

R ERIE READER

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MEANWHILE...

LET'S END THE CITY'S TECH DECLINE!

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From the Editors

Chapter 19: A Fall from Grace?

When we last left our heroes, they were rapidly approaching the outer regions of summer. As they traveled further and further through time, the air began growing less and less forgiving, a palpable tension mounting. Hurling past days in what seemed like mere moments, their surroundings became colder by the second.

"What's happenin' to us?" asked Erie Kid, drawing his hooded sweatshirt in tighter for warmth.

"It's the changing of the seasons," replied Captain Reader. "You see, the earth is tilted on its side, and we orbit the Sun in an elliptical pattern." Taking a deep breath, she looked to the ground and then gazed knowingly at the sky. "In the Northern Hemisphere, the sun's rays hit the earth at angle of 90° on June 21, which is the warmest day of the 365.25 day cycle."

"Do you mean ...?" Erie Kid slowly realized what the Captain was saying. He stammered out "...summer?"

Captain Reader nodded solemnly. "Yes, summer."

"I love summer!" Erie Kid exclaimed, nearly throwing up his hands in glee.

"Of course you do, kid," the Captain said, tussling the child's hair with a grin. A look of pallor swept over her face as she made the realization, confessing "we all do."

"So does that mean there's nothin' to do anymore, and we have to stay inside or else we'll be *freezing*?"

"No, no," the Captain said warmly. "There actually still tends to be plenty to do during what's known as 'the fall.'"

Just then the ALTWeeklytron3000 blinked on, and writer Matt Swanseger greeted the duo. "Salutations my friends! I was just tuning in to kindly inform you that ComiCon Erie is beaming up right around the corner. There's every manner of fun for pop culture aficionados of all stripes!"

As the message faded out, they saw in the distance a large blue vehicle with pinches of orange approaching. Out stepped a man in a suit. He greeted the pair, saying "Hello, I'm John Persinger." With a handshake, he continued, "I just wanted to say a few short words about technology, and how it can be improved in the city. As you both know, there's an election coming up this fall. I've certainly been busy, and there's plenty more to do before November!" As the door opened up, and he began to board his vehicle, he looked back at the two, smiled, and waved.

The ALTWeeklytron3000 began to flash rapidly on and off. Erie Kid looked at it and asked "What's it tryin' to say?"

"It seems there's an uncommon abundance of activities over the next few weeks. Music, food and drink festivals, theatre ... all varieties of events." Captain Reader explained.

"So there's still fun things to do, even though it's gettin' all cold?"

"It would seem so," the Captain said, staring once again towards the heavens. "It would seem so."



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Let's End the City's Tech Decline

Innovative ways to attract jobs and business

By: John Persinger

What would convince you to invest in Erie if you were a start-up business, an innovative technology company, or a successful manufacturer?

It probably wouldn't be the city website that gives you a phone number for every single employee, but no guidance on who to call with a concern.

Nor would it be the city's lack of a Facebook page, Twitter account, or YouTube Channel.

And it definitely would not be the parking meters that only accept quarters.

None of these items are encouraging investment in Erie. But sadly, these issues are not new. The status quo in the city is a problem.

In today's age, a business can pick up and move anywhere in the world. Just look at GE. This means that Erie must do whatever it takes to keep pace with the times and show that it is innovative and open to businesses and jobs.

As the co-founder of the Emerging Technologies Practice Group at the MacDonald Illig law firm, I've spent my legal career working with a host of tech businesses — web development firms, social media marketers, cyber security consultants, and data analytical companies. I've helped companies set up e-commerce stores, run contests via Facebook, and responded to cyber breaches. I know what needs to be done to end the city's technological decline.

As mayor, I will build a team of tech savvy innovators to attract more jobs and business to the city, starting with the appointment of a Director of Innovation, aka the Chief Innovator for Erie.

The Chief Innovator's main task will be to do whatever is necessary to ensure that Erie — its government, its residents, its businesses, and its students — are not left behind in the 21st century.

To achieve this goal, a few of the Chief Innovator's priorities will be:

Data-mapping city issues, such as blighted properties, incidents of gun violence, traffic accidents, and potholes. This will allow the city to understand where its problems are located and how to more efficiently deploy city resources to solve them.

Upgrade the city's website. Similar to Amazon's customer service, the new website will have only two points of contact — one for businesses and one for residents. You should only need to call one tele-

In today's age, a business can pick up and move anywhere in the world. Just look at GE. This means that Erie must do whatever it takes to keep pace with the times and show that it is innovative and open to businesses and jobs.

phone number to have your questions answered.

Develop a city app to disseminate information from the city, but, most importantly, to enable residents to report problems to the city. Imagine if you could take a photo of that pothole that hasn't been repaired for weeks and, through the app, submit it to the city.

Create a social media presence for real-time interaction with residents, businesses, and others. Erie should have its own regularly-updated Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube accounts. For the outside world, we should appear as if the lights are on and someone is home in the City of Erie.

Implement a transparent and accountable process

for submitting complaints/issues to City Hall. You should be able to submit a complaint to the city via the website, receive a tracking number for that complaint, and track its progress.

Oversee the transition to parking meters that accept payment via credit cards, debit cards, or smartphones. Right now, if you get a parking ticket, you have to send in a check or cash. That needs to change. You should be able to pay online via debit or credit card.

Become more energy efficient. The city should introduce LED lights. The Chief Innovator should also explore the possibility of adding solar panels to government buildings and converting city vehicles to natural gas.

Work with local service providers to unroll fiber-optic Internet service throughout the city, and make wireless Internet access available throughout downtown. We need the best Internet service possible in Erie.

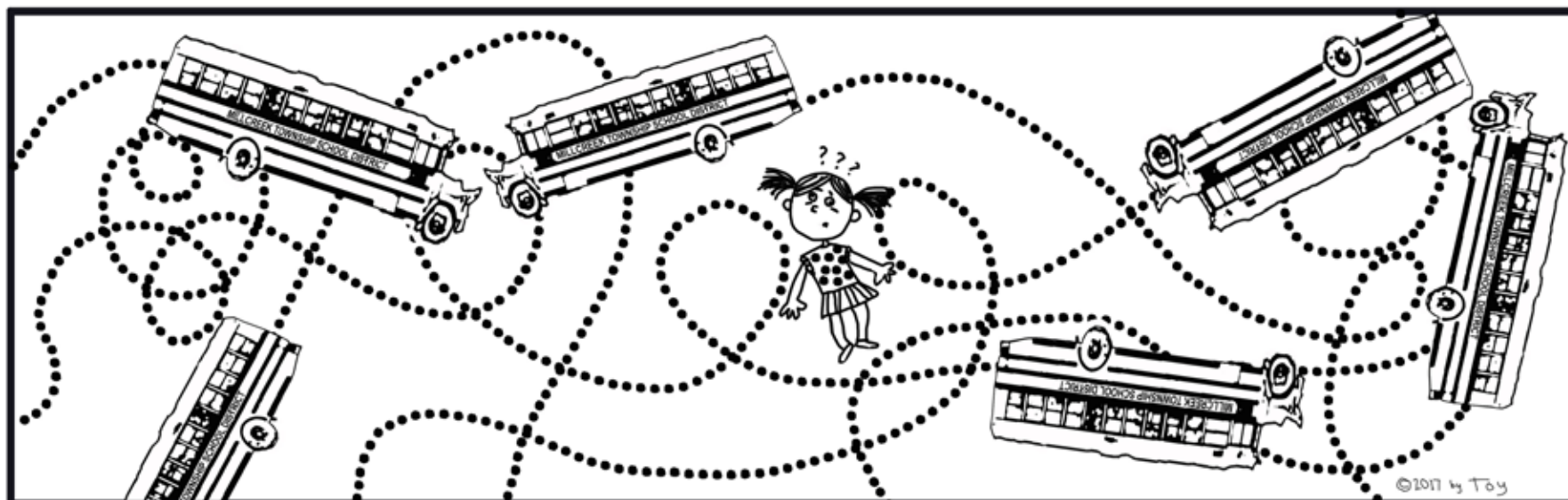
Just as we have city employees dedicated to the infrastructure of the 20th century — roads, sewers, bridges — we should have at least one city employee dedicated to the infrastructure of the 21st century — the digital frontier.

Because if we allow the status quo to continue, we *definitely* will not attract new business.

But if we show the world that Erie is an innovative place, then businesses will tweet about the employees they have hired and the investments they have made in Erie, Pennsylvania.

John Persinger is a candidate for mayor and an emerging technologies lawyer with MacDonald Illig law firm. For more information, go to persingerformayor.com or follow him on Twitter at @JohnMPersinger.

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NEWS & VIEWS

Harrisburg Happenings

The keystone of economic recovery



By: **Dan Laughlin**

Over the past several months, state leaders have struggled with financial issues, namely completion of the 2017-18 budget. The relatively easy part was reaching an agreement on spending. The spending package that was finalized in late June covered the basic services and programs that meet the needs of Pennsylvania's citizens.

A particular matter of pride for me was that this spending plan included a significant — and essential — increase in state support for the Erie School District. The plan also included a number of line items that directly benefit our region and will improve the quality of life for our communities and their residents.

But, as I said, that was the easy part. At this point we are still struggling to finalize a revenue package that covers the moderate increase in state spending and fills in the deficit carried over from the previous fiscal year.

This deficit is not a new thing by any means. It is something that has grown in severity over the past few years, exacerbated by Pennsylvania's struggling economy, leading to increasing fixed costs and obligations. Our state economy is a challenge that has negatively affected many parts of Pennsylvania and is clearly seen locally in the financial and human ramifications of GE's decision to curtail operations at its Erie plant.

That decision directly affects families across northwest Pennsylvania.

The loss of those paychecks means that families have less money to spend in the community. This impacts everything from home sales and car purchases to grocery bills and dining and recreation expenses, which leads to more layoffs and further economic devastation.

We cannot simply stand by and watch this trend continue unabated.

My primary goal when I took office was to help the Erie School District address its financial crisis and we've made great strides in that respect.

My next goal is to bring jobs to the Erie region. I feel that our population decline, and related problems, such as crime and blight, are directly tied to the loss of jobs in our region.

Addressing this challenge will take a comprehensive and dedicated collaboration between community leaders, business executives and government officials at all levels. We must all be stakeholders in this effort. This is a battle that we can win together or lose individually.

We, as consumers, can assist in this effort by spending our money locally.

A great example has been set by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture with its "PA Preferred" program. This is a public-private partnership between the Department of Agriculture and thousands of companies and stores to support and promote home-grown products, including several businesses, farms and wineries in our region.

By buying products under the PA Preferred banner and logo, we are

truly benefiting our neighbors and working to support our regional and state economy. This is an initiative that should be expanded beyond the realm of agriculture and could benefit manufacturers across the commonwealth. For example, as PENNDOT adds natural gas fueling stations, we encourage the department to purchase compressors made by Knox Western here in Erie.

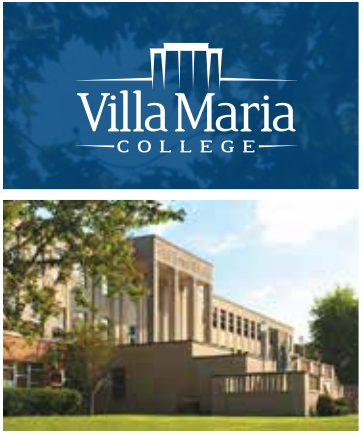
We should not only be promoting Pennsylvania-made products and services here, but across the nation and throughout the world. Between September 30 and October 6, we will be marking the third annual Pennsylvania Manufacturing Week. This week is designed to showcase our diverse manufacturing industry, while promoting the career opportunities available here and increasing public awareness of manufacturing's significant impact on the economy.

This is a step in the right direction. I believe we can — and must — do a better job of promoting the Keystone State as an attractive place to do business. In that effort, we should aggressively market Pennsylvania and all that it offers to top national and international businesses and industries.

As the Keystone State, we are an important crossroads that connects the Northeast, the South, as well as the Great Lakes region and all points west. We have an energetic and dedicated workforce. This, combined with our evolving natural gas industry and our multi-modal transportation hubs, provides the foundation of a great portfolio that we can aggressively present to new and growing businesses.

It is truly time for Pennsylvania to take a forward-looking approach to economic development to build a great future for the commonwealth.

Senator Laughlin encourages local residents to visit his website, [www.senatorlaughlin.com](#), and his Facebook page, [facebook.com/senatorlaughlin](#), to keep up to date with state government news — including the state budget — and learn more about state services and agencies.



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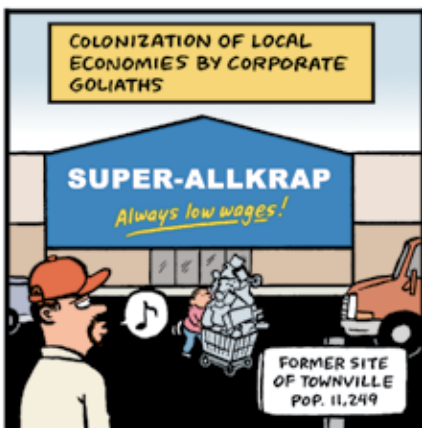
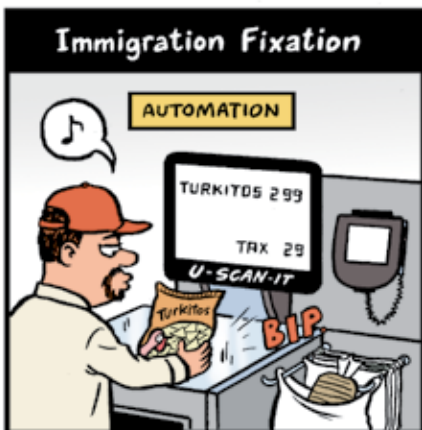
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Erie Looks to 'Storm' Broadway

Erie family's showbiz legacy becomes new musical



The cast of *The Storm* (left) pose after a special presentation of the Erie-based musical at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. (bottom) Hermione Heckrich, Colleen Roberts (as young Marge), and Alex Hopkins (as "Shorty") take in the curtain call to a standing ovation.

By Scott Bremner

July 19, 2017. The place is the Roosevelt Hotel on crowded East 45th Street in New York City. It's a palace of old school eloquence known best perhaps for hosting Guy Lombardo's first New Year's Eve performance of "Auld Lang Syne."

This night another kind of history could be made during a gala fundraiser. It's a chance to convince investors to back a musical conceived and built by an Erie family called *The Storm*. Like the Olympics, it's taken years of preparation for one performance; success means the next step of off-Broadway. A lack of interest could send the project, like so many others before, to Broadway's trash heap of broken dreams.

A family member slowly paces across the back of the room. The lights dim...

It is a story Jeremy Long has

heard his whole life, a young girl who becomes a child star, the focus of a domineering stage mother who grows up to find success in Hollywood's silent movies. Later she becomes a young mother and performer who marries her war hero husband. She would sing and dance. He played piano. Eventually they would move to a small northwestern Pennsylvania town to open a small business. She would teach dance and he would lay down the rhythms on piano.

It was post-war America and it was happily ever after. Almost.

It may have been a story, but it wasn't fiction. It was the lives of Marge and Jim "Shorty" Long, who came to Erie to open a small studio at 719 State Street. It would become the genesis for the Long's School of Dance, which exists to this day.

Jeremy Long grew up with the tales of his grandparents. He would be trained on the

piano by his grandfather, who had started with the classics but learned big band, jazz and swing because that's

where he could make money. It would be the same path he would show his grandson.

Jeremy had his own dreams, of moving to New York and making it as a composer and accompanist. Maybe he could pen a show that could make it all the way to Broadway! The idea of marrying that dream of the bright lights with the family history came together one night when he was watching Turner Classic Movies with his grandmother.

"We were watching a movie and I said to her that the movie reminded me of her. 'Your story could be a movie.'" She looked at her grandson. "Who the hell would want to watch us?"

But the seed had been planted. Should it be a book? How about a movie? No, music and the stage were too central to the theme that is Marge and Shorty. This story deserves to be a musical, Jeremy concluded, and on a grand scale, too.

Penning an entire musical is a huge undertaking, but Jeremy had some secret weapons. He has his grandfather's catalogue of original music. He has a mother who grew up in dance and was taught by her mother-in-law Marge. Marguerite Timko-Kinney (of Marguerite's School of Dance) knew the family music well and knew that the songs, representing more than 40 years of history, would guide both the movements and her son's direction.

"I think the music tells you what to do. It was a very personal thing. I'm very excited; it comes together as an interesting story."

So Jeremy and creative partner Cory Herman started the task of weaving 14 songs





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Storm creator Jeremy Long (left) stands with Marguerite Timko-Kinney and Cory Herman at the Roosevelt Hotel.

through a script of the life and times of Marge and Shorty. The gala would be an abbreviated look at the full musical, and the plot device for the sneak-peek would be Marge as an older performer narrating a look back over scenes of the play which was her life. It was hard work to finish, but it would turn out to be the easiest part of the project.

"The hardest part is the networking," Jeremy told me.

"It takes a long time to get to know the people you have to get to know. It's a closed circle of people who work on Broadway. It's not easy for an outsider to get in."

That means a long journey that begins with holding a number of smaller fundraisers to raise enough money to hold a large fundraiser. A local event held in April at the Nuova Aurora Club, a plea for donations on the web page, a Go-

FundMe campaign — all were necessary to cover the cost of renting the Roosevelt and hiring the cast and production teams.

The key role of Marge as narrator fell to Pennsylvania based actress Lynn Flickinger. "I really love Marge as a character; she is really well-rounded, a real person. And her song that I get to sing really shows that."

It's not an accident that Marge appears as a real person since she's based on one. And Jeremy was determined not to overlook shortcomings, including weaving both her domineering stage mother and her husband's infidelity into the plot. "You can teach people by watching and learning through bad things," Jeremy says, "to keep your head

up. They were human and regardless of talent they make mistakes."

Actress Colleen Roberts took on Margie as a young mother and performer. She took time from an Indianapolis performance of West Side Story to tell me how much she appreciated the script's old-time glamour and heart in an age of technology. "I didn't want her to look like a martyr I wanted to make sure she came off as a strong survivor and I knew a lot of people in the audience knew her."

And there's another key character seen as essential to the musical's success: the backdrop of Erie. "Erie isn't Iowa but it is Middle America," according to the show's co-producer Ted Kurdyla. "It's very important that Erie stay in the show. If this couple were from New York City, it would be an entirely different production."

The music fades as the performers freeze in their final poses. There is momentary silence then the applause begins then grows. The audience rises to their feet. As a result there is not one but several investors looking to underwrite *The Storm*. Jeremy Long hopes to be able to announce something in the next few months.

And he's also hoping to finally answer a question posed by Grandma Margie all those years ago: Who the hell would want to watch us?

Someday soon, Grandma ... maybe everybody.

Scott Bremner is a three-time Emmy award-winning journalist. He is currently a daily talk show host on JET Radio 1400 and the assignment editor for WJET and FOX 66. He can be reached at sbremner28@gmail.com.



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Expanded Universe

ComiCon Erie draws it up differently



By: Matt Swanseger

The premise has been sketched; the contracts have been inked; the schedule has been filled in edge-to-edge with color. The time has now arrived to get ahold of the very first issue of ComiCon Erie, which will unfold the weekend of September 22-24 at the Bayfront Convention Center.

ComiCon's organizers, Erie Promotions & Expos (EPE), are confident that the inaugural event will one day be viewed as a collector's item as successful editions begin to stack on top of one another.

"At the beginning of the year, we take a look what's out there and what's successful," says Erie Promotions President and CEO Mark Concilla. "We've been researching this for a year now and saw the need for a [comic convention] on a larger scale."

Events such as BlurrieCon (a homage to anime, gaming, and geek culture slat-

ed for its fifth iteration this October) and the Erie Library Comic Con (which celebrated its third anniversary in May) have established track records and doubtlessly influenced the decision. The folks at EPE are grateful for the precedent these events have set, and have offered space at Comicon Erie for both the Anime Club of Erie (ACE) and GeekErie to promote their respective conventions (although only ACE will be present).

If you've been paying attention to the glut of comic book and fantasy franchises smashing box office and television viewership records as of late, you'd have every reason to believe there is room for one more. The comic book universe is expanding, not contracting, and the mainstream is voyaging deeper into a space formerly only occupied by "dorks" and "nerds" than ever before. Whereas the first comic book conventions were sparsely attended affairs for

a niche audience, today's comic book conventions are often massive productions held in virtually every major city around the world (sometimes more than once per year) and cover a broad swath of pop culture. They are a showcase not only for comic books, but the entertainment industry at large.

Multiverse theory contends that there are any number of universes (up to infinity) operating at any given point in time. It is a concept that should be familiar to most comic book fans, as both the Marvel and DC Comics behemoths have applied it to their intellectual properties. It allows writers and artists to dream up limitless new scenarios for familiar series without affecting their main chronologies. For instance, in the DC Multiverse, Batman is a villain known as Owlman in one universe, a Nazi enforcer named Leatherwing in another, and the open-

For its inaugural year, ComiCon Erie will feature guests such as Dawn Wells of *Gilligan's Island*, Michael Koske of the *Walking Dead*, Zach Galligan of *Gremlins*, pro wrestler Greg "the Hammer" Valentine, and Michael Beach of *Third Watch*.

ly gay, bio-enhanced Midnighter in still another. In the Marvel Multiverse, Spider-Man appears as the four-armed mutant Man-Spider, a zombie, or a robot (among other things) depending on what alternate reality he's in.

Comic book conventions aren't quantum physics, exactly, but they do bear similarity to their source material in that there is more than one valid way to approach them. While the Erie Library Comic Con more intimately focuses on workshops and craft, ComiCon Erie is striving for spectacle and atmosphere more on par with the big cities. Think of them as not conflicting versions of the same narrative, but equally worthwhile



Artists like Stephen Silver, Kurt Lehner, Tom Fluharty, and John Nevarez (whose works appear to the left) will be on site as well as old zombies and new (below), and cosplay artists and groups.

and *Looney Tunes* characters) and animated series such as *Gargoyles* (which aired 1994-97) remain treasured memories for many millennials, and kids today still embrace Franklin the Turtle (whose design Lehner adapted from the Canadian children's books by Paulette Bourgeois).

If there is one bit of wisdom Lehner would impart to prospective animators (or entertainers of any kind), it is to be selfless. "Don't do it for yourself; do it for everyone else. Remember you're entertaining *them*." If that audience includes children (or the young in spirit), he emphasizes the importance of the "childlike heart" — an excitement for sharing your talent with others and a genuine fascination with the world and its curiosities. Don't resent others for their abilities; admire them and take notes.

In an aging town where cynicism and defeatism run rampant, perhaps we really *do* need another comic convention and all the youthful energy that comes with it — the suspension of disbelief and the rekindling of a childlike sense of wonder. To that end, there'll be plenty to marvel at all weekend:

— Talented artists such as Lehner, Tom Fluharty (painter and magazine cover artist), Stephen Silver (animator for Disney, Sony, and Nickelodeon), John Nevarez (Disney/Pixar, Illumination Entertainment, Sony Pictures An-

plots occurring in parallel universes. In both cases, it's a welcome dose of escapism from the grim realities of Earth One.

Headlining illustrator and animation artist Kurt Lehner is one Earthling who can definitely appreciate the value in that. As a sufferer of asthma and Celiac's disease, Lehner sometimes struggled to keep up with his healthier peers outdoors during his childhood. The harsh winters of his native Ontario aggravated his conditions, forcing him indoors. He occupied his time with toys, cartoons (the Hanna-Barbera lineup being his favorite), and a budding imagination. The discovery of his talent as an artist and his discovery of comic books roughly coincided, igniting a life-long passion.

"I didn't read much in school, but loved reading comic books. The education system was a little inept about the different kinds of literature," Lehner recalls. "I argued that I was learning big

words like 'behemoth' and 'annihilate,' but my teachers didn't want to hear it. It's crazy now because graphic novels are actually a thing [within curricula]."

Lehner idolized both Marvel and DC Comics artists growing up in the 1970s, in particular John Buscema (*The Avengers*, *Silver Surfer*, *Thor*), Neil Adams (*Batman*, *Green Lantern/Green Arrow*), and John Byrne (*X-Men*, *The Fantastic Four*). American fantasy and science-fiction artist Frank Frazetta was also hugely influential as he pursued his dream. After graduating from the Ontario College of Art & Design and a stint in the advertising industry, Lehner caught a break and joined the animation industry as a character designer and storyboard artist.

Lehner knows a thing or two about bringing concepts to life and watching them turn into something that enhances the lives of other people. Although his name may not be familiar to you, some of the titles he's worked on

for Walt Disney, Warner Bros., Marvel, and Dreamworks Studios assuredly are. Movies such as 1996's *Space Jam* (starring NBA great Michael Jordan



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To generate a seismic buzz for the first year of ComiCon Erie, event organizers have been eagerly promoting the event, employing the hashtag #getyourconon.

you can do so without even throwing a punch (or psychokinetic projectile — both are strictly prohibited). Competitors can test their mettle in the video game (hosted by Next Level Gaming) or card game (Gateway Games) tournaments, or attempt to look just a little bit better than the next half-octopus/half-android parochial schooler in the cosplay contest. Creative license, after all, is what the weekend is all about.

Friday 2-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. // 1 Sassafras Pier // advance Friday or Sunday passes \$15, Saturday pass \$18, weekend pass \$30; tickets \$20 at the door (children under 12 free with paid adult admission) // For more details and a full schedule of events, visit www.comiconerie.com

Mortals and immortals alike can contact Matt Swanseger at mswanseger@eriereader.com. Super-team inquiries will be entertained on a first-come, first-served basis.

imation), Jess Scutella (of Strange Operators, Steadfast Tattoo Parlour), and many others;

— A diverse panel of celebrity guests (Michael Beach of *Sons of Anarchy* and the upcoming *Aquaman* film, Dawn Wells a.k.a. Mary Ann of *Gilligan's Island*, Zach Galligan of *Gremlins*, Micheal Koske of *The Walking Dead*, WWE and Pro Wrestling Hall-of-Famer Greg

Valentine, *Night of the Living Dead* co-creator John Russo);

— Cosplayers galore, both professional (Garrison Carida of the 501st Legion, a *Star Wars* cosplaying organization) and amateur (for great tips on pulling off a professional look, see "Looking the Part: A cosplay consultation with Brooke Surgener"), impersonating their favorite characters from page, stage,

and screen (and customized backdrops by the Sci-Fi Photo Guy!)

— Real-life replicas of TV & movie vehicles (Mach 5 from *Speed Racer*, Tow Mater from *Cars*, the Mystery Van from *Scooby-Doo*), courtesy of NFI Empire;

— Comic books, toys, collectibles, and more.

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Looking the Part

A cosplay consultation with Brooke Surgener



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cosplay (a contraction of costume + play) is the practice of outfitting oneself as a character from a movie, book, or video game, especially one from the Japanese genres of manga and anime. Anyone acquainted with the wild (and sometimes bizarre) imagination of Japanese animation and art knows that pulling off a convincing look could become complicated pretty quickly. If you're looking to join in on the fun but are daunted by the process, fear not. Veteran cosplayer (and ComiCon Erie guest) Brooke Surgener is here to show you the ropes:

When I go about choosing a character to cosplay, I like to pick characters I admire or relate to, but really you can be whoever you want. The cosplay community is incredibly supportive and accepting, so whoever you decide to be, remember to have fun! So don't be scared to be weird.

Easy Cosplay — Bulma from Dragon Ball

The thing about picking a fun character is that you usually have fun putting it together. For characters like Bulma, I suggest taking a trip to thrift stores and seeing if you can find articles of clothing, even props that are close to your character, then customizing them to make them as accurate as possible! Sometimes this works out

perfectly, and it's the least expensive route.

Difficult Cosplay — Kaneki Ken from Tokyo Ghoul

When going about starting a more complicated costume, what I first like to do is draw out my plans. For Kaneki, the character is male but I wanted to create a female version. I like to gather ideas from other peoples creations and take notes! Once you have a plan, the next step is taking a trip to Joanne Fabrics and going crazy.

TIP: Download the Joanne Fabrics app! You can use multiple coupons on one purchase. Sewing your costume is the tricky part; make sure you take measurements throughout the pro-



JEFF ZOET VISUALS

Local singer-songwriter Brooke Surgener details some of her cosplay exploits, ranging from relatively simple ones such as Bulma from Dragon Ball (left), to her award-winning Kaneki Ken costume (below).

cess, and take notes on your drawn-out plans from earlier. This will be time-consuming, but no great costume was ever easy!

Wigs!

Amazon is a great place to find cheap but great-looking cosplay wigs! They are usually available in any color you will need. Rose Beauty Supply is also a good place to look here in Erie; you can find natural colors also at an affordable cost!

TIP: Don't buy a wig from Party City or the Halloween stores. They're overpriced and poor quality.

Props!

Just like costumes, there are easy props and difficult props. For Bulma, I also thrifted most of my props, but for Kaneki that wasn't so easy. I researched tutorials online for tips and walkthroughs, but a lot of it was still guessing and learning as I went. Foam is a beautiful thing though. When heated with a heat gun, you can change the shape of craft foam, EVA foam, or even pvc pipe. My kagune tentacles took me about three weeks to make, but all of the materials used were made from heated PVC pipe, expanding foam and craft foam! Watch YouTube tutorials; trial-and-error is the best advice I can give.



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Spotlight on Erie

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Thursday, Sept. 14th

Must See Shows: Bat House at PACA



This experimental show at the Performing Artists Collective Alliance is largely being considered a “must-see” due to the fact that it’s showcasing not one, but two brand new acts hailing from the Erie area.

This latest installment of the electroFLUX experimental music series (presented in part by Erie Ale Works) opens with Green Fingers, a grab bag of live instrumentation and trip-hop beats who performed their very first show at Basement Transmissions just last month. Joining them is Cult Classics, a soul-folk supergroup not entirely comprised of new faces, but performing under the moniker for one of the very first times. Cult Classics consists of Mackenzie Lee Sprague and Jess Royer, whom local showgoers may recognize from acts like Flora and Pine Diary, respectively. The pair are joined by a full backing band, with rotating musicians familiar to the Erie music scene.

“To us, this name represents the concept of finding the people in your life that make life worth living,” Royer wrote in the band’s announcement. “These people are the ones that I’ll follow until I die. It started as a joke when we referred to ourselves as a ‘love cult’ and now it’s become a group of people that I couldn’t live without.”

Headlining the event is psychedelic math-rock band Bat House, who hail from Boston. Released in April of this year, their eponymous debut LP is available on Bandcamp and streaming platforms now. — Aaron Mook

7 to 11 p.m. // 1505 State Street // tickets \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door // 21+ //

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Friday, Sept. 15

NPAA Exhibit Brings Local



Talent to the Foreground

Too often, local artists feel their work is underappreciated. For instance, they’re frequently asked to donate their work without compensation. Thus, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association (NPAA) was born, explained the group’s president Kris Risto.

That was in 1974. And though Risto wasn’t a part of the organization at that time, he now works to provide “as many exhibition opportunities as possible” for fellow NPAA members. One such event is the “NPAA West Erie Biennial Exhibit.” Every other year, the NPAA picks a vacant venue and fills the space with art for about a month. The 2017 show features more than 180 works of art — paintings, sculptures, photographs and more — created by about 80 of the organization’s 140 members. For instance, there’s driftwood art created by Brian Pardini and paintings by Brad Lethaby, who Risto describes as “probably one of the best painters we have in town.”

The exhibit is set up at two storefronts in the West Erie Plaza from Friday, Sept. 1 to Saturday, Sept. 30. It will typically be open Thursday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m., but there are two special evening events that you may want to mark on your calendar.

Friday, Sept. 15 is the exhibit’s grand opening reception, which will be celebrated from 7 to 9 p.m. A week later, Friday, Sept. 22, is the Erie Art Museum’s Gallery Night. The NPAA’s West Erie Plaza exhibit will be one of the 20 featured stops at what’s become a popular local event. It will include artist meet and greets.

Additionally, Risto hopes to hold a few pop-up events by collaborating

with local musicians. He hopes people will take advantage of this unique opportunity to support local artists. “Erie has such a thriving art community. I think a lot of people don’t realize what we have here,” Risto said. — Tracy Geibel

Sept. 1 to 30, Thursday to Saturday 1 to 5 p.m. // West Erie Plaza, 1000 W. Erie Plaza // free // npaonline.org

Saturday, Sept. 16

Broccoli Samurai Pleases



Even Fussy Listeners

Broccoli Samurai is tasty stuff, al-
Bright.

The Cleveland-native band is firmly part of that fresh school of live performance-centric musicians (go ahead and call them the “new jam bands” if you need a vanilla label) who have been melting minds and moving bodies at festivals and venues all over the place in recent years.

It’s a new, next-level mode of musicianship, this movement — a happy marriage of sight and sound and motion, a sonic amalgam that’s informed as much (more?) by video games as the Grateful Dead.

Anyone who’s been there (say, at either of their recent live sets at the amazing Night Lights Music Festival, for two fine examples) knows that is a very good thing. And anyone who’s not yet experienced that newness, and those considerable chops on display, will just have to see and hear and feel it for themselves.

This year’s summer festival circuit (of which they’re a major part) is all but closed at this point, but, lucky for all those with still-happy feet, Broccoli’s being served up again at the King’s Rook Club, one of their most-friendly regular regional host venues.

“They’re making big moves, and their Erie shows are always a party,” says the Rook’s Ryan Bartosek (who

really knows his Broccoli, also being their manager and all).

He ain’t just saying that, either.

And, just in case their party soundtrack needs a little backup, the Rook has also brought in absolute prog-beasts ShwizZ as the evening’s opener, along with well-loved local beats-maker NatasK for the night’s upstairs after-party.

Whew. That’s gonna be something. — Ryan Smith

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // 21+ // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Saturday, Sept. 16

The Wholly Grail of



Healthy Living

There are lots of different ways to be healthy. Featuring everything from herbalists to creative movers, the Wholly Happy Festival is one of the best ways to explore the myriad ways to improve your life. Designed to showcase all the unique options for healthful living in the Erie area, 40 local businesses and wellness practitioners have teamed up to put together this festival. In its first year, virtually every facet of wellness from mind to body is covered. There will be yogis, dancers, massage therapists, and acupuncturists for the body, and mediums, coaches, and counselors for the mind. Healthy eating will be a focus as well, with gardeners, health food providers, and food vendors on site. Admission is free to the public for you to explore all the different tools for healthful living that are available in our region. Reiki techniques will be demonstrated, along with singing bowls and homeopathy. If you’re looking to make a change in your life or even just be a little healthier, this festival is for you. There will be demonstrations of products, as well as talks and free giveaways. — Austin Mitchell

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. // Erie Day School, 1372 West 6th St. // free // facebook.com/

WhollyHappyFestival

Saturday, Sept. 16



Multicultural Asia Day is Passport for All Ages

When one thinks of the continent of Asia, it can often be difficult to fully understand how much of a variety in geography, culture, religion and history that single landmass encompasses. Yet it is clear that each distinctive nation's traditions and conventions are worthy of a closer look, and the 10th Annual Multicultural Asia Day hopes to provide just that.

Starting at 10 a.m., the doors to the expERIENCE Children's Museum will open and play host to this extraor-

dinary event, brought to us by Erie's Asian Pacific American Association (APAA) and GE Transportation's Asian Pacific American Forum, representing the countries of Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines. Guests can participate in hands-on activities, view displays and even take in live performances, which begin at 1 p.m.

Erie APAA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the many cultures of Asia right here in Erie, while also giving Asian Americans a place to "network and share experiences." By showcasing the many countries which make up the vast continent, as with the Multicultural Asia Day (and the popular Asian Festival in the spring), Erie APAA creates not only a bastion for people from many Asian backgrounds, it promotes greater understanding of a continent which can seem light-years away from our own, making the world feel a little smaller and friendlier.

And by holding this event in the expERIENCE Children's Museum (and making the event free to members), the hosts are also including Erie's littlest — and potentially most enthusiastic — citizens in that mission. — Cara Suppa

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. // 420 French Street // \$7 a person over age 2, free for museum members // www.erieapaa.org

Saturday, September 16th



Must See Shows: This American Song at Bobby's Place

This month, one of Erie's most beloved DIY venues will be shutting its doors, but not before hosting a few final shows — the first of which they're referring to as a "multi-band bash." This Saturday, This American Song will be taking the stage at Bobby's Place, joined by other locals Mala Sangre, Maniacal Device and Planet Claire.

This American Song released a number of splits and collaborative EPs with other local artists in 2015 following the release of their debut LP, *The Gray is Darker*, in the summer of 2013 and a follow-up EP, *Hitting the Wall*, in early 2014. With Bobby's Place never settling for an uninteresting show, the genres represented during Saturday's performance run the gamut of everything from the self-described "EERIE thrash punk" of Maniacal Device to the indie garage pop of Planet Claire.

When I spoke to owner Elena Marasco, she had kind words to share about the local music scene that Bobby's Place will be departing from.

"It has been a great ride and privilege to be a part of the music scene in Erie," said Marasco. "The talent is only surpassed by the nature of the people we have met. We are happy to have provided a home for this loving and gifted family."

Marasco also wasn't shy about mentioning the importance of the artists that have helped build the community surrounding Bobby's Place — some of which will be performing this weekend.

"Erik Neilson of Detroit Red was the first to perform on the stage with his then-band, Poets and Thieves," Mar-

MUSIC

The V Band

Sept. 13, 20, 27 — 6 to 6:30 p.m.

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

MVP

Sept. 14, 21, 28 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Homewrecker, Cringe, Maniacal Device, Embrace The Hostility and Heel Turn

Sept. 14 — 6 p.m.

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

Adam Mckillip

Sept. 14 — 7 p.m.

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

Bat House, Cult Classics and Green Fingers

Sept. 14 — 7 to 11 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. facebook.com.

Geek Army

Sept. 15 — 6 p.m.

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

Bootlegger's Bible Club

Sept. 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Steve Strickland Duo

Sept. 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Aaron Work & Friends

Sept. 15 — 7 p.m.

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

Refuge

Sept. 15 — 9 p.m.

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

Fall Risk and Wave Trails

Sept. 15 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

I-90's

Sept. 15 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

xRepresentx and Friends

Sept. 16 — 6 p.m.

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

Tony Kellogg

Sept. 16 — 7 p.m.

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

Requiem for Oblivion

Sept. 16 — 9 p.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

SuperBand

Sept. 16 — 9 p.m.

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

This American Song Multi-Band Bash

Sept. 16 — 9 p.m. to midnight

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

Broccoli Samurai, Shwizz and NatasK

Sept. 16 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Elektra Kings and Wave Trails

Sept. 16 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

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

Jesse James Weston

Sept. 17 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Pat Benatar &

Neil Giraldo

Sept. 20 — 7:30 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Sam Hyman

Sept. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Gem City Revival

Sept. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Sept. 22, 29 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Sean P. Clark

Sept. 22 — 7 p.m.

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

Cruisin'

Sept. 22 — 9 p.m.

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

Vulgar Display of Pantera

Sept. 22 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Bronsen & The

Expedition and Joose

Sept. 22 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

John Sedelmeyer

Sept. 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

The Hangover Band

Sept. 23 — 7 p.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Claire Stuczynski

Sept. 23 — 7 p.m.

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

Alan Jackson

Sept. 23 — 7:30 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

A Night on Broadway

Sept. 23 — 8 to 10 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

Geek Army

Sept. 23 — 9 p.m.

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

The Toasters, The Abruptors and This American Song

Sept. 23 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Uncharted Course

Sept. 24 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Kublai Khan

Sept. 24 — 6 to 11 p.m.

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

The Slants

Sept. 26 — 7 to 11 p.m.

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

DANCE

Creative Dance Residency

Sept. 15, 22, 29 & Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 & Nov. 3 & Dec. 1, 8, 15 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Doo Wop Dance

Sept. 15 — 5 p.m. to midnight

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Martini Mixer Party

Sept. 14 — 6 to 8 p.m.

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- HI & DRI
- KELLY DOWNS
- LAST SHOT
- LEFTY'S TAVERN
- LOMBARDO'S
- OAKWOOD CAFE
- ODIS 12
- PENNYS PUB
- RACK N ROLL
- RESERVOIR 26
- SAUCERY
- THAT PLACE
- TREEHOUSE TAVERN
- THE BARRACKS
- THE CAB
- UPTOWN BROWNS
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- SPORTSMEN ATHLETIC CLUB
- STAR ATHLETIC CLUB
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- ST. MARY'S CLUB
- SUNFLOWER CLUB
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- VFW #470
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- ZUKOR CLUB

- APPLEBEE'S
- BUFFALO WILD WINGS
- FOX N HOUND
- HOOCH & BLOTTO'S
- QUAKER STEAK & LUBE

SOUTH

- BEECHWOOD INN
- CREEKSIDE
- DAN'S RT. 8 BOARDWALK
- DOC HOLLIDAY'S
- EMPTY KEG
- FAT WILLIES
- LAKESIDE TAVERN
- MCKEAN TAVERN
- MOUND GROVE
- THE POUR HOUSE
- TOWER'S TAVERN
- WATERFORD HOTEL

DOWNTOWN

- CALAMARI'S
- PLYMOUTH
- 9TH & STATE

WEST

- ANDY'S PUB
- APPLEBEE'S WEST
- AVONIA
- BRUCE'S PUB & GRUB



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asco says. “Maniacal Device performs here often. Mala Sangre has a heck of a show for the second-to-last night. Alex Harilla and JC Nickels are regulars as well; they did their last show this weekend. Storms Within’s Erica Myers does monthly shows. And then there’s all of the acoustic guys — Matt Texter, Josh Gone, Tony Kellogg. I’m leaving many out, I’m sure.”

Whether you’re a regular at Bobby’s Place or you’ve been meaning to get around to your very first visit, you only have two weeks left to experience the electric atmosphere their venue provides to the Erie music scene. The final show at Bobby’s Place will take place on Saturday, September 30th and feature seven local bands. If you’re a local music fan, be sure to clear your calendar so you can make it to at least one of these final multi-band bashes. — Aaron Mook

9 p.m. to midnight // 1202 West 18th Street // 21+

Sunday, Sept. 17

Celebrate All Things Fall at Goodell Gardens

Oh, hey there, September with your fall things and pumpkin spice and harvest festivals. Yes, it’s that time of



year again (already?), and those decidedly dedicated to the season should not miss Goodell Gardens’ 12th Annual Homegrown Harvest Festival.

The farm and gardens’ “capstone” event features “something for everyone,” according to a spokesperson. This year, attendees can anticipate a local farmer’s market, face painting by Taradoodles for the kiddos (and kiddos at heart), The Real Magic Steve, who will be wowing the crowds with his tricks and balloon animals (3 p.m.), delectable goodies from Pastries by Andrea, and spicy treats from Diablo Pepper farm. There will be a juried art show featuring handmade goods, food for hungry folk from vendors like A Waffle Miracle and Northern Scoop ice cream, and live music to provide a compelling soundtrack. Musical performances will take kick off at noon with the Goodell Gardens String

Band, followed by TK Blues Co. at 1 p.m. and Basket Eddy rounding out the event from 3 to 5 p.m.

If that isn’t enough to tantalize the senses and prompt that cozy fall feeling, attendees can also participate in a raffle to win donated items from a range of local businesses such as Gallery 104, Campbell Pottery and Wood- en Nickel Buffalo Farm.

So grab that warm sweater, put on those boots and embrace the fall at Goodell Gardens — and enjoy this “unique event in a beautiful location.” — Miriam Lamey

Noon to 5 p.m. // Goodell Gardens and Homestead // 221 Waterford Street East // (814) 734-6699 or goodellgardens.org

Saturday, Sept. 23

Erie Phil’s pop series kicks off with “A Night on Broadway”

Erie, it’s time for another season full of memorable music.

The Erie Philharmonic kicks off its 2017-18 Pops series with a Broadway tribute, which includes music from favorites like *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Music Man*. The September pop series show, called “A Night on Broadway,” stars Lisa Vroman, who has performed as Christine



in *The Phantom of the Opera* more than 2,500 times.

“Lisa Vroman, in her transformation from a shy chorus girl to a blooming diva is captivating as Christine ... her instrument is a beautiful one, full and sensuous and pure in both ‘Think of Me’ and ‘Angel of Music,’” wrote the San Francisco Chronicle’s Steve Winn about Vroman after one of those many *Phantom of the Opera* performances.

Vroman has certainly made a name for herself through that beloved musical, but she’s no stranger to other roles either. She’s played both Fantine and

Bargains By The Bay, 1835 W. 26th St. facebook.com.

North East Food Tours

Sept. 16 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Bean Coffee House, 12 S. Lake St. marathonliveentertainment.ticketleap.com.

Second Annual Wine & Brew Walk

Sept. 16 — 3 to 7 p.m.
Meadville-Western Crawford County Chamber of Commerce, 908 Diamond Pk. facebook.com.

Double Dulachan Anniversary Celebration

Sept. 16 — 2 p.m. to midnight
Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Farmer’s Table Wine Dinners

Sept. 19, 20 — 7 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Faculty Recital Series: Faculty Collage

Sept. 20 — 8 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

U.S Brig Niagara Happy Hour

Sept. 21 — 5 to 7 p.m.

Erie Yacht Club, 1 Ravine Dr. flagshipniagara.org.

Pizza Party

Sept. 21 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Celebrity Bartending Event

Sept. 22 — 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
La Nuova Aurora Club, 1518 Walnut St. ssnjnn.org.

North East Wine Festival

Sept. 22, 23, 24
Gibson Park, 44 W. Main St. nechamber.org.

Erie Food Tours

Sept. 23 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Craft Lager Fest

Sept. 23 — noon to 4 p.m.
Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Fundamental Food Safety

Sept. 26 — 1 to 2 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Mind, Body, Beer

Sept. 26 — 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.

No Game, No Life (2014)

Sept. 14 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret

Sept. 14 — 8:30 to 10 p.m.
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, 219 Meadville St. facebook.com.

Movies in the Arboretum

Sept. 15 — 7:30 to 10 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

The Navigator (1924)

Sept. 15 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

NT Live: Angels in America - Part Two: Perestroika

Sept. 17 — 12:55 p.m.
Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

Sept. 19 — 6 p.m.
Alex Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Bela Lugosi Double Feature: Murder by Television & Black Dragon

Sept. 21 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Sully

Sept. 24 — 1:30 p.m.
H.O. Hirt Auditorium in the Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

VISUAL ARTS

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition with Guest Alumni

Ongoing through Sept. 22
Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

8 Hour Projects: Beyond These Walls

Ongoing through Sept. 24
Doane Hall of Art at Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

Nailing Honey to the Bee

Ongoing through Sept. 30
Bruce Gallery, 215 Meadville St. facebook.com.

NPAA West Erie Biennial Exhibit

Ongoing through Sept. 30 (Reception Sept. 15 — 7 p.m.)
West Erie Plaza, 1000 W. Erie Plz. npaaonline.org.

Urban Landscapes

Ongoing through October 3 (Reception Sept. 22 — 7 to 10 p.m.)
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Pairing Similarities:

D.W. Martin

Ongoing through Oct. 21
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

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

Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.

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

Ancient Ink: Mark Perrott

Ongoing through January 28, 2018
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Presque Isle Artist Association Annual Art Show 2017

Sept. 16 through Oct. 21 (Reception Sept. 23 — 2 to 5 p.m.)
Kelly Run Art Gallery & Studio, 264 S. Main St. facebook.com.

Gallery Night

Sept. 22 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State

CALENDAR

Cosette in *Les Miserables* and Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* among other major parts in other notable musicals.

The pop series will feature five concerts from September to March. February's "Bugs Bunny at the Symphony

"A Night on Broadway" stars Lisa Vroman, who has performed as Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera* more than 2,500 times.

II" promises to entertain people of all ages, and surely, March's "Greatest Fantasy Hits" with music from *Lord of the Rings*, *Game of Thrones* and *Harry Potter* won't disappoint either.

The pop series' shows are interspersed with the 2017-18 symphonic series, which kicks off October 7 with selections from Beethoven. Later, this series will dive deeper with even more classical music. Its final of five concerts takes place in early April.

Erie Philharmonic executive director Steve Weiser encourages people of all ages to attend the shows.

"You'd be surprised how accessible and affordable it is," he said, adding

that it'd be the ideal date night. — Tracy Geibel

8 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // \$10-56 // 455-1375 // eriephil.org

Saturday, Sept. 23

2-Tone Army Hopes to Gain Recruits



Ska is an undeniably fun sound. There's just something about the brassy blare of horns and the guitar's upstrokes on the upbeats. It just wants to pick you ... up. It wants to make you dance too. Specifically, it wants to make you "skank," seeing your balled fists and bent elbows moving to the beat with your legs kicking in opposition. If you come down to the King's Rook Club on September 23, you'll get the picture pretty quickly.

Ska is commonly divided into three "waves." The first started in Jamaica in the 1960s and gave birth to rocksteady and ultimately, reggae. The second took place primarily in England with bands like the Specials and Madness. The third wave of ska can be traced to one band in particular, The Toasters. The band set the scene for hundreds of bands that blended punk and other sounds to danceable results. For a musical walk-through of ska's history, check out the band's track "Chuck Berry"

Founding the band in 1981, deep in the midst of the second wave, Rob "Bucket" Hingley, an Englishman living in New York City, has been the leader of The Toasters since their inception. The band takes its name from the rapid-fire style of Jamaican singing known as "toasting" (for a prime example, listen to future Piffers frontman Coolie Ranx' fantastic work on "Dub 56 - Chat Mix") If you grew up in the late 1990s, you might also recognize The Toasters' music from the children's show *KaBlam!* Fellow third-waves The Aquabats would later find success with a similar pairing in *Yo Gabba Gabba!* From kids to hardened skinheads, the band's high energy performances have been lighting up the faces of rudeboys for decades.

Finding a near-perfect opening band proved simple with the Buffalo septet The Abruptors. Having played Scotty's Martini Lounge to back-to-back packed houses, the band will have a little more room to spread out in the Rook's downstairs concert complex. Horn-friendly six-piece This American Song will play upstairs for a late night after party as well. So, whether you've put down your ska days years ago, or are a new recruit to the genre, get ready to pick it up. — Nick Warren

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // 21+ // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Saturday, Sept. 23

Drink Up at Lager Fest



Did you know that lagers are "the most difficult beers to make?" That's what Jason Lavery, president of

St.erieartmuseum.org.

Artists in Motion: Illustrations of Perilous Journeys

Sept. 25 through Oct. 22 (Reception Oct. 5 — 5 to 7 p.m.)

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

THEATER

Stupid F*cking Bird

Sept. 15, 16, 22, 23 — 8 p.m.

Dramashop, 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

A Canterbury Feast

Sept. 16, 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 11, 18 — 5:30 p.m. & Sept. 17 & Oct. 1, 22 & Nov. 5, 12 — 2:30 p.m. & Sept. 22, 29 & Oct. 6, 20, 27 & Nov. 3, 10, 17 — 7 p.m.

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

Enjoy It Now, Your Children Will Survive

Sept. 26, 27 & Oct. 10, 11, 25, 25 — noon & Oct. 14 — 5:30 p.m. & Oct. 15 — 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY

Quilting on the

Bayfront 2017

Ongoing through Sept. 16
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier
millcreeksew.com.

Albion Area Fair

Ongoing to Sept. 16
Albion Area Fairgrounds, 30 Academy St. albionfair.com.

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

Sept. 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Wednesday Walks in the Woods

Sept. 13, 16, 27 — 11 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Investigating a Family History

Sept. 13 — 3 to 4 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Farmers Market

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

Seeing with New Eyes Through Digital Photography

Sept. 13 — 6 to 8 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

'Enemies of the People? Journalism and Ethics'

Sept. 13 — 7 p.m.
Mercy Heritage Room, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Afghanistan: When and How will America's Longest War End?

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

Adult Art Classes

Sept. 13, 20, 27 — 7 to 9 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Speaker Series: Becky Hammon

Sept. 13 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
McGarvey Commons, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Weight Lifting/ Cardio Fitness Class

Sept. 14, 21, 28 & Oct. 5, 12,

19, 26 & Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 & Dec. 7, 14 — 9:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Nordic Walking

Sept. 14, 21 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Messy Church

Sept. 14 — 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S. Main St. stoneumc.org.

Saint Mary's Follies

Sept. 14 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier
stmaryshome.org.

Ceramics on the Wheel

Sept. 14 — 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Reminiscences of German Teacher, Grades 9 through college, by Charles Roehrl

Sept. 14 — 7 p.m.
Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. gcsoe.org.

American Short Stories

Sept. 14 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State

St.jeserie.org.

Single Voice Reading Series: Marshall & Scenters-Zapico

Sept. 14 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Tillotson Room of the Tippie Alumni Center, 520 N. Main St. sites.allegheeny.edu.

Tai Chi

Sept. 15, 22, 29 & Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 & Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 & Dec. 1, 8, 15 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
Regency at South Shore, 322 Washington Pl. lifeworkserie.org.

Erie Irish Festival

Sept. 15 — 5 to 11 p.m. & Sept. 16 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. & Sept. 17 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
St. Patrick Church, 130 E. 4th St. erieirishfestival.com.

U.S. Brig Niagara Public Day Sails

Sept. 15, 17, 23, 24, 30 & Oct. 1 — 1 to 5 p.m.
Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. flagshipniagara.org.

International Coastal Cleanup at Presque Isle and Erie Bluffs State Parks

Sept. 16 — 9 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Wholly Happy Festival

Sept. 16 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Erie Day School, 1372 W. 6th St. facebook.com.

3rd Annual Presque Isle Taekwondo Championship

Sept. 16 — 9:15 a.m.
Family First Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. volkenburgtaekwondo.com.

Shredding for Shriners

Sept. 16 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Shriners Hospitals for Children, 1645 W. 8th St. shrinershospitalsforchildren.org.

Annual Fall Book Drive

Sept. 16 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. facebook.com.

10th Annual Multicultural Asia Day

Sept. 16 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Experience Children's Museum, 420 French St. erieapaa.org.

Fall Harvest Festival

Sept. 16 — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Port Farms, 2055 Stone Quarry Rd. portfarms.com.

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Lavery Brewing Company explained. "They are simple yet elegant. [There's] nothing to hide behind on the brewing side, so you can really tell if a brewer is good at what they are doing by how well they make a pilsner or other lagers."

"There's nothing to hide behind on the brewing side, so you can really tell if a brewer is good at what they are doing by how well they make a pilsner or other lagers."

"They are also the most time-consuming of all beers to make," he adds, which is why you should take a moment to savor all things lager-related and the craft of lager-making at the second annual Craft Lager Fest. The festival was designed to coincide with Oktoberfest, and will feature a range of Lavery beers such as Rauch Lager Bier, Bulgar Display of Porter (Baltic porter), 814Pils, Boys from County

Helles, Dark Warrior Black Lager and others. From other breweries, guests can sip on Victory Prima Pils, Troegs Troegenator, Penn Brewery Kaiser Pils and more. In fact, 18 breweries total are confirmed. Just \$20 will get attendees unlimited beer samples from 12 to 4 p.m.

Need something to snack on with all that beer? The venue will be roasting a pig, so there is sure to be plenty of pork to go around, and all the eating and drinking will be complemented by Bavarian brass band "oompah" music. To work off some of the food and drink, lager lovers can join in traditional German drinking games like liter hoisting and keg rolling courses. — Miriam Lamey

Noon to 4 p.m. // Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W. 12th Street // (814) 454-0405 // \$20 // 21+ // laverybrewing.com

Sunday, Sept. 24

Kublai Khan Conquers Basement Transmissions

Sherman, Texas metalcore group Kublai Khan is returning to Base-



ment Transmissions, along with No Zodiac, Left Behind, and I Am, creating one of the heaviest lineups that Erie has seen in years.

Kublai Khan first invaded Erie in 2014, shortly after the release of their album *Balancing Survival and Happiness*, and are now returning just five days before the release of their upcoming album *Nomad*. The band has released two singles from the album, "Belligerent" and "The Hammer",

which rank among the heaviest in their discography.

The remaining touring acts, No Zodiac, Left Behind, and I Am, each play similar metal and hardcore hybrid genres — incredibly heavy, brutal, and headbang-and-mosh-worthy, but difficult to describe in ways discernible from one another. But that won't matter when your blood is pumping from the adrenaline rush fueled by their brutal riffs; all you'll know is that you want more.

Local opening acts on the show include Buffalonian downtempo/beatdown hardcore band Deadbeat, Lake Effect Hardcore up-and-comers Livid Life, and Familiar Dark, a new Erie-based deathcore band who just dropped their debut EP *The Wolves Among Us* early last month.

This show is stacked with an incredible lineup of bands ready to knock you off your feet. For any fan of heavy music, this is not a show you'll want to miss. — Tommy Shannon

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

Anxious Kids

Sept. 16 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Plasha Yoga, 3330 West 26th St. plashayoga.com.

Flagship Flea

Sept. 16 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Peach Street Neighborhood, 25th and Peach St. facebook.com.

Erie Wedding Flea Market

Sept. 17 — noon to 3 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. facebook.com.

12th Annual Homegrown Harvest Festival

Sept. 17 — noon to 5 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Rally Day

Sept. 17 — 1 to 3 p.m.
St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 950 W. 7th St. facebook.com.

Rediscovering War of 1812 Hero John Brooks Jr.

Sept. 18 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Fundraising Night to Support Team Sonny's Sunshine Light the Night Walk

Sept. 18 — 5 to 9 p.m.

Chipotle, 6611 Peach St. facebook.com.

Health & Wellness Series for Adults

Sept. 18, 25 & Oct. 2 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Fit for Life Fitness Class

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

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

Sept. 19 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Erie Health & Wellness Pavilion, 4247 W. Ridge Rd. reservations. highmarkblueshield.com.

Highmark Medicare Sales Seminar

Sept. 19 — 11 a.m. to noon
Highmark Health Insurance Direct Store, 5753 Peach St. reservations. highmarkblueshield.com.

The First 100 Years: An Economic History of Erie

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

2017 Expo and Flu Kickoff

Sept. 20 — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Erie Shrine Club, 2525 W. 38th St. lifeworkserie.org.

Introduction to Ceramics Handbuilding

Sept. 20 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Erie Clayspace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Understanding Prescription Drug Coverage

Sept. 20 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Millcreek Municipal Building, 3608 W. 26th St. lifeworkserie.org.

Improving Self-Esteem

Sept. 21 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Vinyl Palooza 4.0

Sept. 21 — 5 to 10 p.m.
21 la rue dix, 21 W. 10th St. earlyconnectionserie.org.

LSS Light The Night Walk In Memory of Sonata "Sonny" Belle Greishaw

Sept. 21 — 5:30 to 10 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. pages.lightthenight.org.

Labyrinth Celebration: Gratitude and Thanksgiving

Sept. 21 — 6 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Rocky LaPorte

Sept. 21 — 7 p.m. & Sept. 22, 23 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

ComiCon Erie

Sept. 22 — 2 to 8 p.m. & Sept. 23 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Sept. 24 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriepromotions.com.

2017 Season Sissons Pumpkin Patch

Sept. 23 through Oct. 29
Sissons Pumpkin Patch, 1244 Springfield Rd. sissons pumpkinpatch.com.

LuLaRoe Pop Up

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

9th Annual Community Wide Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child

Sept. 23 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Grace Church, 7300 Grubb Rd. whoisgrace.com.

Maritime Medicinals

Sept. 23 — 10 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Applefest

Sept. 23 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Camp Sherwin, 8600 W. Lake Rd. ymcaerie.org.

DiscoverE:

Animal Tracks

Sept. 23 — 11 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Honey Harvest Festival

Sept. 23 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

The Lights Festival

Sept. 23 — 4 to 9 p.m.
Erie County Fairgrounds, 13993 PA-8 thelightsfest.com.

Girls & Dolls Gala of America

Sept. 24 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Ambassador Conference Center, 7794 Peach St. girlsanddollsgala.com.

Calming Herbs for Stress and Frazzled Nerves

Sept. 24 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Erie Times News Career Fair

Sept. 25 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

Avoid the Winter Blues

Sept. 25 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Mutants, Cyborgs, and Genetic Purity: The Brave New World of Human Genetic Modification?

Sept. 25 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

The Slants Taking Their Trademark & First Amendment Rights Case to the U.S. Supreme Court

Sept. 26 — 5 to 6 p.m.
Gannon University Palumbo Academic Center Room 2005, 109 University Sq. eriebar.com.

Erie's Immigration: Change Makers or Threats to the Status Quo?

Sept. 26 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Trees: The Variety of Life

Sept. 27 — 9 to 10 a.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. lifeworkserie.org.

Remarkable Women: Geraldine Ferraro

Sept. 27 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Plenty to Brogue About

Irishfest offers up a pot of gold on its silver anniversary



FRIDAY, SEPT. 15

Have you ever been caught wearing white after Labor Day? Did you go red from embarrassment? Perhaps you were left feeling blue with the guilt that followed, lamenting your poor judgment. You could let your demons eat you alive (if only my haters could differentiate between “eggshell” and “pure white”) — or you could take up your staff and chase those serpents away at St. Patrick’s church, home of the Erie Irish Festival.

Green after Labor Day has always been fashionable at the Irishfest, which celebrates its silver anniversary (and “Halfway to St. Patty’s Day”) this year with the usual goldmine of entertainment. Music and dance is central to Irish culture, and the tunes will be kept flowing like the River Shannon over the weekend, from Friday’s bagpipers to Sunday’s concluding performance by the John Byrne Band. In between, you’ll witness performances by Bangerzz (neo-Celtic folk rock), Corned Beef & Curry (Pittsburghers specializing in Irish pub music), Celtic Creek (husband-wife duo of James and Elizabeth McQuiston on guitar and flute), Mo Chairde (instrumental reels, jigs, and polkas), and Irish step dancers from Rince Na Tiarna and Long’s School of Dance.

If you sense you’ve come to the party lacking the requisite Celtic thunder (as in pizzazz), by the time you leave the Vendor Village (featuring Irish clothing, jewelry, accessories, charms, trinkets, and more), you’ll be booming with pride.

Failing that, the “black stuff” (i.e., Guinness) usually helps festival-goers feel a little greener (or greener around the gills, if they’re not careful). For those who prefer a lighter tint to their pint, Harp, Smithwick’s, and Erie Brewing’s Bayfront Blonde and Irish Red will also be available (and Bud Light, too, as a parenthetical afterthought).

The “Taste of Ireland” menu complements the festival’s beer and whiskey selections with traditional dishes (Irish stew and shepherd’s pie) or more Americanized (i.e., “protein-packed”) fare, such as the Big Shillelagh Burger (Reuben ingredients stacked on top of burger) and the GBC Dog (Guinness beer cheese, corned beef, and scallions atop a Smith’s hot dog). Be sure to save

some room for dessert (Irish bread pudding and assorted baked goods) and — if you’re lucky — room in your schedule for a trip to Ireland (the weekend raffle’s grand prize).

Regardless of your relative fortunes (or the hue of your textiles), you and you wee ones (with a Leprechaun Village set up just for them) won’t be a wee bit disappointed with what promises to be the best Irishfest yet. — Matt Swanseger

Friday 5 to 11 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. // 130 E. 4th St. // erieirishfestival.com/new // free admission

Guests pose happily with St. Patrick (left), portrayed with love for many years by Our Lady of Peace parishioner Mark Borowy, who passed away in May of this year. Bands such as Pittsburgh’s Corned Beef and Curry (right) will fill the air with Celtic flair all weekend.



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More Stops than Ever for Latest Gallery Night

Art in abundance for local enthusiasts



From paintings to pottery, art connoisseurs will find plenty to appreciate during the Erie Art Museum's latest Gallery Night, held at various locations throughout town.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

With 20 participating locations, this month's Gallery Night has set a record for itself. Helmed by the Erie Art Museum, the evening offers guests a chance to check out a huge variety of exhibits, all for free. Whilst scoping out countless works of art, intrepid gallery crawlers will be treated to food and drink at many of the stops along the way.

- Allen Stoneware — ceramics artist Caelin McDaniel.
- Artlore Studio — music from Eric Brewer, and the "Analog 3-D" art of Jason Amatangelo.
- Bargains by the Bay — photography from photographers R.J. Bednez and Laura Gooley, along with painter Brian Payne.
- The Bayfront Gallery — Wilda Sundberg's "Wilda II" along with other local artists' works.
- Black Eagle Goods — *Lion's Tooth: The Art of Andrew Sonthiemer*, with screenprints of the talented local tattoo artist's work.
- The Crime Victim Center's gallery — works created during Mid-Day Dance Break boasting many popular local names.
- Dafmark Dance Theater — *Art in Motion!*, visual art with dance, music, and loom demonstrations.
- D'Hopkins Denniston Gallery Fine Art — Local jewelry and photography.
- Erie ClaySpace Studio — artists show off their craft (ceramics and pottery) and offer live wheel-throwing demos.
- eyewash projects — *FOTO BOOTH*, variations on the theme of "selfies" with altered portraiture.
- Glass Growers Gallery — the organic landscapes of Geoff Dunn and Barbara Yerace.
- West Erie Plaza — works from the Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists

Association.

- Pointe Fourre Vintage Boutique — street couture designed by Jon Box.
- Presque Isle Gallery & Gifts — paintings by Narayan Plasha.
- The Schuster Gallery at Gannon University — The Lake Erie Fiber Arts Guild's *Cut from the Same Cloth*.
- SOVEREIGN Ballet — *A Tribute to the Greats* will employ dancers displaying poses used by key choreographers.
- Traditions Unlimited — *The Art of Aging*, work from twelve artists over 55.
- U Frame It & The Poster Annex — *The Year in A Life: What I Saw and What I Thought* by Matt Lebowitz (with after-party).
- V Gallery at the Village West Plaza — local photographers with *Remix of LOCAL Image Makers*.



While many nationally-recognized artists will be on display, local creators will also be quite well-represented, many of them in attendance. Opportunities to socialize will abound, with chances to ask the artists any well-thought-out questions you might have. The more introverted crowd, though, will find it just as easy to quietly take in any of the works they so desire, methodically tracing the walls to find their favorite pieces. Whatever your style is, there's probably something for you out in one of the 20 locations around town. — Nick Warren

7 to 10 p.m. // various locations // Free // 459.5477 // erieartmuseum.org/events-gallery-night/

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SUNDAY

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'Grape' Times In North East

WineFest raises a glass to its 36th year



FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

After Labor Day it can feel as though the festivities of summer are nothing but memories in your rearview mirror. "Hold my pumpkin spice latte," September in Erie says, and we enter into a different kind of festival season — one with a chillier bite in the air, shades of red, orange and yellow, and perhaps an ever-so-slightly more appreciative attitude, as we recognize the days of clear roads and light jackets are slipping by quickly.

The North East Area Chamber of Commerce's Wine Country Harvest Festival — or WineFest, as it is familiarly known — is undoubtedly one of the most popular and beloved of these autumnal events, and this year marks the 36th occasion. The second-to-last Friday, Saturday and Sunday in September might as well just be renamed WineFest Weekend, as tens of thousands are expected to fill the event's dual locations: Gibson Park, which is in downtown North East and Gravel Pit Park, just a mile-and-a-half west.

The North East Chamber of Commerce's marketing coordinator, Katie Houpt, loves that there are two different areas in which to celebrate one festival, citing the "family-friendly feel" of Gibson Park (which features children's activities) and the "fast-paced" environment of Gravel Pit Park as an enjoyable arrangement that offers something for everyone. As part of the team that orchestrates this now-enormous event, Houpt mentioned that planning for the following year's WineFest occurs almost as soon as the current year's ends. "We are constantly think-



Oenophiles will get their fill at the 36th edition of Winefest, which uncorks the festivities Sept. 22 at North East's Gravel Pit and Gibson parks.

ing of what we can do to make the event even more successful and make sure everyone attending has a great experience," she said.

That dedication and thoughtfulness pays off every time, and this year WineFest has some pretty exciting variations on their usual theme. In addition to the tents, food stands and craft vendors, for the first time this year wineries will be allowed to serve hard cider. There is a brand new North East-based winery in attendance, Yori Wine Cellars, and for fans of local rock n' roll, this year's



Battle of the Bands winner Six Year Stretch will be headlining the Gravel Pit Park stage on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Of course, all the activities that guests have come to know and love will be available as well, including free winery tours, grape stomping, 20+ other musical acts, the 5K run, and Sunday's car cruise-in. The Stomp-Off competition is slated for noon on Saturday, and entrants can register online at the North East Chamber of Commerce's website.

Tickets for WineFest are already on sale, and can be purchased through the North East Area Chamber of Commerce's office, Erie County First National Bank locations and any of the participating wineries in our area. — Cara Suppa

Friday at 4 p.m., Saturday at 11 a.m., Sunday at noon // 2 Gibson Street, North East & 10300 West Main Road, North East // General Admission \$5 in advance, \$7 at the gate; Wine Tasting Day Passes \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate; Weekend Passes \$50, only in advance // nechamber.org/pages/AboutWineFest

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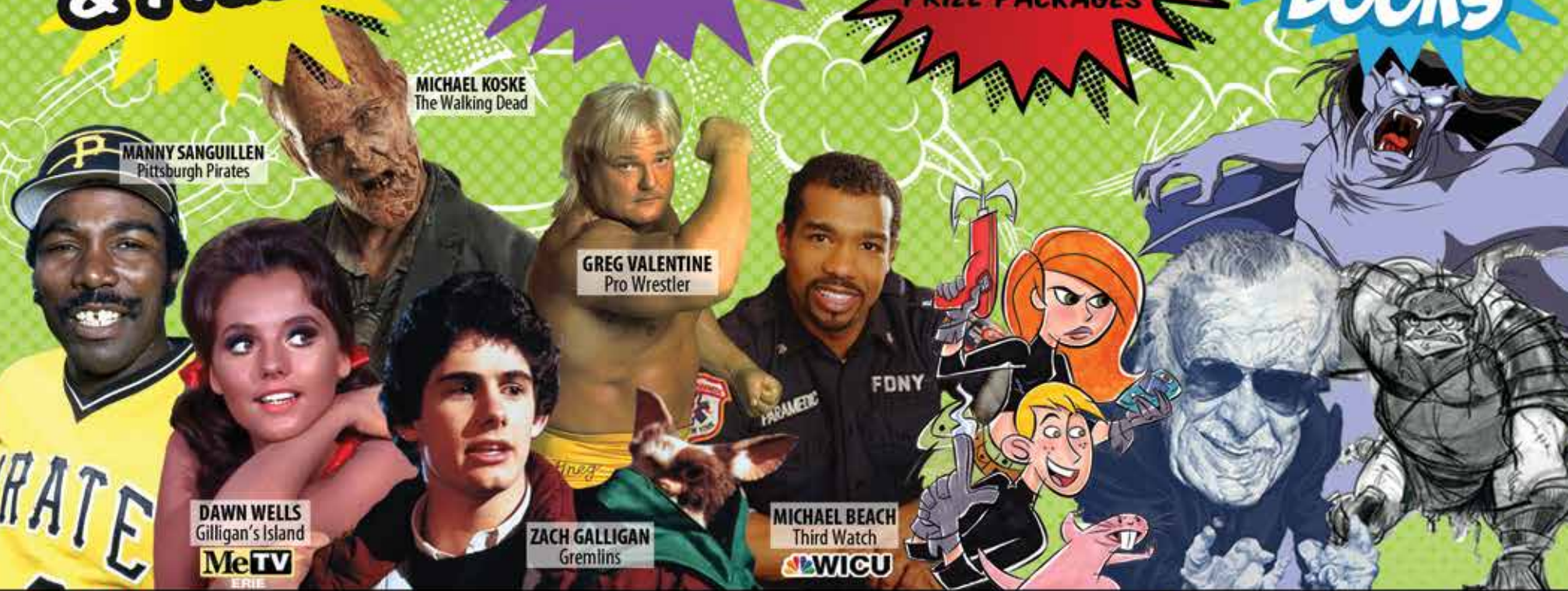
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Bending The Narrative With The Slants

Asian-American band breaks barriers



Slants bassist and TEDxErie alum, Simon Tam (front) will be speaking at Gannon University prior to the band's performance at Basement Transmissions.

Muse, and Michael Jackson, this band is monumental.

As a multi-faceted group, The Slants take on many faces as a

collective and artistic ensemble. Using their platform to speak out about racism and inequality amongst minorities and people of color, their music and motivations give voice to those without one. As well, they initiate conversation regarding the immense lack of recognition of Asian-American artists as well as Asian-American commu-

nities in this country. From their Supreme Court battle to legally acquire the band's name to the messages that they spread through merely existing, they are constantly making waves toward equality and representation of marginalized peoples.

As a young child, Simon Tam — the band's creator and bassist — dreamed of becoming a musician. As he moved toward adolescence, he was gifted his first bass guitar. However, when he wasn't playing or dreaming of taking the stage, he volunteered at nonprofit organizations in order to help those in need. These early passions prefaced his life of music and activism and served as the catalysts behind one of the first internationally-touring Asian dance-rock bands in the world. Jon Box, founder of THE BOX Street Couture — which will be sponsoring the show — finds inspiration from their mission: "Their (The Slants) perseverance to not let the system dictate their rights as artists to name their band as they prefer

has been an inspiration. As an artist, it is important to have the freedom and defend our creative rights. Along with colleague Bigg Wash, we feel that local Erie artists needs to hear their story."

Before the show from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tam will be speaking at Gannon University regarding the band's Supreme Court case that, after fighting tooth and nail, landed in their favor this summer. The event takes place at the Gannon University Palumbo Academic Center in Room 2005. Registration begins at 5:00 and admission is free to Gannon students and the general public. After the event, head over to Basement Transmissions where The Slants will hit the stage along with local hip-hop artists Doc Proto and Charles Brown (C. Brown), the purple-jam-birthered MotherBox, and hip-hop/jam hybrids The LEC. — Maddie Hepler

7 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$7 pre-sale, \$10 at the door // All ages

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Making music is only one small part of what makes The Slants sublime. Rising and resisting out of Portland, Oregon, this all Asian-American dance-rock band will be playing at Basement Transmissions. Obtaining artistic influence from Neon Trees, Passion Pit,



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Write Into It

Artists reflect on their favorite compositions



Hip-hop artist K-Sanz wrote "Windows Down" as an ode to good times passed, in an effort to "escape [his] current reality."

gether before on other songs. When I posted the song, Kue messaged me about a day later I think and asked if he could try something on it. I obviously said yes and the rest is history!

CB: Do you feel that this song is the best representation of who you are as an artist?

KS: Yeah, I have a diverse catalog but my signature sound has always been a cool, laid-back feel. The song and video match perfectly. Anyone [who] knows me knows that I'm a good-time guy. This song is so laid-back and relaxing that you can't help but feel good. On the lyrical side I feel properly represented. Flow shows off a lot of multis, punches, alliteration, wordplay, tongue flips. I feel if you showed it to a hip-hop head they would love it and so would casual listeners.

CB: Though "Windows Down" is a laid-back jam, you still decided to use various flows to highlight your skills. Was that intentional?

KS: The variations of flow honestly [weren't] intentional at all. A lot of times when I write, I kind of just go with it. I guess it just kind of went with the rhythm and feel of the song and it caught me just right.

CB: When is the perfect time to throw this song on in your opinion?

KS: The most perfect, best time to listen to this song is on a chill summer day. Right as you crank the car on, roll the windows down, pick up your favorite chick, blast the stereo and cruise! It just washes the stress of the day away. Almost like a time machine slowing everything down. Well, that's when I would play it. I guess it's a perfect "unwind" song.

Watch the video for "Windows Down" feat. Jonah Kue on YouTube and find it on all streaming services. Charles Brown can be contacted at charlesbrowncj@gmail.com

By: Charles Brown

K-Sanz, Hip-Hop Artist

"Windows Down" ft Jonah Kue (prod. by New Dersey)

We sippin' under porch lights, no sleep but it's medicated dreams, double cups means lean, and I hold it by the seams of my jeans and my teams all Kareems, and we living by the C.R.E.A.M. ("Cash rules everything around me")

Charles Brown: K-Sanz, it's a pleasure to have you on board with this interview. Let's talk about your personal favorite, "Windows Down" featuring Jonah Kue. This song definitely has a cool summer vibe. What made you want to create this piece?

K-Sanz: Thank you! Honestly this song came about during one of the lowest moments in my adult life. I was stressed and in a situation that I couldn't figure out. So I laid back in bed, played some smooth beats on my laptop, then spent the few hours daydreaming about some of my favorite moments in life. Long summer days, cruising with a dope chick in my custom built cars, windows down music blasting, drinks and "stuff" with the homies on the porch, the fun of the "chase" with a gorgeous girl ... even if it was just to hang out. I basically wrote that song for myself to escape my current reality.

CB: Chicago's Jonah Kue blessed the hook. I don't think anyone can go wrong with him. What made you think of him for the chorus?

KS: Actually Jonah Kue approached me for the hook. We had worked to-

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Wind River Intrigues, But Fails To Captivate

★★★★

Taylor Sheridan is obsessed with characters at the end of their rope. The bleak scenery and broken people of *Sicario* and *Hell or High Water* (both written by Sheridan) are testament to that, but his directorial debut *Wind River* gives us possibly his most desperate story yet.



The film follows a veteran game tracker (Jeremy Renner) and an out-of-her-element FBI agent (Elizabeth Olsen) as they team up with tribal police in their search for a teenage girl's killer somewhere on a Wyoming Indian reservation. The story couldn't be simpler, but it works, thanks mainly to the actors. Renner is a particular standout as the hard-bitten survivalist and Olsen does a fine job in her fish-out-of-water role. Also, veteran character actor Graham Greene is great in his supporting role as a world-weary police chief.

Sheridan makes great use of the snow-covered Wyoming (filmed in Utah) wilderness, giving us locations that are just as grim and miserable as the mystery our heroes are slowly uncovering. That being said, this is clearly a directorial debut as Sheridan doesn't really attempt anything unique or interesting with the filmmaking. It's surprisingly flat and lifeless and at times it feels less like a theatrical release and more like a pilot for *CSI: Wyoming*.

All in all, *Wind River* is a tense and intriguing procedural film (until the end when it goes a little off the rails into action/revenge territory). There's nothing special about it, but if that's your thing you can find a lot to like. — Forest Taylor

Written and directed by: Taylor Sheridan // Starring: Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen // 107 minutes

Good Time Will Make You Feel Horrible

★★★★

Good Time, the new film from Benny and Josh Safdie (*Heaven Knows What*) is a fast-paced, frenetic and ultimately miserable film that will most likely make you feel awful after seeing it. The film follows Connie Nikas (Robert Pattinson in a wonderfully sleazy performance) as he tries desperately to get his mentally-challenged brother out of prison after a botched bank robbery, only to have things go from bad to worse as he falls into increasingly horrible predicaments through the course of twenty-four nightmarish hours.



The film has the look and music of a 1980s Michael Mann crime film, but it is shot in a Paul Greengrass style, with lots of tight, hand-held shots and fast editing. The result is a dizzying and confusing, but still very stylish film that moves fast; in my opinion too fast. Because the film never takes the time to breathe, we never really get to meet the characters beyond their most basic characteristics. We never even learn why these brothers are robbing the bank in the first place. It makes for a frustratingly sparse experience. It's just scene after scene of despicable characters getting themselves into deeper and deeper trouble with no real point or purpose. Think *After Hours* but without any of the biting humor.

In the end, *Good Time* will make you feel exhausted, frustrated and a little bad about the world and humanity in general. Some people may see that as an endorsement but for me, it was somehow both too much and not enough. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Benny Safdie, Josh Safdie // Written by: Ronald Bronstein, Josh Safdie // Starring: Robert Pattinson, Benny Safdie, Taliah Webster // 101 minutes

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Sept. 13 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Afghanistan: When and How will America's Longest War End?
Sept. 18 / 4-5:30 p.m.	Rediscovering War of 1812 Hero John Brooks Jr.
Sept. 19 / 7-8:30 p.m.	The First 100 Years: An Economic History of Erie
Sept. 25 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Mutants, Cyborgs, and Genetic Purity: The Brave New World of Human Genetic Modification?
Sept. 26 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Erie's Immigration: Change Makers or Threats to the Status Quo?
Sept. 27 / 4-5:30 p.m.	Remarkable Women: Geraldine Ferraro
Oct. 2 / 7-8:30 p.m.	ALT-Life: Navigating Race, Class, and Twitter in the Age of Trump
Oct. 9 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Divergent Paths to Knowledge and Wisdom: Science and Art as Tools of Learning
Oct. 11 / 7-8:30 p.m.	The Red and the Blue: Which Americans Vote for Which Party and Why?
Oct. 12 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Father or Felon: Understanding Community Re-entry for Incarcerated African American Men
Oct. 17 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Erie Mayoral Candidates Debate Between R. John Persinger and D. Joe Schember

MUSIC REVIEWS

Brockhampton
Saturation II
 Question Everything, Inc.

★★★★★

Brockhampton sound a lot stranger on paper than they do on record. Self-described as an



"all-American boy-band" led by hip-hop artist Kevin Abstract, the collective employs seven different creators (be they rappers, singers or producers) of varying races and sexual orientations. That last bit is important solely due to how large of a part it plays in their music. "Why you always rap about being gay?"/"Cause not enough n*ggas rap and be gay," Abstract declares on "Junky," the lead single from the collective's second album of the summer, *Saturation II*. The song is one of Brockhampton's strongest yet, with members Abstract, Ameer Vann, Merlyn Wood and Matt Champion tip-toeing across an eclectic Danny Brown-esque beat. As a whole, Brockhampton is already getting plenty of comparisons to the now defunct Odd Future, but Brockhampton sets themselves apart by avoiding Odd Future's re-appropriated hate speech and bending the space between hip-hop, R&B and pop – sometimes all within the same track ("Summer"). Put simply, within their first year of existence, Brockhampton holds the potential to be the future of hip-hop. We'll know more when they drop *Saturation III*, also slated for release before the year's end. — Aaron Mook

LCD Soundsystem
American Dream
 DFA Records

★★★★★

American Dream is the third album released by a prominent indie musician this year to touch upon



the relationships between art and entertainment, humanity and technology, advertising and "infinite content." The reception of these albums has been mixed; many lauded Father John Misty's *Pure Comedy* as one of 2017's best despite questioning its condescending tone, while Arcade Fire's *Everything Now* was widely panned for similar reasons, including a surface-level "woke-ness." *American Dream*, the highly-anticipated fourth album from LCD Soundsystem finds itself somewhere in the middle, undoubtedly genuine but also sterile in execution. *American Dream* is at its best when frontman James Murphy emphasizes his human elements. "See, mother was a cripple and my father was a drunk but gentle man/So we do the best we can," Murphy croons on the standout track "Call the Police." Later, on the 12-minute closing track "Black Screen," Murphy eulogizes his collaborative relationship and friendship with the late David Bowie. It's a gorgeous send-off filled with warm, expansive synthesizers, but elsewhere, the arrangements feels cold, empty even. Still, *American Dream* offers a unique blend of its most prominent influences, refreshing and suitable for Murphy's most eager disciples. — Aaron Mook

Iron & Wine
Beast Epic
 Sub Pop

★★★★★

Some fans might argue that, somewhere along the way, Sam Beam lost the plot.



This is a bit of an unfair assumption considering artists owe it to themselves to experiment and grow before they owe us anything, but on the sixth Iron & Wine album, *Beast Epic*, Beam seems content to meet us halfway. It's not even that the moniker's past three albums were bad – *The Shepard's Dog* and *Kiss Each Other Clean* remain fan favorites – it's just that this folk project evolved from an acoustic guitar and four-track recorder to a fully-fleshed, jazz infused indie-pop outfit quickly. Fans of Beam (and particularly his first two albums) will be happy to hear that *Beast Epic* acts as a retrospective bridge between 2004's *Our Endless Numbered Days* and 2007's *The Shepard's Dog*, a sparse revival that is occasionally marked by rustic strings and blues cadences. Even Beam's lyrical abilities return to their roots, with opening tracks "Claim Your Ghost" and "Thomas County Law," showcasing Beam's impeccable storytelling. *Beast Epic* may not surpass the past three Iron & Wine albums in scope or ambition, but its restraint is an exercise in quality control that places it among Beam's best. — Aaron Mook

Queens of the Stone Age
Villains
 Matador

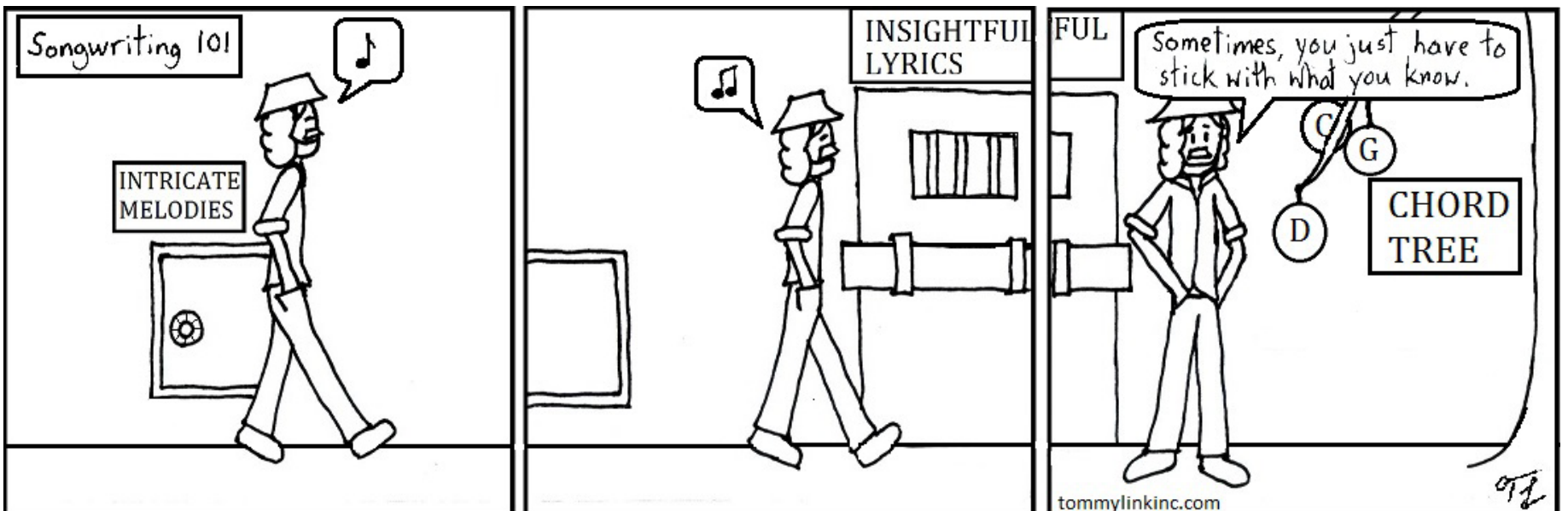
★★★★★


For those who were raised on the drop-tuned, riff-laden stoner metal of *Rated R* and *Songs for the Deaf*, the notion of Queens of the Stone Age as a dance band may appall you. Prepare to be aghast, headbangers, because that is exactly what they've become on *Villains*.



Crucify them as you might for the stylistic shift, but *Villains* is still undeniably Queens of the Stone Age in attitude, a credit to mega-producer Mark Ronson (whose clients have included Bruno Mars, Lady Gaga, and Amy Winehouse, among others). Although synthesizers play a larger role than ever (after being used as an accent on the 2013 masterpiece ... *Like Clockwork*), don't expect the bright, shiny tones of EDM or Eurotrance here. *Villains* sounds as if Queens of the Stone Age stumbled upon equipment Gary Numan or Devo abandoned to the sands of time, promptly hauled back to their desert outpost to be restored and repurposed. Even the "dancier" tunes are suffused with the cool menace that has long been mastermind Josh Homme's trademark (the aptly funky opener "Feet Don't Fail Me," the scuzzy ballroom swing of "The Way You Used To Do"). Sure, *Villains* may be a bit slicker than Queens of the Stone Age fans are used to, but there's still plenty of grease and grime beneath that polish. — Matt Swanseger

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