Herbie Hancock, Wayne

with rhythmic virtuosity, and regularly collaborating (along with Grey) with musicians like Zack Orr of Space-Lounge Productions, Adam Holquist, and Stephen Trohoske, forming the trio known as Human Flux.

They're two of the artists who make Erie's music scene plenty worth writing about, and any chance to see them should not be missed.

— Ryan Smith

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

March for Public Education Beach, 7000 E. Lake Rd. July 22 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. [ih.iroquoissd.org](https://www.ih.iroquoissd.org).

Erie County Public Library, 160 E. Front St. facebook.com.

Bicycle Tour of Presque Isle July 22 — 10:30 a.m. to noon
Cookhouse Pavilion parking lot at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

DiscoverE: Frogs and Turtles

July 22 — 11 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie Land Lighthouse Tours July 22, 23 & Aug 5, 6 — noon
Presque Isle Light Station in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. erie.playhouse.org.

LifeWorks Erie Bingo Palooza

July 22 — 1 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Create a Magical Fairy Garden

July 22 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Iroquois Band Boosters Bingo & Fiesta

July 22 — 2 to 9 p.m.
Large Pavilion at Shades

Beach, 7000 E. Lake Rd. [ih.iroquoissd.org](https://www.ih.iroquoissd.org).

Pilates Class with Michaelee Curtze

July 23, 30 — 11 a.m. to noon
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Garden Tour Erie 2017

July 23 — 1 to 5 p.m.
Various Locations, facebook.com.

Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton: Conflict and the Constitution

July 23 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Vertigo and Dizziness

July 24 — 10:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Wishing on a Star

July 24 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza Dr. heathercash.com.

Cruise the Bay

July 24 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier callingallcruiserz.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Bower Baysox

July 24, 25 — 7 p.m. & July 26 — noon

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

Fit for Life Fitness Class

July 25 & Aug. 1 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Branching Out

July 25 & Aug. 1, 8 — 10 a.m. to noon

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

Beyond Books: Libraries Transform Lives

July 25 — 1 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Wood Sign Painting Party

July 26 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Fox & Hound, 250 Millcreek Plaza kellybellybootique.com.

Hunks

July 26, 27 — 7 p.m.

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

The Active Older Athlete

July 26 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Work Day For Operation Christmas Child

July 27 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grace Church, 7300 Grubb Rd. whoisgrace.com.

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ERIE ART MUSEUM 
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The 2017 Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival is expanding to include another full day. Kick off Friday with Art Acts: Performances and interactive workshops with artists, performers, musicians and puppeteers from the Cleveland Museum of Art's Department of Community Arts. Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association exhibition opens at LEAF Education Center building. Paint a Mural with artist Mark Weber. Explore music-making at the Erie Philharmonic's Jazz Instruments Petting Zoo & much more! End the day with a special double-feature version of LEAF's Movies in the Arboretum. Saturday and Sunday feature national and regional musicians like Eddie Turner and Trouble, Mokoomba, Russell Malone Quartet, and Trio 3 all in a beautiful, outdoor, family-friendly setting. Enjoy food vendors, beer garden, festival merchandise and kids activities.

Great Lakes Super Select
July 27, 28, 29, 30
Mercyhurst University,
501 E. 38th St.
pastimetournaments.com.

Soul Party
July 27 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
BLOOM Collaborative, 138 E.
26th St. bloomcollaborative.org.

Wood Sign Painting Party
July 27 — 6 to 8 p.m.
408 Bar and Grille, 408 State
St. kellybellybootique.com.

**Ageing Successfully:
Can it Be Done?**
July 27 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,
3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**Discover Presque
Isle Days 2017**
July 28 — noon to 8 p.m. &
July 29 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &
July 30 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 301
Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Aches and Pains
July 28 — 1 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach
St. lifeworkserie.org.

Open Canvas
July 28 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza
Dr. heathercash.com.

**EVP Pro Am National
Beach Volleyball Tour**

July 29 — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. &
July 30 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Beach 1 at Presque Isle
State Park, 301 Peninsula
Dr. evptour.com.

**Ayurveda and Yoga
for Your Body Type**
July 29 — 10 a.m. to noon
Plasha Yoga Studio, 3330 W.
26th St. plashayoga.com.

Street Fair
July 29 — 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10
St. erieplayhouse.org.

**Unity Picnic against
drugs and violence**
July 29 — noon to 3:15 p.m.
Rodger Young Park, Downing
Ave. matverie.org.

Hispanic Heritage Festival
July 29 — noon to 8 p.m.
Perry Square, 568 State
St. facebook.com.

**WWE Live Summer
Slam Heat Wave Tour**
July 29 — 7:30 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809
French St. erieevents.com.

**YMCA Camp Sherwin
Cruise-in**
July 30 — noon to 4 p.m.
Camp Sherwin, 8600 W.
Lake Rd. ymcaerie.org.

**Fall Semester Art Classes:
Registration Begins**

July 31 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State
St. erieartmuseum.org.

Day & Night Tree
July 31 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza
Dr. heathercash.com.

**Acupuncture to Stem
Cells: Understanding Your
Integrative Options**
July 31 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,
3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Autogenic Relaxation
Aug 1 — 1 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach
St. lifeworkserie.org.

Yoga for Back Pain
Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 — 5:30
to 6:30 p.m.
Plasha Yoga Studio, 3330 W.
26th St. plashayoga.com.

**Mobility and Function
Through the Adult Years**
Aug. 1 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,
3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**Paging Dr. Ivan: From
Mr. USA to Changing
Lives for Better Health**
Aug. 2 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,
3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**Eddie Turner
and Trouble**
Saturday, August 5 at 6 pm



Mokoomba
Saturday, August 5 at 8 pm



Trio 3
Sunday, August 6 at 8 pm



**Russell Malone
Quartet**
Sunday, August 6 at 6 pm



For festival lineup, directions,
and helpful tips visit our website
at erieartmuseum.org

Gathering at Chaffee's a Family Affair

Familial vibe keeps annual fest alive



FRIDAY, JULY 21

By Ryan Smith

Finding yourself afoot at some summer music gatherings, you may feel like a guest (and that can be cool).

At others, you may even feel like a stranger (and that can be cool, too).

But The Gathering at Chaffee's — and I am nowhere close to the first, last or only person to make this statement — well, it's one of those rare, small-but-absolutely-amazing festivals where, in a very short time, everyone gets to feeling a whole lot like family.

One big, comfortable, dance-happy, musical-mind-blown family.

This year marks the 37th annual Gathering (known simply as “the party” to the literal Chaffee family), giving its very loyal local following almost four decades worth of Chaffee's goodness at those intimate festival grounds (the Chaffee family's Girard property, that is) as one of lots of very awesome reasons to celebrate.

It's one of those rare, small-but-absolutely-amazing festivals where, in a very short time, everyone gets to feeling a whole lot like family.

The soundtrack to that big little party is, as always, amazing. This year, Gathering-goers get to check out longtime, big-time, legendary jam scene all-stars Ekoostik Hookah, along with all sorts of other stellar national, regional and local acts. Tropicadelic, Mister F, Vibe & Direct, Eric Brewer & Friends, Steve Trohoske & the Art Groupies, This American Song, and Audio-Tonic will bring the Chaffee's Main Stage to life on Friday. On Saturday (along with a nice night-time dose of hookah), it'll be on fire with performances by Spiritual Rez, Chestnut Grove, Big City Hangover, Stereosphere, Six Year Stretch, Haewa, The Bees Trees, and the final

performance of GNOSiS.

And that's not even close to all the Gathering has to offer. The Chaffee's Side Stage is, as usual, also busting out its sides with local talent: The LEC, Qwister, Special Guest (a reunion, even!) and Pine Diary on Friday; and, on Saturday, performances by Broke Boland Band, Claire Stuczynski, Dionisio, Adam McKillip, Justin Moyar and Fred Greco.

More than anything, “the vibe is what makes the Gathering at Chaffee's so wonderful,” festival founder and leader Doug Chaffee told me a while back. “That, I think, [is] the highlight of the Gathering for me, along with all the smiling, appreciative people who come to our property to get away for one weekend a summer — for good music, good vibes, good times, and memories that last a lifetime.”

Easy to get to, hard to leave. A lot like family. Chaffee's is one sweet, sweet gathering indeed.

Friday 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. // 8296 Mill St., Girard // thegatheringatchaffees.com // last call tickets \$62.49

Ryan Smith can be reached by e-mail at rsmith@eriereader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ryansmithplens.

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Carving a Path

Award-winning woodcarver, Fredy Mallqui connects history and passion



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

canvas throughout the millennia, gradually evolving into a rich artform. Spanning across cultures and continents, woodcarving has the ability to merge functionality with fine art.

“Woodcarving is another expression of art, just like painting or photography,” Mallqui described. “It also connects me with the history of my city, Ayacucho, Perú, where the craftsman tradition is centuries old.”

Ayacucho is the capital city of Perú’s Huamanga Province, located in the center of the country’s southern half. The city, established in 1540, has a deep legacy of culture, which provided Mallqui with an important artistic roadmap. Detailing his early life, he explained that “growing up in the city of Ayacucho, the Peruvian capital of the craftsman, I have inherited an active appreciation of my cultural heritage, which is a product of the syncretism between Spanish and local cultures.”

“I learned wood carving from master carvers in Ayacucho and Cuzco, and I have developed my own technique to design, carve and conserve intricate pieces in Baroque, Rococo, Gothic, and Romanesque styles,” Mallqui detailed. Trained by the Peruvian Ministry of Culture, focusing on art conservation and restoration, he worked in the provinces of Cuzco as well as Apurímac. During

By Nick Warren

“As a woodcarver, I am connected with the history of art,” Fredy Huamán Mallqui reasons.

Seeing Mallqui’s work, that link to the past is difficult to deny. The local artist’s intricate pieces are reminiscent to the baroque and rococo periods of art. These two styles dominated Europe, (and, more specifically for the Rococo period, France), during the 17th and 18th centuries. Works of this period are known for their ornate details full of beautiful flourishes. Blending these with the deep traditions of his na-

tive Perú, Mallqui has used the past to forge a voice of his own. Through patient attention to detail and years of practice, Mallqui is bringing old-world artisanal expertise into the 21st century.

The art of woodcarving has been around since before recorded history. Tracing the roots of Mallqui’s profession, one is able reach back to one of mankind’s earliest artistic efforts. Being relatively easy to shape, when compared to stone or other materials, wood has a workable softness, while still remaining durable. That, combined with its natural abundance has made it into an inviting



Fredy Mallqui (left) in his Erie studio, in the process of carving four corbels for a master bathroom. Works like this ceiling medallion, (right) 50" in circumference, took approximately three weeks to carve by hand. Similar work went into a set of Romanesque style capitals (middle) in walnut, and a carved headboard (bottom) still in progress.

his time there, he was able to work with religious art, wooden and plaster polychrome sculptures, furniture, frames, architectural elements in wood and plaster, as well as gilded pieces and murals dating from the 16th-18th centuries.

Since relocating to Erie in 2012, he has continued to develop his skills. From his homeland, Mallqui literally brought his tools with him (which he customized himself by hand), as well as what he described as “the most precious tools: my sensibility, creativity, skills and expertise that I have accumulated with patience and observation, careful of the details in my work as part of my daily life.”

Working as a freelance conservator, Mallqui diligently helps to faithfully restore various works, while also carving custom orders. Requests often consist of ar-

chitectural elements, including arches, corbels, capitals, balusters, and medallions. There are decorative pieces as well, such as sculptures, frames, even coats of arms. His clients include the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, the Erie Art Museum, Greenville Wood Products, Erie Insurance, Kidder Wachter, Jefferys Construction, CMI/Carving Masters, Inc., David’s Woodworking, Buffalo’s Kittinger Furniture Company, as well as private clients.

While in Erie, Mallqui quickly gravitated towards one of our region’s best woodcarvers. “I had the opportunity to collaborate with my friend and fantastic local furniture maker Brian Millspaw, from whom I learned different woodworking techniques.” Millspaw’s output encompasses pieces such as relief portraiture, statuettes with an abstract flair, and intense-

ly detailed custom recreations.

A blend of craft, art and passion, woodcarving has become a fulfilling part of Mallqui’s life. “Carving a piece of art or an architectural element makes me feel very happy and satisfied, because

“Carving a piece of art or an architectural element makes me feel very happy and satisfied, because it is what I do and what I am passionate about doing.”

it is what I do and what I am passionate about doing,” the artist confessed. Working from preliminary sketches, to clay models, to the finished product, Mallqui relishes ev-

ery step of a piece’s creation. “It is gratifying to know that I can transform any kind of bidimensional design into tridimensional form. I am involved in the entire process, from the design to the carving.”

Earlier this year, Mallqui entered a scholarship competition with the Marc Adams School of Woodworking. In spite of an overwhelming response from hopeful entrants, Mallqui won. He was awarded the 2017 Excellence in Education Scholarship in the professional category. The school, located south of Indianapolis, Indiana, specializes in intensive short-term classes ranging from five days to two weeks.

Edinboro woodworking professor Karen Ernst (a master of bold, modern designs) marveled at Mallqui’s work: “I don’t think there are many people in the world, and cer-

tainly in this region, capable of carving designs that ornate and complex out of solid wood and by hand.”

Ernst went on to explain the widespread technique of computer numerical control (CNC). She explained that “many furniture producers use CNC technology or molded composite products to create similar ornamentation.” With the aid of computer aided drafting, CNC projects are meticulously automated.

As CNC techniques proliferated, becoming widespread during the 1970s, traditions of hand-carving have become a rarer and rarer thing.

Ernst explained that “Fredy’s work is pretty special, and it is wonderful that he is carrying on this tradition from his native Peru.”

An artisan steeped in rich historical traditions, Mallqui is restoring the past, as well as creating something new.

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July 31 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Aging Successfully: Can It Be Done?
Aug. 1 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Mobility and Function Through the Adult Years
Aug. 2 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Paging Dr. Ivan: From Mr. USA to Changing Lives for Better Health
Aug. 8 / 7-8:30 p.m.	The Power of Poetry and The Persistence of Prose
Aug. 10 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Erie’s Vote: An Analysis of the Primary Mayoral Elections

Erie Reader's Mid-Year Top 10

By Aaron Mook

Socially and politically, 2017 has been a very divisive year, but if we can take solace in anything, it's that out of division comes great art. And of that, the year has had no shortage thus far. Below is a list comprised of our contributors' favorite releases of the year so far, including the albums we all hoped would make it (Kendrick Lamar, Mac DeMarco) as well as plenty of other pleasant surprises (Sampha, Thundercat). Let us know what made your lists and check out something new today!

Sampha – *Process*

The only album to span all of our lists, Sampha's stunning debut finds hip-hop's go-to hook man crafting something unique to the R&B genre. From the brooding atmosphere of opening punches "Plastic 100C" and "Blood on Me" to breathtaking ballads like "No One Knows Me Like the Piano," *Process* is most likely to be remembered as a genre-bending artifact of electronic music in 2017.



Beach Fossils – *Somersault*

Somersault is unlike anything Beach Fossils have released before, jumping stylistically from track to track and generally playing like an AM rock time machine. But with its gorgeous dream-pop core still intact, the band makes sure not to skimp on hooks, and it



shows in songs like the bouncy, string-guided single "This Year" and the album's grounded emotional centerpiece, "Down the Line."

Slowdive – *Slowdive*

Rare a fickle thing, and with that in mind, I'm not sure if anyone expected Slowdive's first album in 20 years to be this good. Self-titling the record seems to reflect its importance in their catalog — *Slowdive* is awash with lush textures and ethereal guitar tones, with standouts like "Sugar for the Pill" and "Star Roving" being among the best the band has ever penned.



Mount Eerie – *A Crow Looked at Me*

If you were to take a poll of the words most commonly used to describe *A Crow Looked at Me*, "devastating" would likely be the top result. But "beautiful" would be the second, and while Mount Eerie's latest is a tough listen (a raw, acoustic meditation on cancer and the death of a loved one), beauty is one aspect that should not be ignored. For those who can stomach it, *A Crow Looked at Me* just might be the most powerful listening experience of the year.



Kendrick Lamar – *DAMN.*

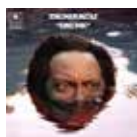
Following up an album like 2015's *To Pimp a Butterfly* is a

bit like replacing Michael Scott on *The Office* (is that officially a dated reference yet?) – do something too similar, and it won't be as good. Fortunately for us, *DAMN.* is a decidedly leaner, more focused album that rivals its predecessor in scope. Equal in hits ("DNA.," "LOYALTY.," "LOVE.," "FEEL.," "GOD."), Kendrick Lamar continues to reinvent the landscape and prove why he's the current voice of modern hip-hop.



Thundercat – *Drunk*

Drunk is an aptly intoxicating and highly sessionable album, bar-hopping between disparate influences and rarely stumbling along the way. Thundercat (a.k.a. Stephen Bruner) proves a capable mixologist, shaking (and stirring) up a number of disparate influences into a singularly smooth sonic concoction. Bruner is unabashedly geeky lyrically ("A Fan's Mail," "Tokyo") and undeniably talented musically, sporting an emotive falsetto and six-string bass chops straight out of the golden age of jazz fusion ("Uh Uh"). Quaff it up.



Jay Som – *Everybody Works*

Jay Som's first proper album is stuffed with indie rock genius. Fuzzy shoegaze accoutrements dot the land-



scape and are readily deployed in tracks like "1 Billion Dogs" and "Take It," as singer Melina Duterte pulls off stylistic alchemy. There are fragile dream-pop moments that embody the 1980s such as "Remain." There are the soft, effects-laden melodies of the jazz-inspired "One More Time, Please," along the undulating vibrations of "(Bedhead)," all of which add up to a meditative, full-body experience that make for an immersive listen that really works.

Big Thief – *Capacity*

A dark and intimate rumination, Big Thief's sophomore album, *Capacity* might be their actual *Masterpiece*. Singer Adrienne Lenker steps out from the shadows with a clearly defined musical identity. Featuring gorgeous tracks like the alt-country shuffles of "Shark Smile" and the indie pop earworm of "Mythological Beauty," the album finds a balance between the deeply personal tone and lush musicality of the band. It's a warm album, full of tender, passionate moments, able to resonate deeply.



Mac DeMarco – *This Old Dog*

"Mac DeMarco" and "mature" are not often words that are paired together, but on his third proper full-length, *This Old Dog*, the laid-back singer-songwriter



seems to finally recognize his age. Leaning more than ever on classic influences like Neil Young, DeMarco croons over his acoustic guitar (and trademark shimmering synth work) about his family, life on the road and, well, getting older. The themes aren't exactly anything new, but they are for DeMarco, and they show a promising upswing in both his songwriting and production skills.

Jlin – *Black Oragami*

Darkly mischievous and movingly moody, *Black Oragami* plays like a post-apocalyptic drum circle, weaving and writhing through 12 tracks of intricately-layered percussion, vocal samples, and bass. While not wholly undanceable ("Hatshepsut" could resurrect a pharaoh), this is a remarkably cerebral record in a genre not particularly known for it (techno bass). Although *Black Oragami* is sparse on melody, Jlin (a.k.a. Jerrilynn Patton) fills the spaces with rich percussive textures and surprising rhythmic shifts and turns.



Honorable Mentions: Algiers – *The Underside of Power*, Father John Misty – *Pure Comedy*, Chon – *Homey*, Vagabon – *Infinite Words*, (SANDY) Alex G – *Rocket*, Nick Hakim – *Green Twins*, Hazel English – *Just Give In/Never Going Home*, Homeshake – *FRESH AIR*, Fred Thomas – *Changer*, Jay-Z – *4:44*

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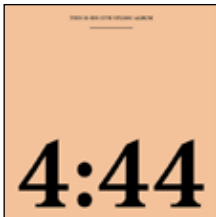
Jay-Z

4:44

Roc Nation



For a figurehead of hip-hop, Jay-Z has had an admittedly spotty discography, especially following 2007's *American Gangster* (which many believed to be his last great solo effort). This, combined with the fact that *4:44* was initially hidden behind not one, but two corporate paywalls (Tidal and Sprint) gives plenty of reason to feel skeptical or simply unmotivated to seek out the latest from the New York mogul. But not only is *4:44* Jay-Z's best album in a decade, it's also the most concise and personal of his entire career. During a spotless 36-minute runtime, Jay-Z cleans out his closet, taking accountability for accusations of infidelity made on Beyoncé's *Lemonade* ("4:44"), venting vague frustrations with his peers ("Kill Jay Z") and even giving his mother a platform to formally come out as a lesbian ("Smile"). Not a moment is wasted and no one is safe as the MC takes a conversational tone over soulful beats courtesy of No I.D. (who once mentored Kanye West, somewhat ironically considering how much the beats here resemble early West production). Whether or not Jay-Z is back for good remains to be seen, but it certainly feels as if *4:44* is one of the best hip-hop albums of the year. — Aaron Mook



Broken Social Scene

Hug of Thunder

Arts & Crafts



Canada's favorite indie rock family is back after a rather lengthy hiatus. *Hug of Thunder* is Broken Social Scene's first album since 2010's *Forgiveness Rock Record*. This is the Toronto-based band's fifth full-length in 16 years, and it doesn't disappoint. Led by singer Kevin Drew and bassist Brendan Canning, the band features a veritable revolving door of talented members. The band has been the home to singers like Emily Haines of the dance-rock band Metric and Leslie Feist (more commonly known by her surname), with the two singers serving in the band well before their individual projects found success. Feist and Haines provide lead vocals on two of the standout tracks (the titular "Hug of Thunder," and "Protest Song," respectively), while Lisa Lobsinger and new member Ariel Engle also make their vocal presence well-known. After the short instrumental opening of "Sol Luna," the album starts off strong with "Halfway Home." The energy continues, even through the record's softer moments. It's a beautiful, refreshing record, filled with infectious indie rock for old fans and new. — Nick Warren



Haim

Something to Tell You

Roc Nation



On Haim's sophomore full-length, *Something to Tell You*, the band of sisters deliver an album that's about as cohesive as the jukebox playing at your local bar. And that's not a bad thing here; in fact, it's Haim's commitment to experimentation that makes the album such a pleasure to listen to. Just put a quarter in and you may hear "Want You Back," a single that combines the '80s worship of Tegan and Sara's *Love You to Death* with the recent electronic flourishes of The 1975, or perhaps you'll hear "Nothing's Wrong" or "Ready For You," a pair of radio-ready tracks that recall the songwriting of Fleetwood Mac while experimenting with Bon Iver-esque vocal distortion during their respective bridges. And that's all within the first four tracks; from ballads to brass sections and even unique time signatures, it's all here, and it makes for one of the most invigorating listens of the year. If that's the reason it took Haim four years to come back from the critically acclaimed retro-pop of *Days Are Gone*, it's well worth the wait. — Aaron Mook



Fleet Foxes

Crack-Up

Nonesuch Records



Considering that *Crack-Up* is Fleet Foxes' first record since 2011's *Helplessness Blues*, it's almost alarming to find that the band hasn't really skipped a beat. One of the most hyped indie folk bands nearly a decade ago, the Seattle quintet went on a loose hiatus between 2013 and 2016. After regrettably begetting Father John Misty (the band's drummer until 2012), the band remained relatively silent. For their third full-length album, the band returns with their indelible trademark sound. Softly sung by principal songwriter Robin Pecknold (often in four-part harmony with his bandmates), the band paints a picture with sweeping grandeur. Evoking a heartbreakingly timeless tone, each of the eleven tracks is a brilliant effort that fans of the band will find quick to embrace and immerse themselves in. The album, not content to simply replicate earlier works, actually raises the bar for band. This effort has all the complexity, the labyrinthian medieval musicianship, and the hazy wonder of days gone by that made a band with such a distinctly specific sound so popular. — Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



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