

The only local voice for news, arts, and culture

A large, stylized, white letter 'R' is set against a dark red square background. The 'R' is bold and has a slight shadow effect, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. It is positioned in the upper left corner of the page.

ERIE READER

Sep. 27 - Oct. 10 // Vol. 7, No. 20 // ErieReader.com

A black and white photograph of a man in a cap and light-colored shirt climbing onto a train car. He is holding onto the edge of the car with one hand and has a bag slung over his shoulder. Another person is visible on the train car above him, also holding onto the edge. The background shows the side of a train car with rivets and a door.

Erie's
KING
of the
HOBBOES

Reliving the legacy of "A-No. 1"

Leon Ray Livingston

THE OCTOBER SURPRISE

A last ditch effort for Family First?

TIMBERFISH RISES TO THE SURFACE

Revolutionary aquaculture process evolves

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



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From the Editors

The tweet of the wild

Chapter 1: Into the cosmopolitan

*Old history's roaming hop,
Jumping on moving trains;
Again from digital sleep
Begs a new soccer game.*

Chuck did not read newspapers; they were fake news, he was told. If so, he would've had an inkling that something bad was brewing, not simply for himself, but for every yellow dog democrat, snowflake in constitution with warm, hearty empathy, from Williamsburg to San Diego. Because men, groping in the Korean darkness, had found a fissile material, and because reporters and bloggers alike were booming the find, thousands of men and women were rushing onto the Internet. These writers wanted leads, and the leads they wanted were clickable, with coordinated hashtags to aid their search engine optimization.

Chuck lived in a vastly overpriced McMansion on the edge of sun-kissed Mar-a-Lago. Judge Donald's place, it was called — though not by many. It stood far back from the gated entrance, half-hidden among the palm trees, through the fronds could be caught glimpses of the tastelessly gaudy swimming pool that sat near the front garden. Some miles away lie train tracks, which wound about through far-reaching fields and under the unforgiving Florida sun. In the distance, barely visible was a retreating boxcar, one that Chuck had heard tales of. Tales of roaming tramps traversing the world for pennies a day. Such was the stuff of legend, of yarns woven detailing the exploits of souls like Leon Ray Livingston. A man called Jonathan Burdick had told of Livingston, the "gentleman hobo" known as "A-No.1" many years ago.

And it was for this that Chuck yearned for. Here he was born, and here he had to endure three more years of such mind-boggling insanity. It was true, he was a dog. But the gross ineptitude hurtled forth from the property owner's mouth — as well as from his phone — was inescapable by man or beast. There had been a great many dogs on the property even during the course of Chuck's short tenure at the estate. There had gone before him many. One, named Wertz, came from the north, and told Chuck about a once-successful sports complex, which had gone about seeking money from local grants. Born of many a breed, there were countless stories to tell, those of neighborhood bars closing their doors, of delicious new cuisines inspired by faraway lands, of new innovations in areas of study known as aquaculture.

There existed beyond these grounds a better life for Chuck, and as he decided to leave, he knew he would not be alone. When the Indian summer nights ceased and the trolls argued without a faint ring of humanity, he knew he would be running at the head of the pack through the fading sunlight and shimmering star glow, now able to discern from fiction and satire alike, the truth, which is the song of the pack.

*With all apologies to the late Jack London,
real-life friend of Leon Ray Livingston.*

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Erie At Large

The October surprise: a last-ditch effort for Family First?



Missing pieces: while still in operation, Family First Sports Park faces issues of disrepair and underuse.

By Jim Wertz

Dan Laughlin called it an “October Surprise.”

It was this time last year and the administration of Erie’s Public Schools was experiencing its most dire financial crisis in the district’s history. Facing crumbling infrastructure, rising subsidies paid to charter schools, and an increasing chasm between state funding and the cost of doing “business,” administrators thought that to meet minimum operational standards they might have to make difficult decisions, including closing the city’s four high schools and busing those students to surrounding high schools. Both the administration and the regional public looked to its legislative delegation in Harrisburg to mitigate, if not outright solve, the problem.

The October surprise that provoked the ire of then-candidate Dan Laughlin came when then-State Senator Sean Wiley lauded a \$3 million grant he had helped secure for the Greater Regional Erie Athletic Team Training, Inc. — also known as G.R.E.A.T.T. — through the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP).

“Sean Wiley has no business boasting about handing out \$3 million hard-earned state tax dollars to a well connected few,” Laughlin said in a press release last October. “That he did so at a time our public schools are struggling for funds tells us that Sean Wiley’s values and priorities are out of sync with his district.”

As opponents of Laughlin pointed out, the RACP funds could not have gone to the school district. As is true in too much of the state’s budgeting process, money for the schools had to come from somewhere else. This money and that money were, well, different money.

Dan Laughlin knew that too.

RACP is a state-run economic development program that holds as its mission the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects.

G.R.E.A.T.T., a 501(c)3 non-profit, has plans to turn the defunct Family First Sports Park into a multi-sport athletic training facility that holds ice hockey as its focal point.

G.R.E.A.T.T. had its non-profit status revoked in May 2017 after failing to file required paperwork for three consec-

utive years. G.R.E.A.T.T.’s president, local attorney Robert Catalde, told local media that the organization had been advised they didn’t need to file an IRS Form 990 because they hadn’t accepted any revenue during those years. The organization has since reapplied for its tax-exempt status.

State dollars were, in this case, being used to financially support a plan that had demonstrated, in various iterations, that it did not have the support of the market. Indoor golf, outdoor recreation, rock walls, and summer camps, all at one time or another failed to sustain the maintenance and operation of the Family First facility.

G.R.E.A.T.T.’s RACP proposal had its shepherds in State Representative Ryan Bizzarro and then-State Senator Sean Wiley.

Laughlin’s point was that Wiley and

company were investing their time and effort, and the state’s resources, to support a business plan that had little evidence of succeeding at a time when there was a clear and present need to support the single most important institution of this, or any, city — our public schools.

“Public dollars should go to public needs, such as our schools,” Laughlin said. “We are constantly being promised that these kinds of grants will create jobs and, too often, they only benefit a select few. Our state tax dollars shouldn’t be used to choose winners and losers in the marketplace.”

State dollars were, in this case, being used to financially support a plan that had demonstrated, in various iterations, that it did not have the support of the market. Indoor golf, outdoor recreation, rock walls, and summer camps, all at one time or another failed to sustain the maintenance and operation of the Family First facility.

Family First Sports Park opened in 1994 and for a number of years hosted major soccer tournaments throughout the summer months and served a variety of athletic leagues and training camps. But over time, the number of major events coming to Erie dwindled and now to call the facility underutilized would be an understatement.

Most involved with the facility during the golden years blame the things they couldn’t control for their loss. There was a dearth of competition and hotel prices scaled with increased demand leaving the otherwise inexpensive region out of economic reach for tournament-goers who historically spent multiple days and nights dumping tourist dollars into hotels and restaurants in every municipality from Meadville to North East.

By 2005, the park’s owner, Gary Renaud, literally could not give it away. He offered Family First to the YMCA of Erie County, but its board of directors voted against the acquisition because the deal Renaud offered includ-

NICK WARREN



NICK WARREN

Along the center entrance to sports complex, a giant-sized soccer ball looms over the emptied swimming pool.

apply numbers to pencil and paper and come up with numbers[sic]...but I can tell you that the impact of this thing is so broad-based, were it not to move forward, it would probably be the biggest mistake that this county has made in my 40 years of public service.”

Many of these folks got to know the program director and president of G.R.E.A.T.T., Robert Catalde, during the time when he was appointed Erie County Clerk of Courts and Sean Wiley was the Director of Administration for Erie County government. Catalde is also a long-time officer of Erie Youth Hockey, which would be, no doubt, a primary consumer of ice time at the new facility.

The anecdotal success of this project is immeasurable based upon the political support G.R.E.A.T.T. has received. But the numbers, those pencil and paper numbers — those are something else, and there are two critical numbers that are necessary to make this project a success: 16 and 124.

The proposal promises that a professional third-party rink management group, Rink Management Services Corporation, which manages sports complexes nationwide, will run the new facility. But their ability to manage the rink is contingent upon G.R.E.A.T.T.'s ability to complete the \$16 million in renovations it has promised.

The G.R.E.A.T.T. argument is predicated upon a renovation plan that first replaces two indoor soccer fields with two indoor hockey pads. But consultants for G.R.E.A.T.T. admit that a stand-alone ice facility will not be supported by the market. That makes the other athletic areas — four gymnasiums, four adaptable baseball diamonds, a wheelchair-accessible baseball diamond, indoor playing fields, beach volleyball courts, a full service restaurant, and a fitness center — critical to the park's success. Without those renovations, G.R.E.A.T.T. could lose its partner and taxpayers will once again be on the hook for their contribution to regional economic development.

The second critical number is the 124 post-construction full-time jobs

averaging approximately \$38,000 that G.R.E.A.T.T. promises to be a result of this development. It was undoubtedly a major factor in securing the state's RACP money and it's the greatest long-term economic impact that the project offers the region. But those numbers are based on maximum local-use and a dozen or more major tournaments returning to Family First.

An organization with 124 employees would be one of the largest commercial enterprises in the region. As if sustaining that level of employment isn't difficult enough, there is no guarantee that the park's third party operator would choose to operate by employing salaried labor at that level.

I don't want to be uncharitable to this cause, but there's probably a rea-

An organization with 124 employees would be one of the largest commercial enterprises in the region. As if sustaining that level of employment isn't difficult enough, there is no guarantee that the park's third party operator would choose to operate by employing salaried labor at that level.

son most sport parks in America are staffed primarily by retirees and college students.

To be sure, a successful venture at Family First would be a welcome win for the region and 124 living-wage jobs doing something so playful is a pretty powerful prescription for the crisis of confidence that often undergirds the community's collective consciousness.

Nevertheless, community stakeholders and, in particular, those charged with minding the well-being of the community by virtue of elected office should be asking where the matching private financial interests are in this project. To date, no one is putting skin in the game.

The lack of ownership over the project is disconcerting. Even Attorney Catalde's claim that there was confusion about whether or not it had to file an IRS 990 form when it had no revenues to report lacks merit. The direc-

ed the park's debt of more than \$7.5 million.

In 2007, Renaud sold his interest to his brother, Glen, who is now in the process of selling the Family First assets to G.R.E.A.T.T.

Neither G.R.E.A.T.T. or Glen Renaud has yet to disclose exactly how the debt that prohibited the transfer of power to the YMCA figures into the purchase and renovation of Family First assets.

In 2010, park operations were assumed by two long term employees who formed an LLC to operate the facility but ultimately had trouble meeting the monthly rent payments of more than \$33,000. One of those operators, Gary Smallshaw, told the Erie Times News in 2015, "If I had it to do over again, I would run 55 miles in the opposite direction."

Current debt service estimates in G.R.E.A.T.T.'s \$7.6 million Family First proposal have the group paying \$29,121 per month over 20 years for the facility, based on \$4.6 million in financing

and the \$3 million RACP funding and additional \$500,000 from the Summit Township Industrial and Economic Development Authority. That price tag includes \$3.25 million for the property and another \$4 million-plus in initial renovations and operating losses as the facility moves toward its projected optimal usage. Total costs of purchase and renovation are expected to reach \$16 million. To date, no private investment has been committed to the project.

The G.R.E.A.T.T. project has, indeed, received widespread political support. In addition to Wiley and Bizzarro, the project has been endorsed by State Rep. Pat Harkins, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie City Councilman Bob Merski, VisitErie President and CEO John Oliver, and the Erie Times News.

When the group went before the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Board of Directors for additional grant funding, State Rep. Flo Fabrizio told the board, "I know you want to

NEWS & VIEWS

tions on the form clearly state that "In general, organizations excepted from filing Form 990 or 990-EZ because of low gross receipts must submit Form 990-N."

G.R.E.A.T.T. continues to seek public funding to leverage the project and to secure additional financing from a bank. At this moment, if the Family First plan succeeds, G.R.E.A.T.T. stands to see a sound return on the public's investment. If it doesn't, only the taxpayers go away without being made whole.

In some ways, this all has an air similar to the much-vaunted juice plant that Florida developer Herb Fiss promised in 2006 to bring first to the city of Erie, then to Erie County, then not at all because the state revoked its \$3.15 million subsidy package from the project.

Or maybe it's more analogous to the 2006 Kohler Brewery Square Project at the site of the old Kohler Brewery on upper State Street. That project absorbed approximately \$1.2 million in local, state, and federal money before the Pennsylvania Department of Eco-

nomie and Community Development stopped disbursing a low interest loan to developers, who to-date have defaulted on repayment of the \$500,000 they did receive.

The difference is that G.R.E.A.T.T. is developing infrastructure that already exists. If Family First does not have a renaissance as an athletic training facility, what will it become?

But if this project has all the makings of a big win for Erie, why is there no private investment? Why is the G.R.E.A.T.T. board of directors — comprised of prominent attorneys and local businesspeople — not establishing a consortium of private investors rather than a 501(c)3 non-profit that is currently backed only by public funds to make this dream of theirs a reality?

The answers to those questions might be buried somewhere in the debts that have the current private interests at Family First skating on thin ice.

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

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My Vision for Erie

Mayoral candidate outlines mission objectives



NICK WARREN

By: Joe Schember

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform our city. Erie can become a city with good, family-sustaining jobs, safe and welcoming neighborhoods, and great schools.

The mayor will have a vital role in leading Erie's transformation. As your next mayor, I will:

Be active, visible, and listen to the people. Within the first 100 days, I will conduct meetings in every neighborhood to gain input on our plans to implement Erie Refocused. I will take into account the concerns and dreams of Erie residents. For instance, how can we implement things like code enforcement to improve our neighborhoods without offending or burdening residents? I know I can't make everyone happy. But I can listen to everyone and then make the decisions that are best for Erie.

Bring thousands of good, family-sustaining jobs to our city. The private sector will create these jobs. I will facilitate the process by being a champion for businesses. We will update City Hall technology, streamline and automate processes, modernize our website, and create a City Hall culture based on helping residents.

Think regionally. Silo mentality and turf protection will be things of the past. I will meet weekly with the county executive and build relationships with officials in surrounding municipalities. Once we've built trust, we can work together for the good of our con-

stituents and shared region.

Plan Erie's future. We have to stop living year-to-year. We must decide where we want to be five, 10, 15 years in the future, and then start working to get there. To accomplish this, I will do two things. First, I will assess staff roles/responsibilities to reorganize into a more efficient service delivery model and integrate three new positions: A full-time Planner, Grant Writer, and Business Development Officer. Second, I will run the city more like a business. For instance, we will set goals at the beginning of the year for each employee and evaluate their performance based on these mutually-agreed goals. I have promised positions to no one. If elected, I will choose a professional staff based on their ability to perform at the highest level.

If elected, I am committed to serving three terms to complete our transformation. With my experience, energy, and engagement skills, I will ensure that we work together as never before. The critical first step is creating the jobs. Here is the opportunity we have:

- Erie Insurance is building a new \$135 million headquarters that will result in 500 to 700 new jobs in downtown Erie.
- UPMC Hamot and St. Vincent's Hospitals have similar-sized projects underway.
- Scott Enterprise's ambitious East Bayfront development will begin next spring. Plans include a hotel, office space, housing, and restaurants.
- The Erie County Convention Cen-

Democratic mayoral candidate Joe Schember shares his plans for revitalizing Erie with prospective voters.

ter Authority is aggressively seeking tax-paying development for the old GAF site. The Authority recently gave pub owners John Melody and Russ Stachewicz permission to move forward on their new restaurant near the Marriott. This is an important first step in attracting taxpaying businesses and residents to this site.

- The Downtown Erie Innovation District is taking shape with the hiring of Karl H. Sanchack as its inaugural president and CEO. Mr. Sanchack has the experience and the skills to bring the jobs of the future to Erie.

- The Erie Downtown Development Corporation (E|D|D|C), a collaborative effort, based on a successful project in Cincinnati's Riverfront District, is conducting a national search for their executive director. Erie Refocused calls for investment of \$600 million over 10 years to transform the city. The E|D|D|C is already raising \$20 to \$40 million for the first phase. We will leverage these funds for additional state and federal money.

- Joel Deuterman is renovating the Rothrock Building to move Velocity Net to downtown Erie.

These projects will bring thousands of new jobs to our city. Erie County's Community College will ensure that local students of all ages have the training needed to fill these jobs. Ultimately, these efforts will turn our brain drain into brain gain.

As your next mayor, I am committed to making the most of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It requires new thinking, willingness to change, and the ability for us to work together like we never have before. I will listen to you, and each of my decisions will be based on what is best for Erie. Everyone has a part to play, and it begins with your vote on November 7th. Join me, and together we will build opportunity, restore hope, and transform Erie.

Additional Information is available at joeschember.com, facebook.com/JosephVSchember, or by calling 814-923-4540.

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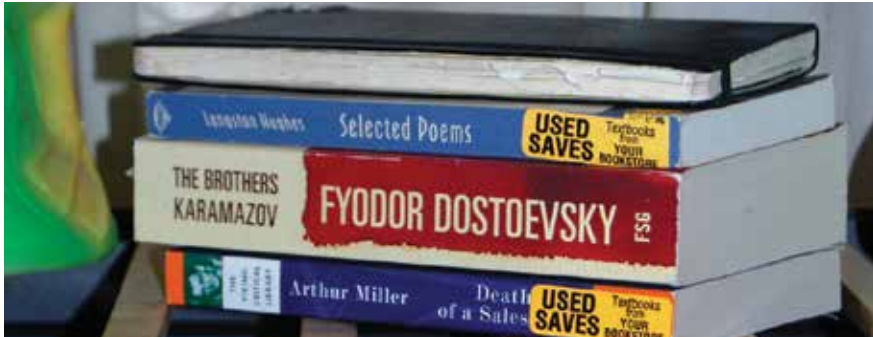
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Lessons Beyond the Classroom

The forgotten study of human interaction



GARLAND CANNON

By: Meredith Wilcox

The college bookstore where I've worked just got through its busiest time of year. Fall Rush started early August, with textbooks arriving in our loading dock and being sold almost faster than we could keep up. For a few weeks, I was there 10-, 12-, 14-hour days — customers' faces blurred together in such a way that if someone left, then returned five minutes later and said "I'm back for another book," I had no recollection of them ever having come in before.

One customer in particular, though, stood out — no matter how busy my day had been.

Skip isn't your average college student. He's half a lifetime older than 99 percent of the kids who fill the classrooms — he's lived through many of the events they likely discuss in their contemporary history courses. He started taking classes after his wife passed away, and in doing so, has taught me countless little lessons him-

self, every time he stops by the store.

The first time Skip came in, I wasn't sure what to expect. We see customers of all ages and walks of life in my store, and we typically take extra care with adult and other non-traditional students because college, and textbooks in particular, are a very different beast than they were even 10 years ago. In the 15 or so minutes we spent browsing the shelves, though, I knew I had met someone special.

Skip doesn't pick classes based on any set degree path, though he leans toward anthropology and sociology. When I was helping him find his book for this semester (he settled on a sociology class focusing on how genders interact), he explained that he wants to learn more about the people around him. I had to pause and take in the moment. My store was teeming with customers — it was the second day of classes and I had probably interacted with at least 200 people so far that morning. Instead of taking a second to acknowledge the human beings

Rather than skimming through our social interactions like CliffNotes the night before a test, we should strive to appreciate others in their unabridged formats.

who all had needs, fears, histories of their own, I had spent the day breezing through transactions. I had taken the time to get to know Skip, and made a sincere friend in the process; why hadn't I been letting anyone else in?

Shaking that default setting is something I think we all need to do every now and then. It's too easy to get caught up in doing the bare minimum, in keeping up only with the people in my inner circle. Especially at work, it's so simple to just sell a customer their books and college swag, and move on with my day. But going even the slightest bit beyond leaves me with nothing to lose — at worst, I'm an overly-friendly cashier, and at best, I meet someone who impacts my life beyond this bookstore.

Unfortunately, this was my last semester selling Skip his books. Don't worry — this isn't a shocking and sad twist; Skip is fine and will likely keep taking classes here until he's run out of topics to learn about (which I don't see happening anytime soon!). I'm moving on from the bookstore, and as I start my job hunt, I find myself thinking a lot about the things I have learned from him.

First, Skip has an insatiable hunger for learning — he wouldn't be spending his free time on a college campus

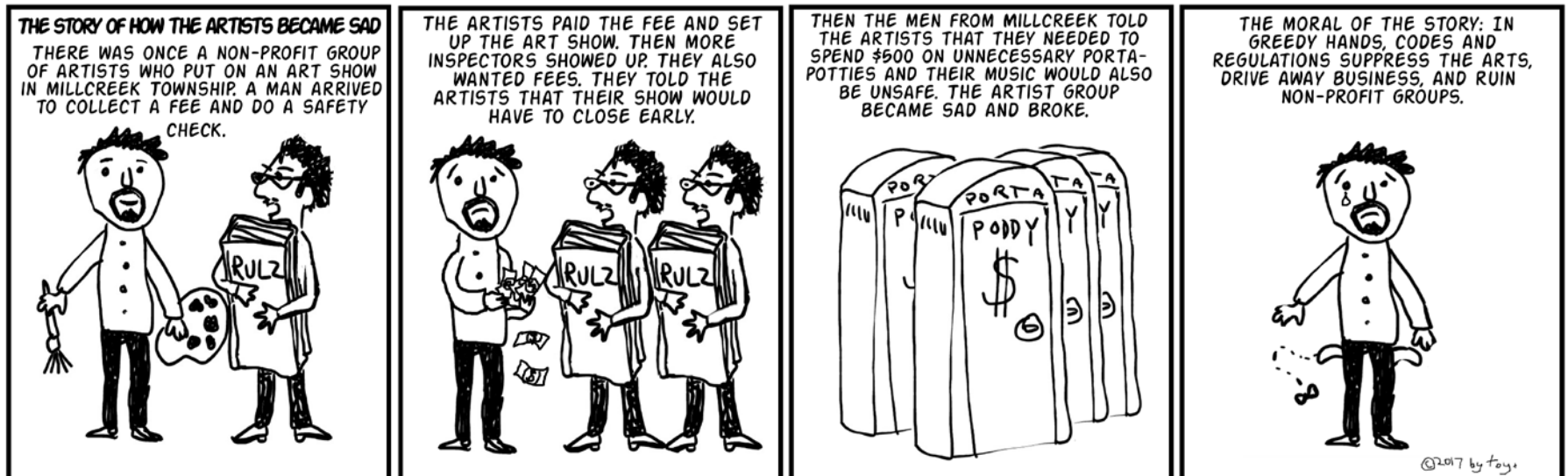
otherwise. But the learning he craves is about the people and world around him, instead of simply what's being taught in class. That curiosity is something we could all do with more of — as division seems to be the new normal, it's so refreshing to be reminded that we are all still people here, and that we all still want essentially the same things out of life.

Second, there is something to be said about not judging a book by its cover. There's a joke somewhere in there because this column wouldn't exist without the college textbooks I've sold, but joking aside, it would have been too easy for me to write off Skip as another adult student when he first came in. Take a chance on the people you interact with.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, Skip has a sense of humor that has clearly served him well through his seven or so decades here. The laugh lines that frame his face are always ready for the next good-natured remark he'll make. He's got the sort of humor and personality that commands a room but never overwhelms it — when he leaves the bookstore, I feel lighter and better for it. Isn't that the response I want people to be left with when I interact with them?

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

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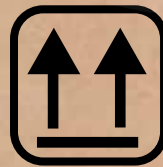


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Marietta's McBride

A causeway case study



LIBBY ROSEQUIST

Since closing to traffic in 2010, pedestrians who depend on the McBride Viaduct for passage have fought against its proposed demolition.

many bars and brothels as the west side. Eventually the railroad yard relocated and the brothels shut down, yet the west side was still considered the “poor side” of town. The attitude seemed to project onto the residents; the properties were more unkempt and dilapidated than on the east side. Broken bottles and litter were found in abundance along the streets of the west side, and crime seemed at home there.

The most commonly used pedestrian connection between the east and west sides was the old railroad/pedestrian walkway bridge, abandoned by the C&O Railroad in 1968, after the trains were rerouted out of the downtown district. Abandonment caused the bridge to become a point of concern for the city, which looked to demolish it. After all, another bridge was available to cross the Muskingum at Putnam Street, about two blocks upriver. That newer bridge accommodated both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Since the railroad bridge was a swing bridge, the swing span was opened by the railroad to prevent further pedestrian traffic, in 1976. Residents and tourists then had to use the Putnam Street bridge if they wished to cross the Muskingum. Those without motor vehicles who lived on one side of the river but worked on the other side, had to walk or bike a minimum of a half mile out of their way to reach their destinations.

The difference in traversing the two bridges is astounding. Whereas crossing the historic bridge offers an experience of peace and reflection, crossing the Putnam bridge is noisy, dirty, and potentially hazardous for pedestrians. It was not designed primarily for pedestrians. Dust and debris is thrown by passing motor vehicles, creating an environment for injury.

With this in mind, a group of visionary citizens joined together and acquired the abandoned bridge and the area of the former rail yards in 1984, under agreement of community care and restoration of the bridge and walkway, and transformation of the acreage into a park in the atmosphere of the railroad era. The area between the Ohio River and Putnam Street is known as Harmar Village. The citizens’ group became the Historic Harmar Bridge Company. During its 30-plus years in existence, the group has brought life and dignity back to the formerly blighted west side, to the point where it’s been included in the top ten tourist attractions of Ohio.

The transformation was miraculous, but it didn’t happen overnight. Business owners and other members of the Bridge Company walked the area daily, picking up trash, litter, and other detritus. Each day there would be more to pick up, but it was picked up.

Eventually good habits caught on. School kids from the neighborhood elementary school were encouraged to take ownership of their neighborhood, and they began to take pride in helping. New businesses slowly moved in. Local trade unions stepped up, using the bridge as a training venue for welders, fitters, and miscellaneous construction projects. The CSX railroad saw purpose and motivation in the project, and donated an old boxcar; Goodyear donated several older passenger cars, which have since housed businesses and social events. Besides local residents seeking safe and pleasant crossing of the river, tourists thronged to cross our country’s oldest operating railroad swing bridge.

Thirty years later, Harmar Village has pride. Businesses and entertainment sites have thrived. Though still an impoverished area, the residents have spruced up houses and planted flowers in their yards, assisted to a degree by small community incentive grants. At least four specialized historical museums exist in the Harmar area; a new fishing and boat dock has been dedicated, and a beautiful Community Center has opened to serve both the youth and the elder populations of the neighborhood. The City of Marietta operates a tourist trolley bus as part of their public transportation, and Harmar Village is included in its itinerary.

Good things do take time and investment, but the value attained is priceless. The Historic Harmar Bridge Company, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, helps to maintain the standards of the neighborhood, and yes, it still involves litter pickup and property improvement. That part will always exist, everywhere humanity steps. But the big issue has been the development of the sense of community. People whose very existence had been on “the poor side of town” have been given opportunities to improve, and those opportunities have been welcomed and built upon. What once had little, now has *hope*. Residents now come together for an annual neighborhood picnic, in addition to the annual Harmar Days festival during the last weekend of July, which provides much of the funding for operations expenses of the association, which is and always has been an all volunteer venture.

Those of us who wish to save the McBride Viaduct have similar vision as the Harmar group, but our primary focus is on safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. At this point, the estimated cost for demolition of the structure equals the cost of effectively repairing it for pedestrian use. Our volunteer group, Erie CPR (Connect Plus Respect) is prepared to help grow the project through leadership, guidance, and financial grant writing. I have witnessed the fruition of community vision in Marietta. How about it, Erie?

Nancy E. Wagner is the Secretary and PR Committee Member of Erie CPR (Connect Plus Respect). She can be reached at eriecprnew@gmail.com.

By: Nancy Wagner

The City of Erie has pushed for the demolition of the McBride Viaduct (a.k.a. the East Ave. Bridge) for several years now, citing various reasons. Unfortunately for the pedestrians who depend upon the viaduct for safe crossing of Erie’s railroad mainline, the original assessment considering repair of the structure did not include an option to preserve it as a pedestrian walkway. The folks who decided to tear down this piece of Erie history were not truly considering the human factor served here. In the case to save the McBride Viaduct, I have personally experienced an uncannily parallel situation involving another bridge, in another state.

Several years ago I found myself staying with friends in the area of Marietta, Ohio. Marietta is a lovely city located on the southernmost border of the state of Ohio, at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers. History buffs recognize Marietta as a former western border of America’s Northwest Territory. Marietta and the surrounding area offer a plethora of historical sites, and also a similar “east side vs. west side of town” attitude as exists in Erie.

The Muskingum River bisects Marietta. The settlement was originally founded on the east side of the river; on the west side was a military outpost, Fort Harmar, protecting the river’s physical boundary and buffer between Marietta and the frontier to the west. Later on, the west side became the location of Marietta’s railroad yards, as well as home to a little community of housing and businesses supporting the river transportation and fishing industries of the town. Residents considered the west side to be rougher than the east side, which was not scourged by dirty, noisy railroad yards and did not have as

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TimberFish Rises To The Surface

Revolutionary aquaculture process evolves in nearby Westfield, N.Y.



MATT SWANSEGER

By: Matt Swanseger

Thanks to a few human pioneers, fish are finally learning to make a living off the land. And for us terrestrials, that adaptation could make a world of difference.

These fish haven't suddenly sprouted lungs and legs; rather an exciting new technology has evolved around their cultivation. Agriculture and aquaculture have partnered through TimberFish Technologies, the brainchild of Westfield, N.Y. biologist Jere Northrup. Northrup's invention utilizes the byproducts of food production facilities as a nutrient source for aquatic species, thus eliminating wastes and environmental strain. The innovation could have a potentially global application and impact, according to Northrup (and a growing number of investors).

As with any idea so groundbreaking,

it took plenty of time to gain traction. TimberFish was conceived in 2008, but didn't truly gain a foundation until a ground-breaking of another kind. Northrup met "40 Under 40" alum and Mazza Wines general manager Mario Mazza "serendipitously" at a zoning meeting in 2012 as his family business prepared to open a new distillery on an 80-acre plot of land along Route 20. That installation would become Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, a.k.a. "the Westfield Wonder." Mazza was fascinated by Northrup's concept and agreed to be the first facility to implement his technology.

[top left] N.Y. State Senator Cathy Young stocks fish at Five & 20's TimberFish facility as N.Y. Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul looks on. [bottom right] Wash water passes through the second filtration phase at Five & 20's TimberFish facility.

The cycle begins as the wash-water from the distilling and/or brewing processes is gravity-fed into the system. The initial waste product contains a high level of biodegradable solids (spent grains), which are mostly filtered out. The sediment that is left over is rich in microbes (who have already begun feasting on its carbohydrates), which are instrumental in the next step. The water is passed through a bed of wood chips, which captures the sediment and all the bacterial bacchanalia with it. The wood begins to degrade, and that rot creates an alluring incubator for the wiggly invertebrates (worms, larvae, etc.) that drop into the tanks where the fish eagerly await.

That all may sound somewhat unappetizing, but it is merely duplicating phenomena that already occur in nature. Northrup likens it to the ecology of a beaver pond on a larger, commercial scale. Beaver dams, being comprised primarily of plant material, are high in cellulose (the compound that forms plants' cell walls). Certain bacteria produce an enzyme called cellulase, which allows them to break down cellulose into glucose, a simple sugar they can use for energy. The dams absorb agricultural runoff containing excess nutrients such as phosphates and nitrates, which further fuels the microbial population. With the base of a food chain established and the flow of water stanchied by the dam, the ponds serve as ideal nurseries for fish like salmon and trout.

Beavers are foresighted without nec-

essarily being aware of their foresight. Meanwhile, humans *do* possess the rare ability to conceptualize "the future," but haven't exactly gotten this sustainability thing down hook, line, and sinker. Overfishing is a major threat both ecologically and economically. Extracting too many predatory fish (e.g.,

TimberFish Technologies is the brainchild of Westfield, N.Y. biologist Jere Northrup. Northrup's invention utilizes the byproducts of food production facilities as a nutrient source for aquatic species, thus eliminating wastes and environmental strain.

tuna and grouper) from marine food chains creates dangerous imbalances that can compromise entire ecosystems. The World Wildlife Foundation estimates that 85 percent or more of the world's fisheries have been pushed to or beyond their limits and now must be strictly managed. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization corroborates these findings, further advising that fishing be substantially reduced or suspended in a third of endangered fisheries.

That news will resonate like a belly flop for the 3 billion people that derive at least 20 percent of their protein from seafood, and sting even worse for the



MATT SWANSEGER



Byproducts from the distilling and brewing processes (at right) are filtered twice, passing through wood chips to replicate natural aquatic food chains (left) on a commercial scale.

pecially in rural communities with (often) struggling economies. A large-scale TimberFish facility could output 2-3 million pounds of seafood annually and would employ over 40 people, generating \$15 million of revenue that could be pumped into local economies. Furthermore, these systems are streamlined enough to be incorporated both in urban (where space is at a premium) and rural environments (where the sense and aesthetics of open space is the premium). With over \$100,000 of aid from New

more than 500 million employed by the fishing industry (particularly in developing countries). If fully embraced and implemented, TimberFish could do much to mitigate these issues, es-

York state and millions more from private donors, the TimberFish project is officially flying. Three species of fish — channel catfish, largemouth bass, and yellow perch (young specimens called “fingerlings”) — were stocked on the morning of September 8, with numerous local and state officials in attendance. Eventually an on-site hatchery will be introduced and rainbow trout,

Eventually an on-site hatchery will be introduced and rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon, Arctic char, and even shellfish such as shrimp will occupy the tanks.

Atlantic salmon, Arctic char, and even shellfish such as shrimp will occupy the tanks.

“The technology can grow any kind of seafood,” says Northrup.

Five & 20 hopes to serve as a template for many more facilities to come (Pennsylvania’s Erie County and New York’s

Chautauqua County are neighbors, and we know how neighbors like to borrow things). In the more immediate future, however, you’ll be able to enjoy the unique experience of eating fish and drinking whiskey or beer in the midst of their common point of origin — a field of grain.

“You’ll be sitting at Bird Eatery and overlooking the farm where it was all done,” says Mazza, proud presider over the self-contained, on-site circle of life.

Not to discount amphibious mudskippers (and their modified pectoral fins), but TimberFish is an organism that appears to truly have legs.

Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing and Bird seasonal eatery are located at 8398 W. Main St., Westfield, N.Y. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday from October through May (open until 8 p.m. from Thursday through Saturday this weekend only).

Matt Swanseger can be reached with modified pectoral fins or by e-mail at mswanseger@eriereader.com.



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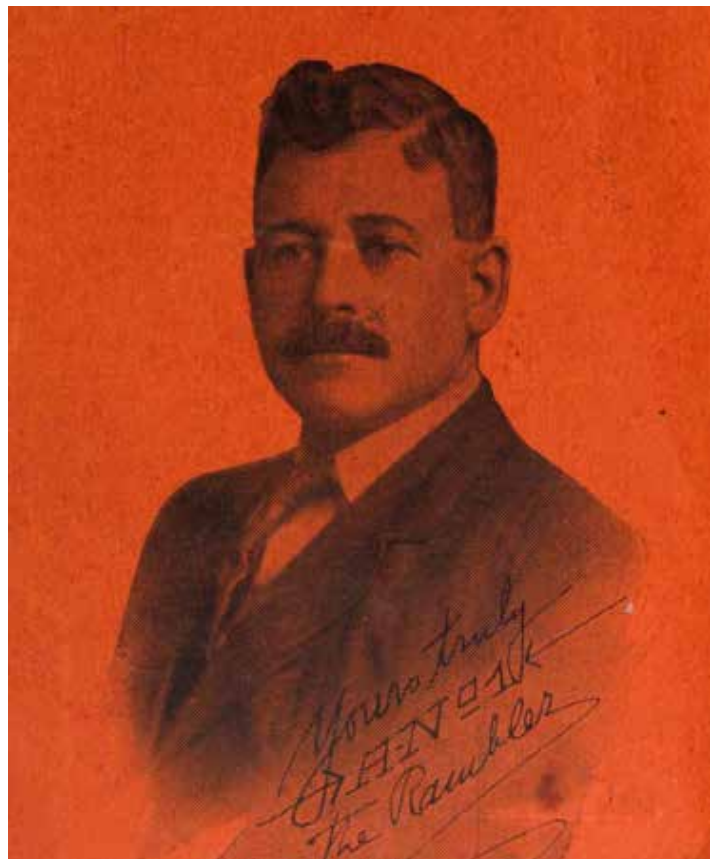
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Erie's King of the Hoboes

Reliving the legacy of Leon Ray Livingston



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Jonathan Burdick

In the years following the Civil War, a system of transcontinental railways exploded across the United States, connecting eastern terminals to the remote rails of the west. This expansion and the speed at which one could now travel was accompanied by a curious widespread phenomenon, producing a figure mythologized in American folklore: the wandering tramp.

Professor Francis Wayland, Dean of the Yale School of Law, was disgusted with the amount of young people seduced by tramping. He wrote in 1877 that the tramp was no more than a “lazy, shiftless, sauntering or swaggering, ill-conditioned, irreclaimable, incorrigible, cowardly, utterly depraved savage ... [who] fears not God, neither regards man.”

At the same time, there was a young boy living in California who decades later, residing in Erie, would have scoffed at Wayland's assessment. This

man would be remembered by many names: A-No. 1. The Rambler. The Gentleman Tramp. King of the Hoboes.

But at that age, he was still just Leon Ray Livingston.

Young Leon was born in San Francisco on August 24, 1872 to loving parents who were “respected and well-to-do residents” in their community. Yet, as much as he wished to please them, he was a poor student, often lost in his daydreams and constantly scolded by his teachers.

On his eleventh birthday, he was kicked out of school for “ill-behavior.” He considered on his walk home how his father might react. The shame was unbearable. So, he quickly scraped together some money, grabbed his rifle, and caught a riverboat headed to Sacramento.

This was the beginning of his life as a tramp.

From there, he hopped trains, sailed, and walked through New Orleans, then Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil,

Mexico, and finally back to Florida.

When he finally returned home, he discovered that his parents had both died. “A broken heart,” he later wrote.

With no earthly connections remaining, he returned to the rails. Over the next three decades, Livingston claimed to travel over half of a million miles while spending only \$7.61 in fares. He worked odd jobs. He learned to carve wooden sculptures to trade for food. He read and wrote to keep his mind sharp. His journeys took him to every corner of the United States, as well as throughout parts of Europe.

All along his travels, he inscribed his moniker — A-No. 1 — wherever he went and helped spread a system of signs and symbols called the Hobo Code.

As the years passed, his moniker — given to him by a mentor who told him he was A-No. 1 in everything he did — gained recognition and young tramps would seek him out. One such tramp was a teenage Jack London, long before he ever wrote *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, or his own hoboing classic *The Road*. Their adventures were the subject of Livingston's 1917 book *From Coast to Coast with Jack London*.

Many fraudulently claimed to be the real A-No. 1, so Livingston always carried with him two crisp fifty dollar bills and a scrapbook as proof of his identity. The scrapbook (the current whereabouts of

Leon Ray Livingston was a man known by many monikers, most famously as “A-No.1”. He was also known as the Gentleman Tramp, thanks to his diligent grooming habits and his abstinence from cigarettes and drink. [right] Over his career, Livingston published eleven books, beginning with *Life and Adventures of A-No.-1: America's Most Celebrated Tramp* in 1910 and *The Ways of the Hobo* in 1914.

which are unknown) was filled with artifacts of his travels: newspaper clippings, letters, personalized signatures from London, as well as Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Thomas Edison, and Admiral George Dewey.

His reputation was that of a gentleman and he always dressed the part. He bathed and shaved regularly and always wore a clean suit in public. He also didn't swear, smoke, or drink.

By his mid-thirties, he was appearing in newspapers. This was partially due his own clever self-promotion. He made sure, after securing accommodations, to seek out local newspaper reporters wherever he went.

In 1906, one Montana newspaper referred to him as “a

king among tramps” and “‘Professor’ Livingston.” The article relayed how he was thrown in jail overnight for vagrancy, but was subsequently released after charming the police chief with a sculpture, whittled from a potato.

A Hallettsville, Texas newspaper in 1910 called him “the most distinguished tramp in the world.” When the reporter asked Livingston why he didn't pursue a more ordinary lifestyle, he replied, “I don't want to because I'm satisfied with my life. I am having a good time and I see everything there is to see in this world. Tramping is my business and I do it honestly. I have never stolen anything in my life, except for rides on the trains.”

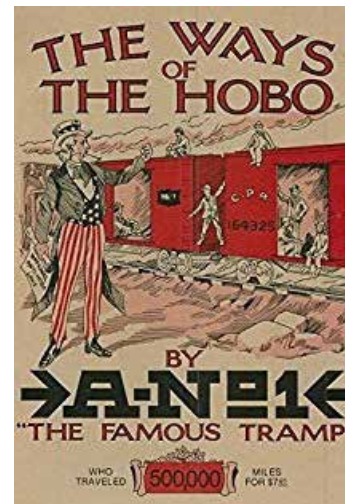
One small town he frequented was Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania. It was,



And I found among the many tramps left by many tramps, Jack's "A-No. 1" sign.



"I want you to be 'A-No. 1' in whatever you do and wherever you are."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

[left] Livingston's romance with Mary Trohoske was documented in his 1919 work, *The Wife I Won*. (second from left) "A-No.1" also had a well-documented friendship with the quintessential American author, Jack London. [bottom] With another gravestone in Cambridge Springs, Livingston's body rests at Erie's Laurel Hill Cemetery.

he wrote, an "idyllic ... [and] most charming summer resort" and "a royal jewel amid the foothills of the Alleghenies." He praised its "gushing springs" and settled on it as his de facto headquarters, "a brief respite from the hardships of the road." His reputation also turned Cambridge Springs into a "veritable 'Mecca' to chronic hoboes" who were seeking out fellowship with the famous tramp, he wrote.

While there, he began self-publishing his stories. He could earn some income, while simultaneously curating his own folklore. Each book opens with a dire warning concerning "the dark side to a tramp's life" and despite promising only "exact truths," the inconsistencies, exaggerations, and downright embellishments are apparent. The writing itself is clunky — he was no Jack London — but the stories are engaging romanticized adventures.

By 1914 though, Leon — now 42 — had married and settled down with a 21-year-old Erie woman named Mary Trohoske. Years earlier, he had met a railroad car inspector on a freezing Erie day. The man had treated him kindly and even let him warm up in his office. Livingston returned the favor months later by shipping him a box of oranges from Florida.

The next time he passed

through Erie, the inspector invited him over for dinner. There, Leon met the man's then 19-year-old eldest daughter Mary — referred to affectionately as Mayme. Their souls were intertwined, he wrote. He changed his plans and decided to stay in Erie to finish his next book, paying a month upfront at the Reed House Hotel on Perry Square.

They soon married and their daughter Francis Ruth was born shortly after. For the first time in his adult life, Leon stayed put — although he claimed he did so out of curiosity and "to help in a time of war."

They moved into a home on W. 23rd Street near Ainsworth Field, then still called Athletic Field. He was hired at Burke Electric Company and later Erie Forge & Steel, while continuing to publish his stories on the side. He'd get an occasional speaking gig where he could lecture increasingly cautionary tales — and likely sell some books while he was at it.

In 1917, they had a son, Kenneth Lloyd. Around this time, they bought a house on W. 9th Street, about a block south of present day Strong Vincent Middle School.

Throughout the 1920s, it appears he lived a rather ordinary life: raising children, working, writing, and lecturing. With the onset of the

Great Depression though, the aging Livingston embraced his role as a speaker, capitalizing on the rise of desperate young rail-riders. Ever the self-promoter, he frequented churches and schools from New York to Iowa, warning children to resist the wanderlust and advising parents to watch their children closely.

In an interview with the Titusville Herald, he argued that his lectures were "not to make money but to warn parents and boys ... that it does not pay to lead an idle life of wandering around, bumming one's living." A newspaper in New Castle said in 1931 that his speech was one that "should be heard by every child, man and woman in the United States."

Recanting the romanticized tone of his books for one that

was more alarmist, similar to the Yale professor decades earlier, Livingston warned parents of "vagabonds who not only spread foul, if not deadly diseases, but educate harmless young runaways in the dynamiting of safes, robbing of banks, burglarizing of post offices and school houses and the murdering of folks who gave them passage in their automobiles."

Then, in 1933, his son Kenneth tragically died. In 1936, his daughter Ruth left the nest and married an Erie man named Edward Buckham.

Some accounts have suggested that around this time, Livingston took to the rails again, no longer able to resist his own wanderlust. These same accounts suggest he died in a train wreck outside of Houston, Texas. The reality is a bit less romantic. On the morning of April 5, 1944, Livingston died of heart failure at his Erie home on Chestnut Street, his wife Mary by his side. He was 71.

In the years since his death, the public's memories of A-No. 1 have mostly faded. Jack London's *The Road* has risen to classic status, whereas Livingston's many books

have always remained on the periphery, mostly unread.

In 1973, the film *Emperor of the North* was released, starring Lee Marvin as A-No. 1, Keith Carradine as Cigaret (London's moniker), and Ernest Borgnine as the antagonist conductor. It was based both on Livingston's *From Coast to Coast* as well as London's *The Road* — but if the film renewed any interest in Erie's King of the Hoboes, that interest was fleeting. He remains an obscure figure, even in Erie and Cambridge Springs.

Livingston is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery off Sterretania Road in Millcreek. His headstone sits back from the path unassumingly, adjacent to his son Kenneth. The marker reads simply:

*Father
Leon Ray Livingston
"A-No. 1"
1872 — 1944
There, the Rambler finally rests.*

Jonathan Burdick runs the historical blog Rust & Dirt, follow them on Twitter at @RustDirt, and on instagram @Rustanddirt.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Michelle Mioduszewski

Spotlight on Erie

September 27 – October 10, 2017

Thursday, Sept. 28

Hello, Bernadette Peters



Before the great Ms. Bernadette Peters takes on the role of Dolly in *Hello, Dolly* on Broadway, she will grace Erie with her presence. Peters will take to the stage at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University.

Broadway aficionados and lovers of all things musical-related should not miss this icon with her distinctive set of pipes. Peters has appeared in just about every possible musical suited to her talent and voice: Her resume includes musicals such as *A Little Night Music*, *Into the Woods*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Gypsy*, and most recently, *Follies*. Her work has been duly recognized, and she has received three Tony awards, a Golden Globe, two Grammy awards and three Emmy nominations. A talented actress, Peters has also taken many film and television roles, appearing alongside Steve Martin more than once, as fans of "The Jerk" will note, and popping into popular prime-time shows like *Grey's Anatomy* and *The Closer*.

And Ms. Peters' talents don't stop there. She is also quite the philanthropist, active with Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, helping those with the condition receive the food and medicine they need. Additionally, Peters is involved with Broadway Barks. The organization was established in tandem with Mary Tyler Moore — the two are close friends — and raises awareness of the importance of adopting shelter animals.

Oh, and in case that isn't enough, Peters is also a published children's book author.

While it's not likely she will be reading from her work, it is highly probable that she will sing a veritable selection

from her past stage performances, although we can't promise any surprise sneak peeks into her *Hello, Dolly* role. — Miriam Lamey

7:30 p.m. // Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 East 38th Street // (814) 824-3000 // sold out, but additional tickets may be released the week of the performance

Thursday, Sept. 28

A Little More Than Something



With Erie being so open and welcoming to all kinds of artistic and musical talent, it's no surprise that bands continue filing through to leave their mark on the city. September has already had a promising line-up of artists, music, and festivals — and it's not quite over yet. If you can find it in yourself to let your guard down for the night and let the music feed your spirit, then you want to make your way down to Basement Transmissions on September 28. Hailing from Bel Air, Maryland, pop-punk prodigies Something More will be headlining the show at BT along with Madison, Indiana alternatives Weekend Classic.

Something More released their album, *Dogs Pt. II*, in April of this year. Their sound can be called a modern update to mid-2000s pop-punk/emo bands like New Found Glory, The Starting Line, and The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus. Vocalist Tim Jagielski, guitarist Phil Rasinski, bassist Chad Nunnally, drummer Brian Rasinski, and guitarist Nate Swartz grew up playing together, so in 2011, they decided to officially pitch their ideas and their music to the world. In working with Catherine Yi of Common Ground Records, these five men have been making serious moves.

Weekend Classic has also been working hard and showing results. Winning this year's Ernie Ball: PLAY Warped contest was a huge success for this four man band, as they beat out 11,000 other contestants. While they possess a slightly darker sound, Weekend Classic would be considered more of an "emo revival" band. They're perfect for fans of Balance and Composure, Funeral For A Friend, or Story of the Year.

With an evening hosted by Heel Heat Productions, it is sure to be a night full of a lot more than just something. ARCHWAY — out of Greenville, Pennsylvania — and Titusville's own, Dear Brutus, will also be performing. Come support Something More, The Weekend Classic, ARCHWAY, and Dear Brutus for a night that will, for sure, rock your socks off. — Maddie Hepler

Doors 6:30 p.m., show 7 p.m. // 145 W. 11th // facebook.com/basement.transmissions // \$10

Friday, Sept. 29

All An Act's 'The Crucible': Terrifying, Tragic and Timeless



The year was 1953. Joseph McCarthy, a senator from Wisconsin, had begun his reign of persecution in 1947, accusing everyone from government officials, to Hollywood movie stars, to university academics of Communism and Soviet-sympathizing. Playwright Arthur Miller debuted his latest piece, *The Crucible*, in January of that year, a condemnation of McCarthy's scare tactics and power. It would go on to win the Tony Award for Best Play and become a standard in the American theater canon. But is it still relevant today, over 60 years later?

"In my view *The Crucible* will always be a play about current political situations somewhere. That's what truly makes it timeless," J.D. Mizikowski,

director of All An Act Theater's latest and penultimate production of the 2017 season, told me. *The Crucible* portrays suspicion, fear-mongering and vengeance in 17th century Puritan New England, yet we see these reactions bubble to the surface time and again over the centuries.

The chief pot-stirrer in this piece is Abigail Williams, whose jealousy and bitterness after being spurned by her erstwhile lover John Proctor takes on monstrous proportions; but for all that, the character is still a three-dimensional human. Mizikowski spoke with great confidence in his Abigail, played by high school student Audrey Ward. "The thing that Audrey [also] really gets is not just the jealousy but the self-righteousness; she really thinks that by calling out those she views as hypocrites she's doing good."

So what can we learn from watching a sanctimonious figure gain power and influence over the masses by inciting fear and hysteria?

"Empathy for everyone," Mizikowski said. He continued, "Only by giving ourselves over to these types of experiences in the theater can we hope to make any progress." — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays (for full schedule see website) // 652 West 17th Street // <https://www.allanact.net/now-playing> // \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$10 Students

Saturday, Sept. 30

Must See Shows: Don Q at Basement Transmissions



Local showgoers are in for a very special treat when the hip-hop-centric Coming to a Corner Near You Tour arrives at Basement Transmissions in Erie. Headlined by rapper Don Q, the event deserves recognition simply for being a rare change of pace in

a city largely dominated by local hardcore and metal acts. Supporting acts include other hip-hop artists Loso Loaded, A1 and Nun Balla.

Don Q's most recent release is a music video for the song "Oh, You Da Plug?" from an album released August 11th of this year, *Corner Stories: Reloaded*. This album serves as an expansion of Don Q's previous 2017 release, *Corner Stories*, a follow-up to his first studio project, 2016's *Don Season*. Loso Loaded also released an EP in July of this year titled *Creating Memories*, garnering attention from hip-hop publication XXL Mag, and a simple YouTube search will yield a music video for a song called "Loso Boat" featuring one rapper that was recently launched into the pop-culture stratosphere: Lil Yachty.

While none of these artists are household names just yet, the Coming to a Corner Near You Tour presents a unique opportunity for local hip-hop and music fans to support several up-and-coming rappers. Tickets are \$20, a small price to pay to get in on the ground floor with these exciting artists and support your local scene. — Aaron Mook

6 p.m. // 145 West 11th Street // all ages

Friday, Oct. 6

The Last Picture Show



First, let's clarify that misleading headline. This is not the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, this is the *Rocky Horror Show*. Richard O'Brien's cult classic stage production, which continues to inspire generations of new converts year after year, is coming back to the Performing Arts Collective Alliance for its third and final year. Having sold out every performance over the last two years, PACA is looking to fill its pews once again. This shouldn't prove as difficult as your run-of-the-mill play, however, as multiple viewings come with their own

benefits, as well as exposing guests to the show's very own lexicon.

Audience members are encouraged to participate, shouting "callbacks" during the show, and employing props during key moments. PACA will be providing special goodie bags for just such an occasion (no outside props will be permitted, however), and a chorus of "popcorns" will be assisting in some of the show's best-loved quips.

Now a full-fledged Broadway hit,

Having sold out every performance over the last two years, PACA is looking to fill its pews once again.

the musical first appeared in London's Royal Court Theatre in 1973. The film came out in 1975 (that's specifically the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* we were talking about), and remains the longest-running theatrical release of all time. The popularity of the film was thanks to special midnight showings, which gave birth to an entire community of fans. In addition to the callbacks, costumed actors will perform

"shadowcasts" along with the film. Devoted fans pride themselves on having seen the film hundreds, if not thousands of times. Repeat guests of past PACA performances will be treated to an experience in a similar vein to previous shows, with some key exceptions. The roles of Brad Majors and Janet Weiss will be played by PACA first-timers (but no strangers to local community theatre) Michael Hipwell and Jessie Thorpe. Each actor brings a unique energy to their roles, while both being excellent singers. Dr. Everett Scott will be played by Jeff Lipiec, whom PACA fans will remember as Dr. Hannibal Lecter in last year's production of *Silence: the Musical*. The story's narrator will be portrayed by Annie Rosenthal, with Michael Weiss filling in for selected performances.

First time audience members (referred to affectionately as "virgins") can expect rousing musical numbers played by a full live band, plenty of R-rated fun, and maybe even a new lifelong "favorite obsession." — Nick Warren

Every Friday and Saturday in October at 8 p.m., with midnight shows every Saturday, special service industry night Sunday, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. // 1505 State Street // \$15 in advance // 18+ // BYOB // paca1505.com

MUSIC

The V Band

Sept. 27 & Oct. 11, 18, 25 — 6 to 6:30 p.m.

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

MVP

Sept. 28 & Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Something More, The Weekend Classic, Archway and Dear Brutus

Sept. 28 — 6 p.m.

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

Drekka, Onewayness, Stclvr and Elephant Pill

Sept. 28 — 7 to 10 p.m.

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

Bernadette Peters

Sept. 28 — 7:30 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Erie Playhouse Season Preview

Sept. 29 — noon to 1 p.m.

Studio Q, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

The Have/Had Tour featuring Apache Chief

Sept. 29 — 6 p.m.

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

Bridget Allen & The Tastemakers

Sept. 29 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Sept. 29, Oct. 4, 6 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Jesse Weston

Sept. 29 — 7 p.m.

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

Bobby's Place Last Weekend

Sept. 29 — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

Rick Magee and The Roadhouse Rockers

Sept. 29 — 9 p.m.

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

Mushroomhead, Ventana and Unsaid Fate

Sept. 29 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State

St. facebook.com.

LITZ

Sept. 29 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

SeaWing

Sept. 30 — 1 to 3 p.m.

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

Coming to a Corner Near Your Tour featuring Don Q

Sept. 30 — 6 to 11 p.m.

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

Scarlet Ledbetter

Sept. 30 — 7 p.m.

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

One Last Time

Sept. 30 — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

The Breeze Band

Sept. 30 — 9 p.m.

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

ELM: Electric Love Machine

Sept. 30 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Metal Militia (Metallica Tribute)

Sept. 30 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Galactic Duo

Sept. 30 — 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Jekyll & Hyde's, 8 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Thomas Link

Oct. 1 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Urioste-Brown-Canellakis

Oct. 6 — noon to 1 p.m.

Studio Q at WQLN Radio, 8425 Peach St. eriephil.org.

Vanessa Rubin & Don Braden

Oct. 6 — 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. jazzerie.com.

Eric Brewer & Friends

Oct. 6 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Abbey Road

Oct. 7 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Jazz Nite at the Mansion

Oct. 7 — 7 to 10 p.m.

Woman Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. eriewomansclub.com.

Beethoven's Triple

Oct. 7 — 8 to 10 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

Rumpke Mountain Boys, PA Line and Broke Boland

Oct. 7 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Riffriders

Oct. 8 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

DANCE

Creative Dance Residency

Sept. 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.

Tap Dance

Oct. 4 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Pilobolus

Oct. 10 — 7:30 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

FOOD & DRINK

The Women's Roundtable

Happy Hour

Sept. 29 — 5 to 7 p.m.

Back Deck Bar and Restaurant, 4646 Buffalo Rd. wrterie.org.

Pizza Party

Sept. 29 — 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Oktoberbreast

Sept. 29 — 6 to 10 p.m.

The Brewer at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

Boos and Brews

Oct. 1 — 2 p.m.

The Brewer at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

North East Food Tours

Oct. 7 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Uncork a Cure

Oct. 7 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

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Saturday, Oct. 7

Rumpke Mountain Boys Honestly Heading To The Rook



Flashback to late March, 2014: After a long drive from the frigid north to the still-chilly south, we've touched down at some way-out-there festival grounds just outside of Athens, Ohio. It's something like 3 a.m. I dunno, maybe 4. What with all these fiery jams the Rumpke Mountain Boys are throwing down at the Hoopla in the Hills festival's opening night (day?), my brother and I have both just straight-up lost track of time, and so has everyone else.

I'm right behind the stage, snapping photos of those Boys doing their thing — a trippy, boozy, beautiful swirl of expertly-crafted bluegrass — and of everybody else getting down, when, out of the blackness behind me, I feel

an arm wrap around me in a tight, friendly little hug.

At the end of that arm was a hand, and in that hand was a big ol' jug of whiskey ... coming right at my face.

I turn around. It's Jason Wolf, Rumpke Mountain Boys' founding madman and multi-instrumentalist, grinning ear-to-ear.

"Thanks for everything you do, man. We appreciate it," he says to me.

"You kidding? "Well thank you," I say. I'm not a drinking man, but I took one, long sweet swig from that jug anyway. And it was good.

Fun. Friendly. And freakin' amazing live. Those are a few of the simpler ways I'd describe this well-loved Cincinnati-based string quartet, who I've had the pleasure of catching at a few different festivals in recent years.

One of their most well-known fans and sometimes-collaborator, Grateful Dead Hour host David Gans, has said it like this about them: "One of the things I love about the Rumpke Mountain Boys is that there's a fundamental honesty in their presentation. This is something they share with my other heroes, Donna the Buffalo and the Grateful Dead. They don't make set lists ahead of time, they don't rehearse their songs to a fare-thee-well — they perform in real time. All four of them write, which is very important, and they draw songs from a tremendous variety of sources. ... Being a musician is a life-long learning experience, if you're doing it right, and they are."

And they'll be doing it right, no doubt, when they visit the Gem City to headline at the King's Rook Club.

They'll be joined for the evening by PA Line and Broke Boland for before-and-after performances both upstairs and down at the complex, making for what's sure to be one helluva night of string-based music in Erie.

Again, boys, thank you. — Ryan Smith

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

Saturday, October 7th

Must See Shows: Erie Philharmonic Presents Beethoven's Triple at the Warner Theatre

A number of compositions both classic and classical are being performed next month at the Warner Theatre, and at the center of them is Beethoven's Triple Concerto. Conducted by Daniel Meyer, this Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano in C Major is being presented by the Erie Philharmonic and performed by Elena Urioste, Nicholas Canellakis and Michael



Brown, respectively. Surrounding the main composition will be performances of "Barber's Overture" from *The School for Scandal* and Brahms' Symphony No. 1.

Inspired by the intensely sharp and witty writing behind Richard Brinsley Sheridan's original play, "Barber's Overture" has been noted for its "remarkable melodies and fanciful flights of musical whimsy," while Brahms' Symphony No. 1 has been hailed as "a brilliant combination of technical mastery coupled with depth of thought and emotion" by the Erie Philharmonic.

Composed in 1803 and published the year following, Beethoven's Triple Concerto is Beethoven's only completed concerto intended to be played by more than one solo instrument. A performance of the concerto usually runs somewhere between 35 and 40 minutes. The Erie Philharmonic refers to this classic piece as "a composition-

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.

American Beauty (1999)

Sept. 28 — 8:30 p.m.
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, 219 Meadville St. facebook.com.

Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)

Sept. 29 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

LifeWorks Erie Afternoon at the Movies

Oct. 5 — 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

The Cat and the

Canary (1927)

Oct. 5 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

The Met: Live in HD - Norma

Oct. 7 — 12:55 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

VISUAL ARTS

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
West Erie Plaza, 1000 W. Erie Plz. npaaonline.org.

Urban Landscapes

Ongoing through Oct. 3
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.

Presque Isle Artist

Association Annual Art Show 2017

Ongoing through Oct. 21
Kelly Run Art Gallery & Studio, 264 S. Main St. facebook.com.

Artists in Motion: Illustrations of Perilous Journeys

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

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

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

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

Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.

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

Ancient Ink: Mark Perrott

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

Second Harvest 35 Year Commemoration: About Hunger & Resilience

Sept. 28 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, 1507 Grimm Dr. nwpafoodbank.networkforgood.com.

Arab Spring/ Unfinished Journeys, works by Helen Zughuib

Oct. 3 through Nov. 12 (Reception Oct. 3 — 6 to 8 p.m.)

Doane Hall of Art at Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

Left to Their Own Devices

Oct. 4 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Bruce Gallery in Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St. facebook.com.

Michael Camp, Recent Paintings & Erie ClaySpace Artist Association Members Show

Oct. 6 through Nov. 12 (Reception Oct. 7 — 1 to 4 p.m.)
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Second Sundays

Oct. 8 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

THEATER

Enjoy It Now, Your Children Will Survive

Sept. 27 & Oct. 10, 11, 24, 25 — noon & Oct. 14 — 5:30 p.m. & Oct. 15 — 2:30 p.m.

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

Heathers, The Musical

Sept. 28, 29, 30 & Oct. 5, 6, 7 — 8 p.m. & Oct. 1 — 2 p.m.

Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. gannon.edu.

A Canterbury Feast

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

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

Arthur Miller's The Crucible

Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 6, 7, 13, 14 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. & Oct. 1, 8, 15 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Chicago: The Musical

Oct. 6, 13, 14, 20, 21 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 — 2 p.m.
The Academy Theatre,

275 Chestnut St. theacademytheatre.org.

The Rocky Horror Show: The Last Floor Show

Oct. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 — 8 p.m. & Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 — midnight & Oct. 29 — 2 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. pacai505.com.

COMMUNITY

Edinboro Potterfest 2017

Ongoing through Sept. 30
Downtown Edinboro, PA potterfest.cs.edinboro.edu.

2017 Season Sissons Pumpkin Patch

Ongoing through Oct. 29
Sissons Pumpkin Patch, 1244 Springfield Rd. sissons-pumpkinpatch.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.

Trees: The Variety of Life

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

Tai Chi

Sept. 27 & Oct. 2, 4, 9, 11, 16,

CALENDAR

al tour de force, deftly integrating the sound of three solo instruments into a concerto perfectly suited to an opening night celebration.”

Using their extensive knowledge of classical performance, The Erie Philharmonic have constructed yet another event guaranteed to please fans of the arts with three sophisticated pieces (from “three brilliant B’s,” nonetheless) handpicked to score the opening night of their 2017-18 season. — Aaron Mook

8 to 10 p.m. // 811 State Street // Tickets start at \$10

Saturday, October 7th

Ladies, Sharpen Your Pencils: A Full-day Conference for Women Writers Returns



The Niagara Creative Writing Conference is once again cruising into town with a cargo hold of writerly treasure. Organized by the International Women’s Writer Guild, specifically by local guild member and Erie County Poet Laureate Marisa Moks-Unger, the conference offers a full day of workshops, writing opportunities and fellowship to women of all skill levels.

“Every woman — whether she has extensive publication credits or simply keeps a journal for herself — has a tremendous amount of power behind her voice. Putting her voice out in the public sphere is empowering and helps our world to heal after so much natural and man-made crisis,” says Moks-Unger.

This year’s workshops offer instruction in the narrative arc in fiction, and memoir and op-ed writing. Moks-Unger will present a keynote address, books from guild members will be available for purchase, and participants will have the opportunity to read their writing at an open-mic session in the afternoon.

Mary Beth Coudal, an award-winning journalist, blogger, and copywriter, will teach memoir writing with prompts, drama games and writing exercises; the narrative arc workshop will be led by Cathleen O’Connor, Ph.D., author and speaker; and Marsha McGregor will explore the tools used to build a solid framework for articulating a strong position in opinion writing.

Also included are a morning coffee and tea bar, lunch, and wine and cheese reception. The non-guild member price is \$95, but the organization is offering registration for the conference and a one-year guild membership to first-time members for \$115. In addition, a special student price of \$45 is being offered. “I especially encourage teachers and professors to bring their students to the conference,” adds Moks-Unger.

From past experience, this conference is a great way for beginners and pros alike to sharpen skills, meet fel-

low writers, and explore new ideas. Most importantly, it gives participants a whole day to actually write, something often lost in our busy lives.

Moks-Unger also remarked “this is the only regional conference slated for the fall from the IWWG, which is a real honor to Erie.” This event is sure to put some wind in your writing sails. — Mary Birdsong

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. // 310 E. 10th St. // iwwg.org/events

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Pilobolus Brings its Mind-bending Creativity to Mercyhurst



Pilobolus, the award-winning arts organization known for its eclectic mix of movement, dance and athleticism is set to explode onto the Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center stage at Mercyhurst University. It will be presenting “Pilobolus Maximus — Beyond The Limits of Dance,” a mix of both old and new works such as *Byzrk*, *On The Nature of Things*, *Branches* and *Rushes*. Literature from the company promises that “Maximus” will take the audience “from the irrev-

erence of a wild circus to the physical filigree of their most classical physical work.”

Known for their unconventional approach to movement and choreography, Pilobolus was born in 1971 by non-dancers who just happened to take a dance class at Dartmouth College. Now, 46 years later, the troupe has presented more than 120 individual pieces around the globe and earned numerous accolades from the dance world and beyond.

The choreography for each work is developed jointly between the dancers and artistic directors. “The company also brings in outside artists from a variety of disciplines,” explains Mark Santillano, Assistant Professor of Dance at Mercyhurst and former Pilobolus member. “Everyone contributes to the creation of the piece, from the story to the actual movements. This is a very different methodology than a typical dance company.”

Their stage presence differs enormously as well. In classical dance, the men do the lifting and the women are the lifted. In Pilobolus, “everybody lifts everybody,” explains Santillano. There is more connectivity between dancers who often come together to form organic forms and mystical creatures before melting down into yet something else. This makes them popular with people who think they “don’t like dance.”

“Maximus” promises to be the best of Pilobolus and, as always, just might bend our little minds. — Mary Birdsong

7:30 p.m. // Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Students/Youth \$10 // 824.3000

18, 23, 25, 30 & Nov. 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29 & Dec. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Wednesday Walks in the Woods

Sept. 27 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

Farmers Market

Sept. 27 — 3 to 6 p.m.

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

Remarkable Women: Geraldine Ferraro

Sept. 27 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Adult Art Classes

Sept. 27 & Oct. 4, 11 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Nature Tots: We

Gather Together

Sept. 28 & Oct. 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19 — 9 to 10 a.m.

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

Weight Lifting/ Cardio Fitness Class

Sept. 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.

Tai Chi

Sept. 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.

New Horizons Music Project - Strings and Folk

Sept. 28 — 4 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

67th Annual Presque Isle Downs & Casino Race of Champions

Sept. 28 — 4 to 9 p.m. Sept. 29 — 6 to 9 p.m. & Sept. 30 — 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. lakeeriespeedway.com.

Nordic Walking

Sept. 28 & Oct. 5, 12 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Sips and Shirts

Sept. 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Ross Bennett

Sept. 28 — 7 p.m. & Sept. 29, 30 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

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

Erie Refocused

Sept. 28 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Yehl Alumni Room at Gannon University, 124 W. 7th St. gannon.edu.

Designing Immigrant-friendly Policies and Practices

Sept. 28 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Coffee and Consultation Day

Sept. 29 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Radius CoWork Suite 907, 1001 State St. radiusco.work.

Presque Isle: Myths and Realities

Sept. 29 — 12:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Goin’ on a Scent Hunt

Sept. 29 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Niagara Land and Lake Car Cruise In

Sept. 29 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. flagshipniagara.org.

Great Lakes Sports Festival

Sept. 30 — 8 a.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

North Coast Sewing Guild Anniversary Event

Sept. 30 — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 250 W. 7th St. facebook.com.

Bear Scout Activity Day

Sept. 30 — 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

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

U.S. Brig Niagara Public Day Sails

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 — 1 to 5 p.m.

Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. flagshipniagara.org.

Olate Dogs

Sept. 30 — 4:30 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Erie Otters vs. Kitchener

Sept. 30 — 7 p.m.

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

Forest Bathing and Mindfulness Walking

Oct. 1 — 10 a.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. plashayoga.com.

Little Leaves

Oct. 2, 23 & Nov. 13 & Dec. 4 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Health & Wellness Series for Adults

Oct. 2 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Alt-Life: Navigating Race, Class, and Twitter in the Age of Trump

Oct. 2 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

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SPORTSMEN ATHLETIC CLUB
STAR ATHLETIC CLUB
ST. BONIFACE USHERS CLUB
ST. FRANCIS CLUB
ST. JOE'S (NORTHEAST)
ST. MARY'S CLUB
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DOC HOLLIDAY'S
EMPTY KEG
FAT WILLIES
LAKESIDE TAVERN
MCKEAN TAVERN
MOUND GROVE
THE POUR HOUSE
TOWER'S TAVERN
WATERFORD HOTEL

DOWNTOWN

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Go Hogwarts Wild At Potterfest

Plenty of magic happening at Edinboro festival

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

[top left] Edinboro professors, including Dr. Corbin Fowler (second from left), transform the campus into Hogwarts at the annual Potterfest. [right] Wizards young and old have been enchanted by J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series and its profound cultural impact.

It's time to crawl out from your cupboard under the stairs and let the magic happen. Potterfest has woven its spell on Edinboro's campus for the seventh year, with its effects lasting through month's end. Whether you ride a broomstick or a Prius for fuel economy, you would be remiss not to make a sweep of the area before the enchantment expires.

If it's bucolic charm(s) you're after, then you could do worse than Wednesday's Magical Farmer's Market. From 3-6, craft vendors will offer their magic-themed wares to would-be wizards and Muggles alike. The Real Magic Steve, a proven wizard, will be twisting balloons into virtually any shape or form from 4-5:30. Featured speaker John Granger, who has made a career of analyzing literary form, will share his thoughts on J.K.

Rowling's beloved Harry Potter novels at the Pogue Center (8 p.m.)

In regards to fantastic eats and where to find them, visit Flip Cafe for butterbeer and Potter pastries throughout the week. As for *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, you can either catch a showing at the Pogue Cinema or participate in Thursday's cosplay march, departing from Centennial Hall to downtown Borowarts at 5 p.m. (be sure to keep your briefcases latched tight).

Friday will feature the Harry Potter Educators Workshop (conducted by James Howell at Butterfield Hall) and the debut of Potter 7.0, the latest in a series of original parody plays produced by Edinboro students (7 p.m. at Cole Hall). An encore performance will transpire Saturday evening (same time and place).

The concluding Saturday of Potterfest is, as usual, highlighted by the Quidditch tournament. Gravity prevents a truly authentic reproduction of the sport (in the novels, Quidditch is conducted on flying brooms), but there is plenty of levity just the same. The game is a curious mash-up of rugby, dodgeball, and tag. Teams are composed of seven players, three chasers (who attack their opponents' hoops with a "quaffle"), two

beaters (defenders who hurl "bludgers" at the chasers to send them back to their own endzone), one keeper, and a snitch (enters the field every 18 minutes to play keep away; if the other team snatches his/her "tail," or flag, the game ends).

Snicker if you must, but even for the Muggle majority, the profound cultural impact of Harry Potter doesn't figure to wear off anytime soon. — Matt Swanseger

Potterfest continues through Sept. 30 // Full list of events, times, and locations at potterfest.cs.edinboro.edu/Schedule // 219 Meadville St., Edinboro



Fit for Life Fitness Class

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.

Felted Fall Mushrooms

Oct. 3 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Fair Districting Conversation with the Erie Kiwanis Club

Oct. 3 — noon

Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. fairdistrictspa.com.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop

Oct. 3 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Brevillier Village, 5416 E. Lake Rd. lifeworkserie.org.

Oriental Painting

Oct. 3 — 5 to 7 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Erie Candidates' Forum

Oct. 3 — 6:30 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

allaboarderie.com.

Tiny Trees Yoga

Oct. 4, 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 15, 22, 29 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.

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

Adult Open House

Oct. 4 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

The Art of Quilting

Oct. 4 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

2017 100% RAW Powerlifting Championships

Oct. 5 through Oct. 8

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier rawpowerlifting.com.

2017 Erie Heart Walk

Oct. 5 — 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Liberty Park, 726 W. Bayfront Pkwy. heart.org.

Jonathan Kite

Oct. 5 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 6, 7 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

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

Modernizing Drug Testing To Save Human and Animal Lives

Oct. 5 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Spooky Moon Night Hike

Oct. 5 — 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Brown's Farm Barn, 5774 Sterrettania Rd. asburywoods.org.

Edinboro Lake and Efforts to Restore Water Quality

Oct. 5 — 9:30 a.m.

Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. events.edinboro.edu.

Fall Harvest Celebration 2017

Oct. 6, 7, 8

Mount Pleasant of Edinboro, 14510 Mt. Pleasant Rd. skimountpleasant.com.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop

Oct. 6 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.

LECOM Parkside Westminster, 3929 W. 38th St. lifeworkserie.org.

Book Sale

Oct. 6 — noon to 8 p.m. & Oct. 7 — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakewood United Methodist Church, 3856 W. 10th St. lakewooderie.org.

Pumpkin D'Light Night

Oct. 6, 7 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Headwaters Park, 1927 Wager Rd. facebook.com.

Fall Rummage Sale

Oct. 7 — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community Access Television, 142 W. 12th St. catverie.org.

Niagara Creative Writing Conference

Oct. 7 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Writing Center & Studios at Space to Create, 310 E. 10th St. iwwg.wildapricot.org.

Presque Isle Poker Pedal

Oct. 7 — 9 a.m.

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

Outdoor Cooking: Fall Feast

Oct. 7 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Fall Festival

Oct. 7 — noon to 4 p.m.

Therapeutic Riding Equestrian Center, 7280 Sterrettania Rd. treccerie.org.

Dogtoberfest III

Oct. 7 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Erie Brewing Company, 6008 Knowledge Pkwy. facebook.com.

Erie Otters vs. London

Oct. 7 — 7 p.m.

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

World Championship Boxing

Oct. 7 — 7 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier. erieevents.com.

Mushroom ID Program

Oct. 8 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.

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

Used Book Sale

Oct. 9 through Oct. 14

McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St. mccordlibrary.org.

Healthy Sleep

Oct. 9 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Divergent Paths to Knowledge & Wisdom: Science and Arts as Tools of Learning

Oct. 9 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

4th Annual Stem Day

Oct. 10 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rose Hall, 220 Scotland Rd. events.edinboro.edu.

Poetry Night

Oct. 10 — 6:30 p.m.

Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State St. chuckjoy.com.

Highmark Medicare Presentation

Oct. 11 — 1 to 2 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

The Red and the Blue: Which Americans Vote for Which Party and Why?

Oct. 11 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

NOMINATIONS OPEN

THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2017

**BEST OF
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CALENDAR

Must See Shows

Heathers: The Musical at Gannon University



THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

Most will recognize *Heathers* as the 1989 black comedy film starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater. A non-horror cult classic, the Michael Lehmann film is still campy enough to warrant repeat viewings (especially as the Halloween season looms ever closer). Some Gen Xers may be surprised to hear that the original film remains relevant today, but one must remember: Millennials are shamelessly invested in revisiting the trends and art of past decades (especially the 1980s and 1990s). It also doesn't hurt that the film is currently available on Netflix.

But why watch the film for the umpteenth time when you can attend a local production of *Heathers: The Musical* at Gannon's Schuster Theater? According to cast members Michael Haas and Grace Schaefer, the production not only offers all of the film's sardonic wit, but perhaps even more than that.

"This is such a unique and incredibly enjoyable show to watch and be a part of because of how it seamlessly deals with serious matters while adding bits of completely hilarious comedy," says Schaefer, who plays lead Veronica Sawyer. "It shows the intense struggles of high school, where everything seems like life and death, but throws in twists that will make you laugh until you cry."

Fellow cast member Michael Haas agrees with Schaefer's sentiments and offers a deeper, more pedantic take on the production's themes.

"*Heathers* is an intricate look into the psychological evolution of the contemporary mindset of the prototypical teen-

ager," says Haas. "The angst and existential agony of the '80s original still exist, but with a more delicate subtext. This jet black comedy covers everything from depression to LGBTQ issues and even neo-anarchism."

Like most college productions that debut in the fall, *Heathers: The Musical* was put together by a cast and crew of students in just a little under a month. But as many were quick to point out, this only seemed to motivate them further.

"It has been a very tight schedule of rehearsals in which we blocked scenes, choreographed numbers, performed stage combat and safety, and learned our vocal arrangements," says cast member Seamus Clerkin, who plays jock Kurt Kelly. "Even with the short amount of time, I have indubitably enjoyed the process of putting *Heathers* together and we cannot wait to put the show on for audiences!"

Stage manager Sara Oros expanded on this statement.

"I am thrilled to be a part of this production," says Oros. "The cast and crew are so enthusiastic and I have never been more eager to see the final product of a show before."

And with that in mind, there's hardly a production more deserving of being labeled a "Must See Show" than a cult classic arranged by the generation that cares about it most. — Aaron Mook

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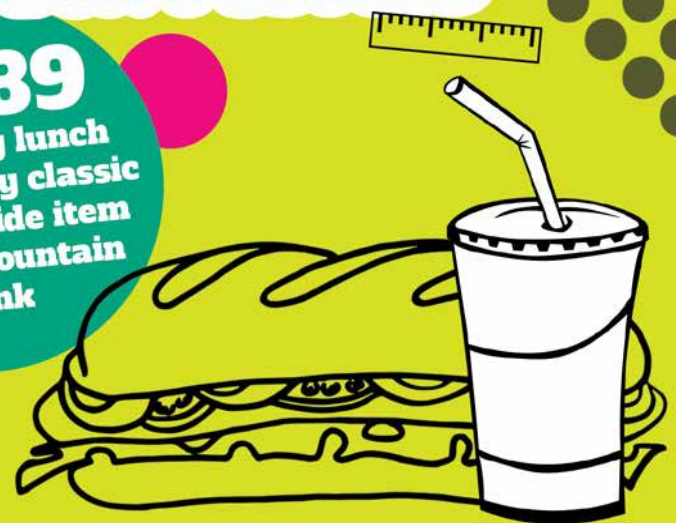
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The Last Hurrahs at Bobby's

Venue that always opened its doors finds them closing



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

"You can't put your arms around a memory." That warning encapsulates the bittersweet feelings many local music fans have about this weekend. The lyrics are courtesy of former New York Dolls guitarist Johnny Thunders, emblazoned on flyers for the final show at Bobby's Place.

For a few years now, Bobby's Place has been the most welcoming place for original music in Erie. After the demise of the crooked i followed by the closing of the Beer Mug, several establishments were left to fill in the gaps left in Erie's live music community. While the resurrected King's Rook Club became a permanent home to the rock and jam scene, and Basement Transmissions continued to foster young talent of all genres, Bobby's was a place for the misfits. Musicians that packed in crowds at places like Scully's or Sherlock's in the mid-2000s began migrating to a quaint smoky club at the corner of two dead-end streets.

Though the barroom of Bobby's may be cozy, new guests would consistently marvel at the spacious outdoor stage. With a fully covered roof, two bocce courts lead the way up to the stage. It's a hidden gem, and one that will find its ideology continued, albeit in a different way.

The owner of Bobby's, Elena Marasco has plans for the future. After happily

parting ways with the venue's liquor license, Marasco, a self-confessed "picker," plans to reinvent the location as an eclectic vintage shop, hosting flea markets in the roomy outdoor space. "The spirit of the facility will still be alive, it will just be taking another direction, and I know it's one that's familiar to the musicians," Marasco explained. "I've talked to them about their pickin' habits," she laughed, referencing events like Dave Steele's Punk Rock Flea Markets and Matt Texter's record swaps.

The stage will remain in place, and Marasco hinted that it most likely wouldn't be the end of music at Bobby's Place, just of late-night shows fueled by alcoholic beverages. "I feel like I'll still have a connection with everyone, because I'm going to run with a format that's engaging to this same community," she reasoned.

Local songwriter Matt Texter helped oversee the venue's swell of live music, which ramped up around three years ago. Hosting open-mics and vinyl nights, Texter pointed out that "for me, it became my neighborhood haunt." He fondly likened it to one of Bobby's most-loved faces, who passed away in March of this year, explaining that "Like Bill Disantis used to say, it's my Cheers bar." Texter went on to note that "Elena opened her doors to all genres and people. It's one of the last, local, DIY venues and when it's gone, there will be a

hole left in the scene. I'm going to miss it," he lamented. "I get nervous when these roots wither. What happens to the fruit?"

Already filled with vintage ashtrays and eclectic decorations, Bobby's Place will live on as a vintage store after the music dies down.

Promoter Alex Harilla described the venue as "a place truly open to all music regardless of genre, that gave underground bands a home in Erie." He acknowledged that "that openness isn't easy to find and will be incredibly missed."

The last weekend will see two big shows, with six bands on Friday, and seven bands on Saturday. Both days will feature the crossover thrash group, Maniacal Device, fronted by "Morbid" Rob Burke. "We're going to miss Bobby's Place," an uncharacteristically sentimental Burke admitted. "Maniacal Device thought of it like home. Elena and company always treated us like rock stars."

Along with Maniacal Device on Friday will be Mala Sangre, Black Moon Mistress, Planet Claire, the Crooked Cobras, and Nightjar. Carlos Rivera, singer of Mala Sangre, proudly noted that "Bobby's provided me an outlet for my original music. Elena never censored us, and provided a pleasant atmosphere for us to play our music." Rivera confessed that he was "totally saddened by this closure, like I was when the Beer Mug closed."

The final night will feature Hard Luck Story, Detroit Red, Paint 31, Kevin Polifrone, The Wild Eyes, and Genetically Enhanced Super Humans (GESH). Set to play the last set of the last night, David DeFranco, bassist for Hard Luck Story, noted that "I'm incredibly sad to see Bobby's go. I've made some friends, and played some of the best sets of my life there. I'm honored to be part of its send-off, and hope that we will do it justice."

Providing a home to local music is something essential to a thriving culture. While it remains to be seen who the heir apparent will be for punk rock and other edgy genres, we can still look back on our times at Bobby's with a smile. — Nick Warren

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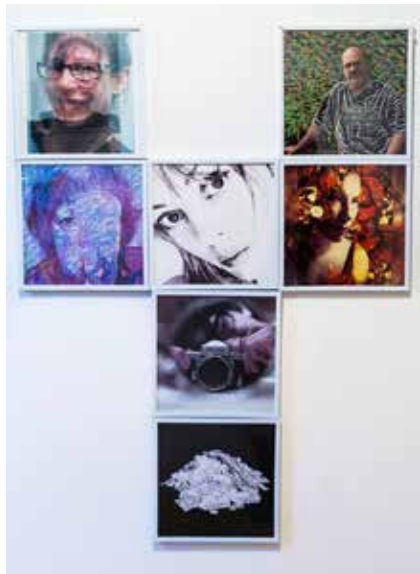
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Locally Roasted

Here's Looking at You

Artists take on the selfie



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

[left] Self portraits [left to right, top to bottom] by Adrienne Moumin, Greg Zbach, Carol Posch Comstock, Anna Ehrsam, Destiny L Dombrowski, Phil Buehler, and Richard Humann. [right] Work from Nancy Oliveri, Larry Walczak, Grace Roselli, Kris Risto, Arlene Rush, Michael Tkach, and Alex Gingrow.

times a good thing — but they came across here as “typical” selfies, just more artfully arranged. They offered little but a superficial look at the artist, suggesting glamor shots from a fashion magazine rather than psychological introspection.

The rest, though, are deeper looks, sometimes fragmented or conceptual, which pull the viewer in for a closer examination. Phil Buehler harks back to his early days as a photographer with a tonally washed-out shot of himself squinting behind his first camera, and Bryan Hiott offers a similarly obscured image, as if he were a ghost caught in mid-emergence from the wall behind him.

Local artists Carol Posch Comstock and Greg Zbach deliver digitally altered pieces writhing with color, and both Kris Risto and Destiny Dombrowski offer their faces in organic finery. Risto’s face materializes up from a green field with yellow flowers, and Dombrowski’s subdued roses frame her face, suggesting the lushness of her mind, or the beauty found there. On the other hand Michael Tkach’s straight-on unadorned approach is amusing and disturbing at the same time, something we’ve come to expect from Tkach.

By: Mary Birdsong

In the quirky but intimate space of 319W2 (a garden shed in the backyard of Larry Walczak’s abode at 319 W. 2nd St.), the latest from his Eyewash Projects is *FOTO BOOTH*, an exhibit asking photographers for a “selfie” that focuses “on the psychological states of mind that transcend the surface of literal photo representation.” The result is 20 eight-by-eight inch works clustered in three groups by 20 artists, from both New York and Erie.

Inherent in a self-portrait or even a casual selfie, is a revealing of some inner self along with the physical exterior. And most of the artists here graciously took the risk to give us bigger windows into their cerebral ecospheres. Others played it a little too safe.

The few disappointing works were straightforward and simple — some-

Working within the confining space of eight-by-eight inches can be challenging, but it also offers the possibility for creating a detailed work that might be too difficult to achieve on a larger scale. Patricia Fabricant and Jessica Sutton pull off wonderful collages that splinter their faces, creating motion and texture. Fabricant weaves paper in a checkerboard pattern that displaces her features just enough to set things ajitter, while Sutton juxtaposes slices of different photo techniques in diagonal sections that intimate conflicting depths.

The selfie’s place on social media makes it feel disposable, just another flash of celebrity in our visually hyper-active world. In fact, studies claim that one million selfies are taken each day,

while others suggest a whopping 93 million, on average, per day. But as early as the fifteenth century, artists in the western world were making self-portraits, so the concept is not as new as it seems, except now everyone can do it. The art world has noticed this development and is starting to mine the possibilities of this new form of portraiture.

If you couldn’t make it to the Saatchi Gallery in London for its big “Selfie to Self-Expression” show earlier this year, swing on by *FOTO BOOTH* in what I lovingly refer to as the Art Shack. Here you can nibble on the arc of human emotions all while standing in one spot.

1 to 4 p.m., Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 7, 8 // 319 W. 2nd St. // 450.8086 for private appointment



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 Steve Scully, M.S., Philip Rucker, B.A., Tara Palmeri, B.A. and Byron York, M.S.

NOVEMBER 10, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.
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MOVIE REVIEWS

It Provides More Laughs Than Scares

★★★

With the success of the Netflix series *Stranger Things*, it seems that the look and feel of 1980s Stephen King-style movies are becoming popular again. It was to be expected that we would get more stories in the tradition of King's "supernatural happenings in American suburbia" style. Right on time, here comes *It*. Based on King's elephantine, 1,200-page novel, *It* is ostensibly the story of a cosmic being who takes the form of a clown to terrorize and murder children in a small Maine town and a small band of teenage misfits who work to stop it.



This new movie eliminates most of the more surreal elements from the novel (including ancient cosmic horrors and massive space-turtles) and instead focuses on the story of kids overcoming their fears and battling an evil clown-monster. It was expected that the studio would turn *It* into a more conventional horror film, but what wasn't expected was how much humor they put into the film. Nearly every scene is punctuated with some kind of joke or sarcastic quip, meaning that the audience I saw the film with was laughing more often than being scared. This overabundance of humor essentially kills most of the tension and is something better left to the Marvel movies than what is supposed to be a horror story.

That being said, the cast of child actors all do a fine job (especially Sophia Lillis as Beverly) and some individual scenes are effective. *It* ends up being serviceable when it could have been something great. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Andy Muschietti // Written by: Chase Palmer, Cary Fukunaga, and Gary Dauberman, based on the novel by Stephen King // Starring: Bill Skarsgard, Jaeden Lieberher, Jeremy Ray Taylor, Sophia Lillis and Finn Wolfhard // 135 minutes

Hell is Other People: A Review of *mother!*

★★★★★

Darren Aronofsky's (*The Wrestler*, *Black Swan*) new film *mother!* is frustrating, confrontational, deeply symbolic and absolutely brilliant. The film stars Jennifer Lawrence and Javier Bardem as a married couple in the process of rebuilding their recently destroyed home and suddenly find themselves the unwitting hosts to a series of increasingly bizarre guests. These guests proceed to become very bothersome for the poor couple in ways that range from annoying, to surreal, to horrifying.



The film seems to have been marketed as a horror film, but if people are looking for traditional scares, they are sure to be disappointed. *mother!* has some tense and terrifying moments to be sure, but at times it is also oddly funny, often feeling more like an absurdist farce than a straight horror film. The film is also heavy with religious symbolism. Though an atheist, Aronofsky has always been deeply concerned with questions of faith and the nature of God and *mother!* might be his most religiously concerned film to date. While superficially a story about marital strife, the film is far more interested in humanity's relationship with and interpretation of the God of the Bible, with the partially destroyed house becoming the stage for all of humanity's flaws and monstrous tendencies. Without giving too much away, the film is practically a scene-for-scene retelling of the Bible.

mother! will undoubtedly be a hugely polarizing film, but if you're more interested in symbolic storytelling and questions of faith than with a traditional story, this film is a must-see experience. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Darren Aronofsky // Written by: Darren Aronofsky // Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Javier Bardem, Ed Harris and Michelle Pfeiffer // 121 minutes

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Between Incumbent Kathy Dahlkemper and Republican Challenger Art Oligeri

Wednesday, October 18 / 7-8:30 p.m.

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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?
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MUSIC REVIEWS

Circa Survive
The Amulet
 Hopeless Records
 ★★★★★

For over a decade now, Circa Survive have been composing emo-tinged post-hardcore and, in the second half of their career, atmospheric indie-rock. But the landscape has changed, and so have they. While some of the band's pre-2010 material may feel dated, those songs are special to many and integral to the band's growth. Circa Survive are now a band churning out music that is simultaneously less immediate, far richer and more rewarding with time, resulting in their most nuanced release yet. Rooted somewhere between the swirling psychedelics of 2007's *On Letting Go* and the spacey restraint of 2012's *Violent Waves*, *The Amulet* successfully marries a number of sounds Circa Survive have workshopped over the years. Frontman Anthony Green's otherworldly howl has mostly subsided, but he sounds more confident than ever in his high-pitched croon, allowing the band's energy to push him to new heights in songs both punchy ("Never Tell a Soul") and epic ("Lustration"). Simply put, *The Amulet* is the kind of album any tenured artist would be proud to release - smooth but never dull, built upon years of experimentation and infallible in its execution. — Aaron Mook



Ariel Pink
Dedicated to Bobby Jameson
 Mexican Summer
 ★★★★★

Ariel Pink is a personality, something he's admitted before and something that is obvious in every cassette-ready jingle he creates and every unwarranted comment he lobs at another performer. Coming off of the polarizing psychedelic-pop of 2014's *Pom Pom*, Pink's new LP immediately feels more rooted in structure than most of his work. Ultimately, what sets *Dedicated to Bobby Jameson* apart is the number of songs bound to become staples of Pink's eclectic catalog. "Feels Like Heaven" is pure 80s goth-pop, drenched in The Cure's doom and gloom, while "Bubblegum Dreams" translates Pink's Brian Wilson impression through layers of distorted fuzz. Elsewhere, Pink employs vintage synth sounds to complement his aesthetic (imagine taking acid before a hockey game and you can pretty much envision opener "Time to Meet Your God"). He doesn't completely abandon the quirks that push his detractors away (see the Count Chocula vocal antics of "Santa's In the Closet"), but only three tracks later, Pink also manages to compose one of the best dream-pop tunes of the decade ("Another Weekend"). His unique take on artwork and music history only adds to Pink's curious allure. — Aaron Mook



Alvays
Antisocialites
 Polyvinyl
 ★★★★★

When lightning strikes twice, it's always a special thing. In 2014, the eponymous debut album from the Toronto quintet Alvays became a sleeper success. The album had staying power, and was so utterly re-listenable that it became one of the breakout hits of that year. Three years later, the band has presented their fans with their sophomore release, *Antisocialites*, another 32 minute LP brimming with catchy hooks and moments of indie pop genius. While the band still wields that intrinsic sweetness that makes them so indelibly lovable, this venture has a noticeably darker bent, albeit ever-so-slightly. The band still fills each note with jangly, dream pop radiance, though it may just be the track order that sets the differing baseline, with the warm midtempo tracks "In Undertow" and "Dreams Tonight" coloring the listener's mood. The album still has its fair share of faster, brighter songs like "Plimsoul Punks" and "Lollipop (Ode to Jim)" however, to balance out any lingering sense of bipolar favoritism. Songwriter Molly Rankin has proven herself to be a true pop force to be reckoned with, and will hopefully continue this winning streak for years to come. — Nick Warren



Antibalas
Where the Gods Are in Peace
 Daptone
 ★★★★★

Whether you think Antibalas is channeling the spirit and sound of 1970s legend Fela Kuti, or just simply stealing from him, it's clear to see that the formula is working. Currently boasting a lineup of 15 musicians, the Brooklyn band was once known as the Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra, but quickly dropped their more genre-specific, pluralistic moniker. Founded in 1997 by baritone saxophonist Martin Perna, the band has helped to spread the sound, perfected by Kuti's Africa '70 group, to a much wider audience. With what essentially amounts to three tracks clocking in at 35 minutes, *Where the Gods Are in Peace* is the band's sixth album overall, and the first offering since 2012's self-titled release. From the first notes of "Gold Rush" the album is gripping, an intoxicating pulse underlying polyrhythmic melodies that plunge the listener into a deep trance. The minor key progressions pounded out by the band's four guitarists and six-piece horn section keep every moment flowing as vocalist Sifu Amayo narrates tales concerning the exploitation of Native Americans in the 1800s, using them both literally and as a metaphor for modern-day injustices. — Nick Warren



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October 6 - Boyd Baker & Friends
October 7 - Jeffrey Glover

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS • 9PM

September 29 - Rick Magee and The Roadhouse Rockers
September 30 - The Breeze Band
October 6 & 7 - Chris Higbee

HAPPY HOUR 5PM - 7PM

Fridays - 50% Off Drinks & \$5 Appetizers
Saturdays - 50% Off Drinks



LBV STEAK & PASTA

TUESDAY - THURSDAY • 5pm-9pm
FRIDAY & SATURDAY • 5pm-10pm



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\$28,500
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