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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

Beyond the blue trains

Sometimes it's not easy to push forward. Sometimes it doesn't feel like you should celebrate. Giving might be the last thing on your mind, but it's in these times when it's most important.

Last week, General Electric Transportation announced their plans to cut 575 jobs from their Lawrence Park plant. This is coming after 1,500 workers were laid off in 2015. News of this magnitude strikes a crushing blow to hundreds and hundreds of people, with an economic impact that will ripple through our community for some time. Hard-working individuals, ones who were fortunate enough to make a decent wage, will be hit by this decision. From their households to their surrounding communities, shockwaves will echo and reverberate all across the region.

Where does that put Erie? The answer remains uncertain.

Blow after blow has come to this city, and we're still standing. There will be more bad news. There always is. But just as the waves retreat, they come crashing back. The tides can change, but it won't be just by happenstance. Though too often it seems like decisions are being made for us in a boardroom over in Boston, or chambers in Washington, we have the power to overcome. It won't be easy, and it won't come through naivete or the rose-colored glasses of denial, but through diligence, creative thinking, and strategic moves.

For those of us who have the means, it's important to give of ourselves in order to make this city a better place. There are organizations out there making a difference every day. In myriad ways, they help to shape our community and build us all up. They do these things without the bottom line in mind, continuing forward to somehow make things better.

If ever there were a question of "when" to give, once a year, there's a clear answer. Erie Gives Day is coming soon, and it offers those who choose to donate an additional incentive beyond the standard moral fulfillment that charity brings. On Tuesday, August 8, donations will receive a prorated match from an allocated fund. One of the top contributors to the matching fund just happens to be GE Transportation. After all, one of the first things said by company communications leader Deia Campanelli when they made the cuts was that "we remain committed to Erie." As much as we sincerely hope that is true, we'll continue to keep our eyes open, and focused on the future.

If there were ever a more apropos time for the blues, we've yet to see it. The blues (and jazz) is spreading. In fact, the silver anniversary of the Erie Art Museum's Blues & Jazz Festival has even appended an additional day to the festivities. As one of our city's most beloved weekends all year, the festival urges us to let our hair down for a few days, taking in the wonderful sounds and sights over at Frontier Park. Let this issue be your guide, with a look at all the bands and activities going on all weekend.

From Robert Johnson's "Love in Vain" to Howlin' Wolf's "Smokestack Lightning," to the instrumental "Night Train" by Joseph Forrest, locomotives have been one of the most commonly occurring motifs in blues. They can symbolize everything from escapism, destiny, or simply a powerful momentum. Our city has been creating these icons for generations. For better or worse, they're in our blood. For now, we'll have to listen for the whistle and see where the tracks carry us.

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Photo Credit: Local resident Terrance Thaler photographs "Fruits of Labor" on 13th and Holland Streets.

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The Erie Reader Gives

Our staff explains who they're giving to and why



By Erie Reader Staff

Erie Gives Day is coming, and it's time to put our monies where our metaphorical mouths are. Now in its seventh iteration, this event has grown year after year, both in donors and in money raised. Last year, the total amount given was \$3,451,087, up more than 20 percent from 2015's results. Bringing together donors and nonprofits, the event has cemented its spot as one of the largest single days of giving in our community. From 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, donations above \$25 will count toward the final grand tally.

Life for a nonprofit can be difficult. There are so many organizations out there that are doing wonderful things to make our home a better place. Without our help, these organizations would go underfunded, their noble efforts shriveling on the vine. There are organizations devoted to arts and culture, education, mental health, medical research, animals and pets, environmental stability, the underprivileged, and many, many other worthy causes.

These organizations are the lifeblood of Erie, and it's our job to help them out. On Tuesday, August 8, your donations are able to go even further than they normally would. Thanks to funding from the Erie Community Foundation, GE Transportation, Erie Insurance, Northwest Savings Bank, Presque Isle Downs and Casino, E. E. Austin & Son, Erie Bank, Frontier

General Contracting, Little Caesar's, and McInnes Rolled Rings, a prorated match will be provided of up to \$315,000. That means your donation could have twice the monetary impact compared to any other day of the year!

We here at the Erie Reader felt compelled to do our part as well. Many of us have been participating in Erie Gives day since its inception in 2011, and are happy to continue this tradition for years to come. This year we decided to cast a net, and invited our contributors to say a few words about who they're donating to. We encourage you to go to eriegives.org as soon as possible, and find a nonprofit that speaks to you. Then on August 8, it's time give.

With an open heart and a happily lightened wallet, here are a few of our personal picks.

Who: Tracy Geibel, Contributing Writer

Giving to: EHCA (*Erie Homes for Children and Adults*)

Who are they: EHCA is an organi-



zation that provides possibilities for people with disabilities. It provides community homes for almost 100 people and offers other services to enhance the lives of adults with disabilities. Additionally, EHCA's Life Sharing program pairs a person with disabilities and a family that can provide care from their own home.

Why I am giving: I interned at the EHCA last summer. I worked in development and marketing, but I still had the opportunity to interact with the residents on several occasions. Everyone that I met seemed genuinely happy in their EHCA homes. Many staff members had worked here for 20- or 30-plus years. One had even been with EHCA for 50 years. I loved watching the staff interact with the residents. They really treat them like family.

Bonus: Another EHCA program, called Project First Step, helps pregnant women who are at risk of having newborns with disabilities.

Who: Emily Hanisek, Publisher's Assistant

Giving to: *Emma's Footprints*

Who are they: Emma's Footprints is an organization that offers support to families who are grieving from infant or pregnancy loss. They bless the community of Erie by providing financial assistance and emotional services.

Why I am giving: I have witnessed many strong women in my life become helpless with the tragedy of infant and pregnancy loss. My heart goes out to them and their families but I never know how to comfort them or show them that I care. Emma's Footprints embraces families and helps them to heal in a way that you and I may not be able to.

Bonus: If someone in your life is grieving from pregnancy or infant loss, you can send them a personalized care package through Emma's Footprints.

Who: Dan Schank, Contributing Writer

Giving to: *Multicultural Community Resource Center (MCRC)*

Who are they: An organization dedicated to promoting diversity in our region by working with immigrants, refugees, and English language learn-



ers. Through their headquarters at the old Penn Schoolhouse on East 10th Street, they offer a variety of services, including language tutoring, employment readiness instruction, computer classes, childcare, and transportation.

Why I am giving: Nearly 20,000 immigrants live in Erie, including scientists, plastics manufacturers, chefs, musicians, and entrepreneurs. We live at a time when they are often stereotyped and scapegoated. The MCRC ensures that Erie is a welcoming community by helping our newest citizens succeed.

Who: Ryan Smith, Contributing Writer and Photographer

Giving to: *Friends of Erie County Library*

Who are they: Friends of Erie County Library works to advocate and raise funds for all of the community libraries throughout the Erie County system, with a focus on raising money for a wide variety of programming and cultural events at each of the branches. They're also there to improve upon — and make better-known — all of the amazing things our community libraries have to offer people of all ages.

Why I am giving: Library time is a family tradition in the Smith household. Often — once a week, usually, and sometimes more than that — we head there, receive a warm greeting from our library ladies, and then see what's new. Sometimes we're there for books. Sometimes we're there for activities. But whatever reason we walk in the door, we always find it to be a place where we can relax — and let our imaginations soar.

Bonus: As a child, I always wanted to be a librarian. Maybe now they'll let me run the stamper.

Who: Ben Spегgen, Contributing Editor

Giving to: *L'Arche Erie*

Who are they: L'Arche Erie is a faith-based community for people with and without intellectual disabilities. Featuring seven homes and four family-home situations, L'Arche Erie provides an environment where people live, work, and experience daily life together. Endeavoring to promote a respectful and just world for all, L'Arche Erie is part of an international federation of more than 140 worldwide communities that cultivates relations through mutual respect. For a really beautiful and stunning look at what and who L'Arche is, check out the web series on YouTube #AsIAM.



Why I am giving: Although I currently serve on the Board of Directors for L'Arche, I began my relationship with L'Arche as an assistant ten years ago and it was truly a life-changing experience. L'Arche has given me so much; from teaching me to appreciate life's small gifts as much as its large ones, to embracing servant leadership, to recognizing the opportunity to grow through challenges, L'Arche has helped me gain a better, deeper perspective of the world and my place in it through shared moments with a rich and vibrant community. The work of this organization serves as a constant reminder that although we may not always live in a world that is just, we must endeavor to make the world a more just place.

Who: Matt Swanseger, Copy Editor

Giving to: *Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center*

Who are they: Tamarack is both for the birds (orphaned, injured, and/or ill raptors) and the beasts (turtles, baby opossums, rabbits) — helping them ease their burdens and get back to their natural habitats. Many of these animals' afflictions arise from their scrapes and brushes with humanity, so Tamarack is also highly invested in nurturing an appreciation and respect for the species it rescues. Rap-

tors that cannot fully recuperate visit schools, fairs, clubs, and libraries as living lessons about the importance of coexistence.

Why I am giving: A peregrine falcon alighted on the windowsill outside the Reader offices not long ago, an obvious sign. It was majestic — certainly more majestic than I deserve. Seriously, though, I have always been in awe of animals (as a child, I aspired to be a veterinarian before I discovered that it might be a stable career) and their unique adaptations and abilities. For instance, the peregrine can swoop up prey at up to 200 miles per hour — your coworkers can't even descend upon leftovers from your lunch meeting that fast! I'm donating because only people fully realize how difficult it can be to live with...well, people.

Who: Bryan Toy, Editorial Cartoonist

Giving to: *McCord Memorial Library*

Who are they: Our community library in North East.

As our world becomes increasingly homogenized and our country becomes dumber by the day, public libraries offer the best hope for the future of mankind.

Why I am giving: As our world becomes increasingly homogenized and our country becomes dumber by the day, public libraries offer the best hope for the future of mankind. They are the repositories of past and obscure knowledge. They offer researchers the opportunity to dig infinitely deep into facts. Libraries give access to books and computers to those on the fringes of society. They give safe and free access to bold, controversial, and even subversive ideas. They engender a love of reading and learning in our children. Libraries are freedom and democracy in brick and mortar. They are sacred. Without them we are doomed.

Bonus: Free Internet access and Neil Gaiman books - what's not to love?

Who: Nick Warren, Managing Editor

Giving to: *Performing Arts Collective Alliance (PACA)*

Who are they: PACA is a community arts space. The black-box type the-



ater on the building's second floor has been host to some of the edgiest, professional-quality productions Erie has offered. They also offer private studio spaces for musicians and artists of all kinds.

Why I am giving: Personally, my involvement with PACA sparked a monumental positive shift in my life. Being an active part of our local theater and arts scene opened so many doors for me. With PACA in particular, things are moving forward in visible ways. Earlier this year, artistic director Mark Tanenbaum was able to purchase the actual building. Several friends of mine have studio spaces there that have helped me create art and music. It's a special place. There's still a lot of work to be done, though, and it has the potential to be one of Erie's greatest success stories.

Bonus: Now maybe Mark will stop yelling at me. But probably not.

Who: Adam Welsh, Editor-in-Chief

Giving to: *LifeThruMusic*

Who are they: LifeThruMusic, founded in 2013 by local musician Corey Cook, is an innovative mentorship program designed to provide young people an opportunity to both stay current with the technological advances in music making, while also helping them build the all-important networks necessary to harness and further their talents.

Why I am giving: I've watched LifeThruMusic grow since its inception, and I think its mission fills an important void in Erie. In addition to nurturing and inspiring the musical talents of young musicians, it exposes them to the business of music. Teaching them about budgeting, marketing, and building clientele (among other things) is invaluable, and perhaps the only time these kids will ever receive this kind of training and information.

Who: Brian Graham, Editor-in-Chief

Giving to: *Because You Care*



Who are they: BYC is a volunteer driven, no-kill animal shelter located in McKean, Pa.

Why I am giving: When I first walked in the door to the dog building at BYC, I quickly noticed that the animals seemed happy. I heard none of the distressed cries one often hears from the canine residents of animal shelters. This is because they foster the animals in loving homes until they are ready for adoption, instead of keeping them in cages. Once they are ready to be placed in a forever home, BYC staff takes the time to make sure that the animals in their care are properly matched. Before I was able to finalize the adoption of my beagle Slim, a BYC staff member came to my home to make sure we had a suitable living space for the energetic pup. They really do care at Because You Care.

Bonus: Before making his way to Northwest Pa., Slim was living in a kill shelter in Kentucky and his time was running short. Volunteers busted him out and brought him north, where there are more people looking to adopt. Slim was Mr. December in the 2017 Because You Care calendar.





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Who: Jim Wertz, Contributing Editor
Giving to: Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network

Whether mentoring
children in one of many
after schools programs or
helping families navigate
the path to homeownership,
the Sisters of St. Joseph
provide a model and
mission that deserves to
be supported and, where
possible, replicated.

Who are they: The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) was established in January of 2000 by Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA to meet the needs of impoverished residents of Erie's Little Italy, and work toward revitalization of that blighted neighborhood. SSJNN provides one-on-one advocacy for the residents, a weekly soup kitchen, emergency assistance with food and hygiene products, community gardens and a wide variety



ety of individualized and small group programs for children and adults. SSJNN also works toward neighborhood revitalization and community and economic development.

Why I am giving: The Sisters of St. Joseph are an unwavering presence in the city of Erie and, in particular, the neighborhoods they directly serve. Whether mentoring children in one of many after schools programs or helping families navigate the path to homeownership, the Sisters of St. Joseph provide a model and mission that deserves to be supported and, where possible, replicated.



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Harrisburg Happenings

The good news and bad news about education funding



By: Senator Dan Laughlin

The good news is — as I write this column — Pennsylvania has enacted a spending plan for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year that includes \$15 million in additional state funding for the Erie School District, which was my number one priority for this budget. Under the spending plan for FY 17-18, which the legislature passed at the end of June and became law on July 10 without the governor's signature, the Erie School District will receive \$14 million in Educational Access Program Funding. In addition, Erie's Basic Education Funding goes from \$63.2 million to \$64.2 million, an increase of \$1.05 million, or 1.7 percent. The District's Special Education Funding from the state goes from \$10.2 million to \$10.5 million, an increase of \$296,718, or 2.9 percent.

Overall, this increase was great news for the community. It also represents the culmination of a strong, unified effort that ultimately transcended party affiliation and brought the Senate, House and governor together to respond in a magnificent way to our local needs. We need to thank my colleague Senator Scott Wagner, who lit a fire under this issue, and Senate

Education Committee Chairman Senator John Eichelberger, who brought his committee to Erie in May for a public hearing on the Erie School District's financial crisis. Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera also visited Erie on two occasions, once to tour our schools and meet with school district officials and legislators and then again to provide his thoughts during the Education Committee's public hearing. And certainly, we also need to thank Senate leadership, namely Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman and Appropriations Committee Chairman Pat Browne. They listened to our requests for help and championed our cause during the negotiations that resulted in the spending plan that is now in place.

This truly is momentous and much needed. Just before the Senate voted on the spending plan for FY 17-18, I sat down and did the math. It would have taken about a 35 percent increase in local property taxes in order for the Erie School District to raise the money it needs. Obviously, a tax increase of that magnitude would ravage this city and many people, especially low-income families and senior citizens on fixed incomes.

Realistically, that wasn't going to happen. Thankfully, with the extra state money forthcoming we don't have to consider the alternatives that would have faced our city's schools and their students.

Now, the bad news — as I write this column — is the various "code" bills (School Code, Fiscal Code, Tax Reform Code, Human Services Code) that provide the revenue to fund the state spending plan have yet to be finalized. That means the increased support for the Erie School District is only for the current fiscal year at this point. Hopefully, the code bills — once they are finalized — will lock in the increased funding for the Erie School District as a permanent recurring expense. That has now become my number one priority and I am optimistic that we can reach that goal soon.

Senator Laughlin encourages local residents to visit his website, www.senatorlaughlin.com, and his Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/senatorlaughlin/>, to keep up to date with state government news — including the state budget — and learn more about state services and agencies.

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ERIE READER

Everyone Has a Right to Decent and Fair Housing

Erie HRC fights discrimination, injustice

By: Bob Howden

In the summertime, with the outdoors calling, it can be harder to appreciate the value of a good roof over one's head. But regardless of the weather — warm and inviting or cold and drab — all individuals have a right to decent and fair housing for themselves and their families.

The federal Fair Housing Act was signed into law on April 11, 1968, by President Lyndon Johnson. It was an extension of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, and family status.

In Erie County, residents have additional protection un-

der the Human Relations ordinance passed by Erie County Council in November 2007. That ordinance states in part "that the County and City of Erie have come together in a partnership to promote the rights and opportunities of all persons to participate in the social, cultural, recreational, and economic life of the County and to assure equal opportunity for all persons concerning employment, housing accommodation, and commercial property, education, public accommodations, lending practices, and real estate practices without regard to race, color, familial status, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability of the person." This same law (Ordinance 39) estab-

lishes the Erie County Human Relations Commission (HRC), whose job it is to enforce the provisions of the ordinance and investigate complaints alleging ordinance violations.

The concept of fair housing for all is easily taken for granted by real estate professionals and the general public. But for someone who has been the victim of housing discrimination because of their race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or sexual orientation, such discrimination is real and exists in our community.

For the victim of housing discrimination (or discrimination of any kind), it is very easy to "move on," look elsewhere and not "rock the boat." But if this perceived discrimination is not reported and properly in-

vestigated, the practice may well continue. That's where the Erie County Human Relations Commission comes in.

If you feel that you may have been a victim of housing discrimination (or discrimination in employment, public accommodations, education, lending or other real estate practices) because of your race, color, familial status, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability, please contact the Erie County HRC at 451-7021 to discuss your concerns. A commission staff member can provide answers and help you decide whether or not you should file a complaint. You can learn more about the HRC and the complaint process by visiting [ty-services/other-services/human-relations-commission.aspx.](http://eriecountypa.gov/coun-</p>
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In addition to providing a system of equal justice, the Erie County HRC strives to educate individuals about the appropriate way to confront discrimination, while at the same time teaching them to respect and understand diversity. It is important to remember that if you perceive discrimination, the Erie County HRC is here to help. An educated and involved public is the best way to combat discrimination in any community.

Bob Howden is Vice Chairman of the Erie County Human Relations Commission. He is a retired public relations professional.

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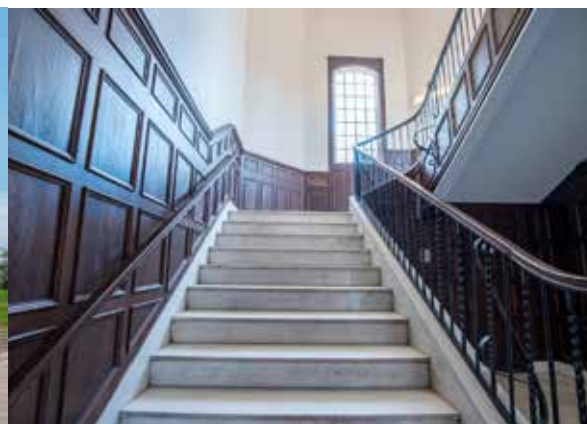


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News of the Weird

Hide-and-seek spots, car-thieving Santas prompt 911 calls

By: Chuck Shepherd

Bright Ideas

In New Hampshire on June 29, a state police officer stopped the 57-year-old driver of a Honda Odyssey minivan who had piled a Beverly Hillbillies-esque stack of belongings on top of his car. The collection, which was about as tall as the minivan, included a wooden chest, a bike, a floor lamp, a rake, a snow shovel, a moving dolly and a folding ladder, along with blankets and towels and a shopping cart full of items hanging off the back. Police cited the driver for negligent driving, and the car was towed away. [United Press International, 6/29/2017]

Sorry I Missed It

A Canada Day parade in southern Ontario sparked a flood of typically mild protests over Dave Szusz's float, which featured a 3-meter-tall blow-up Jesus (holding a baby sheep) and several real sheep. "I thought it was kind of sad to see sheep out with very loud blasting music, out in the heat in the city," said animal rights activist Dan MacDonald. Others flooded Szusz with complaints on Facebook. Szusz and MacDonald have since talked it out, although MacDonald still hopes Szusz will discontinue using sheep on his floats. [CTV News, 7/6/2017]

A repeat offender came to the end of his career when he and an accomplice tried to burglarize a home in East Macon, Georgia, on June 19. As James Robert Young, 41, a 35-time resident in the Bibb County jail, and another man zeroed in on her television, the homeowner woke up and heard them. "When she yelled, the men ran out," said Sheriff David Davis, and that was when the other suspect turned around and fired his weapon, striking Young in the head, killing him. The accomplice is still at large. [WMAZ, 6/20/2017]

Family Values

Flower girls at weddings often steal the show, and Georgiana Arlt of Chaska, Minnesota, was no exception as she walked down the aisle on July 1. The 92-year-old grandmother of the bride, Abby Arlt, told her granddaughter the only other wedding she had been in was her own, when she was 20 years old. Abby had hoped to have her grandfather as the ring bearer, but he passed away last year. [KARE11, 7/3/2017]

Oops!

What seemed like the best hide-and-seek idea ever took a frightening turn on July 6 in Colonial Heights, Virginia, when a 12-year-old girl became stuck in a sleeper sofa.

Another child called 911 when she couldn't free her friend. "I've never seen anything like it," said fire chief A.G. Moore. "When she got out, she was fine." [FOX6, 7/6/2017]

In Green Bay, Wisconsin, a driver crossing the Walnut Street Bridge on June 22 disregarded the traffic arm and drove around it onto the drawbridge as it was opening. His van ascended the opening span, but then rolled back down into the gap between the stationary bridge and the moveable span. Green Bay Metro firefighters, concerned that the van might slip through the gap, cut a hole in its roof to rescue the driver. [The Associated Press, 6/23/2017]

Suspicious Confirmed

Karen Leclair, 51, of Albion, Pennsylvania, was reported missing on June 11 by her commercial fisherman husband, Christopher, 48, after she went over the side of his boat on Lake Erie. Christopher told police he hadn't been watching when his wife fell overboard. When her body washed ashore on July 4 in upstate New York, however, she had a gunshot wound in her head, and she was bound by nylon fishing rope and weighted with an anchor. Christopher was charged with her murder after the gun used to shoot Karen was found under a bed in their

home. [New York Post, 7/6/2017]

Oh, THOSE Monkeys

A monkey mystery unfolded near Mesa, Arizona, in early July as drone owner Jesse Sorensan dispatched his device over a facility rumored to house abandoned monkeys. "Hovered above it and took some pictures ... and sure enough there's monkeys in almost all the cages," said Sorensan. "What are these monkeys doing ... in the middle of the desert?" Local TV reporters looked into the mystery and found the facility is used for research and breeding for the University of Washington and the Centers for Disease Control, who were quick to point out that the monkeys have access to air conditioning and veterinary care. [3TV/CBS5, 7/5/2017]

Who You Gonna Call?

Villagers in the eastern Thailand province of Amnat Charoen have called in the Royal Thai Police Force to help rid them of an evil female spirit, "phi pob," they accuse of killing four cows and sickening four border police officers, reported the BBC in June. In Thai folklore, phi pob can possess people and sow chaos, including a 2016 incident in which neighbors were forced to strip naked at gunpoint by three reportedly possessed individuals. Adul

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NEWS & VIEWS

Chaitprasithkul, the local police chief, noted, "More people believe in phi pob than those who don't." [BBC, 6/28/2017]

Pre-existing Conditions

Police in Dearborn, Michigan, are hoping a thief's unusual loot may draw him back to the scene of the crime. Surveillance video at a Walgreens store captured a bald man making off with seven boxes of Rogaine, a hair-growth product, on June 22. "While this is not the most hair-raising crime ... it is suspected he will continue committing this type of crime, as 12 to 14 months of consistent use is needed to see results," Police Chief Ronald Haddad said in a news release. [Detroit Free Press, 6/29/2017]

Police Report

What does ol' St. Nick do in the off-season? Perhaps look for a bail bondsman. In a dramatic chase, Maine State Police pursued a stolen car from Fairfield to Bangor on July 4, finally striking the vehicle and bringing it to a stop. When the driver was taken into custody, he identified himself as Santa Claus. But rest easy, boys and girls: Turns out he was Christos Kassaras, 54, from New Hampshire. [WMTW, 7/5/2017]

Precocious

Residents of Baraboo, Wisconsin, must have done a double-take when they looked outside during the early hours of June 30. Kelly, a full-grown elephant, had escaped from the Circus World Museum nearby and wandered the neighborhood, munching on marigolds. Apparently, her partner, Isla (also an elephant), had used her trunk to free Kelly from a restraint. A trainer from Circus World was summoned, and Kelly was returned to her home at the museum. [The Associated Press, 6/30/2017]

Smooth Reaction

Anger over spilled sugar led a Blue Springs, Missouri, grandfather to a chilly end when his grandson, Tyreik Baldwin, 21, allegedly killed Harvey C. Baldwin, 77, and stuffed him into a chest freezer. A family member who had become worried about the elder Baldwin visited the home on June 30, then called police after Tyreik hit him in the head with a hammer and drove off in the family member's truck. Police caught up with Tyreik as he tried to escape and took him into custody. [Kansas City Star, 7/5/2017]

Table the Label

Panel 1: Man: "I LIKE ELIZABETH WARREN." Woman: "SO YOU'RE A LEFTIST."

Panel 2: Man: "AND I THOUGHT VOTING FOR HILLARY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY." Woman: "OH, SO YOU'RE A NEOLIBERAL."

Panel 3: Man: "AND I SUPPORT SCANDINAVIAN-STYLE DEMOCRACY." Woman: "WAIT - YOU'RE A SOCIALIST."

Panel 4: Man: "AND I THINK PEOPLE WHO GRIPE ABOUT 'POLITICAL CORRECTNESS' ARE BEING TOOLS OF THE RIGHT." Woman: "AH, A SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIOR."

Panel 5: Man: "DO YOU HAVE TO PUT ALL OF MY VIEWS INTO A BOX?"

Panel 6: Man: "OH, YOU NEOSOCIALLEFT-LIBJUSTORS ARE ALL ALIKE."

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The 25th Annual Blues & Jazz Festival

Your guide to the Erie Art Museum's evolving weekend of entertainment

By Nick Warren

This year is a milestone for the Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival. Not only is this the 25th anniversary of the festival, but it's also the very first year offering three days of activities. Museum director John Vanco, who is retiring at the end of the summer (but plans to oversee the festival in the future), has seen this expansion coming for some time. "The goal with the festival is to keep the [blues and jazz] part that everyone loves and expand it to other things such as poetry, performance, theatre, and other kinds of music. To become a true community arts festival."

Erie's favorite weekend event is evolving and growing. It's all an elaboration on a common alliterative idea: a fun, free, family-friendly festival at Frontier. And with loads in store for Friday, things seem well on their way. Like in years past, the home for the festival will be Erie's beautiful Frontier Park. Tents are welcome as always, and guests are permitted to bring their own beverages, though there will also be plenty of refreshments available for sale at the beer tent for those not into the whole cooler thing. No pets will be allowed at the festival, but feel free to take yourself for a walk and explore all the sights the weekend has to offer.

If you didn't already donate to the festival's highly successful Kickstarter campaign, you can still get yourself a commemorative button for a small fee (the earlier the better, in fact, as wave after wave of "bucket brigade" volunteers will meet you with a smile after seeing your pin-backed festival accoutrements). Keep an eye out for some impressive button collections in the crowd, commemorating someone's elite, veteran status as a longtime festival-goer. For those backers who did pledge to the Kickstarter, they can pick up their rewards at the Erie Art Museum's info tent anytime from 2 p.m. on Saturday until 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Festival Producer Emily Dauber detailed what exactly might separate this iteration of the weekend from previous incarnations, essentially describing it as "the same festival you know and love, expanded and enhanced to incorporate other forms of art."

"The idea with Friday is to make it family-friendly," Dauber explained. She's ea-

ger for the entire community to know that "it's not just this music festival that happens in Frontier Park, where adults are there imbibing [laughs], the idea is for it to really transform into a community event welcoming all ages, and to expose people to art and culture and music that maybe they wouldn't have seen in their day to day life. And it's free!"

Like the genres of blues and jazz themselves, this festival is evolving, adapting, and forging ahead. The umbrella is widening, welcoming more and more members of the community in with open arms.

To imagine how your weekend will play out day by day, just think of it like this: arts, blues, and jazz.

FRIDAY

3 P.M. - 8 P.M. // A NEW DAY

While events on the eastern side of Frontier Park (on Saturday and Sunday) will be essentially similar to the festival concertgoers are used to, there are plenty of new family-friendly arts activities to take part in.

There will be interactive workshops where guests of all ages can participate in creating their own art, with help from seasoned members of the art community. Check out puppets from the National Marionette Theatre, or large-scale works courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Art's Department of Community Arts, helmed by director Robin VanLear. There will be stilt-walkers and line dancing, as well as the "Surprize No Prize" show, where the audience will get an opportunity to spin a wheel to determine the theme of each mini-performance. Food trucks will also be on hand, featuring some of our region's most deliciously mobile treats (the traditional tented vendors will be on hand the rest of the weekend). The Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association (NPAA) has taken over the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF) Education Center building in beautiful ways, with an exhibition from 2 to 7 p.m. and an opening reception from 7 to 9:30 p.m. (additional hours are from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday). You'll also be able to help artist Mark Weber (responsible for many of the festival's best posters) paint a mural that will be on display at the St. Martin

Center. The Erie Philharmonic will host a "Jazz Instruments Petting Zoo", letting you try your hand for your own musical inspirations. LEAF will have a living Willow Art installation that you can even prune yourself. There will be hula-hooping with Jen Dennehy, a poetry workshop with Marisa Moks-Unger (our Erie County Poet Laureate), and the Erie County Library's local music project will offer kids' STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) activities.

AFTER SUNSET // MOVIES

Following the tradition of LEAF's Movies in the Arboretum series, there will be a screening of Illumination Entertainment's animated musical feature *Sing*, followed by the locally-made short film *1,000*. Produced by poet Abdullah Washington (better known as Bigg Wash), and filmmaker Tom Weber, *1,000* follows Washington around Erie as he encounters several members of our community, helping to weave together the fabric of our city.

SATURDAY

2 P.M. // ERIC BREWER & FRIENDS

Home Base: Erie, PA



Led by Erie's virtuoso guitarist, Eric Brewer and Friends are a perfect way to kick off a weekend of great music. Combining outwardly light-hearted tunes with progressive, complex musicianship, the band has a little something for everyone. With sets full of extended jams and group improvisation, each set is a new creature unto itself. Experience the energetic tension and release as solos build to a beautiful apex, notes soaring and bending through the air. The band also features keyboardist Charlie Meyer, bassist Ralph Reiting, and drummer Steve Barone — after hearing this wonderful group of musicians play, you'll want to be friends, too.

Recommended If You Like: Umphrey's McGee, Phish, The Disco Biscuits

4 P.M. // RODGER MONTGOMERY BLUES BAND

Home Base: Erie, PA



To many people, Rodger Montgomery is blues in Erie. Long a fixture of the regional music scene, Montgomery was one of the performers that graced the stage at the very first Blues & Jazz festival, 25 years ago, when his band had recently formed. An accomplished singer and guitar player, Montgomery is just as comfortable laying down searing overdriven licks on his Stratocaster as he is playing some impassioned, traditional slide tunes on his resonator. Joined by drummer Sam Orrico and bassist William Frazier Jr., this trio will bring you some of our region's best, authentic blues.

RIYL: Freddie King, Buddy Guy, Albert Collins

6 P.M. // EDDIE TURNER AND TROUBLE

Home Base: Denver, CO

A wildly expressive performer, Eddie Turner's playing might make you think he made a deal at the crossroads. His nickname, "Devil Boy," may lead you to wonder all the more. Born in Cuba, Turner was raised in Chicago. Growing up at the blues epicenter, he began to play guitar at age 12. He's worked with acts such as Tracy Nelson and Mother Earth, Zephyr, the 4-nikators, and was



also a founding member of the Otis Taylor Band. His band, the "Trouble" makes up the rest of the rocking Colorado quartet, with bassist Anna Lisa Hughes adding her smoky voice to the mix along with Turner's gravelly tone. Like Montgomery, Turner brings that raw blues sound that the festival's Saturday nights are famous for.

RIYL: Gary Clark Jr., Bernard Allison Group, Eric Gales

8 P.M. // MOKOOMBA

Home Base: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



With an infectious energy abounding in every measure, Mokoomba is sure to get you dancing. Rhythmically driving from start to finish, the six-piece plays a unique blend of afro-fusion that immediately gets the listener's head bobbing. The band sings in Tonga, one of the less common languages of their country, spoken primarily in the northernmost region of the western horn of Zimbabwe (bordering nearby Zambia). Despite its foreign tongue, the music of Mokoomba resonates beyond language barriers. Singer Mathias Muza's soulful presence is flanked by the danceable beats of drummer Ndaba Coster Moyo and percussionist Miti

Mugande, as well as guitarist Trustworth Samende, bassist Abundance Mutori, and keyboardist Donald Moyo. Heralded as Zimbabwe's most popular musical export, Mokoomba is sure to be an unforgettable experience and one of the touchstones of the weekend.

RIYL: Red Baraat, Antibalas, Oliver Mtukudzi

SUNDAY

12 P.M. // STEPHEN TROHOSKE'S ART GROUPIES

Home Base: Erie, PA



A crucial mainstay of Erie's music scene, Stephen Trohoske has proven to be the solid, funky backbone for countless bands. The bassist has assembled some of the region's finest musicians together for a rousing set that is sure to kick Sunday off in style. With a setlist of original tunes, along with new wave and postpunk gems, each song gets the special treatment. Joined by fellow bassist Tony Grey (let's call him the "lead bassist"), guitarists Eric Brewer (making his second appearance of the weekend) and Frank Singer, drummer Ken "Stix" Thompson, and singer Elly Vahey, the band approaches each cut with sultry, intricate musical precision. Offering a smooth, smoldering atmosphere, the band sews together a handcrafted musical mixtape that fans of any genre can get behind.

RIYL: Television, Jaco Pastorius, John Patitucci

2 P.M. // THE BREEZE BAND WITH YOUTHFUL TALENTS

Home Base: Erie, PA

One of our area's most versatile and best-loved groups, the Breeze



Band will get a little help from some friends for this particular set. The octet consists of vocalists Pam Davis, Rasia Crockett, and Tim Cook, along with bassist Maurice Troop, lead guitarist Kenny Hollis, drummer Clarence Jennings, trumpeter Kevin Sapper, and guitarist Barry King. For the first segment of the performance, the Breeze Band will be joined by several young performers who will lend their talents to the group's already impressive flair. Keep watching, because you might just spot one of our region's next big stars among these guest collaborators: vocalists Nick Cacamo, Courtney Cook, Nevaeha Hudson, DeAzhane Matthews, and Annalise Vaughn, with guitarist Elijah Lyons, keyboardist Hudson III, bassist Vince Cacamo, dancer Sky Davis-Muzofa, and drummer Ja'donovan Hobson. The band draws from the spirit of Motown greats, rhythm and blues legends, and rock and roll icons. Pulling it all together, the band's primary goal is to simply get you dancing!

RIYL: Earth, Wind & Fire, Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan

4 P.M. // MARY ALICE BROWN QUARTET

Home Base: Erie, PA

Erie's undisputed "Queen of Jazz," Mary Alice Brown will return to the stage of the Blues & Jazz Festival. One of the featured performers on the inaugural bill, Mary Alice has appeared at the festival more than any other artist. The fortune of that cannot be overstated, as she has been enchanting audiences all over the country for decades. Hear

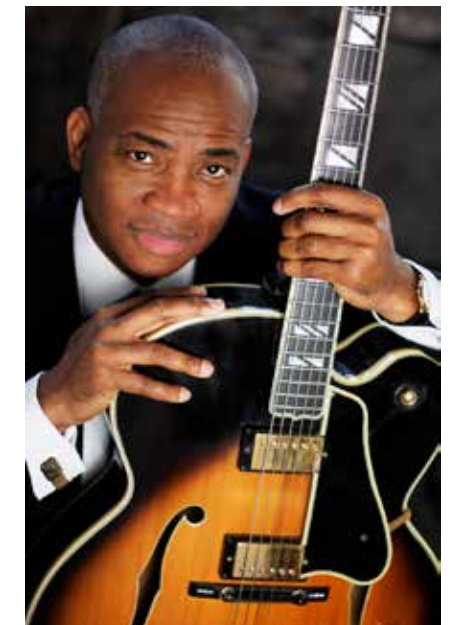


her lush, beautiful voice and absolute expertise on the piano and you'll know instantly why she's such an important part of our community. An invaluable and highly respected teacher, she has influenced generations of musicians across the community and the world. Joining Mary Alice on stage will be drummer Joe Matczak, bassist and brass player Becky Matczak, and conga player Tammy Johnson.

RIYL: Ella Fitzgerald, Les McCann, Mary Lou Williams

6 P.M. // RUSSELL MALONE QUARTET

Home Base: Albany, Ga.; Englewood, NJ



A giant of modern jazz guitar, Russell Malone has worked extensively with some of the biggest names in jazz. Malone was a member of the Diana Krall Trio for five years, the Harry Connick Jr. Big Band for six years, and Jimmy Smith's band for three years. In addition, he's played with the likes of Hank Jones, Bill Frisell, Branford Marsalis, Ron Carter, and Sonny Rollins. While an unquestionably accomplished sideman, Malone as a bandleader exhibits grace, control, and measured mastery. With his smooth, lyrical tone, this gifted guitarist makes even the most virtuoso passages dance with ease. Malone's quartet includes the talents of pianist Rick Germanson, bassist Luke Sellick, and drummer Willie Jones III.

RIYL: Wes Montgomery, Kenny Burrell, Kevin Eubanks

8 P.M. // TRIO 3

Home Base: New York, NY

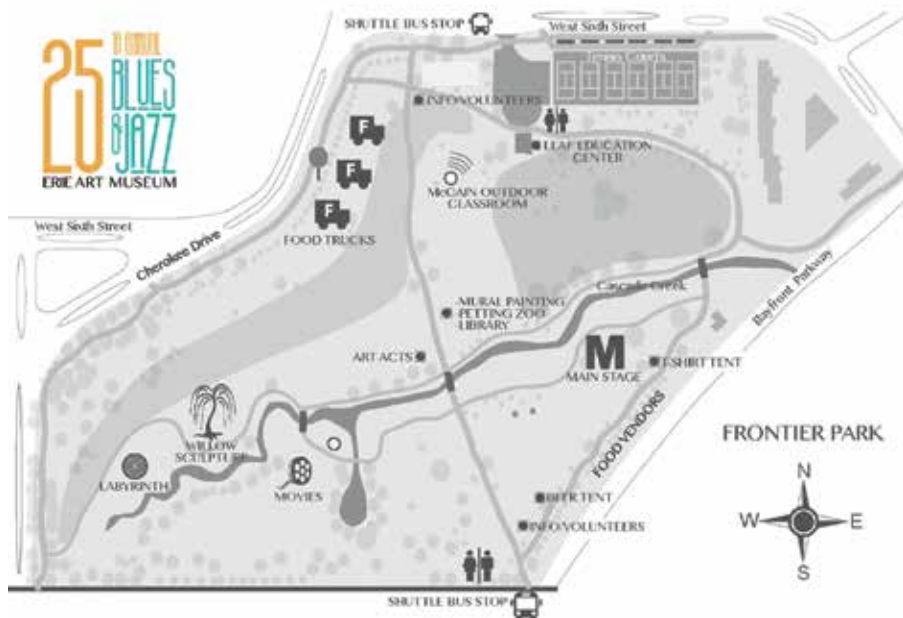


With their unassuming moniker, Trio 3 barely needs an introduction. The avant-garde group consists of drummer Andrew Cyrille, saxophonist Oliver Lake, and bassist Reggie Workman. For lengthy stints, Cyrille played with vibraphonist Walt Dickerson and free jazz pianist Cecil Taylor. Lake has a storied career as a bandleader, releasing 38 albums under his name since 1971, as well as 20 albums with the World Saxophone Quartet. A well-known name unto himself, Workman has (among many other credits) cut three iconic albums with Wayne Shorter in the mid-1960s, five with Art Blakey, and three with the man himself, John

Coltrane. The unparalleled expertise exuding from this trio is nearly unfathomable, and this is sure to be a set you won't want to miss. The band ventures out, expertly navigating the nether regions of jazz, coming back with exquisite gifts from afar.

RIYL: John Coltrane, Pharoah Sanders, Wayne Shorter

Nick Warren has been faithfully attending the Erie Art Museum Blues and Jazz Festival for over ten years, and hopes to one day grace the stage himself. He can be contacted at nick@eriereader.com



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Spotlight on Erie

August 2 – 15, 2017

Thursday, Aug. 3

The Joke's on Jamestown at the Lucy Comedy Festival



The Lucille Ball Comedy Festival takes place in Jamestown, N.Y. — only about an hour's drive from Erie. This is of particular interest to me because my fiancée and I recently moved into our first house in Warren, Pa., and on our first drive there, I remember seeing banners hung from the light posts in Jamestown advertising the "Lucy Comedy Festival." So when my editor first mentioned this event spotlight to me, it seemed like a no-brainer that I should be the one to write about it (and eventually experience the festival itself).

And considering the amount of promotion I've seen for the Lucy Comedy Festival, it is not something you will want to miss either. The festival features a star-studded line-up including Kevin James (star of "Kevin Can Wait"), Lewis Black, Jim Gaffigan and Lisa Lampanelli (often billed "The Queen of Mean") among its biggest names. Supporting acts include one of the minds behind such beloved situational comedies as "Seinfeld," "Friends," "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "The Golden Girls," David Steinberg; W. Kumau Bell of CNN's "United Shades of America," and Kelly Carlin, as well as several sketch groups, exhibitions featuring the material of late comedians George Carlin and Desi Arnaz, and even Lucy Tribute shows.

The festival begins on Thursday and runs through Sunday with actual dates, times and prices varying depending on the performance. The festival is age-inclusive, however, featuring a free performance from Story Pirates at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Story Pirates is a kid-friendly (sug-

gested ages 5-12) comedy group featuring professional actors using puppets to act out stories written entirely by children and even incorporating local students.

Performances are being held at a number of arenas and amphitheaters around Jamestown, ensuring visitors will have the opportunity to explore the city and visit its surrounding markets, eateries and bars.

Growing up, I never realized just how close a festival like this would actually come to Erie. I can assure you that if you find yourself taking a day trip out to Jamestown to experience the Lucille Ball Comedy Festival next weekend, there's a great chance that you'll be running into me there, too. — Aaron Mook

More information (including ticket availability and purchases) can be found at www.lucycomedyfest.com.

Friday, Aug. 4

Sounds Around Town Offers Up Sounds — and Tastes — Worth Savoring



Friday nights during a hot, sunny summer tend to be action-packed for residents of the 814, but how many events can you think of that feature live music, plus food and drink — and are totally free?

Welcome to "Sounds Around Town," your perfect little Friday evening oasis, brought to you by WQLN. For the past four Fridays, in fact, WQLN has hosted these music-and-refreshment-inclusive shows, but this week's ends the series, and they are going out with a real bang.

Starting at 7 p.m., renowned local jazz vocalist and musician Joe Dorris and his friends will take center stage at the Pond Side Pavilion on the grounds of WQLN headquarters. This

is a rare treat, as the group aims to recreate the experience of renowned jazz impresario and activist Norman Granz's shows from the 1940s to the 1980s (known as "Jazz at the Philharmonic"), with some rock and bluegrass thrown in for good measure.

In addition to the exciting symphony of sounds, free coffee samples will be available via the Millcreek Coffee company, free beer samples will be on-hand thanks to the good people at the Erie Beer Company, and no Erie event can call itself such without the presence of Smith's Provisions products.

Should the weather take a downturn, the event is simply decamped and moved inside, and in either case guests are invited to bring their own blankets and chairs. Come and give this wallet-friendly, open-air community series the proper summer of 2017 send-off it deserves! — Cara Suppa

7 p.m. // 8425 Peach St. // wqln.org // free

Sunday, Aug. 6

Go Toward 'The Light' in Edinboro for Light Fest 2017



Venture in any direction outside of the City of Erie and you are sure to find, in one of our many surrounding county towns, an eclectic coffee shop, an elegant gallery, or a collection of treasures that you can't find anywhere else. The Light in the Woods, on the grounds of Nick's Place in Edinboro embodies the latter, and come Sunday this art and gift boutique is ramping up its offerings with the second annual family-friendly Light Fest.

From 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. guests of all ages will find the Nick's Place properly alight with activity, from artisan and craft vendors, to delectable eats available for purchase (prepared by the Nick's Place staff), to free class offerings — including gentle yoga with James Pochedly, group spiritual

messages with Christina Iesue, mystical drumming with Mary Lou Betcher and Tibetan and crystal singing bowls (i.e., standing bells traditionally crafted in the Far East) with Nancy Bowden.

At just two dollars for adults and free admission for children under the age of 16, this eminently affordable event is a standout representation of everything owner Jessica Strand aims to promote through her beautiful shop: "To illuminate the light that exists in all of us, be it through any form of artistic representation, while celebrating the local talent of our neighbors and friends." Raffle contestants have the opportunity to win special donated items by the boutique's artisans and bring that light into their own homes.

Tickets are available at the door, and thanks to their outdoor tent, Light Fest 2017 will go on rain or shine. — Cara Suppa

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. // 12270 Route 99, Edinboro // facebook.com/thelightinthewoods // \$2 for adults, free for children 16 and under

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Heart Attack Man Set to Electrify Basement Transmissions



After McCafferty came over from Cleveland and rocked the stage during their first Erie performance, another up-and-coming band from the Mistake by the Lake, Heart Attack Man, will be making their Gem City debut at Basement Transmissions.

Heart Attack Man was born from the ashes of another Cleveland favorite, Ages. As well-loved as that band was, the members were still in their teens, and their uber-aggressive take on *Shed-era* Title Fight sound was somewhat of a one-trick pony. Ages' bassist/vocalist Eric Egan started Heart Attack Man and switched over




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to guitar, cleaning up both his vocal style and guitar writing to create a much more mature, dynamic, and compelling sound. Heart Attack Man's debut album *The Manson Family* was released on Triple Crown Records in March, an 11-song confession of Egan's paranoia about being hated by all his friends, featuring a refined blend of alt-rock and emo that one writer dubbed, quite fittingly, "Weezercore." Tracks like "Burn Down the Mall", "Blood Orange Sun", "Life Sucks", and "Taking Sides" highlight an album that's littered with catchy hooks throughout each song.

Hailing from Buffalo, N.Y., comes Pure Heel. Simple, intense, and angry as hell, Pure Heel emulates the spirit of good old-fashioned hardcore punk. I'm finding it hard to not get out of my chair and start a one-man circle pit while listening to their demo as I type this.

Additional support for the show comes from local indie-punk favorites, Mallory Run, and pop-punk from Akron, Ohio, Long Shot. Both bands put on an incredible live show, so make sure to come to the show early; you won't want to miss one second of this stacked lineup. — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145

W. 11th St. // \$10 adv/\$12 doors // All ages

Thursday, Aug. 10

The Frights, King Shelter Live Up Basement Transmissions



THE FRIGHTS

Traveling all the way from southern California's Wet Hot Summer Tour, The Frights and King Shelter are ready to show Erie what they've got.

San Diego trio The Frights' sophomore album is titled *You Are Going to Hate This*, but that prediction will not likely ring true. With a variety of styles making appearances and impossibly catchy hooks, the album sounds just as much in place at a punk rock show as it would in the soundtrack of a Wes Anderson film. As the Reader's Nick Warren described it in his review of

their album, "The songwriting would be right at home amidst late '50s pop hits. They're able to blend cheesiness and fun in a believable way".

From Los Angeles, King Shelter brings their indie/alternative rock sound (self-described as "salad rock") to the stage with a fun and passionate performance. Check out their latest singles "Gimme Knowledge" and "Holy Ghost" to hear their more upbeat take on what can sometimes be an intentionally bleak genre.— Tommy Shannon

7 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$12 adv/\$15 doors // All ages

Thursday, Aug. 10

Erie Cycle Fest Features Four Days of Biking

The Lake Erie Cycle Fest is pedaling into the city for the weekend with four days of cycling fun.

It kicks off Thursday with an Opening Night Fun Ride, presented by the Erie Arts and Culture and Bike Erie. The slow-ride tour leaves from U Pick 6 Tap House and ends at Perry Square Park, where the Erie Downtown Partnership will be holding one of its six summertime block parties.

On Friday, riders can choose be-



tween a 25- or 50-mile route in the YMCA's Jelly Jar Ride. Both non-competitive rides feature the county's scenery — vineyards, farms and the Lake Erie shore. Later, the 1979 film *Breaking Away* will be shown at the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park for free. This coming-of-age comedy tells the story of a boy with big bicycling dreams.

The festival continues Saturday with EmergyCare's Tour de West County. Riders can choose between 12-, 25-, 50- or 100-mile routes. All begin and end at the YMCA's Camp Sherwin, where outdoor recreational activities will be held after the cyclists return.

An "alley cat" bike race, or a scavenger hunt, will end the festivities on Sunday. Participants will ride through downtown neighborhoods, searching for nine items. It's been dubbed the

MUSIC

Mid-Day Art Break

Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — noon to 1 p.m.

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

Dave VanAmburg & The V Band

Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

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.

MVP

Aug. 3, 10, 17 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 3716 Liberty St. jazzerie.com.

Rachel Shortt

Aug. 3 — 7 p.m.

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

Smith Carillon Series: Dr. Linda Dzuris

Aug. 3 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Penn State Behrend, 4701

College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Arts in the Arboretum Concert Series

Aug. 3, 10 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

25th Annual Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival

Aug. 4 — 3 to 8 p.m. & Aug. 5 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Aug. 6 — noon to 8 p.m.

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Stiletto

Aug. 4 — 6 p.m.

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

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Aug. 4 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Lucky Dog

Aug. 4 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Sounds Around Town

Aug. 4 — 7 p.m.

WQLN, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Seann P. Clark

Aug. 4 — 7 p.m.

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

Summer Music Series: Patchouli & Terra Guitarra

Aug. 4 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

The Ralph Chamberlain Jr. Band

Aug. 4 — 9 p.m.

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

Addison Moon Band and Brooke Surgener

Aug. 4 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Ruby Port

Aug. 5 — 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Small Town Revolution

Aug. 5 — 6 p.m.

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

Steve Trohoske Group

Aug. 5 — 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Experience Children's Museum, 420 French St. jazzerie.com.

Dionisio

Aug. 5 — 7 p.m.

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

The Jeff Fetterman Band

Aug. 5 — 9 p.m.

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

Sweet Earth

Aug. 5 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Stone Temple Pilots 2

Aug. 5 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Tommy Link

Aug. 6 — 5 p.m.

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

Stephanie Quayle and Next of Kin

Aug. 8 — 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier porterie.org.

Heart Attack Man, Pure Heel, Alleys, Mallory Run and Long Shot

August 9 — 6 to 11 p.m.

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

Fred Oakman

Aug. 9 — 7 p.m.

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

Some Kind of Nightmare, Dysmorphia and GESH

Aug. 9 — 8 to 11:45 p.m.

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

Ron Yarman

Aug. 10 — 7 p.m.

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

Gem City Concert Summer Concert on the Lawn

Aug. 10 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. gemcitybands.org.

The Frights: Wet Hot Summer Tour

August 10 — 7 to 11 p.m.

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

Slyfest 12

August 11, 12, 13

The Great Blue Heron Music Festival Campground, 2361 Waits Corners Rd. slybootsbuffalo.com.

Old School

Aug. 11 — 6 p.m.

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

House of Rhythm

Aug. 11 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Dave Callaghan Quartet

Aug. 11 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Wegmans Cafeteria, 6143 Peach St. jazzerie.com.

Sam Hyman

Aug. 11 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

The HighLife

Aug. 11 — 7 p.m.

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

The Division Street Machine

Aug. 11 — 9 p.m.

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

Jess O Lantern, Katelyn Richards, Paul Howells, Broke Boland

Aug. 11 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 Germain St. facebook.com.

Looms

Aug. 11 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

CALENDAR

“WQLN Fat Tire” race because the winner will receive a year’s supply of New Belgian Brewing’s Fat Tire beer.

This final ride takes place after a free concert by the Erie Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet at the LEAF amphitheater.

For the complete schedule of events and turn-by-turn routes, visit eriecyclefest.org. Times below reflect when the earliest ride will depart and times of other festival events. — Tracy Geibel

6 p.m. Thursday, 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 a.m. Saturday, noon and 2 Sunday // locations vary // Free Thursday, \$40 Friday and Saturday, \$15 Sunday

Thursday, Aug. 10

Eric Brewer, Vendettas Headline Another Block Party In The Park

Despite a change of scenery (in the park versus on the streets), one of Erie’s prominent summer traditions pedals ever onward, and that’s a (Sch) win(n) for everybody involved.

Whether you’re cycling through your options physically (as a participant in the Lake Erie Cycle Fest’s



Opening Night Fun Ride) or mentally, you’ll find they all lead back to Liberty Park, the site of the latest installment of the Thursday night Block Party. The Fun Ride will embark on a 10-mile tour of Erie cultural and historical treasures, departing from the U Pick 6 Tap House (333 State Street) at 6 p.m. and arriving at the event upon its conclusion. Representatives of Sluggers and Sullivans will be standing by to replenish your depleted fuel stores (although you may have to supplement their Bud Light products with your own electrolytes).

You’ll definitely need to carbo-load because The Vendettas and Eric Brewer & Friends are set to keep the party rolling with a full slate of tunes. The Vendettas, led by talented vocalist Stephanie Hand, ably shift gears

through a variety of soul-inflected covers, from Santana’s “Black Magic Woman” to Sade’s “Smooth Operator.” Eric Brewer & Friends recall the jam band’s ’90s heyday, channeling such mainstays as Dave Matthews Band, Phish, Umphrey’s McGee, and String Cheese Incident. The group, consisting of Brewer (guitar/vocals), Charlie Meyer (keys/vocals), Steve Barone (drums/vocals), and Ralph Reiting III (bass) has earned those comparisons — these are gifted instrumentalists in perfect lockstep with one another. Jazz, funk, rock, and blues are all spokes on their wheel of musical influences.

Boot your kickstand to the up position and take the revised Block Party for a spin — musicians of this caliber will continue to make it well worth the ride. — Matt Swanseger

6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. // Liberty Park // eriedowntown.com/calendar

Friday, Aug. 11

Slyfest Attendees in for a World of Great Music

With a name like Slyfest, it’s no wonder that this music festival has sort of flown under the radar since



starting a dozen or so years back. But if it hasn’t made a blip on your summer’s sonic to-do list yet, it should.

That’s because Slyfest — now in its 12th go-round at the beautiful Great Blue Heron grounds in nearby Sherman, N.Y. — is an amazing, one-of-a-kind gathering of some seriously world-class world musicians and way-out-there (in the best way possible) masters of the national progressive jam scene: Toubab Krewe, Consider the Source, Mike Dillon Band, Sophistafunk, Critt’s Juke Joint featuring DJ Logic, and, of course, the Slyboots

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

Gallabalo 4

Aug. 12 — noon

Darcy’s Pub & Grub, 3746 W. 12th St. pennshore.com.

Breeze Band

Aug. 12 — 5 to 9 p.m.

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

The Groove

Aug. 12 — 6 p.m.

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

Abbey Road

Aug. 12 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22113 US-6 facebook.com.

Salmon Frank

Aug. 12 — 7 p.m.

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

Rock and Rescue Charity Concert: Gin Blossoms

Aug. 12 — 7 p.m. to midnight

Humane Society of NWP, 2407 Zimmerly Rd. humanesocietyofnwp.com.

Key West Express

Aug. 12 — 9 p.m.

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

McLovins

Aug. 12 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Sunday Noon Classical Concerts

Aug. 13 — noon to 1 p.m.

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

Claire Stuczynski

Aug. 13 — 5 p.m.

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

The Filthy Casuals, The Same Sun, Stick Lucky, Till the End & MFG

Aug. 13 — 5 to 10 p.m.

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

The Earthquakers and Bill Wharton The Sauce Boss

Aug. 15 — 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier porterierie.org.

Jesse Weston

Aug. 16 — 7 p.m.

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

FOOD & DRINK

Picnic in the Park

Aug. 3, 10, 17 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Erie Food Tours

Aug. 4, 5, 11, 12, 26 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Mind, Body, Beer

Aug. 8 — 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

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

Yappy Hour

Aug. 11 — 6 to 9 p.m. & Aug. 25 — 5 to 8 p.m.

The Brewerier at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerierie.com.

Luau and Pig Roast

Aug. 13 — 3 to 9 p.m.

Edinboro-McKean VFW Post 740, 10613 Route 98 facebook.com.

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.

The Beach Girls and the Monster (1965)

Aug. 3 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

Movies in the Arboretum

Aug. 4, 11, 25 — 8:30 p.m.

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

Homebodies (1974)

Aug. 11 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

Incarcerating Us

Aug. 15 — 6 p.m.

Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcferie.coop.

VISUAL ARTS

Erie County Art Teachers

Ongoing through Aug. 11

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

The Object Doesn’t

Always Speak for Itself

Ongoing through Aug. 15

Performing Artist Collective Alliance, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

Affinity by Jack Stone & Susan Stone

Ongoing through Aug. 29

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

Pairing Similarities: D.W. Martin

Ongoing through Oct. 21

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

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

Ongoing through November 12

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.

Second Sundays

Aug. 13 — 2 to 4 p.m.

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

THEATER

Anything Goes

Aug. 2, 3, 4 — 7 p.m.

Collegiate Academy Auditorium, 2825 State St. eriefootlights.com.

Youtheatre Play Series

Aug. 4 — 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. & Aug. 5 — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. & Aug. 6 — 2 p.m.

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

Black Comedy

Aug. 8, 9, 22, 23 — noon & Aug. 12, 19, 26 — 5:30 p.m. & Aug. 13, 27 — 2:30 p.m. & Aug. 18 — 7 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY

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.



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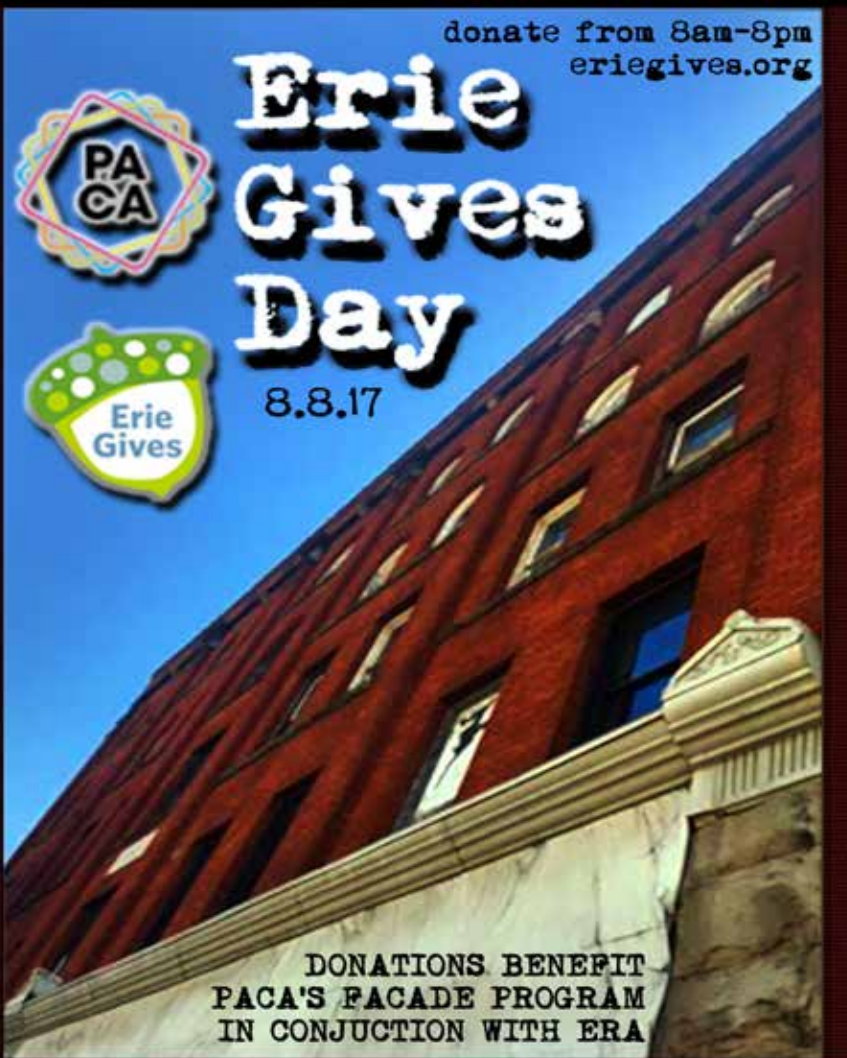
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Alexa D. Potter, *Beachcomber*, 2017. Photo by Mark Fainstein

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Circus featuring musicians and performers from Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, Nigeria, the U.S. and various points in between.

It's a multi-faceted gathering, too, with a healthy emphasis also placed on interactive drum and dance workshops, live art-making, fire dancing, artist lectures and more, all designed to make the experience truly hands-on for festival-goers.

And, as always, Slyfest is happening for a more-than-worthy cause: supporting Buffalo's Slyboots School of Music, Art & Dance in its mission to unite people from throughout the world and inspire greatness through the arts.

It's all about "promoting positive social change through cultural arts education and performance," Slyboots School states in its mission; in other words, "bringing the world together, on the sly."

We can definitely get down to that.

— Ryan Smith

Aug. 11 through 13 // 2361 Waits Corners Road, Sherman, N.Y. // www.slyfest.com // \$25 (single day), \$75 (weekend camping), \$200 (weekend VIP)

Friday, Aug. 11

Italian Heritage Celebrated at St. Paul's Annual Festival

St. Paul Roman Catholic Church will celebrate its heritage all weekend with Italian food, entertainment and



more at its annual Italian Festival.

Chairman Ron DiVecchio says it's grown substantially over the years. "Sometimes it's hard to move out there."

The weekend-long event kicks off Friday with an opening Communion service at 4:30 p.m. The pasta fagioli dinner takes place directly afterwards from 5 to 8 p.m., with entertainment provided from 6 to 10 p.m. Erie musician Lindsay Vendetti will take the stage at 8 p.m.

The festival continues Saturday with activities lined up from 1 to 10 p.m. As on Friday, music will be provided throughout the festival. Francesco Reino and Sam Tonelli will perform traditional Italian music as Cugini Italiani (Italian Cousins) beginning at 6 p.m.

The fun wraps up on Sunday after a full day of events. It begins with an 11 a.m. mass held by Bishop Lawrence Persico. Afterwards, people can see an Italian tradition — the Procession of the Blessed Virgin Mary through "Lit-

tle Italy." A spaghetti dinner is offered from noon to 6 p.m. Entertainment and other activities will also be available throughout the day. Sunday will conclude three days of raffle drawings with an \$8,000 jackpot. — Tracy Geibel

Friday through Sunday, times vary // St. Paul Roman Catholic Church, 1617 Walnut St. // (814)-459-3173 // info@stpaulrcerie.org // stpaulrcerie.org/festival

Saturday, Aug. 12

Gallabaloo Closes in on Erie



WHISKEY DAREDEVILS

It started out as — and has remained — its own kind of music festival: a little country, a little punk-rock, a little psychobilly, and a little bluegrass, too.

That's the now-annual, one-day-only event known as Gallabaloo,

and — with a fourth-year change-up that brings it to one of Erie's premier live music venues — it's coming for you (assuming you're into that kinda thing).

This year, the festival — which has moved from nearby West Springfield to the even-more-nearby Darcy's Pub & Grub on West 12th St. — features, as always, quite a tasty mix of a lineup: Whiskey Daredevils, Sean Patrick & the Newgrass Revolution, DredNeks, Rodger Montgomery, Ron Yarosz and The Vehicle, Bob Kellogg's My 3 Scum/The Coffin Bangers, Bootlegger's Bible Club, Matty B, Matt Texter and several other genre-spanning bands and performers from throughout the region and country.

"It gives everyone an opportunity to see a vast array of very high-caliber bands and be exposed to different styles of music that they might not know that they like," festival organizer Dan Biscoff told the Reader before the first Gallabaloo event a few years back.

And, with this year's venue change, "Darcy's has a lot to offer," he said recently, including non-stop music and dancing on two stages (indoor and outdoor), good grub, convenient parking, and, of course, just the right kind of ambiance.

See you, Gallabaloo.

— Ryan Smith

Noon // 3746 W. 12th St. // gallabaloo.com // \$15

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. presqueislighthouse.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

Aug. 2, 7, 9, 14, 16 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Clay for Kids

Aug. 2 — 10:30 a.m. to noon & Aug. 12 — 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Erie Clayspace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Wednesday Walks in the Woods

Aug. 2, 9, 16 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

Farmers Market

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

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

Dan Rice Days

Aug. 3, 4, 5

Downtown Girard, 221 Waterford St. danricedays.com.

Lucy Comedy Fest

Aug. 3, 4, 5, 6

National Comedy Center, 2 W. 3rd St. lucycomedyfest.com.

Over The Edge Erie 2017

Aug. 3 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bicentennial Tower, 1 Dobbins Landing. achievementctr.org.

Weight Lifting/ Cardio Fitness Class

Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 & Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 & Dec. 7, 14 — 9:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tots in Nature

Aug. 3, 10 — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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

Garden Sprouts Preschool

Aug. 3, 10 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

New Horizons Music Project

Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 — 4 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

History on the Beach

Aug. 3 — 6 to 7 p.m.

Beach 6 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Shoot the Rock Back to School Classic

Aug. 4, 5, 6

Family First Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eriesportscommission.com.

Getting Creative with Acrylics: A Painting Residency

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25 & Sept. 1 — 9 to 11 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tai Chi

Aug. 4, 11 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

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

Erie SeaWolves vs. Hartford Yard Goats

Aug. 4, 5 — 7 p.m. & Aug. 6 — 1:30 p.m.

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

Candlelight Ghost Walks

Aug. 4, 5, 18, 19 & Sept. 2, 3 & Oct. 20, 21, 27, 28 — 8 p.m.

Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. candlelightghostwalks.com.

Suzuki Music Preview Day

Aug. 5 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

D'Angelo Room 19, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

First Time Archery Program

Aug. 5 — 9 to 11 a.m.

Erie Bluffs State Park, 11122 W. Lake Rd. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Sunshine Storytime

Aug. 5, 19 — 10 to 10:30 a.m.

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

Dino Dig

Aug. 5 — 10:30 a.m. to noon

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

Erie Land Lighthouse Tours

Aug. 5, 6 — noon

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

Dog Days of Summer

Aug. 5 — noon to 3 p.m.

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

Crash-A-Rama

Aug. 5 — 7 to 11 p.m.

Lake Erie Speedway, 38th St. mercyhurst.edu. lakeerispeedway.com.

Lake Erie Duathlon

Aug. 6 — 7 a.m.

Beach 11 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. lakeerieduathlon.org.

Light Fest 2017

Aug. 6 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Light in the Woods, 12270 Route 99 facebook.com.

Pilates Class with Michaelee Curtze

Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

2017 Lake Erie Fanfare

Aug. 7 — 1 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Stadium, 2600 State St. dci.org.

Cruise the Bay

CALENDAR

Saturday, Aug. 12

'Find Out About' Gin Blossoms at the Rock and Rescue Concert



GIN BLOSSOMS

In case you missed the memo, Erie loves its four-legged friends a lot. A lot a lot. So it should come as no surprise that this year the Humane Society of Northwest Pennsylvania is not only celebrating its 125th year of operation, but also doing so in spectacular fashion with the Rock and Rescue Charity Concert. Headlining the event are the Gin Blossoms — they of “Hey Jealousy,” “Found Out About You” and “Til I Hear It From You,” a.k.a. ubiquitous '90s movie soundtrack hits that will make you raid your old DVD collection.

Erie's own Six Year Stretch, the 2015 Erie Reader Best Up and Coming Band, winner of the 2017 Humane Society Battle of the Bands, and self-proclaimed handicrafters of “infectious melodies, tight harmonies, and music that is good for your soul” will kick off the show as openers at 7:30 p.m.; the Gin Blossoms are set to take the stage shortly after at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets range anywhere from \$25 for blanket seating to \$50 for general admission. There were \$100 VIP tickets for sale (the purchase of which included wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres and VIP parking, plus early access to the VIP tent), but the people's endearment for the Humane Society, as well as '90s hit-makers, overwhelmed availability and they have already sold out.

The Humane Society is both a fixture in the Erie area and a sanctuary for animals in need of rescuing and re-homing, but it cannot continue its great work without the ongoing support of the community. Show them some love and enjoy some nostalgia-inducing tunes on the organization's ever-growing campus as we look forward to their next 125 years of operation. — Cara Suppa

6 to 11 p.m. // 2407 Zimmerly Road // humanesocietyofnwpa.com // \$25 blanket seating, \$50 general admission, VIP sold out

Sunday, Aug. 13

The Woodwinds and the Willows at LEAF Amphitheater



Easy, breezy, beautiful — the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF) has had the fine arts covered all summer long. However, all good things must come to an end. As cottonwood or poplar seed pods are carried off by the wind, the Arts in the Arboretum series will disperse for the season with a concluding performance by the Erie Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet.

Modern wind quintets graft together the timbres of the bassoon, oboe, French horn, clarinet, and flute for a

full-bodied sound the mind can truly climb on. Although this chamber ensemble varietal was slow taking root at first (it didn't really catch on until the early 19th century), it has quickly proven a spreader, with thriving numbers around the globe. While it takes to classical music the best, some cultivators have been known to sprinkle some lab-engineered chart toppers in the pot without harm.

As cottonwood or poplar seed pods are carried off by the wind, the Arts in the Arboretum series will disperse for the season with a concluding performance by the Erie Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet.

For a truly classical (as in ancient Greek) experience, spectators can view the performance from the amphitheater's stone risers. Otherwise, a picnic blanket or lawn chair will do. No need to get carried away — even if the forecast does call for wind. — Matt Swansger

Noon to 1 p.m. // 1501 W. 6th St. // leaferie.org/arts-in-the-arboretum // Free

Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier
callingallcruiserz.com.

Erie Gives Day

Aug. 8 — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Various Locations,
eriegives.org.

Fit for Life Fitness Class

Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29 & Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 & Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Dec. 5, 12 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St.
lifeworkserie.org.

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

Aug. 8 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Erie Health & Wellness Pavilion, 4247 W. Ridge Rd.
reservations.
highmarkblueshield.com.

Branching Out

Aug. 8 — 10 a.m. to noon
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St.
leaferie.org.

Chick-fil-A Stuffed Animal Drive for Operation Christmas Child

Aug. 8 — 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Erie Chick-fil-A, 7160 Peach St.
samaritanspurse.org.

Be Creative with

Indoor Plants

Aug. 8 — 1 to 2 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St.
lifeworkserie.org.

Yoga for Back Pain

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

The Power of Poetry and The Persistence of Prose

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

Chair Massage and Paraffin Wax Treatment

Aug. 9 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St.
lifeworkserie.org.

Safety on Wheels

Aug. 9 — 1 to 2 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St.
lifeworkserie.org.

Backstage Erie Corry Museum Tour

Aug. 9 — 6:15 p.m.
Corry Area Historical Society, 937 Mead Ave.
preservationerie.org.

Disney Trivia Night with Once Upon a Part LLC

Aug. 9 — 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Jekyll & Hyde's, 8 E. 10th St.
facebook.com.

Lake Erie Cycle Fest 2017

Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13
Various Locations,
eriecyclefest.com.

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

Aug. 10 — 11 a.m. to noon
Highmark Health Insurance Direct Store, 5753 Peach St. reservations.
highmarkblueshield.com.

Block Party

Aug. 10 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.
Perry Square, 568 State St.
eriedowntown.com.

Summer Fairy Gathering

Aug. 10 — 7 to 8 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.
asburywoods.org.

Erie's Vote: An Analysis of the Primary Mayoral Elections

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

St. Paul's Italian Festival

Aug. 11, 12, 13

St. Paul Roman Catholic Church, 1617 Walnut St.
stpaulrcerie.org.

LifeWorks Erie Summer Picnic

Aug. 11 — 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Shades Beach, 7000 E. Lake Rd.
lifeworkserie.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. New Hampshire Fisher Cats

Aug. 11, 12 — 7 p.m. & Aug. 13 — 1:30 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St.
erieevents.com.

The Color Run

Aug. 12 — 8 a.m.
Perry Square Park, 570 State St.
thecolorrun.com.

LuLaRoe Pop Up

Aug. 12 & Sept. 23 — 9 a.m. to noon
RealLife Early Learning Center, 3902 W. 38th St.
learnatrealife.com.

Midwest Drift Union

Aug. 12 — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr.
lakeeriestrategy.com.

Primitive Skills Series: Food and Water

Aug. 12 — 10 a.m. to noon
Erie Bluffs State Park, 11122 W.

Lake Rd. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Summer Fun Day

Aug. 12 — 1 to 3:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.
asburywoods.org.

Cruise in the Country

Aug. 12 — 4 to 8 p.m.
St. Boniface Church, 9363 Wattsburg Rd.
callingallcruiserz.com.

7th Annual iRock Charity 5K, Tot-Trot & Family Fun Day

Aug. 13 — 8 a.m. to noon
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St.
irockfitnesserie.com.

Jump! Back to School Expo

Aug. 13 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Penn State Erie The Behrend College Junker Center, 5103 Station Rd.
wqln.org.

Little Leaves Program

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

Osteoporosis in Older Adults

Aug. 14 — 10:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach

St. lifeworkserie.org.

Summer Weather Safety

Aug. 14 — 1 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St.
lifeworkserie.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Binghamton Mets

Aug. 14, 15, 16 — 7 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St.
erieevents.com.

What is Gluten Free Living

Aug. 15 — 1 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St.
lifeworkserie.org.

Sunset Hike and Campfire

Aug. 15 — 8 to 9:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.
asburywoods.org.

Grandparent/Grandchild Day

Aug. 16 — 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St.
lifeworkserie.org.

Understanding Hepatitis C

Aug. 16 — 6 p.m.
Millcreek Municipal Building, 3608 W. 26th St.
lifeworkserie.org.

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WWW.SLYFEST.COM - WWW.SLYBOOTSBUFFALO.COM




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Your gift to the **Friends of the Erie County Public Library** gives everyone in our community access to high-quality, free cultural and educational programs. In 2016, the Friends supported over 1200 programs at our libraries!



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Girard Comes Full Circle With Dan Rice Days

Dan Rice's circus left town — his legacy didn't



By: Matt Swanseger

THURSDAY, AUG. 3

Girard is not even clowning around with Dan Rice Days, a three-day shout-out to the borough's main man on its Main Street (and beyond).

When Dan Rice first arrived in Girard in 1853, he was among

Perhaps the most famous person you've never heard of (Girard residents aside, of course), the eclectic showman Dan Rice poses for a daguerreotype portrait dating from the 1840s.

the preeminent entertainers in the country, renowned as a singer, dancer, comedian, and animal whisperer (he trained an elephant to walk a tightrope and even tamed a rhinoceros — not a charge most are willing to take upon themselves). Rice became a full-time performer by the age of 20 (1843), and before he hit his 30th birthday, he was managing one of the most lucrative traveling circuses around. "Dan Rice's Great Hippodrome and Menagerie" raked in a staggering \$1,000 a week during its peak (over \$30,000 in today's dollars) thanks to its ringleader's uncanny charisma and charm. This guy was a hoot,

and when the largely undeveloped tracts of land surrounding Girard hollered, he heeded the call.

A tiny village of 600 at the time, Girard was ideally located along Route 20 (which was the country's major east-to-west thoroughfare of the period) and the freshly constructed Erie Canal Extension, which was very amenable to the comings and goings of a traveling circus. The conservative townspeople, however, were not so keen on the "riff-raff" that accompanied the circus. Eager to be loved, Rice deftly humored the natives, and they in turn humored him. He was the life of the party (and hosted many of them at his swanky home), and the populace was a huge benefactor of his generosity.

Not only was Rice loose with his purse strings, the little feller

was also said to be pretty loose with both flask and fist, earning a reputation as a drinker and a brawler. His lack of temperance strained two marriages (both ending in divorce) and also spurred a vicious rumor mill, especially during the Civil War (he split his time performing between both the North and South; when the war was over he donated toward the recovery of both factions). He died penniless and alone in 1900 (and not in Girard, which he deserted permanently in 1881) — a tragic and ironic fate for a man who had dedicated his life to (and often succeeded at) winning the crowd over.

Over the past 52 years, Girard has been making it up to him with Dan Rice Days, the celebration of a man now remembered as a dynamic figure who contributed greatly to the town's

development. His spirit will be embodied in all manner of fun and frivolities, including a magic show, pony and carriage rides, bathtub races (literally bathtub vehicles on wheels), polka on the Culbertson House porch (named for former U.S. Representative William Culbertson), and more. Other highlights include the Miss Girard pageant, the Dan Rice Days 5K, and the eponymous parade (a nod to Rice's annual fall homecoming parades as he and his circus animals got ready to shack up for the winter).

Rest easy, Danny Boy — they've come around. And you can, too.

The festival runs from Thursday through Saturday. A complete schedule of events can be found at danricedays.com // General admission is free

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Monarch Butterfly Migration Celebration
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CALENDAR

Must See Shows

Addison Moon and Brooke Surgener



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Aaron Mook

FRIDAY, AUG. 4

Picture this: it's a Friday evening in Erie. The night is young, and if you're going to be following the bar scene, why not take in some live music, too? You wind up at The King's Rook, where you discover two very unique, yet complementary acts on the same bill. One is known for what she refers to as "desert rock," a combination of blues, country and rock music equal parts modern and nostalgic. The other artist may very well fall under the pseudo-genre of "twee-pop," delivering sweet indie-pop originals and covers (often paired with unexpected visual accompaniments in her music videos).

The artists are Addison Moon and Brooke Surgener, respectively, and The King's Rook is exactly where they'll be playing together.

Brooke Surgener is a local artist with an affinity for all things nerdom. Eventually, Surgener's penchant for cosplay (i.e., dressing up as characters from comic books, video games, anime, and/or movies) extended past her Comic-Con travels and began seeping into her music — a process she described as natural.

"Like music, cosplay is another form of expression and [that's] a big reason why I fell in love with it," Surgener says. "I never meant to combine my music with cosplaying; I think my imagination just did that on its own."

Surgener has plenty of music not associated with certain video game

and anime characters, but visits to her YouTube channel reveal such creative titles as "Be Your Babe (Zelda Cosplay Music Video)," "All I Want for Christmas is You (Sailor Moon Christmas)" and "Santa Baby (Nerd Version)."

"I began to imagine how to physically express it and the stories just started to write themselves through the characters," Surgener explains. "I just got lucky that two completely different things that I am passionate about were able to complement each other in such a unique way that made sense."

Opening up the show will be Optimistic Apocalypse, the pseudonym of Fairview's own McKenzie Lee Sprague (note: be sure to check out a review of her latest release in this very issue). The multi-talented indie-folk songwriter will showcase a set of her original tracks, adding harmonies on

Hayley Restivo (top), better known as Addison Moon, will bring her inspired folk sounds to the King's Rook club along with the enchanting indie-pop songwriter, Brooke Surgener (right).

stage with Surgener during her set as well.

Hayley Restivo, the force behind Addison Moon, is less local, but known for playing The Great Blue Heron Festival three years and counting. The Jamestown native and current New York City resident's music sounds modern, not unlike many blues-revival artists around today, but a deeper listen exposes a connection with folk legends such as Neil Young and Bob Dylan.

"I play and write pulling a lot of inspiration from the Southwest," explains Restivo. "I really tried to be a folk singer for a long time, but I never got to showcase my voice the way I do when I get to belt."

And Restivo does on her brand new self-titled LP (available on all streaming platforms). Having been released only a mere month ago, it can only be assumed that Restivo will be performing some of her favorite tracks from the album at the upcoming King's Rook show. Brooke Surgener also has an EP, a full-length and last year's "Be Your Babe" single available on Bandcamp. With the show's material being this eclectic, one can only assume that this is one of the summer's must-see shows.

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NICK WARREN

A Review of *A Contract With God (and Other Tenement Stories)*

The first graphic novel, still unsurpassed



By: John Repp

It is impossible to overstate the scale of Will Eisner's influence on the world of comics — or, as he called the visual literature he helped pioneer, "sequential art." Had he abandoned the form after *The Spirit's* 12-year run ended in 1952, he still would have few peers.

Every volume in the graphic-novel section at Barnes & Noble owes a debt to the adventures of this masked crime fighter in fedora and trench coat.

Eisner had some hard times, especially during the McCarthy era, when guardians of public decency stoked hysteria about any comics title more complex than *Archie*. But he kept working, even through the years-long grief that followed the death of his teenaged daughter. Out of that came "A Contract With God," one of the four "tenement tales" of the Depression originally published in 1978 that make up this volume, each set at 55 Dropsie Avenue, a fictional address in the Bronx.

The other three stories — "The Street Singer," "The Su-

per," and "Cookalein" — are full of pathos, dark humor, and a gnawing hunger for love. Their structure is genuinely tragic: No one gets what he or she "deserves," but the stories dramatize just resolutions of their conflicts.

In the title story, however, we're dropped in the middle of an immigrant version of the Book of Job. Frimme Hersh, a Russian Jew sent to America as his village elders' last hope of cultural survival, has just buried his adopted daughter. Known on Dropsie Avenue as a godly man, he'd discovered infant Rachele in a basket outside his door, and she'd immediately become the joy of his life.

During his journey to America, Hersh had written a contract with God on a flat stone,

which he carried until the period of ritual mourning for Rachele had ceased. He spits on the contract, raging at God, the immemorial questions of why innocents die and good deeds go unrewarded, receiving, as always, no answer. Hersh renounces his faith and enters secular life with bitter gusto and quick success, followed by developments as surprising as they are inevitable.

I retell this story partly out of an inability to do justice to the art with which Eisner renders it. Dramatizing Hersh's trudge home through a downpour, the first eight pages alone — each comprised of a single "panel," an element of graphic-novel grammar Eisner manipulates better than anyone else ever has — stagger the imagination. The rain is a living thing

that pours off every inch of the man, the streetlights, the tenements, the individual bricks in the wall of 55 Dropsie Avenue. The lettering presses Hersh down, the contract looms over his slogging frame, the interior stairway seems to go nowhere.

Had Will Eisner lived to see his centennial, he'd go every day where he always went — to work, no matter what. All the great ones do.

A Contract With God (and Other Tenement Stories) — Centennial Edition, by Will Eisner, W.W. Norton & Co., 2017, 180pp., \$25.95

John Repp grew up near the Palace Depression in Vineland, New Jersey. He has taught writing at Edinboro University since 1991.



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MUSIC REVIEWS

Tyler, the Creator
Flower Boy
 Odd Future Records



There are plenty of things one could expect from a Tyler, the Creator album that I would not hold against them. While each new album from the divisive California MC has improved upon the last, Tyler's maturity (and use of slurs) often made his unique, self-produced experiments a tough pill to swallow. What *no one* expected from him was a gorgeous, neo-soul influenced album that embraces storytelling and colorful metaphors to discuss topics spanning love, loneliness, and sexuality - but that's exactly what he's given us on his fifth LP, *Flower Boy*. In his most restrained release yet, the tension is palpable, with Tyler really only letting loose a few times ("911 / Mr. Lonely," "November"). The culmination of this is of course "Garden Shed," a beautiful ambient track marked by chorus-laden guitars that find Tyler waiting for the song's final minute dive into one of the most important verses he's ever delivered. It's a moment that's representative of *Flower Boy* as a whole, a creative and personal peak that finds Tyler finally outshining his collaborators and the controversies that once defined him.

— Aaron Mook



Manchester Orchestra
A Black Mile to the Surface
 Sony



It's been three years since we last heard from Manchester Orchestra as a unit, but that doesn't mean the boys have been any less busy. Original members Andy Hull and Robert McDowell received acclaim for creating the a capella score for last year's surreal, head-turning comedy, *Swiss Army Man*, and on their new album, *A Black Mile to the Surface*, they've brought the unique influence of director "Daniels" with them. *A Black Mile to the Surface* takes pieces of what Manchester Orchestra have excelled at in the past and stretches them across 49 minutes of abstract storytelling and sonic experimentation that would make Radiohead proud. From the quieter moments (opener "The Maze" recalls the gentle echo of *Simple Math's* "Deer") to the muscular, Thrice-esque riffs of career highlights "The Moth" and "Lead, SD," Manchester Orchestra restrain themselves in a way that complements their deep and dark songwriting. Somehow managing to be a perfect distillation of the band's already impressive discography as well as a rebirth for the band, *A Black Mile to the Surface* plays like a living organism, constantly twisting and tweaking its own melodies until entire sections of the album become nearly inseparable.

— Aaron Mook



Optimistic Apocalypse
The Art of Love
 Self-Released



Optimistic Apocalypse, the brainchild of Erie native McKenzie Lee Sprague, is more than meets the eye. Where other indie-rockers settle for simple, well-structured songwriting, Sprague's latest release, *The Art of Love*, feels complete because of how thoroughly it explores its own melodies. Each track is preceded by a minute-long interlude that reverses elements of its base song, creating sonic reflections that end up being some of *The Art of Love's* most beautiful moments. Indeed, it's Sprague's attention to detail that elevates these songs to something truly special — starting with the backing vocals that haunt opener "The Jelly", the perfect harmonies seem to flow throughout the entire release, connecting each track to its mirror. Sprague's songwriting recalls both Easley's most angelic moments and the very personal, very grounded lyricism of Julien Baker. While any of these songs could hold their own out of context, I wouldn't recommend it, as *The Art of Love* is an experience best realized in full. Through *Optimistic Apocalypse*, Sprague has created not only one of the best local albums of the year, but one of the most *unique* releases you'll hear all year, *period*.

— Aaron Mook



Scary Pockets
Scary Pockets
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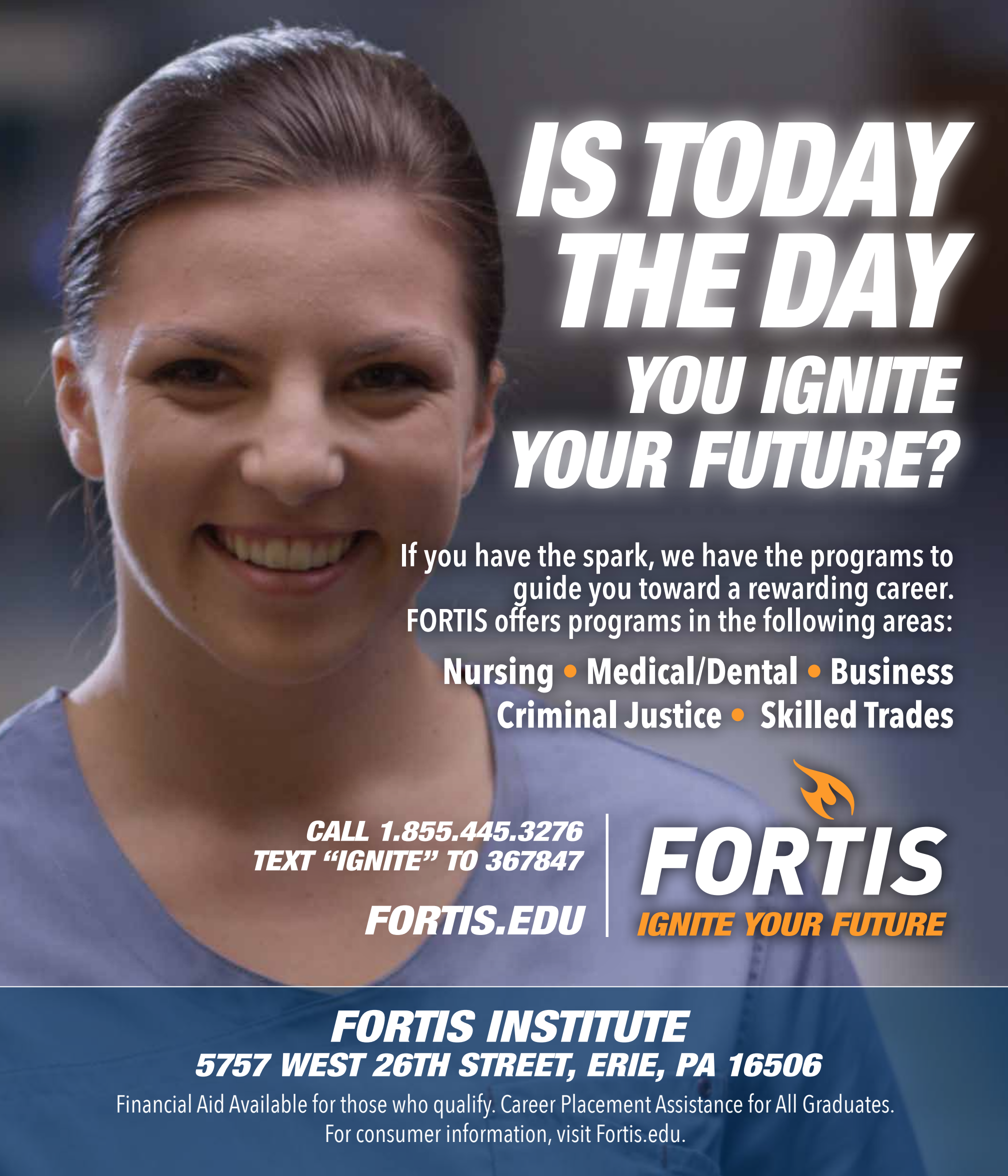
Do you ever wish your pop music, well, *popped* more? Scary Pockets peel away the plastic and get at the flesh of it, reimagining the processed meat of the commercial music industry more organically — and spice it up with enough funk flavor to set your ear buds *en fuego*. Manning the microphone on all but one of these 13 covers are women — each one of them a veritable powerhouse despite not being household names (yet). The more obvious translations (The Weeknd's MJ homage "I Feel It Coming," Bruno Mars' "That's What I Like") do not provide nearly as much interest as the material that has been utterly transformed (Selena Gomez' "It Ain't Me" in the style of Sly Stone, Radiohead's famously melancholy "Creep" turned into an upbeat nod to Billy Preston, Kendrick Lamar's "Humble" given the blaxploitation soundtrack treatment). Although having a fleet of Patreon Chaka Khans at their disposal helps (as keyboardist and bandleader Jack Conte is the support-the-artist website's founder), the band's best asset may be their rhythm section (bassist Sam Wilkes and drummer Kyle Crane) — they are scarily in the pocket.

— Matt Swanseger



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