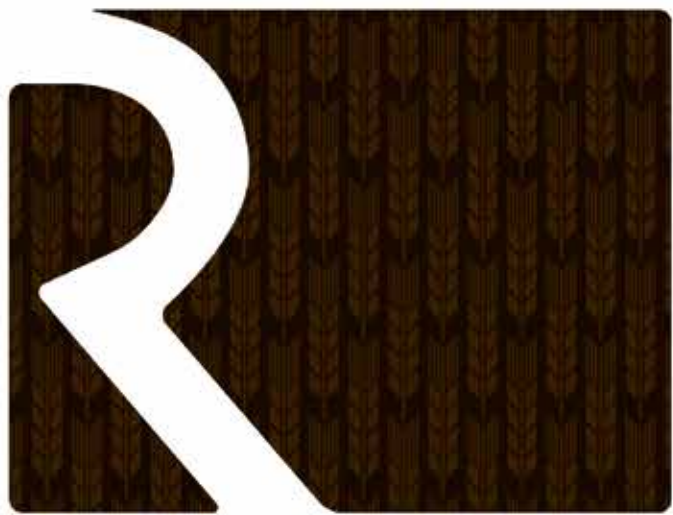


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The Erie Reader is the local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and 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.



CONTENTS:

August 16, 2017

Erie At Large – 5

Bargaining for a decision

News of the Weird – 9

A fond farewell to the weird

No Longer Focused Plan – 12

Are you there, Erie?

What to Expect From the New BayHawks – 14

New coach Longstaff preaches player development

Uplifting Spirits – 15

The rise of the local microdistillery



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spotlight on Erie 20

A lonely liver suspended in liquid

An Annual Reason to Celebrate Erie – 31

Music and culture galore define festivities

A Fair Way to End the Summer – 32

Crawford, Erie County fairs pull their weight in entertainment value

Music Reviews – 34

Girl Ray, Dead Cross, Arcade Fire, and Wave Trails

From the Editors

Sometimes there's a reason to drink

The world seems like it's a complete mess right now, and maybe it is. We're living in a country where our president refuses to openly condemn white nationalists committing acts of domestic terrorism until days after the fact. That shouldn't be a difficult decision. It shouldn't have to even be a *decision*.

Human rights and equality for all should not be a political issue. For as much as it hurts to see openly racist protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, it's also affecting to see similar messages being sent out much closer to home. It hurts to see echoes of intolerance and bigotry, to read defenses of inexcusable actions and beliefs. The fact that these views are becoming more and more commonplace is terrifying. The polarizing views that Americans prescribe to are being trumpeted louder than they have in generations.

For most issues, there is a complex, nuanced explanation for each side of an argument. Even after a heated exchange of words, it's possible to understand the opposing viewpoint.

There is no understandable argument for hatred.

Bigotry is not something that can be rationalized or explained away. It simply isn't right. In 2017, we shouldn't even need to be saying that, but maddeningly, we are.

Then, if white supremacists weren't enough, there's the looming threat of nuclear annihilation. Escalation of violent rhetoric between the US and North Korea have put us closer to the brink of large-scale destruction since the days of the Cold War.

Racism and nuclear war — sometimes our country just wants to hear the hits again, as horrifying as they are.

Not making matters any better, here at home our local economy is being dealt another blow. Earlier this month, GE Transportation announced plans to lay off 575 workers at their Lawrence Park plant. Jim Wertz takes a deeper look at the inner workings of this news, offering up data as well as important perspectives on this monumental force in our region.

As the economic tide changes, the condition of buildings in our community begin to shift gradually as well. Blighted properties have become an increased concern for public officials and citizens alike. In an opinion piece, Alayna Getchell takes the city's "Action Team" to task, citing several of their actions as misguided and ill-conceived.

So after all of this, maybe you deserve a drink. Matt Swanseger looks at the rise of the microdistillery in our region. Following the path of the microbreweries, he responsibly takes an Uber down the path of the newly born Lake Erie Spirit Trail.

Whether or not you drink at all, we all deserve a short break now and then.



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Erie At Large

Bargaining for a decision



NICK WARREN

By Jim Wertz

Here we go, again, on our own. It's a familiar refrain in this community, but instead of being accompanied by sex symbols grinding to a soundtrack upon luxury vehicles, the lasting image symbolizing Erie's journey is that of a sacrificial laborer strapped to the pilot of a locomotive rolling out of GE Transportation in Lawrence Park.

That enduring imagery – the laborer, not the sex symbol – keeps people up at night, and rightly so. An economic impact study prepared by the Erie based consulting firm Parker Philips and commissioned by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, Local 506, which represents blue collar labor at GE Transportation, outline in detail the net effect of union employment on the regional economy. The loss of 1,687 jobs since 2013 will cost the region more than \$1.6 Billion in economic output through the loss of jobs and wages both directly and indirectly associated with employment at GE.

GE Transportation is currently the region's largest advanced manufacturing employer in Erie County. The Brookings Institute in Washington D.C. estimates that for every advanced manufacturing job created in the United States there are 2.3 jobs created outside of that industry to support those firms. Conversely, when advanced manufacturing

jobs are lost, the negative impact is equally significant. Indeed, GE Transportation released its own economic impact study in 2013 that tied the company to one-in-eleven jobs in northwest Pennsylvania.

So brace yourselves, Erie, because all the King's horses and all the King's men are unlikely to hold GE together again. But it's not for lack of trying.

The union has elected to enter into what's known as "decision bargaining." This process allows the union to negotiate with the company to offer concessions and recommend changes in the workflow that might increase efficiency and save jobs. This is the seventh time that option has been exercised since it was first negotiated into the collective bargaining agreement between GE Transportation and UE 506. In the Parker Philips study, UE 506 president Scott Slawson reflects upon "what amounts to years of decision bargaining" and he concludes that "GE has retained less than a handful of the jobs that it has initially intended to transfer."

In other words, the process has not worked as designed because, as Slawson has publicly stated, the company is not bargaining in good faith.

It has become clear to observers, and more importantly clear to the labor force in Lawrence Park, that the company is not interested in keeping work in Erie despite its many public comments to the contrary. It is a textbook case of actions trumping words

(left) The GE Transportation sign looms high, with railroad tracks leading in and out of the Lawrence Park plant's west side entrance. (bottom) Protesting the transfer of one third of the location's jobs to Fort Worth, members of the UE Local 506 walk out of the plant during a brief 2013 strike.

despite GE Transportation executive bolstering of increasing productivity, profits, and profitability. That's why then-President and CEO Lorenzo Simonelli said in 2013 that the company remained "committed to both Erie and the region as we grow our business right here."

Since then, leadership changed and commitment to Erie waned as more resources and the primary share of the workload shifted to GE Transportation's Fort Worth facility, where wages are lower and the presence of a collective bargaining unit is conspicuously absent.

In an effort to contend with those competitive realities, UE 506 worked with plant management in 2012 to become more "efficient" and "productive," in the words of supply chain manager Joel Berdine, according to the Parker Philips report.

But later that year, GE Transportation moved its headquarters and much of its executive workforce to Chicago, Illinois, where it remains. It was the first major sign that the company's aforementioned commitment to Erie was neither steadfast or abiding. That move was a psychological blow to a workforce and the community. Both had hoped that the newfound sense of shared purpose between labor and management would engender a sense of permanence.



MARK HALLER

It did not.

I suspect that's due in part to a desire of the leadership at GE Transportation to be reminded, from time to time, that the community was as grateful for its presence as the workforce in Lawrence Park has been over the years; that the cumulative effort of maintaining a major corporate entity on the fringe of the midwestern frontier was worth it.

How many times did legislators visit them in Lawrence Park to express appreciation for feeding the local economy, as all sides have acknowledged GE Transportation has done? How many times did local legislators ask, what

Brace yourselves, Erie, because all the King's horses and all the King's men are unlikely to hold GE together again. But it's not for lack of trying.

can we do to assist an industry that is subject to the whims of federal policy, fuel prices, and international trade? Since the headquarters moved, how many times have they been to Chicago to take the corporate temperature?

It's like a marriage that's all too easy to celebrate when the sex is good and the bills are paid. Now the partners only get together every other weekend to fight about who's doing more

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for the kids.

Mediators, including Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolfe and US Senator Bob Casey Jr., joined local officials last week in Lawrence Park in support of UE 506 and the financial network that begins at General Electric.

But permanent separation seems all but imminent as part of trend in which companies once known for creating jobs and building communities are now willing to sacrifice a thousand lives to make a buck. The decision is ideological, not pragmatic.

Since the mid-1990s work that was once proprietary to the Lawrence Park facility has been distributed across the GE ecosystem, transferred to third party vendors, and, most recently, relocated to Fort Worth regardless of how profitable or productive the Erie plant has been. Those transfers took with them more than 1,000 living wage jobs before the current proposal to eliminate another 572 jobs even hit the table.

And it's not only union labor that's affected by the proposed transfer of

work. White collar jobs will be lost as well.

A letter from plant managers outlining the extent of impending change to UE 506 states that the company expects to retain approximately 2,000 employees – half union, half salaried employees in design and development – to participate in prototype production.

At the same time, the letter identifies a group of nearly 700 employees who will become retirement eligible through 2019. If many or most of these retirements come to pass, the letter states, some of those expected to be laid off in 2017 may be recalled.

It seems like an opportune time to talk about retirement incentives and downsizing the labor force by attrition rather than amputation.

But yet we wait...for another decision bargaining session. Or perhaps just a simple bargain.

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

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News of the Weird

A fond farewell to the weird

By: **Chuck Shepherd**

Playing the Hits

Weird News is forever, but this is my last “News of the Weird” column, as I am now exhausted after almost 30 years in the racket. In this final edition, I remember a few of my favorites. My deep thanks to Andrews McMeel Syndication and to readers, who started me up and kept me going. Y’all take care of yourselves. -- Chuck Shepherd

(1995) Chesapeake, Virginia, inmate Robert Lee Brock filed a \$5 million lawsuit against Robert Lee Brock -- accusing himself of violating his religious beliefs and his civil rights by getting himself drunk enough that he could not avoid various criminal behaviors. He wrote: “I want to pay myself five million dollars (for this breach of rights), but ask the state to pay it in my behalf since I can’t work and am a ward of the state.” In April, the lawsuit was dismissed.

(2002) The Lane brothers of New York, Mr. Winner Lane, 44, and Mr. Loser Lane, 41 (their actual birth names), were profiled in a July Newsday report -- made more interesting by the fact that Loser is

successful (a police detective in the South Bronx) and Winner is not (a history of petty crimes). A sister said she believes her parents selected “Winner” because their late father was a big baseball fan and “Loser” just to complete the pairing.

(1996) A pre-trial hearing was scheduled for Lamar, Missouri, on Joyce Lehr’s lawsuit against the county for injuries suffered in a 1993 fall in the icy, unplowed parking lot of the local high school. The Carthage Press reported that Lehr claimed damage to nearly everything in her body. According to her petition: “All the bones, organs, muscles, tendons, tissues, nerves, veins, arteries, ligaments ... discs, cartilages, and the joints of her body were fractured, broken, ruptured, punctured, compressed, dislocated, separated, bruised, contused, narrowed, abraded, lacerated, burned, cut, torn, wrenched, swollen, strained, sprained, inflamed, and infected.”

(2002) From time to time “News of the Weird” reported on the fluctuating value of the late Italian artist Piero Manzoni’s personal feces, which he canned in 1961, 30 grams at a time in 90 tins, as art objects (though, over the years, 45 have reportedly exploded). Their price to

collectors has varied (low of about \$28,000 for a tin in 1998 to a high of \$75,000 in 1993). In June 2002, the Tate Gallery in London excitedly announced it had purchased tin number 004 for about \$38,000. (The price of 30 grams of gold in 2002 was a little over \$300.)

(1994) The New York Daily News reported in April on a cellblock fight between murderers Colin Ferguson and Joel Rifkin at the Nassau County jail. Reportedly, Ferguson (convicted of six race-related murders on the Long Island Rail Road in 1993) was using a telephone and told Rifkin (a serial killer serving 203 years for nine murders) to be quiet. According to the Daily News source, Ferguson told Rifkin, “I wiped out six devils (white people), and you only killed women.” Rifkin allegedly responded, “Yeah, but I had more victims.” Ferguson then allegedly ended the brief incident by punching Rifkin in the mouth.

(1999) At Last! A Job That Actually Requires Geometry! Commissioners in Florida’s Seminole County and Manatee County passed ordinances regulating public nudity by requiring women to cover at least 25 percent of the area of their breasts and at least 33 percent of the but-

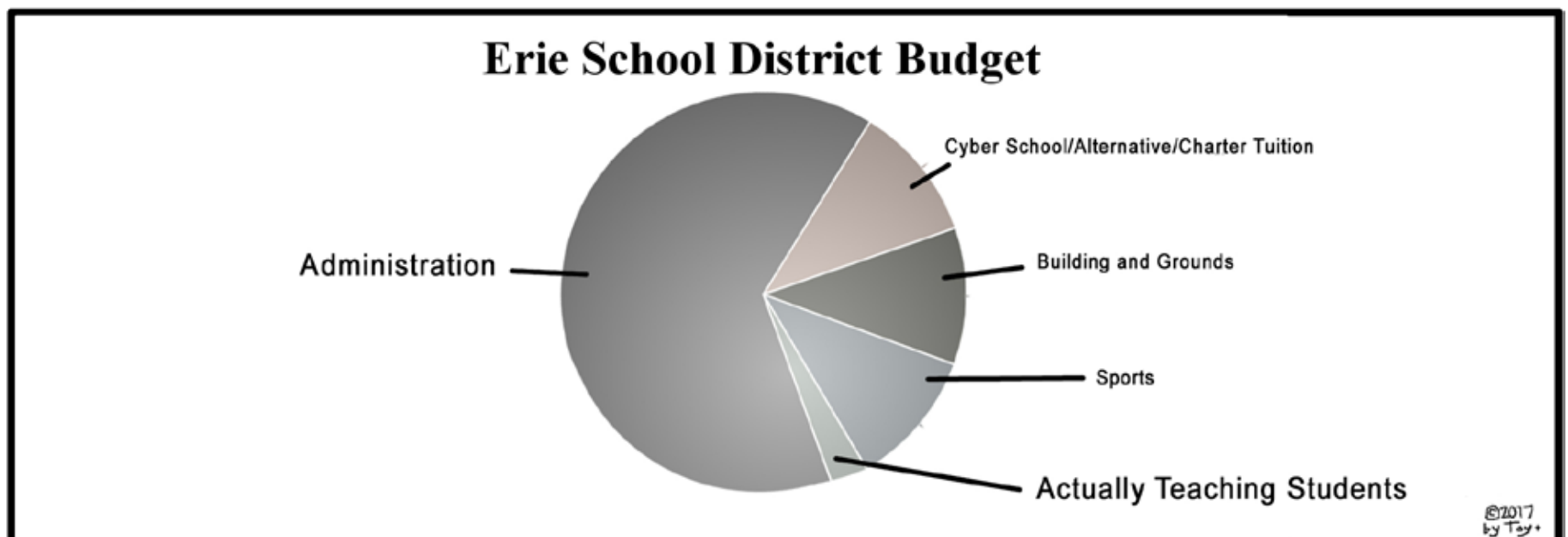
tocks, with detailed instructions as to the points from which each coverage must be measured. (Refresh for law enforcement: The lateral area of a cone is pi (times) r (times) s where r=radius and s=slant height; for the surface area of a sphere, it’s pi (times) r (squared), and, alas, for a flat surface, it’s length times width.)

(1998) On the day before Good Friday, reported the Los Angeles Times, Dr. Ernesto A. Moshe Montgomery consecrated the Shrine of the Weeping Shirley MacLaine in a room in the Beta Israel Temple in Los Angeles. Inspired by an image he said he had while riding in the actress’s private jet, Montgomery said a subsequent large photograph of him with MacLaine was “observed shedding tears,” which had inspired prayers and testimony of miraculous healings.

(2001) A child pornography investigation in Minneapolis turned up 1,000 suspect images on the office computer of a 58-year-old University of Minnesota classics professor -- named Richard Pervo.

(1993) In May, Elk River, Minnesota, landlord Todd Plaisted reported that his tenant Kenneth Lane had fled the area, abandoning his rented farmhouse and leaving behind

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at least 400 tons of used carpeting, at least 10,000 plastic windows from Northwest Airlines planes, and rooms full of sofas, mattresses and washing machines, among other things. Lane told townspeople he ran a "recycling" company, but there was no evidence of sales. A deputy sheriff driving by the farmhouse the year before saw Lane burying carpeting with a tractor and said Lane merely muttered, "I don't know what to say. You got me. I can't even make up an excuse."

(1990) An FBI investigation into interstate trafficking by diaper fetishists resulted in the arrests of five men belonging to an organization called the Diaper Pail Foundation, which has a letterhead and publishes a newsletter and information exchange for members. A Madison, Wisconsin, man, arrested in April for possession of child pornography, was found inside a van taking pictures of a child relieving himself. The man had offered service to the

child's parents as a toilet trainer.

(1992) The Philadelphia Inquirer reported in June on the local "Silent Meeting Club," consisting of several people who gather at various spots around town and make it a point not to speak to each other. Founder John Hudak said his inspiration was his observation that people often feel obligated to talk when they really have nothing to say, such as at parties, and wondered how nice it would be "to have a group of people where you wouldn't have to talk."

(1991) In May, Maxcy Dean Filer, 60, of Compton, California, finally passed the California Bar exam. He graduated from law school in 1966, but had failed the exam in each of his previous 47 tries.

(2004) The New York Times reported in February on a Washington, D.C., man whose love of music led him, in the 1960s, to meticulously



NEWS & VIEWS

hand-make and hand-paint facsimile record album covers of his fantasized music, complete with imagined lyric sheets and liner notes (with some of the "albums" even shrink-wrapped), and, even more incredibly, to hand-make cardboard facsimiles of actual grooved discs to put inside them. "Mingering Mike," whom a reporter and two hobbyists tracked down (but who declined to be identified in print), also made real music, on tapes, using his and friends' voices to simulate instruments. His 38 imagined "albums" were discovered at a flea market after Mike defaulted on storage-locker fees, and the hobbyists who found them said they were so exactly done that a major museum would soon feature them.

(1999) From a May police report in The Messenger (Madisonville, Kentucky), concerning two trucks being driven strangely on a rural road: A man would drive one truck 100 yards, stop, walk back to a second

truck, drive it 100 yards beyond the first truck, stop, walk back to the first truck, drive it 100 yards beyond the second truck, and so on. According to police, the man's brother was passed out drunk in one of the trucks, so the man was driving both trucks home (though the success of such a scheme is better imagined if the driving brother has a high blood-alcohol reading, too -- which was the case).

(1988) And, from the very first "News of the Weird" column came good ol' Hal Warden, the Tennessee 16-year-old who was married at 15 and granted a divorce from his wife, 13. Hal had previously been married at age 12 to a 14-year-old (and fathered children with both), but the first wife divorced Hal because, as she told the judge, "He was acting like a 10-year-old."

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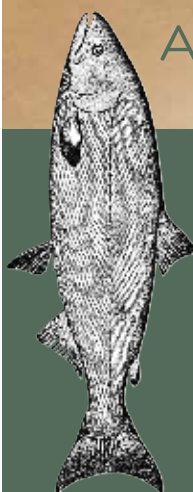


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Are you there, Erie?



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In various stages of dilapidation, homes and commercial properties are being targeted by the city's code officers.

Nobody seems to know.

Peter Lombardi stressed to neighborhood activists, after learning about the current state of our comprehensive plan execution that a lot of care needs to be put into educating and communicating with Erie residents about the actual role of code enforcement. He explained that the goal of code enforcement should be about strengthening neighborhoods and not just racking up citations. The New York architect further reasoned with the neighborhood activists that community education and engagement of code enforcement is key. If there is no education, the process will be seen as only punitive and blind to the difficulties faced by some property owners

Charles Buki, after learning about the current state of our comprehensive plan and where we are in our code sweeps, also stressed to local neighborhood activists that

when we stop following the plan comprehensively and start to pick and choose from it in order to justify bad decisions. Buki straight up told Erie "Stop doing dumb shit." So, why are we continuing to do dumb shit after we were told by an expert to stop?

Here's an example of what Buki was talking about:

On page 18 of the Erie Refocused Plan there is a breakdown of the residential planning areas and their distress levels. It's clearly stated on this page that the East Bayfront is categorized as "High Distressed."

Now, if you flip to pages 49 and 50, where the plan talks about stabilization and code enforcement sweeps it clearly states that "the city should initiate code enforcement sweeps in stable and transitional areas that abut more distressed areas." I.e., don't do a code enforcement sweep in the highest distress level in the city! So then, why are code enforcement officers doing this? There is nothing telling the Action Team to sweep the lower east side. In fact, the Refocused Plan is telling them to do the exact opposite. So, what is really going on here?

By: Alayna Getchell

Are you there, Erie? It's me, Alayna. What would you think of me doing an op-ed on Erie's Refocused Plan and our local government administration? You wouldn't mind would you, Erie? I'll tell you all my perceptions and concerns about it, and I won't state anything without researching it first. I think it's time for me to stick up for our community. I can't go on saying nothing forever, can I?

No, I can't. I can't keep my mouth shut about anything really, but especially not when our Refocused Plan is no longer being followed and our government isn't communicating with us. My community is being discounted and discarded.

So let me just throw it all out there for you, Erie: What the hell is going on with our Erie Refocused Plan, our "Action Team," and our CURRENT ADMINISTRATION?

Now, don't get me wrong here, I don't really have issues with the actual Refocused Plan. It might not be ideal for everyone, but it's what we have, and Charles Buki and Peter Lombardi are the experts. My issues start

code enforcement almost never works as a blunt instrument, but almost always works when "surgically" implemented. The founding president of czb explained that surgical precision matters, and we should be using data to help solve the problem of knowing where to focus code enforcement. Buki also mentioned that when pairing these tax cheats with considerations such as good blocks, visible blocks, and key intersections, we could really steer the focus.

Going after a widespread high distress neighborhood in a one-size-fits-all approach, handing out citations like Halloween candy? That is the opposite of surgical precision and will ultimately never work. Our absentee landlords and slumlords who don't pay taxes are the ones who need to be cited. Why are we requiring homeowners to dump thousands of dollars into their homes, while their property values continue to sink because the dilapidated abandoned properties right next-door to them continue to go untouched? Essentially, our local government is forc-

ing our community to waste their money. This is the most profoundly accurate example of "biting the hand that feeds you." Think about this economically for a moment. If we force property owners to waste money, they will leave. When they leave, no one will buy their property for its true value, thanks to this "dumb shit." Property owners now may just abandon properties, and not pay taxes. What will we get? More blight.

Can we take a second and talk about "blight" now that we are here? What a buzzword this has turned into. If I took a shot every time I heard the word "blight" during our local primaries, I'd be dead. What do we, as a city, even agree that the definition of blight is? I personally don't believe it's faded brown paint on shutters, but who am I to say. "Blight" basically just became a term our Action Team throws around like a bad word.

In my mind however, blight is NOT a bad word. Blight is often a symptom of deeper issues. As I've gotten to know neighbors around the lower



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east side who have been cited for beginnings of “blight” issues, I realized there is nothing going on there that would denote such a bad connotation. These neighbors are real people who just need some help. Some neighbors I’ve met in our high distress neighborhoods are suffering from addiction, mental health issues, or are just currently injured and unable to work on their house. Our neighbors need our HELP, not our public shaming with bright-ass orange stickers. We have to band together as a community and treat the underlying issues, not place

blame on a symptom.

That being said, our Action Team and current administration need to stop calling this project a WAR on blight. You don’t go to war against your own community members who need help. The Action Team should also stop calling this process sexy. One of our Action Team members was quoted in the Erie Times News saying, “We called it the ‘war room’ as a joke because planners never get to do anything so sexy that needs a war.” There is absolutely nothing sexy about our high distress neighborhoods. The overall optics this Action

Team has brought to Erie are insulting. Not to mention half of our team doesn’t even live in the city! Without calling out names here are our Action Team’s demographics:

White male: Fairview, white male: Wattsburg, white female: North East, white female: North East, white female: North East, white male: Lake City, white male: Erie, white male, Erie, white male: Erie.

Look, I completely understand we have some amazing groups out there doing their best to help in certain areas (i.e. Sisters of St. Joseph, Snoops, Our West Bayfront

etc.), but what about these neighbors who don’t have an organized group? Who is out there helping the folks being illegally evicted, who don’t understand rental laws, who are struggling with addiction, who have mental health issues, or are injured and can’t keep up? Who is helping them? That’s why I’m writing this article. We aren’t following Buki’s plan anymore. Code enforcement should be a good thing. The Erie Refocused Plan should be a good thing.

Without a doubt, this is a “shots fired” op-ed, so come after me. Come after me all

day long. I can take it. But don’t you dare come after my community like it’s all one big eyesore. There are underlying issues here that need addressed. Our current administration is full of elitist fools doing “dumb shit” and saying it’s justified because of the Erie Refocused Plan. I suggest we hit the pause button all together until the next mayor comes along.

Alayna Getchell is a community activist and president of two local progressive groups in Erie City. She can be reached at gallagher.alayna@gmail.com

What to Expect From the New BayHawks

New coach Longstaff preaches player development



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Kristen Swann

By December of last year, it seemed that BayHawks basketball was nearing its end in Erie. The team was set to depart to Florida and the future was anything but certain.

Luckily, the new year has continued to bring new opportunities for bas-

ketball in the city. The BayHawks are back, now affiliated with the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks. Although this will be the tenth season that Erie is home to the BayHawks, it’s the first season for the renamed NBA G League (formerly the D-League, rebranded due to a Gatorade sponsorship).

The most recent of these exciting developments comes in the form of a

The Erie BayHawks face off against Newark’s Delaware 87ers at Erie Insurance Arena during their last season as the D-League affiliate of the Orlando Magic.

new head coach, Josh Longstaff. Longstaff is making his first coaching appearance in the G League after spending the last few years as an assistant coach with the New York Knicks. The 34-year-old’s coaching style with the Knicks was centered on player development and building relationships with young players, including his protégé, 7-foot-3 inch Latvian power forward Kristaps Porzingis.

“I’m very passionate about player development. Whether I’m an assistant coach or a head coach...it all starts with player development. With how much the Hawks value this, I think it’s a good place for me to grow as a coach,” said Longstaff.

With a seemingly perfect approach in a league that, after all, used to be called the Developmental League, Longstaff is bringing an exciting new style to the BayHawks.

He explained a few core values that he and general manager Malik Rose want to instill in the new BayHawks. First on this list was, of course, improving each player as much as possible.

“Every day is a new day. We want

our guys to walk away from that day knowing they got better,” said Longstaff.

The next thing on his priority list: to play “Hawks Basketball.” This includes implementing a fast-paced offensive game, something fans will appreciate. Along with that comes his strong belief in competing every single defensive possession.

“The third thing is we’re going to play unselfish. We’re going to give up a good shot for a great shot. And the beauty of the Hawks is, they can do all that within a system. A system where we can hold our players accountable all while they know we have their best interest in place.”

With a new affiliation and a new league, a new head coach is the next piece of the puzzle. Rose believes the BayHawks are set to give basketball fans something to celebrate in Erie.

“We get to take another step towards building a winning franchise and a winning culture for the great city of Erie and the great fans of Erie,” he said.

The BayHawks 2017-18 home opener will be Friday, November 10th at Erie Insurance Arena.

Kristen S. Swann can be reached at kristensswann@gmail.com.

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

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Uplifting Spirits

The rise of the local microdistillery



MATT SWANSEGER

By Matt Swanseger

It's taken years to assess tolerances, but Pennsylvania is finally learning to hold its liquor. This past March, Cart/Horse Distillery (Edinboro) and Luminary Distillery (Summit Township) opened their doors, simultaneously becoming the first two legal distilleries on record in Erie County history. Encouraged by (and very much informed by) the success of the microbrewery boom, the microdistillery movement is quickly gaining steam. According to a study by the American Craft Spirits Association, craft distillers captured 2.2 percent of the market in 2015, up from 0.8 percent in 2010. Should craft distillers manage to replicate the triumphs of their brewer brethren (a very significant 12 percent market share), production should reach 25.6 million cases in 2020 — an increase of 522 percent over 2015.

The seeds of growth have been slower to germinate in Pennsylvania, partly due to deeply entrenched “blue laws” harkening back to the state’s Quaker roots. These laws are closely intertwined with the religious sentiments of early settlers (including state founder William Penn) and aimed to

a) curb or eliminate alcohol use and b) prevent just about anything from happening on Sundays (for instance, the Philadelphia Athletics and Philadelphia Eagles had to press the government for permission to play their scheduled Sunday games in the 1930s). Vestiges of the blue laws exist in Sunday hunting restrictions (thou shalt not kill — unless you come across a fox, crow, or coyote) and car dealership closures. However, Pennsylvania has substantially loosened its restrictions on how, when, and where citizens can purchase or enjoy a drink in recent years (even on Sunday, as long as your homework is done).

Pennsylvania’s Act 113 of 2011 cracked the door ajar for distiller-dreamers with the establishment of a new “limited distillery license” for those intending to produce less than 100,000 gallons of liquor per year. While Act 113 made the prospect of opening a microdistillery possible, following through has by no means been easy

Top left: Five & 20’s crowded barrelhouse is currently undergoing a major expansion. Bottom right: Cart/Horse Distillery’s signature “Four Horsemen” lineup includes White (sugar wash shine), Red (red wheat whiskey), Black (handcrafted vodka), and Pale (Old Tom-style gin).

— a point Cart/Horse co-founder Jessica Lemmon is quick to remind people of. “I like to joke about writing a book...1,000 Ways How NOT to Start a Microdistillery.”

“There are a lot of hurdles to clear,” says Lemmon, beginning with the fact that it is illegal to practice distilling without a license — putting the proverbial cart before the horse, so to speak. To circumvent this not-so-minor inconvenience, Lemmon and husband John Fetzner attended the Artisan Craft Distilling Institute in Seattle to build on the skills they had acquired blending others’ liquors. It resulted in an increased knowledge of the craft and an expanded professional network, but their education did not stop there. Over the next three years, the pair grappled with banks and bureaucracies for the capital and licensure to bring their vision to fruition. Banks prefer taking on calculated risks, and the nascent Pennsylvania microdistilling industry did not qualify. “Banks don’t like hearing ‘I won’t have any income for 9-18 months.’ So we downsized our grand

scheme and financed it ourselves,” explains Lemmon.

With the scaled-back plan now more viable, Lemmon set out to acquire the necessary clearances — a task made unnecessarily complicated by a lack of coordination between state and federal offices. “The [Pennsylvania] Liquor Control Board had no idea you needed licenses from the Health Board and Department of Agriculture... A lot of distilleries die on the table between the snags and delays.” She adds that the government agencies were in no hurry to sort them out either, despite persistent heckling.

She and Fetzner checked in frequently with Joel Normand, who was also locked in a white-knuckle race with the paper-pushers to open his Luminary Distillery. “It was a very involved process,” he recalls in something of an understatement. Nonetheless, it seems to be a challenge more and more entrepreneurs are taking on. In the past four years, the number of registered distilleries in Pennsylvania has nearly quadrupled — from eight in 2013 to approximately 30 to-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Much of Cart/Horse Distillery's initial production was allocated towards Goodell Garden's Botanical Beverage event, featuring infused cocktails such as this one.

day. Luminary and Cart/Horse have helped blaze a trail that many in Erie County may soon follow.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," says Lemmon. "[John and I] have heard rumblings already."

"The Lake Erie Spirit Trail" being laid now runs parallel to the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Wine Trail (now Lake Erie Wine Country) and Lake Erie Ale Trail that have preceded it. Mario Mazza, general manager and enologist at Mazza Wines, is the rare homesteader to have settled all three. His father, Robert, was one of the early pioneers of the wine trail in the 1970s with his Mazza Vineyards in North East and has expanded the

company substantially in the intervening decades. One of the key developments along the way has been its Mazza Chautauqua Cellars just across the border in Westfield, N.Y. The facility became the home of the Mazzas' newest enterprise, Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, upon its construction in 2012. It earned the distinction of New York state's first-ever combination winery-distillery-brewery.

Mario stresses that the evolution of the product line has been incremental. "We didn't say to ourselves 'hey let's produce all this stuff at once.'" Their distilling facility was initially located in Mayville, N.Y., a scenic getaway destination on Lake Chautauqua that did not garner much traffic

outside of summer. It began in 2006 as an extension of the family's wine-making expertise, specializing in fruit-based spirits such as grappa and brandy. Seeking a more accessible location and more flexibility to pursue grain-based products, the Mazzas purchased 80 acres of farmland along Route 20, in the heart of Lake Erie Wine Country. Since beers are also built from grains, the Mazzas sprung for the additional equipment required for a fully-functioning brewery.

"Not many people are stupid enough to try all three," he jokes.

In reality, the diversification has proven a savvy move, and lent both perspective and opportunities that most never attain. The most intimidating aspect of it is managing three vastly different life cycles, which is why Mazza wisely appointed a dedicated distiller (Joe Nelson) and brewer (Jimmy Walsh), if only to stabilize his own space-time equilibrium. Beer is the most forgiving of the three in terms of tweaking and alterations; the turnaround time for the typical ale is 2-3 weeks (lagers take longer). Wine is more exacting — you have one shot to get it right and then must await next year's harvest. Liquor is the most mysterious of the bunch — it can be years before the product reaches maturity (e.g. whiskey).

"We keep building inventory, but can't sell it for two or three years. I am projecting sales for 2020-21 in my crystal ball."

For that reason, the family's pre-existing reputation as winemakers and the increasing popularity of the brewery have been of tremendous aid as the spirit side sorts itself out. The crossover potential with products and their target markets has only benefited the cause. For example, a brewed beer can become the base of a bierschnapps, or a used whiskey barrel can be used to impart character in a rich stout. Mazza has noticed that the craft beer crowd in particular tends to be the most "flavor-curious." Due to the sheer variety and relative inexpensiveness of craft beer, these folk are preconditioned to sample much and sample often. When it comes to Five & 20's spirits, their attitude is

"might as well while I'm here."

Thus the Lake Erie Ale Trail, which winds through and beyond Lake Erie Wine Country, has cleared the brush for the Spirit Trail. Like the Spirit Trail's predecessors, the path is being paved through collaboration — local farmers sourcing to local distillers, local distillers working with local brewers, and even would-be competitors selling one another's products (Act 166 of 2016 broadened the capabilities of the limited distillery license, including the ability to cross-market the products of Pennsylvania-licensed breweries, limited distilleries, and limited wineries). All told, the movement seeks to support local agriculture, bolster community, and uplift the region in whatever small way it can.

"It's another asset and attraction to rally behind. Everyone is doing their part to add value, instead of relying on a big corporation and all the externalities," says Mazza.

The more self-contained the region's distilling community can stay, the better. It's all about the blend in the spirit world, and our local distillers are striving to keep it in-house. Feeding into the corporate machinery would introduce off-flavors at first and eventually homogenize the whole batch. Therefore we must take care to not only remain flavor-curious, but flavor-conscious as well.

Since we're all both flavor-conscious and flavor-curious, it's time now to meet the distillers.

Luminary Distilling

Location: 8270 Peach St., Suite 300 (in the Fuhrman's Plaza)

Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 4-9 p.m., Thursday 3-9 p.m., Friday 3-10 p.m., Saturday 1-10 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m.

Specialties: Luminary's flagship spirit is its Gem City Vodka, which is distilled multiple times and carbon-filtered for optimum smoothness. Its initial product line also included Apple Pie Moonshine and the painstakingly-crafted Limoncello (please don't ever let distiller Joel Normand hear you gripe about zesting lemons). Flat Cap Wheat Whiskey and Peach Moonshine joined the lineup this summer and gin may not be too far off.

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Cart/Horse Distillery's Jessica Lemmon extracts red whiskey from an oak barrel after aging it one day.

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The backstory: Normand grew up in Slippery Rock where he witnessed the success of North Country Brewing firsthand. North Country piqued the interest of the craft brewing community and transformed the sleepy college town into more of a destination. He had been brewing his own beer for over a decade, but had to reach out to experienced distillers for guidance concerning his new operation (remember that distilling without a license is a big no-no). With a little help from his friends, he settled on both his location and the recipe for the Gem City Vodka that has launched his enterprise.

Go here if you're after: A damn good cocktail. Luminary favors drinkability over potency, with only its cask-strength Flat Cap Whiskey exceeding 40 percent alcohol-by-volume (ABV). As such, the cocktail menu is filled to

the brim with highly quaffable and refreshing delights, including several intriguing variations of the Moscow mule. They all start with Gem City Vodka and the Brewerie at Union Station's ginger beer, making this the strongest mule team since Borax — but a lot gentler on the palate. Normand hopes this will be the first of many team-ups between local producers as momentum for the new movement builds.

Cart/Horse Distilling, LLC

Location: 12030 Edinboro Road (just past General McLane High School)

Hours: Tuesday and Friday 6:30-10 p.m., Saturday 1-11 p.m.

Specialties: Naturally, the main product line is themed after the Four Horsemen — White (sugar wash

shine, something of a prenatal form of rum), Red (a spry young red wheat whiskey, barrel-aged one day), Black (handcrafted vodka), and Pale (small batch gin). Ghost of Creeker, a bierschnapps conjured from Millcreek Brewing Company's Creeker amber ale, completes the bottled offerings — for now (stay tuned for the root beer liqueur).

The backstory: Between John Fetzner's family farm and Jessica Lemmon's flavor curiosity (she loves researching and experimenting with flavor profiles), a distillery seemed like destiny. Cart/Horse coming together wasn't automatic, however — it was more like churning a 19th-century fan mill (such as the relic the couple uses to separate its grain from the chaff) for four years straight. The struggle was real, but the results culled from those hardships are even realer. Fortune favors the bold — and those who have the translatable skills to shape those fortunes (Lemmon is an architect by trade; Fetzner works at Power Drives, Inc., a manufacturer of hoses/fittings/machinery. Convenient, eh?)

Go here if you're after: An intimate, DIY vibe and quality conversation over a killer gin and tonic (the Pale Horse is modeled after an Old Tom-style gin, softer and subtler than the London dry gins you're probably used to). The repurposed automotive garage is the culmination of the couple's work (and a few close friends), from the beautiful woodwork to the logos stenciled on the tables and hung behind the bar. The product itself is not just local, it's hyperlocal — as in much of the grain is sourced from literally just down the road.

Five & 20 Brewing and Spirits

Location: 8398 W. Main St. (Route 20), Westfield, N.Y.

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (August only, see fiveand20.com for additional seasonally-adjusted hours)

Specialties: Although Five & 20 hasn't been at it that long, it's been at it lon-

ger than the others, meaning this is the place to go for a little less clarity in your life (darker aged spirits). Both the Rye Whiskey and Bourbon have garnered a number of accolades statewide and nationally, deriving a deceptive complexity from distiller Joe Nelson's advanced blending techniques. They also make clear (unaged) corn and rye whiskeys, a limoncello (using grapes for fermentation), a bierschnapps (Afterburner), an apple brandy liqueur (Della Mela), and an applejack (apple cider fermented, distilled, and aged in whiskey barrels).

Mario Mazza became enchanted with the idea of distilling while studying oenology down under at the University of Adelaide in Australia, where a \$15 million research winery had been recently built. His pops, Robert Mazza, ordered a still from Germany and that was that.

The backstory: Mario Mazza became enchanted with the idea of distilling while studying oenology down under at the University of Adelaide in Australia, where a \$15 million research winery had been recently built. His pops, Robert Mazza, ordered a still from Germany and that was that. "Well, I guess we're doing it," said Mario at the time.

Go here if you're after: Variety (beer, wine, AND liquor) and the space to enjoy it. Five & 20 is commodious enough to please larger crowds, with a generously-sized tasting room and an expansive covered patio area. Bird Eatery, helmed by 1201 Kitchen founder and veteran restaurateur Dan Kern and chef Mike Karle and front of house manager JB Innes, offers a rotating menu of alluring eats and cocktails.

Matt Swanseger is only partially alluring as a Bird entree, but can be reached at mswanseger@eriereader.com nonetheless.

Distillation Demystified



MATT SWANSEGER

A hydrometer measures alcohol content during a distillation run of Five & 20's Rye Whiskey.

it phase of preparing grain for fermentation. The hammer mill (which essentially pulverizes the grain with tiny hammers) is ideal for distilling, but since Five & 20 is also a brewery, they had to compromise with a roller mill (beer malts only need bullied around a little as opposed to being crushed to a fine powder). The different grains that will be brewed or distilled are proportioned in accordance to a *grain bill*, with those ratios determining what kind of product it will become. By definition, rye whiskey must be at least 51

I'm about to let you in on a little secret — and that is how to turn unassuming grains into an intoxicating beverage. Thanks to the good folks at Five & 20 and their Distiller for a Day program, I was able to partake in the distillation process without prosecution. For the demonstration, we opted for a sentimental favorite, rye whiskey. Back in the day, this spirit stoked a major controversy known as the Whiskey Rebellion. All whiskey produced was subject to an excise tax, which the region's farmers did not take kindly to. At its peak in 1794, George Washington himself led an army of 13,000 militiamen into western Pennsylvania to suppress the revolts. The rebels ultimately backed down, but the tax remained difficult to collect, especially since many distillers fled west into Kentucky (the eventual birthplace of bourbon), beyond the federal government's reach at the time. The tax was repealed during Thomas Jefferson's administration.

The federal government in 2017 is probably tracking my mandibular follicle growth rate as I type this (it's common knowledge that all male distillers wear a beard), so it is incumbent on me to tell you not to try this at home.

1) RUN OF THE MILL — Milling is the preliminary bop-it, twist-it, pull-

percent rye, but Five & 20 prefers a zestier concoction, so theirs is about three-quarters rye. One batch is comprised of over 600 pounds of rye and about 200 pounds of barley.

2) SO YOU THINK YOU CAN MASH?

— Mashing is where the party really starts. During this phase, the milled grains take a hot bath (in a mash tun) to convert their starches into sugars. Yeast, the guests of honor, don't have much fun without sugars, so you better make sure you have them or your party is gonna fizzle out quick. Once the mixture is cooled to an agreeable temperature, it's time for the yeast to show up. And believe me, they're ready to get down. They greedily gobble up the sugars and excrete alcohol, humanity's favorite form of poop. However, yeast begin to tap out once they've raised the roof to about 10 percent ABV. That's plenty enough for beer-lovers, but not boozehounds like you.

3) CRANK UP THE HEAT

— After mashing, you're left with a porridge-like substance called *wash* or *wort*. The goopy, unappetizing slop looks like something that might be served at an orphanage or a boarding school for miscreant children. In brewing, the wort undergoes lautering (rinsing) to

separate the liquid from the solids and a boil for sterilization and hopping.

In our case, the fermented liquid goes straight to the still. Distillation is based on the premise that alcohol has a lower boiling point than water (173 degrees Fahrenheit vs. 212 degrees). When the pot at the bottom of the still is heated, alcohol begins to evaporate first and rises, leaving the water behind. That alcohol vapor rises through a vertical chamber and is cooled and condensed back into liquid ethanol.

Depending on the still, that chamber may be subdivided into any number of "climate zones" through the employment of porous plates. Each successive climate zone as the vapor ascends is a little cooler than the last, so condensate will start trickling back down the column (reflux) to be redistilled (this is known as *continuous* or *column* distillation). The higher the number of distillations, the higher the alcohol content (up to the 95 percent of a *neutral grain spirit*, such as Everclear).

4) CUT, CUT, SPLICE — Any distillation run consists of three phases, or *cuts* — heads (beginning), heart (middle), and tails (end). Most distillers predominantly follow their hearts, as it has the optimal alcohol content without the nasty *congeners* (volatile compounds that can potentially blind you and/or gelatinize your brain) that turn up in the heads. However, the tails might contain desirable compounds such as esters (oily molecules that enhance mouthfeel) and might be incorporated. The spirit is then diluted down to the desired *proof* (or ABV x2), then either flavored and bottled or aged.

5) MATURED AUDIENCES ONLY

— Ethanol is notorious for stripping the flavors out of whatever it comes in contact with. For our rye whiskey, ethanol teases the flavors out of previously unused charred white oak barrels. Ethanol molecules seep into and out of the woodgrain as the barrels expand and contract with changes in temperature, picking up vastly different characteristics depending on their size and origin (i.e., cooperage). The whiskeys may then be blended to emphasize the best elements of each barrel. If fermentation was *Grains Gone Wild*, then barrel-aging is a mature art form where composition and body are celebrated.

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Spotlight on Erie

August 16 – 29, 2017

Friday, Aug. 18

The Future of Art is Nigh at Erie Movie House and Artlore Studio



“Traditionally, drawing was a way of representing 3D space; to draw in 3D space is a completely different challenge,” Scott McCloud, a cartoonist and author, says in a video produced by Google VR that explains the Tilt Brush. He’s not wrong, and perhaps the first hurdle most people must overcome is wrapping their minds around the concept.

Fortunately, the cutting-edge Tilt Brush, which Artlore co-owner Stephen Trohoske described as two remotes “that act as hands and a virtual pallet of colors and other tools,” will take center stage as the feature demonstration at the collaborative event hosted by both Artlore Studio and Gallery and the Erie Movie House. Guests will get to see how this incredible application of technology is being used to create works of art in three dimensions, using space (no surface necessary) as the canvas.

“This is a whole other way of combining imagination and creativity with technology that opens up different avenues in the brain and our visual perception of what’s being created,” Trohoske said.

Guests can arrive at the Erie Movie House at 7 p.m. on the night, and witness artists Jason Amatangelo and Karma Tattoo-Studio’s Jen Christina manipulating the Tilt Brush via the HTC Vive, the virtual reality system that works in conjunction with the Brush. The results of the artists’ actions will be broadcast live on the theater’s screen. Just a few doors down at Artlore, the studio will also be simultaneously hosting a gallery night with live music and a new fall jewelry collection by Artlore co-owner Lena Logvina.

Both events are completely free; thus, what Trohoske called Artlore

and Erie Movie House’s collective effort to “push culture forward” in the community is an accessible experience that flirts with the future of art and technology. — Cara Suppa

7 to 10 p.m. // 3406 W Lake Rd and 3424 W Lake Rd // free // facebook.com/Artlorestudio

Friday, Aug. 18

Real-life Friends Play To-the-death Rivals in ‘Sleuth’



Summer in Wiltshire, just 100 miles outside of London. A country estate, inhabited by a celebrated mystery writer with an indefatigable obsession with puzzles and games. His wife’s lover has been invited to partake in a new sort of game — one where the lines between fiction and reality become hopelessly blurred and where the roles of cat and mouse are never fixed.

Thus begins the Tony Award-winning best play of 1971, *Sleuth*. Written by Anthony Shaffer and adapted no less than three times for film, it is now coming to Erie’s All An Act Theater, starting August 18 and running on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through September 10. This production features two men doing double duty; artistic director David W. Mitchell and managing director Larry Lewis not only play the leads (mystery writer Andrew Wyke and his younger rival, Milo Tindle), they are sharing on-stage directorial responsibilities as well.

Audiences might be surprised when they do not, in fact, see anyone else on stage other than the two leads. *Sleuth* is a two-man play where the actors must, “...depend on each other to give a solid performance every night and make adjustments if things go wrong,” Lewis said. His co-star Mitchell added, “You almost move as one throughout

the show, because there’s no one else entering a scene to save you.” — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 3:00 p.m. Sundays // 652 West 17th Street // \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students (cash only) // allanact.net

Saturday, Aug. 19

Must See Shows: Fall Risk at Darcy’s



When I first speak to Rick Lopez, drummer of the self-described “intense, beastly, drone-hop rock n’ roll improv on wheels” outfit Fall Risk, he is quick to acknowledge the wealth of youthful musical talent that surrounds the Erie art and music scene.

“I’d like people to listen to us by hearing us play live. We do relentless non-stop sets, like 40 to 60 minutes without stopping, morphing through different ideas and rhythm frames.

“I take influence and draw energy from my former partner in crime Ian Smith, McKenzie Lee Sprague of Optimistic Apocalypse (who we’ve been following since her days in Cold Pizza), Ian Maciak, the boys in Wave Trails (Cameron Fish and Zach and Ben Hyman), the unparalleled Jack Stauber, Ethan Oliva of Barlow and so many others,” Lopez says enthusiastically.

Of course, this isn’t Lopez’s first band or his first time playing with guitarist Joseph Popp, with whom he shares a creative partnership all the way back to 1990 in an outfit called Blood Pudding. But as you may have gathered from Lopez’s description, Fall Risk is an entirely different (and nearly indescribable) ballgame.

“I’d like people to listen to us by hearing us play live. We do relentless

non-stop sets, like 40 to 60 minutes without stopping, morphing through different ideas and rhythm frames. And if they want to hear something online, there are some decent live videos available, but please do not attempt without some good headphones,” Lopez laughs.

Lopez is quick to note local influences and speak of his musical history, but if you wish to truly experience the tour de force that is Fall Risk Live, you’ll have to be at Darcy’s Pub & Grub. — Aaron Mook

9 p.m. // Darcy’s Pub & Grub, 3746 W. 12th St. // 21+ // facebook.com/DPGTHELOCAL // \$3

Sunday, Aug. 20

Nitro Circus Much Too Extreme for the Big Top



One flip. Two flip. Better stick the landing or else it’s a black-and-blue/you’re-screwed flip.

The stakes are high and the stunts soar even higher in Travis Pastrana’s Nitro Circus, which gives the world of action sports a gratuitous fuel injection (and never far away from an open flame jet). The Maryland-based Nitro Circus has been on tour since 2010, gradually (and literally) ramping up the intensity from year-to-year and even show-to-show, to a level verging on insanity.

There is tremendous entertainment value in insanity, however, and its launchpad is the 40-foot Gianta-Ramp. The physics of it create the hang time to perform some unthinkable maneuvers; the imagination of the performers escalates the spectacle that much further. Not only will you see the more traditional BMX and motocross bikes, inline skates and skateboards, you’ll also see what the gang refers to as “contraptions.” In the past, contraptions have included everything from kayaks to rocking horses (mounted on sleds) to Barbie Jeeps to

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28**

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recliners (just in case any of their exes ask you where their furniture went). Anything that can fly off the end of the ramp inevitably does.

This is all much too extreme to fit under a big top, which is why the Lake Erie Speedway is ever-so-graciously hosting the event. Remember, kids, there's nothing you can't do. Just make sure you have insurance first. — Matt Swanseger

6:30-8:30 p.m. (gates open at 5:30 p.m.) // 10700 Delmas Dr., North East // ticketrocket.co // \$19 (general admission) to \$79 (VIP), \$124 for the family package (2 adults, 2 children)

Thursday, Aug. 24

Current and Former Erieites Converge for Homecoming



The Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership is hosting the 2017 Erie Homecoming and Business showcase. In a modern world where networking is critical to both profes-

sional and personal success, showcases like these are a tremendous asset. The day is geared to "stimulate conversation, new connections, and re-engage highly talented people that grew up here."

Erie Homecoming will feature panels of experts telling their breakout stories and diving deep into their particular areas of knowledge. The speaker lineup is comprised of former Erie residents, as well as individuals who are currently at the forefront of new and exciting developments here in town. Presenters include National Public Radio anchor Jack Speer, Joe Blone from Whitehall Group, celebrity sports artist Kevin John, and iHeart-Media's Mark Furhman.

The event doesn't stop there, however. It also features the Business Showcase, a professional expo where "all attendees will be able to meet Erie businesspeople and learn more about Erie's vibrant business community, our regional businesses' capabilities, and their passion for the future of the Erie area."

At the Business Showcase, more than 100 local businesses will gather together for another great opportunity to network and get their names out there. — Austin Mitchell

9 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. // 1 Sassafras Pier // free with online registration // eriepa.com/erie-homecoming

Thursday, Aug. 24

Night Lights Music Festival a Sensational Send-off to Summer



A music-and-light-driven, socially conscious, cozy, and uniquely mind-bending/soul-mending gathering of good, groove-minded people: Where else would any festival fan want to find themselves kissing summer goodbye?

I've asked that question before, and with the 2017 Night Lights Music Festival coming right up around the bend of summer's end, I'm asking it again (and again). And the lineup consistently answers:

Space rock masters Papadosio and jam scene mastodons Dopapod.

Ever-expansive prog-jam wizards,

Aqueous, times three.

Artist-at-large: Twiddle's very own axe-man Mihali Savoullidis.

Boulder-based electro-hydro-funksters SunSquabi.

Bright Light Social Hour, delivering a dose of psychedelic rock that critics at NPR have called "continually exhilarating."

Rounding out the lineup with tons of other sonic crackerjacks and fest-scene favorites like Mungion, Tropicidelic, Broccoli Samurai (two times, including a Lotus tribute set), Jimkata, Mister F, Lazlo Hollyfeld, Funktional Flow, Smackdab, and — well, the list just goes on — it's safe to reiterate that the good people behind Night Lights have damn fine taste in music, and, man, they know how to put on one spectacular get-down.

All that said, Night Lights (shining sound-and-sight wonder throughout nearby Sherman, N.Y.'s historic, hallowed Great Blue Heron festival grounds for three days) has grown over the last seven years into a truly and completely one-of-a-kind, not-to-be-missed annual addition to the region's festival scene.

"Night Lights carries a really specific vibe that makes it a super-unique event that we look forward to each year," Aqueous' Mike Gantzer told me during a quick interview via satellite from last year's festival. "[Beyond] the diverse/eclectic lineups — that range

MUSIC

Mid-Day Art Break

Aug. 16, 23, 30 — noon to 1 p.m. Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Dave VanAmburg & The V Band

Aug. 16, 23 — 6 to 9 p.m. Maxi's Restaurant at Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Jesse Weston

Aug. 16 — 7 p.m. Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

MVP

Aug. 17, 31 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 3716 Liberty St. jazzerie.com.

Adam Mckillip

Aug. 17 — 7 p.m. Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Gem City Jazz Ensemble

Aug. 17 — 7 to 8:45 p.m. Relevant Church, 100 W. South St. gemcitybands.org.

TomKat Black

Aug. 17 — 10 p.m. to midnight Sherlocks, 508 State

St. facebook.com.

Jackson Station

Aug. 18 — 6 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row cjoes.com.

Bootlegger's Bible Club

Aug. 18 — 6 to 9 p.m. Maxi's Restaurant at Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

The Vendettas

Aug. 18 — 6 to 9 p.m. Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Whiskey For Three

Aug. 18 — 6 to 9 p.m. The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Gel Skel presents: You Ready to Die?

August 18 — 6 to 11 p.m. Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Tyler Smilo

Aug. 18 — 7 p.m. Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Summer Music Series: This American Song

Aug. 18 — 7 to 9 p.m. Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford

St. goodellgardens.org.

The Groove

Aug. 18 — 9 p.m. Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Irregardless and Doc Ellis

Aug. 18 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

1980

Aug. 18 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Abbey Road

Aug. 19 — noon to 1 p.m. Perry Square, 568 State St. facebook.com.

Gem City Jazz Ensemble

Aug. 19 — 3 to 4 p.m. Perry Square, 600 State St. gemcitybands.org.

The Goats

Aug. 19 — 5 to 9 p.m. Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd. pennshore.com.

Deuteronomy

August 19 — 5 to 10 p.m. Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Geek Army

Aug. 19 — 6 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row cjoes.com.

Stranger and Liars

Aug. 19 — 7 p.m. Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Small Town Revolution

Aug. 19 — 9 p.m. Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Fall Risk

Aug. 19 — 9 to 11 p.m. Darcy's Pub & Grub, 3746 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Peridoni

Aug. 19 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Drunk In Memphis

Aug. 19 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Mike & Marie Acoustics

Aug. 20 — 1 to 4 p.m. Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Jay Baumgardner

Aug. 20 — 5 p.m.

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

Sparky & The Raven

Aug. 20 — 5 to 8 p.m. Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

Rick Magee and the Roadhouse Rockers with Miller and Other Sinners

Aug. 22 — 6:30 p.m. Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier porterierie.org.

Gem City Concert Band Summer Concert in the Parking Lot

Aug. 22 — 7 to 8 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1101 S. Hill Rd. gemcitybands.org.

Brooke Surgener

Aug. 23 — 7 p.m. Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Night Lights Music Festival

August 24, 25, 26, 27 The Heron Music Festival Campground, 2361 Waits Corners Rd. nightlightsfest.com.

Aaron Work

Aug. 24 — 7 p.m.

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

Malpractice

Aug. 25 — 6 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row cjoes.com.

Gem City Jazz Ensemble

Aug. 25 — 6 to 6:50 p.m. UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. gemcitybands.org.

Abbey Road

Aug. 25 — 6 to 9 p.m. Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Jimmy Cuneo

Aug. 25 — 6 to 9 p.m. The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Sunday at the Station

Aug. 25 — 7 p.m. Edinboro Lake Resort, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Whiskey Road

Aug. 25 — 9 p.m. Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

This American Song with Black Moon Mistress

Aug. 25 — 9 p.m. to midnight The Brewery at Union

CALENDAR

from a ton of great local bands to some heavy-hitters from the national circuit — to the trippy layout of the forest, and how they light it up, I'd have to say the main thing is [its] communal vibe. It's rootsy, and comfortable, and awesome!"

Community. Art. Nature.

Yeah. Awesome. — Ryan Smith

Thursday through Saturday, all day // 2361 Wait Corners Road, Panama, NY // nightlightsfest.com

Friday, Aug. 25

Trackside Songs and Mistresses



It's usually not recommended to go head-to-head with trains, but This American Song and Black Moon Mistress are up to the task. Making their way up to the trackside stage at the

Brewerie at Union Station, the two bands will put up their dukes (in the form of decibels) against the occasional challenger (in the form of an oncoming locomotive).

Starting off the show will be newcomers Black Moon Mistress. The quintet, made of up former members of Abnegation, Village of Dead Roads, and Brother's Keeper, certainly knows how to throw a sonic punch. The band is fronted by singer Roxann Hudock and features guitarists Matt Till and Tony Lusianno, bassist David Steele, and drummer Zach Hudock.

Describing the formation of the group, Zach explained that "the band was created as a vehicle to make the type of music we love and want to bring to the Erie music scene. Our sound is heavily influenced by late '60s and '70s hard rock/proto-metal, doom, and occult rock, featuring strong female vocals over heavy rock. Kind of like if Stevie Nicks or Grace Slick sang for Black Sabbath."

This American Song has been a mainstay of the Erie scene for years, while continuing to evolve and grow as a band. With music videos and a new EP on the way, This American Song will no doubt continue to evolve and grow. With singer Jeff Phillips at the forefront, the group marries the talents of guitarist John Johnston, bassist Doug Phillips, drummer Pat

Bolla, trumpeter Jesse Guerrein, and trombonist Larry Wheaton. Johnston noted that the band is even interested in "adding members, and scoping out and interviewing potentially more members." The band's lineup is inclusive however, often adding a guest vocalist or even the occasional theremin player. "We've set an arbitrary limit at 12," Johnston joked. All aboard. — Nick Warren

9 p.m. to 12 p.m. // 123 W 14th St. // Free // facebook.com/ThisAmericanSong //

Friday, Aug. 25

Wildeyes Surf Into the Rook



A good many — most, if not all — of the bands taking to the King's Rook Club stages on any given evening are (at some point, at least, if not at many) gonna make you listen, and move, and, most likely, groove.

But for Erie-based rock/pop/dance

quartet The Wildeyes, well, it's their self-professed job description, their method of operation, their reason for being. Guitarist Nick Hayes described the band's current *je ne sais quoi*, explaining that they "have progressed over the last year from a more dirty blues-rock kind of Black Keys sound, toward a dancier, surfier style." He happily noted that they've "played quite a few gigs over the last year and have had a great response so we are excited to continue evolving and writing more music."

Stay tuned for more of that music as well — the band just cut a 5 song EP (mixed and mastered at Pittsburgh's Mr. Small's, no less) — that should be due out "within a month or so," according to Hayes.

They'll be doing their thing, then — and well — when they headline an eclectic evening of music at the Rook.

The Wildeyes are being joined for the night by openers Jakethehawk (heavy, spacey grooves) and smoky-low, heartfelt troubadour Alyssa Hankey — both from Pittsburgh — making for, like we said, a good-and-hearty mix of music for one Friday night on Peach Street.

Sonic salad, it is — always served up right at the Rook. — Ryan Smith

Friday, Aug. 25; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Station, 123 W. 14th St. facebook.com.

Nightjar

Aug 25 — 10 p.m. to midnight

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

The Wildeyes

Aug 25 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Duke Sherman Blues Band

Aug. 26 — 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Shameless Hex

Aug. 26 — 7 p.m.

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

Josh Travis EP Release

August 26 — 8 to 11 p.m.

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

Geek Army

Aug. 26 — 9 p.m.

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

Hell Billys

Aug 26 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Six Year Stretch

Aug 26 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Rankin & Schell

Aug. 27 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Simply Because

Aug. 27 — 5 p.m.

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

Terrance Simien

Aug. 27 — 5 p.m.

Schickalay's On The Bay, 2860 W. 6th St. facebook.com.

Betraying The Martyrs

August 27 — 6 p.m.

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

Eric Brewer's Back to School Bash with Six Year Stretch

Aug. 29 — 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Park, 1 Lawrence Pier porter.org.

Gem City Jazz Ensemble Summer Concert in the Parking Lot

Aug. 29 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. gemcitybands.org.

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Aug. 30 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Scarlet Ledbetter

Aug. 30 — 7 p.m.

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

DANCE

Summer Dance Training

Aug. 21 through Aug. 25

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

FOOD & DRINK

North East Food Tours

Aug. 17, 19 & Sept. 16 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Bean Coffee House, 12 S. Lake St. marathonliveentertainment.ticketleap.com.

Picnic in the Park

Aug. 17 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Using a pressure

cooker for quick and healthy meals

Aug. 17 — 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The Regional Cancer Center, 2500 W. 12th St. vegancheers.com.

BBQ, Beer & Beards

Aug. 18 — 5 to 8 p.m.

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

August Chardonnay Food Pairing

Aug. 19 — noon to 4 p.m.

Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd. piwine.com.

Soups and Stews Under Pressure

Aug. 23 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Studio Z, 716 Shenley Dr. vegancheers.com.

Pizza Party

Aug. 24 — 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Christmas in August: A Wine-Food Pairing Event

Aug. 25 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd. piwine.com.

Yappy Hour

Aug. 25 — 5 to 8 p.m.

The Brewerrie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th

St. brewerie.com.

Erie Food Tours

Aug. 26 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

ArborEAT'em

Aug. 26 — 6:30 p.m.

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

Easy Salsa Recipes

Aug. 29 — 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Mind, Body, Beer

Aug. 29 — 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. 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 World God Only Knows (2010)

Aug. 17 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Lego Movie

Aug. 19 — 2 p.m.

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

Movies in the Arboretum

Aug. 25 — 8:30 p.m.

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

The Birds

Aug. 27 — 1:30 p.m.

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

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Ongoing through Aug. 29

Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St.

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\$5 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 kids

Monarch Butterfly Migration Celebration
Release a live Monarch Butterfly
Sunday, Aug. 27, 2-4 pm
Live Music by Flora
Limited advanced tickets available:
bit.ly/monarchfest


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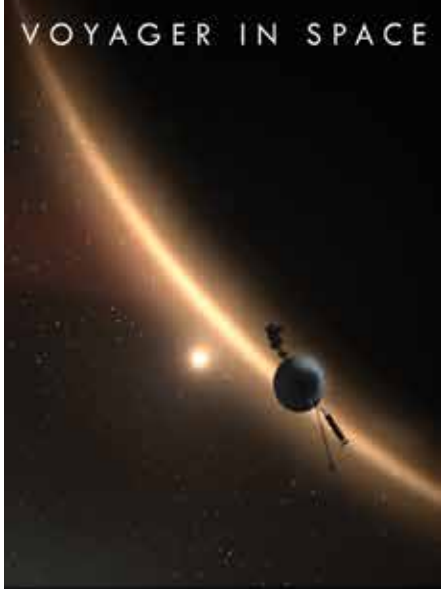
Please note: Coolers, pets and glass containers are not permitted.

Visit eriedowntown.com/calendar for details.

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Michelle Mioduszewski

Saturday, Aug. 26

Eerie Girls Rolling Hard



The Eerie Roller Girls are playing their last home bout of the 2017 season, the seventh since the organization was founded. The team squares off against Corry's Nightmares on Main Street.

"Fans can expect the usual thrills, spills, and hard hitting action," promised original team member Sarah Mazzone, who skates under the name "Sarahtearium" (and also holds the coveted 814 jersey number).

The Eerie Roller Girls (ERG) are female-founded and operated, and represent Erie in the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA). As members of the international governing

body for the sport of Roller Derby, the team is solely made up of women from the Erie area. They are a volunteer organization comprised of 15 women. In addition to skating, they are committed to maintaining their sense of hometown pride by participating in local events and partnering with local charities when they aren't in the rink.

The Bayfront Convention Center serves as the new home for the league. Mazzone exclaimed that "this venue did more than we ever expected at our home opener. We, the skaters, and the refs had our own locker rooms! That was just the beginning. The venue is bright and super professional-looking when you walk in. The sound system is great. Fans have a fantastic variety of food and beverages to choose from, and the staff could not have been more attentive, and accommodating." She concluded that "it really just blew our little derby minds."

Long circling the outskirts of the sports world, roller derby has over 600 leagues in the United States, not to mention double that around the world. For the less informed, roller derby is a contact sport (sometimes very much so — just check out some clips online) played by two teams of five members on the rink at any given time. While skating counterclockwise around a track, the goal is to get as

many of your team's 'jammers' to lap members of the opposing team and rack up points. After two periods of 30 minutes, the team with the most points wins. There is much more that goes into the sport of roller derby, but that's the basic nuts and bolts of it. So, if you are looking for a new exciting home team to cheer on, this is an event not to be missed. — Austin Mitchell

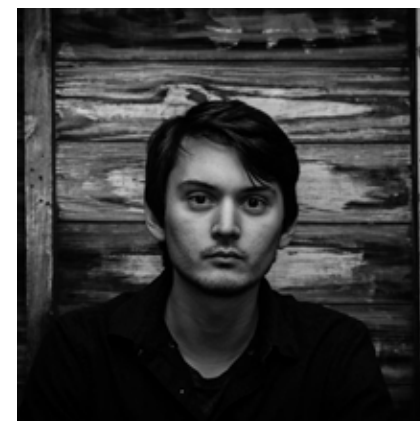
Doors open at 6:30 p.m., whistle at 7:30 p.m. // 1 Sassafras Pier // \$10 pre-sale, \$12 at the door // eerierollergirls.com

Saturday, Aug. 26

Unlocking Josh Travis at Basement Transmissions

On Friday, August 25th, Josh Travis will release his new EP, *Landlocked*. The following day will see a release show featuring local songwriters Fred Oakman and Zack Orr at Basement Transmissions. The release will be Travis' first in years and is notably his first official release with a full band (comprised of other local players, including Rachel Heinrich on piano and vocals, Caden Gilson on bass and brother Nick Travis on the drums).

Landlocked may be billed as an EP due to its six tracks, but clocking in



at 37 minutes, the release flirts with full-length territory. Fans of Bright Eyes, Manchester Orchestra and other reputable indie-rock acts through the generations will find something to love about Travis' delicate songwriting and unique way with words.

Joining Travis is Oakman, a man who also splits his time equally between folk and punk rock. Oakman's band, One if By Land, released their album *Nobody Wants to Leave* on October 21st of last year. All of these artists have music available on Bandcamp, while more information about *Landlocked* can be found at joshtravismusic.com. — Aaron Mook

8 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$5 // All ages

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.

Live Virtual Art And Gallery Night

Aug. 18 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

The Ruby Anniversary Exhibition

Aug. 18 — 6 to 9 p.m. & Aug. 20 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Aug. 26 — noon to 6 p.m.

Crary Art Gallery, 511 Market St. craryartgallery.org.

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition with Guest Alumni

Aug. 21 through Sept. 22 (Reception Aug. 31 — 5 to 7 p.m.)
Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Centralia: Pennsylvania's Lost Town (2017)

Aug. 25 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Arboretum Photo Contest Exhibition

Aug. 27, 28, 29 — noon to 4 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

THEATER

Black Comedy

Aug. 18 — 7 p.m. & Aug. 19, 26 — 5:30 p.m. & Aug. 22, 23 — noon & Aug. 27 — 2:30 p.m. & Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Sleuth by Anthony Shaffer

Aug. 18, 19, 25, 26 & Sept. 1, 2, 8, 9 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. & Aug. 20, 27 & Sept. 3, 10 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Mercyhurst Theatre Program: Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits

Aug. 24, 25, 26 — 7:30 p.m. & Aug. 25 — 10 p.m. & Aug. 27 — 2 p.m.
Mercyhurst University Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

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. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Lagoon by Pontoon

Ongoing through Sept. 4 — 10 a.m.

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

Presque Isle Lighthouse Tours

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

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

Fishing Rod Loaner Program

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Tai Chi

Aug. 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Grandparent/Grandchild Day

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

Wednesday Walks in the Woods

Aug. 16, 23, 30 — 11 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Grand Opening: Early Connections North East Open House

Aug. 16 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Earle C. David Primary School, 50 E. Division St.

earlyconnectionserie.org.

Farmers Market

Aug. 16, 23, 30 & Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Understanding Hepatitis C

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

Erie SeaWolves vs. Binghamton Mets

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

Fight Back City Council: Code Enforcement

Aug. 16 — 7:30 p.m.
City Hall, 626 State St. facebook.com.

Celebrate Erie 2017

Aug. 17, 18, 19, 20
Downtown Erie, celebrateerie.com.

Weight Lifting/ Cardio Fitness Class

Aug. 17, 24, 31 — 9:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Work Day for Operation Christmas Child

Aug. 17 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Grace Church, 7300 Grubb Rd. whoisgrace.com.

Learn the Facts about Stoke

Aug. 17 — 12:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

New Horizons Music Project

Aug. 17, 24, 31 — 4 to 6 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Rummage Sale

Aug. 18, 19 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
St. Boniface Coleman Center, 363 Wattsburg Rd. stbonifaceparisherie.org.

Historic Erie Walking Tour Erie's Downtown

Aug. 18 — 8:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Getting Creative with Acrylics: A Painting Residency

Aug. 18, 25 & Sept. 1 — 9 to 11 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tai Chi

Aug. 18, 25 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
Regency at South Shore, 322 Washington Pl. lifeworkserie.org.

Sunday, Aug. 27

Progressing North by Northwest



The North by Northwest Progressive Summit is returning to Erie after an extended absence with a new location and new name. This year's summit, hosted by Keystone Progress, promises to be bigger and better than ever. Pennsylvania's best and brightest progressive leaders will head a series of panel discussions about how we might elevate and improve our region. The combination of speakers, panels, and training sessions aim to

educate and empower other progressive leaders and thinkers. The summit is also an opportunity to develop relationships with like-minded people who want to make the community a more forward-thinking and welcoming place. Speakers include Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Associate Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court David Wecht, and Admiral and former senatorial candidate Joe Sestak. The summit is pulling no punches, scheduling presentations on gun violence, racism, court systems, talk radio, and many more educational discussions. — Austin Mitchell

9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. // 2800 W 8th St. // \$20 per person // nxnws Summit.org

Sunday, Aug. 27

'Migrate' toward Goodell Gardens for Monarch Butterfly Celebration

In the pantheon of nostalgic elementary school activities, most of us can remember feeding leaves to caterpillars and then watching as they made their incredible transformation



from furry worm-like insect to graceful butterfly. Would it surprise you to learn that every year hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate over thousands of miles as part of the life cycle that follows — and our area happens to fall right along the migration route?

The conservation-minded folks at Goodell Gardens and Homestead have spent years helping to facilitate this extraordinarily important aspect of the monarch's pollination behavior, and this year they are hosting the Monarch Butterfly Migration Celebration to relay that message to a greater audience. Guests will be treated to a veritable trove of monarch informa-

tion, light refreshments, a milkweed seed (which can be planted and grown into the monarch larva's meal of choice), as well as the dreamy sounds of local band Flora.

The informational portion kicks off at 2 p.m. inside the barn, leading up to Goodell's first large-scale monarch butterfly release, which helps boost the local population. Amber Till, spokeswoman for Goodell, was quick to point out that at the same time monarch butterflies are faced with loss of habitat all along their migration route, the decline in population of these pollinators can have untold consequences for "the environment, our food supply, and our survival."

Anyone is welcome to pay Goodell Gardens' regular admission fee (\$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for children ages two to 17) to watch the butterfly release; \$15 tickets, which include an adult monarch butterfly for release, are still available for purchase online and at the door. — Cara Suppa

2-4 p.m. // 221 Waterford Street, Edinboro // www.goodellgardens.org // \$15 (\$10 for members)

The Lady Kate Boat Tour

Aug. 18 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Perry Monument at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. lifeworkserie.org.

ACA Intro to Kayaking Instruction Course

Aug. 18 — 6 to 8:30 p.m. & Aug. 19 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Candlelight Ghost Walks

Aug. 18, 19 — 8 p.m.
Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. candlelightghostwalks.com.

Crawford County Fair

Aug. 19 through Aug. 26
Crawford County Fairgrounds, 13291 Dickson Rd. crawfordcountyfairpa.com.

Kind of Bass

Aug. 19, 20 — 7 a.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. northcoastbass.com.

Admiral Perry Dog Obedience Training

Aug. 19, 20 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

Cardboard Boat Regatta

Aug. 19 — 10 a.m.
Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. bayfrontcenter.org.

Sunshine Storytime

Aug. 19 — 10 to 10:30 a.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Pamper Me Please: With Herbs

Aug. 19 — 10 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Bonnell's Rod Shop 5th Annual Cruise-In and Open House

Aug. 19 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bonnell's Rod Shop, 8000A Middle Rd. bonnellsrodshop.com.

Pilates Class with Michaelee Curtze

Aug. 20, 27 — 11 a.m. to noon
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Nitro Circus

Aug. 20 — 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. lakeeriestrategy.com.

Cruise the Bay

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

Labyrinth Celebration: New Life Path or Direction

Aug. 21 — 7:30 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Inventory Blowout and Bake Sale

Aug. 22, 23, 24 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Fit for Life Fitness Class

Aug. 22, 29 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

Aug. 22 — 11 a.m. to noon
Highmark Health Insurance Direct Store, 5753 Peach St. reservations.highmarkblueshield.com.

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

Aug. 22 — 2 to 3 p.m. & 6 to 7 p.m.
Erie Health & Wellness Pavilion, 4247 W. Ridge Rd. reservations.highmarkblueshield.com.

Yoga for Back Pain

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

Purple Martin Roost Kayak Tour

Aug. 22 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Vista 3 Parking Lot at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels

Aug. 21, 22, 23 — 7 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Erie Homecoming & Business Showcase

Aug. 24 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriepa.com.

Petal Pressing & Perfection Workshop

Aug. 24 — 10 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Block Party

Aug. 24 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.
Griswold Park, 150 W. 14th St. eriedowntown.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron RubberDucks

Aug. 24, 25, 26 — 7 p.m. & Aug. 27 — 1:30 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Cruise Town Erie Car Show

Aug. 25 — 5 to 10 p.m.
Perry Square, 568 State St. eriedowntown.com.

Zabawa: Polish Festival

Aug. 25 — 5 to 10 p.m. & Aug. 26 — noon to 10 p.m. & Aug. 27 — noon to 6 p.m.
Holy Trinity Church, 2220 Reed St. holyltrinityrc.org.

Behrend Athletics Berkey Ice Cream Run

Aug. 25 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Penn State Behrend, 5103 Station Rd. campscui.active.com.

PA Bass Nation Open

Buddy Tournament

Aug. 26 — 6:30 a.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. pabassnation.com.

Presque Isle Triathlon

Aug. 26 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Forest Bathing and Mindfulness Walking

Aug. 26 — 9 to 11 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. plashayoga.com.

Beat Beethoven Free Concert, 5K/1 Mile Walk

Aug. 26 — 9 a.m. to noon
Perry Square, 568 State St. eriephil.org.

PACA Open House

Aug. 26 — 1 to 6 p.m.
Performing Artist Collective Alliance, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

The Lantern Fest

Aug. 26 — 4 to 10 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. lakeeriestrategy.com.

Eerie Roller Girls: Nightmares on Main Street

Aug. 26 — 6:30 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eerieollerlgirls.com.

North by Northwest: The Erie Progressive Summit

Aug. 27 — 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. facebook.com.

Pedal for Paws

Aug. 27 — 10 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Monarch Butterfly Migration Celebration

Aug. 27 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

133rd Erie County Fair

Aug. 28 through Sept. 2
Erie County Fairgrounds, 13993 PA-8 wattsburgfair.com.

Alzheimer's and Dementia

Aug. 28 — 12:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Dulcimers in the Woods

Aug. 29 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

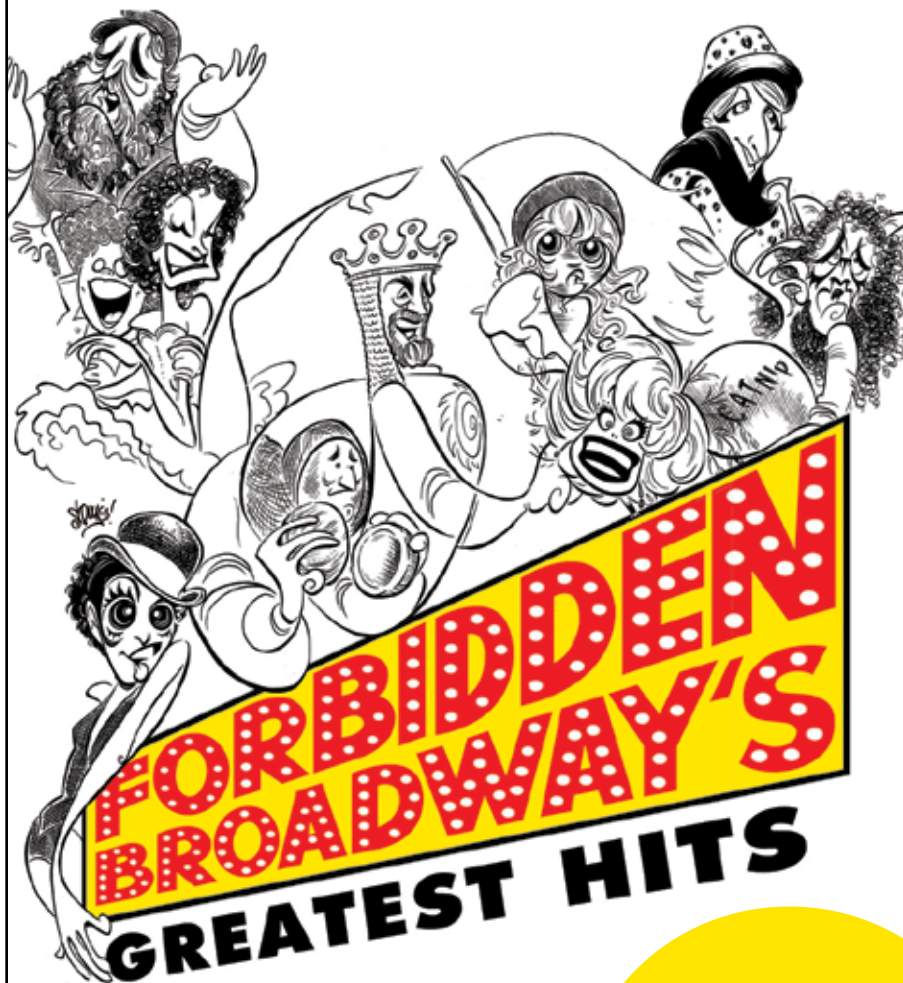
Fanning the Flames

Aug. 30 — 1 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Silent Peace Walk

Aug. 30 — 7 to 7:30 p.m.
St. Benedict Center, 345 E. 9th St. eriebenedictines.org.

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An Annual Reason to Celebrate Erie

Music and culture galore define festivities



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dozens of talented local artists participate in the Chalk Walk along State Street, which has long been a colorful sign of Celebrate Erie.

By Aaron Mook

It seems like only a month ago that the streets of Erie were taken over by tourists and locals alike for the city's biggest weekend of the year, Roar on the Shore. And that's because, well, it has only been a month since the last big happening to celebrate our city. But if there's one more event that truly outlines the highlights and culture of Erie, it's happening downtown August 17th through August 20th, and it's called Celebrate Erie.

Celebrate Erie is a staple for locals, but those new in town or merely visiting may be curious about the kind of things that will be happening during the citywide event. Celebrate Erie takes place downtown and features free access to a number of galleries and exhibitions by local artists and

vendors. A large portion of the event is rooted in promoting arts and culture, so live art demonstrations and musical performances that span a number of genres are a guarantee.

On Thursday, Celebrate Erie will kick off with Taste of Erie, a sampling of some of Erie's most beloved eateries, including Three B Saloon, Brew Brothers, Primanti Brothers, Ernie's, Connie's Ice Cream, The Brewerie at Union Station and Odis 12 Bar & Grille. Taste of Erie will be spread out along Perry Square, just within strolling distance from The Artist Colony, a pop-up exhibition where you can enjoy art from some of the our city's most thought-provoking artists.

Don't worry; the little ones haven't been forgotten. Celebrate Erie is a family-friendly

event that will feature kid-oriented entertainment spanning two city blocks (Eighth Street to 10th Street). The Kids Zone will host a multitude of interactive activities, including the Kids Construction Zone presented by David's Landscaping and Design, dedicated to education and "enticement of the industry."

One of the most popular features of the annual celebration is the local Chalk Walk, in which State Street is filled with chalk murals by the area's most talented artists. After three days of colorful creation, a vote is held and winners are announced Sunday evening on the Celebrate Erie Main Stage.

And on that very stage, there will be no shortage of music all weekend long. On Thursday, rhythm and blues legends the Spinners will headline. The vocal group, also known as the Motown Spinners or the Detroit Spinners, has been active since 1954.

On Friday, get ready for an unprecedented evening of rock royalty, as Blue Öyster Cult will perform, followed by

Dennis DeYoung and the Music of Styx. Blue Öyster Cult is noted for their blues-inflected brand of psychedelic proto-metal, churning out hits such as "Godzilla," "Burnin' for You," and "(Don't Fear) The Reaper." Singer and keyboardist Dennis DeYoung was one of the founding members of the band Styx, and is credited with seven of the band's eight Billboard Top 10 Singles, including "Babe," "Mr. Roboto," "Lady," and "Come Sail Away."

On Saturday, the main stage music begins at 4:15, with Sam Hyman, Ruby Port Band, and Erie All-Stars setting up the scene for 3 Doors Down. Known for songs such as "Be Like That," "Loser," and their breakout hit "Kryptonite," these alternative rockers were a fixture of the early 2000s charts. Many more artists will perform on the Tenth Street stage throughout the weekend.

To better grasp the scope and draw of an event the size of Celebrate Erie, I decided to speak with someone who may have a different perspective than that of the average patron: performer Sean Dunn of Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution.

"I always enjoy playing locally because this is where I got my start, and without the people [of] Erie, I would not be where

I am in my career," Dunn says. "Events like Celebrate Erie are very important to remind Erie residents of the incredible talent in this town."

This is Dunn's second year performing at the event after playing at the Erie All-Stars Woodstock tribute a few years back. He describes his music as newgrass, or "amplified progressive bluegrass," and says that growing up in Erie affected his sound strongly.

"I draw from very personal experiences, as well as my surroundings [when songwriting]," Dunn says.

But perhaps most importantly, if you find yourself attending Celebrate Erie for even just one night, make sure it's Sunday, August 20th, when Zambelli Fireworks presented by Presque Isle Downs and Casino will be shot off during the event's grand finale. Celebrate Erie has consistently and traditionally been one of the Erie's most talked-about events, but fortunately, this year, there are even more new activities to discover throughout the downtown area.

Celebrate Erie is a free citywide event that takes place Thursday, August 17th through Sunday, August 20th. More information can be found at www.celebrateerie.com

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CALENDAR

A Fair Way to End the Summer

Crawford, Erie County fairs pull their weight in entertainment value



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Tracy Geibel

It's fair season in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

With both the Crawford and Erie County Fair right around the corner, family-friendly fun will be an easy find during the last two weeks of August.

The Crawford County Fair

SATURDAY, AUG. 19 TO SATURDAY, AUG. 26

The Crawford County Fair consistently sets the bar high.

"We have one of the best fairs in the whole state," said fair board president Bill Winters. "We go to a convention each year and people from around the fair circuit are impressed."

The fair kicks off Saturday, Aug. 19 with antique tractor pulls in the morning and a performance by Straight No Chaser, a male a cappella group, in the evening. Winters said he's heard the act called "phenomenal."

The second largest agricultural fair in the state continues throughout the week with events like harness racing (a form of horse racing where the horse pulls a two-wheeled cart at a trot or pace), the North American Six-Horse Hitch Classic Series (featuring six-horse teams pulling wagons), and the USA-East Regional Truck and Tractor Pull (souped-up trucks and tractors pulling heavy sleds).

Though Winters said it's been increasingly difficult to secure entertainers, the fair's popular concerts will continue this season. On Wednesday, Aug. 23, For King & Country will per-

form with special guests Building 429 and Jordan Feliz. The following night, country musicians Old Dominion and special guest Chris Lane take the stage.

"We're excited about the lineup we have and what we can give to people," Winters said.

Rides are free with daily admission. Children under age 5 enter for free, but cannot ride without purchasing a ride wristband. Weekly passes can be purchased for \$25. This too doesn't include rides.

Senior citizens are admitted free before 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Veterans are offered free admission Tuesday. Anyone in military uniform is admitted free daily.

Grandstand event pricing varies.

8 a.m. to 11 p.m., rides open at 1 p.m.
// 13291 Dickson Rd., Meadville // \$8 // 333.7400 // crawfordcountyfairpa.com

Erie County Fair, Wattsburg Agricultural Society

SUNDAY, AUG. 27 TO SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

The 133rd annual Erie County Fair always tries to offer something "different."

Junior Hartner, who has spent more than eight years as president of the Fair Board, expects a good turnout for this year's fair.

After Sunday's set-up, the festivities begin Monday when the gates open at 4 p.m. Shortly thereafter, an antique tractor pull will take place at the grandstand and the recurring Hogway Speedway Racing series will hold its first laps (pigs at 5:30, ducks at 6:30, and goats at 7:30).

Throughout the week, the Stardust Circus & Thrill Show will offer free performances. On Wednesday evening, the Paula & Judy's Dance & Acrobatics Connection will perform before the truck drags begin.

On Thursday night, drummer Artimus Pyle of the rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd will perform. Admission to this grandstand event is \$5.

Daily fair admission is \$8 per person, which includes parking, rides, and midway events, except for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Children age five and under enter for free without riding. Weekly buttons can be purchased for \$10 without riding. Ride upgrades are \$5 per day.

Times vary // 13993 Route 8 & 89, Wattsburg // \$8 // 739.2232 // wattsburgfair.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

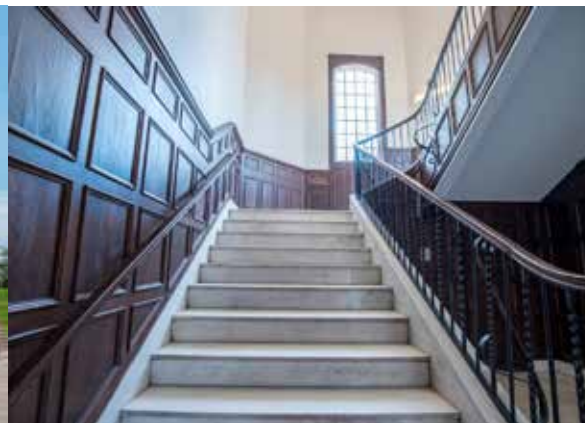


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[UPSTAIRS]

SAT 09/02

THE SOUTHERN BELLES

SAT 09/09

FUNK YOU

MUSIC REVIEWS

Girl Ray

Earl Grey
Moshi Moshi



An outwardly appealing blend of retro tones, the tongue-twistingly titled Girl Ray's *Earl Grey* seems like an easy pill to swallow. Painted with the cartoonishly buoyant, psychedelic timbres of yesteryear, the London band has made a record that would be perfectly at home in any Wes Anderson soundtrack. Perhaps it's the striking vocal similarities to Nico that factor in. Either way, this trio of 19-year-old has have debuted with a sound well beyond their years. With adventurous excursions like the 13-minute titular "Earl Grey (Stuck in a Groove)," it's easy to tell that this band is not content with making simple lo-fi pop songs, no matter how good at it they are. Combining the lackadaisical soft-spokenness of Belle and Sebastian, the feminine urgency of the Raincoats, and the vintage studio sounds of the early 1970s, Girl Ray has produced an album that can fittingly bookend Whitney's *Light Upon the Lake*. The biggest detriment of the album is that it loses steam relatively quickly. The languid tempos, in tandem with the 54 minute run time can give way to restlessness. In small sips though, the record is delicious. — Nick Warren



Dead Cross

Dead Cross
Ipecac



Like a bolt of elemental force in frenetic bursts of hardcore punk, Mike Patton and Dave Lombardo have made one of their most energetic releases to date. Will the cult of Mike Patton take to this as they so heartily took to *Fantômas*? The virtuoso behind Faith No More and Mr. Bungle lends his trademark range and idiosyncratic quirks to give the album a definitive stamp of individuality. Remarkably, this is one of the purest albums Patton has ever done. For such an experimental team manning the expedition, this eponymous debut is about as straight-ahead as one can get. The genre has mostly been carved out by bands that came before them, like Slayer, The Locust, and the Misfits. The thing about that though is members of Dead Cross have *been* in those bands. Aside from Patton, the band consists of Lombardo, one of the most respected drummers in metal, guitarist Mike Crain, and bassist Justin Pearson. With 10 tracks clocking in at 27 minutes, the supergroup doesn't disappoint, each track full of temple-pounding, visceral aggression. — Nick Warren



Arcade Fire

Everything Now
Columbia Records



If you classify yourself as an Arcade Fire fan, you will more than likely be underwhelmed by the band's fifth album, *Everything Now*. However, if you are like me and find the band's most beloved output to be largely overrated and public persona pretentious (don't worry, I'm a Father John Misty fan, I get it), the good news is that you may actually find something to enjoy about *Everything Now*. Past the over-thought and undercooked "campaign" and the dress code controversies surrounding the album lies Arcade Fire's most straightforward release yet, and whether or not that's a good thing simply depends on who's listening. Ripe with pop melodies and squeaky clean production, *Everything Now* leaves the ambition and filler of previous double-LP *Reflektor* and doubles down on its ABBA-like danceability. There is pandering to current trends (the title track features a pan flute), more self-seriousness (the *Funeral*-referencing "Creature Comfort") and a surface-level "wokeness" that would make the average festival-goer blush (the "Infinite Content" tracks), but I'd be lying if I said the band didn't sound like they were having an absolute *blast* throwing it all together, and there's certainly an audience for that. — Aaron Mook



Wave Trails

Demo (2017)
Self-Released



While browsing the Bandcamp of Erie natives Wave Trails, a psychedelic-punk outfit of the highest notoriety, you will see that the band has actually released three *Demo* albums since 2014. Each one is more fleshed out than the last, refining the experimental vision of vocalist/guitarist Cameron Fish, bassist Zach Hyman and brother/drummer Ben Hyman. On their third *Demo* album, *Wave Trails* commits more than ever to a straight-to-tape aesthetic that feels equal parts meticulous and improvised, much like the band's erratic live sets. Songs like "Orange Juice" and "Blanket" toe the line the between the jazz-like psychedelic freak-outs of early Modest Mouse and the angular guitar riffs of influential classic rock bands like Black Sabbath. Much of the band's nuance is held back by a purposely muddy, lo-fi mix, but Fish seems to know exactly what he wants, only altering the tape and tampering with the EP's production when it truly lends to the songs at hand. With any luck, Fish and the Hyman brothers will have an even more fleshed out LP for us this time next year. — Aaron Mook



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