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From the Editors

On fear

You feel that? The slight tinge of crispness in the air? The faint smell of decaying leaves? Dusk edging towards darkness earlier and earlier each night?

It's October and it's time to get scared! What is it about fear that fascinates us so? The fear that comes with Halloween is one thing — jump scares or creepy-crawly, spine-chilling thrills — but real human fear comes in many forms.

FOMO (the fear of missing out) will be in full effect in October, as there are zillions of events happening throughout Erie — like the Erie Horror Fest, Erie Stories, Legends, and Lore Tours, or local productions like *The Woman in Black* or *Sweeney Todd* (all featured herein). Additionally, the sixth annual 40 Under 40 Experience is happening on Oct. 11 — although there's no need to fear missing out on this epic event — tickets are on sale now.

The fear of death, that you might die or lose someone you love (human or pet), is the ultimate fear for anything living — and we avoid it (and thinking about it) as much as possible. When the time eventually comes for our pets, as we know in our heart it will, Hearthside Pet Cemetery — Erie's only and oldest pet cemetery — is here to make that bridge to the other side a little easier to cross. Our cover this month, executed by the one-and-only "Monster" Mark Kosobucki (also featured herein), was inspired by the souls resting at Hearthside — you can read the story of the animal graveyard and its stewards within this issue.

Fear is big in politics — and within the scope of this issue we will all be making a decision that evokes fear for most Americans, one way or another. In the looming presidential election (happening on Tuesday, Nov. 5 — make a plan to vote now), for Democrats, the fear lies in the almost unthinkable possibility of losing our democracy. It's a very real fear given the behavior of the Republican candidate and those who fall in line with him. It is fear of losing more of our rights — our rights to free speech, our rights to fairly elect our leaders, our rights to make choices about our own bodies, our rights to marry who we love, our children's rights to a quality public education in a safe school, and our right to exist on a healthy planet — among many others.

For Republicans, the fears are more manufactured. At the rallies, candidates will stoke fears of immigrants to America who are going to take away their way of life, steal their children, terrorize their neighborhoods, take their jobs, eat their pets, etc. They continually scapegoat the LGBTQIA+ community, in particular the trans community, or demonize racial minorities. But the real root of it here is xenophobia, "the fear or hatred of people who are perceived as different, often based on their nationality, ethnicity, race, or religion." Through Republican talking points, actions, and the reasoning behind the way they vote — it is this, pure and simple, behind it all. Fear.

But the solution to fear is always in discovery — learning more about that which scares you will make it less frightening and more relatable. That bump in the night? It was just your cat knocking over a plant. That flying object in the sky? It's just some dude's drone. Those immigrants that are going to destroy your way of life? The trans kid trying to be themselves? They're just people — neighbors, parents, classmates — who deserve as many rights as our country can offer them, while we've still got them. And they're not anyone to be scared of.

What's really scary is that so many people believe the politicians who are using fear to earn your vote. Pay attention to the man behind the curtain — it's not a wizard, it's just one scared, sad man trying to make you believe in something that's not actually real.

For Democrats, Opportunity Knocks

Connecting with voters door-to-door, face-to-face resonates even in “red” areas

By: Jeff Bloodworth

Kyle Foust almost forgot to run for office. As the son of Erie Democratic royalty, politics runs through the two-term Erie County controller's blood. But Foust was nearly 30 before he ran for office. He told me that a 2003 radio announcement about campaign deadlines “just sort of instantly crystallized in my head that I’m going to take petitions to run.” Defeating a GOP incumbent, he served 16 years on the Erie County Council. In 2019, he defeated yet another incumbent Republican for county controller. Foust revealed his political secret to me, “Be a Democrat who can appeal to many different types of people.”

Foust must be doing just that. In 2023, he routed his GOP challenger, Wade Root, 58-41 percent. To do so, he divulged, “You gotta go door-to-door. That didn’t go out of style with the vacuum cleaner salesman.” Donald Trump’s rise was fueled by Twitter polemics. MAGA, and more than a few liberal trolls, maximize their reach by mainlining social media sturm-und-drang to their activist base. But the antidote to tech-induced hyper-partisanship is the FM radio of door-knocking and human connection.

Michelle Hornish, executive director of Every State Blue, put it another way, “small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.” In politics, the small deeds are the nitty-gritty of retail campaigning. Defeating both Trumpism and hyper-partisanship requires a 50-state retail politics blitzkrieg.

The Harris/Walz campaign may very well defeat Trump/Vance. But a presidential win is not the same as building an enduring majority. For that, Rickey Cole, the two-term chair of the Mississippi Democratic Party, urges a 50-state strategy. To Cole, Democrats, by targeting only specific races in certain blue states, have unwittingly ceded large swaths of the political field to Republicans. He told me, “Those of us who are out here in the grassroots, we see things differently. We see real opportunities where the folks inside the Beltway just have their particular rubric.”

Kyle Foust does not follow this rubric. The Democrat built a political career by winning purple and red district voters. The rubric of only targeting “winnable” races was born in the 1990s. As DNC Chair in the early 2000s, Howard Dean countered with a 50-state strategy. Ironically, the pragmatism of the Clinton era re-emerged in the aftermath of Barack Obama’s 2008 landslide. At the White House level, Democrats competed in enough states to win reelection. At the state and local level, Democrats quit showing up, especially in Red America. Consequently, during the Obama years, Democrats lost 29 state house and senate chambers, 960 state legislative seats, 10 governorships, 62 Congressional, and 11 Senate seats.

This trend has only worsened in the post-Obama era. Throughout Red America, Democrats fail to field candidates. In state representative races in “Red” Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio, for instance, more than



Going door-to-door didn’t die with the vacuum salesman – it’s alive and well and, some pundits posit, the key to gaining votes, especially in rural areas. Jim Wertz, candidate for State Senate, is no stranger to the practice and makes sure to give each resident as much time for deep discussions as they need.

half of all Republicans faced zero Democratic opposition. These down ballot races have profound consequences for Democrats at the top. Hornish told me, “If you put someone on the (bottom of the) ballot, you get anywhere from 1.5-2 percent vote share increase for the top of the ticket.” By this calculus, if Mississippi Democrats had fielded state representative candidates, Brandon Presley would be governor. And today, thousands of Mississippians would have healthcare through Obama-care expansion. Jess Piper, executive director of Blue Missouri, told me this practice means “we are training people to vote Republican.”

Chelsea Oliver can attest to this. In 2022, the former Corry city councilwoman ran for Erie County’s State House District 4. Like Foust, she learned door-to-door campaigns tell voters “that they are important.” Oliver told me, “People wanted to talk...[because] nobody knocks on doors anymore.” Oliver estimates that the last time anyone, Republican or Democrat, went door-to-door in the Fourth District was Obama in 2008. That year, the Obama campaign organized in Corry. And the African American Democrat won all four of Corry’s lily-white wards. Obama’s showing in Corry was no one-off. You may recall, the Democrat also took Florida, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, and came within a combined 14,000 votes of winning Missouri and Montana. But then, mystifyingly, Democrats quit organizing in what were deemed Republican states.

The party disappeared. In 2016, Hillary Clinton won about half of Obama’s 2008 vote in Corry.

In 2022, nearly a generation after Obama, Oliver set her sights on the rural Erie County state house seat. Oliver was the first Democratic politician many voters had encountered since 2008. Living in a media environment dominated by Fox News, Oliver found that many held Democratic positions they believed were conservative.

Jess Piper also encountered this. Rural Missouri voters regularly admitted to the liberal Piper, “Ah, shit. This is what I believe, too.” But Oliver also found a radically changed environment from 2008. With Democrats largely absent, MAGA Republicans were left to dictate what Democratism means while also establishing new norms. Oliver admitted that some voter encounters resulted in “physical and emotional intimidation.” She admitted, “The empowerment from Trump to act like you want to act is very real.” Oliver lost her state house contest to Republican Jake Banta. But in winning 10,276 votes, she helped John Fetterman and Josh Shapiro at the top of the ballot.

Like Oliver, Adam Frisch also ran a race no one believed winnable. In 2022, Frisch challenged Congresswoman Lauren Boebert. Exasperated by the MAGA-darling’s “angertainment,” Frisch ran in a district where Republicans outnumbered Democrats 2 to 1. Making the race even harder, Colorado’s third con-



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gressional district encompassed nearly half the state.

Driving 65,000 miles, Frisch spent 20-25 days a month canvassing the district. The son of a Jewish émigré, as a boy he helped run the family store that catered to miners and ranchers. In his twenties, he waited tables in New York City before “falling into” finance where he managed 200,000 employees who lived across 80 countries. In this, Frisch learned how to understand a wide variety of people. When urban liberal friends ask Frisch, “why ‘they’ vote against their interests,” he tells them, “Pride and dignity will trump pocketbook issues every time.” He paused, smirked, and told me the secret to his voters is understanding, “It’s the dignity, stupid.”

In 2022, Frisch lost to Boebert by a few hundred votes. In 2024, he is running again. And Boebert is so scared she switched districts. The Democrat told me that his experience taught him that “authenticity and sincerity go a long way.”

Frisch’s lesson is one Sam Talarico knows well. The Erie County Democratic Party Chair has a bevy of normie veteran candidates who define the Democratic brand to area voters. Ryan Bizzarro represents suburban Millcreek and Fairview in the Pennsylvania state house. Talarico thinks Bizzarro wins his right-leaning district because “he does a great job with constituent service.” As for state senate candidate Jim Wertz, the chair told me “He has been hitting the doors and phone banks. His ground game is outstanding.” These efforts do more than win an in-

dividual race. In a presidential contest decided by razor-thin margins, Talarico told me, “It makes a small difference. They are canvassing for themselves but also the party.”

Canvassing in 2024 is not what it was a generation prior. Jim Wertz, who along with his campaign team have knocked over 10,000 doors, uses data to drive canvassing efforts. He told me, “We are engaged in deep conversations because we are hitting the right

Throughout Red America, Democrats fail to field candidates. In state representative races in “Red” Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio, for instance, more than half of all Republicans faced zero Democratic opposition. These down ballot races have profound consequences for Democrats at the top.

doors.” And 2024 is an especially fruitful time to combine old school tactics with technology. In the field, Wertz says, “Republicans are falling out of love with their party. They want to have deep conversations.” And these conversations take time. The Democrat recently spent 2.5 hours canvassing 16 homes.

The state senate candidate is running an uphill race

against a Republican incumbent, but many GOP voters remember an era before Trump. They are open to a conversation to mull a party switch or a cross-over vote for Wertz. This is possible because in Erie County, Democrats have been showing up even in “purple” and “red” regions.

And Wertz assures me that this matters. He told me, “What is most important is remembering that a Democrat is something different at the local level. The value set is the same, but the skill set is different. At the national level you get caught up in these larger tropes. But Erie’s local Democrats are your friends and neighbors. There are two degrees of separation.”

Phil Heasley, who manages Preston Nouri’s congressional race against Mike Kelly, notes that Republicans are using thousands of paid canvassers in Pennsylvania. The difference, to Heasley, is “paid canvassers are doing a job. They have a quota. They aren’t having real, meaningful conversations with voters you need to have.” The 20-year veteran of western Pennsylvania politics thinks such discussions are crucial. That is why he told national Democrats months ago, “If you don’t have your ass in Erie County then you can kiss [Pennsylvania] goodbye.”

Judging by the canvassing and door-knocking, Democrats, up and down the ballot, listened.

Jeff Bloodworth is a professor of American political history at Gannon University. You can follow him on Twitter/X @jhueybloodworth or reach him at bloodwor003@gannon.edu

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From Mischief to the Macabre

Trick-or-treating with an evolving holiday in Erie

By: Jonathan Burdick

According to a 2021 YouGov poll, nearly a quarter of American adults consider Halloween one of their favorite holidays. While some are certainly on board for the adult mischievousness — Halloween parties, bar crawling in costume, or marathoning *A Nightmare on Elm Street* movies while sipping on a Lavery's Devil's Pumpkin Ale — there are likely a considerable number of folks who also enjoy the more traditional aspects of the holiday. Whether it's passing out candy, accompanying some trick-or-treating youth, spookily decorating one's home, or trying to predict where Spirit Halloween will pop up each year, the holiday has plenty to offer to everyone.

It was around the 1840s that Halloween customs arrived in the United States alongside Irish immigrants. As described by Encyclopedia Britannica, "Halloween had its origins in the festival of Samhain among the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland. ... During the Samhain festival, the souls of those who had died were believed to return to visit their homes, and those who had died during the year were believed to journey to the otherworld. People set bonfires on hilltops for relighting their hearth fires for the winter and to frighten away evil spirits, and they sometimes wore masks and other disguises to avoid being recognized by the ghosts thought to be present."

In 1868, the Erie Observer newspaper published a story about All Hallows' Eve for the first time. At a Halloween party in Massachusetts, a few young Irish teenagers had been playing games. As part of the game, two girls entered a neighbor's field to snag a cabbage. "[They] were fired upon by the owner," the report recounted. "Miss Bridget Murray, of Boston, was killed, the ball passing through her head."

By the late 1800s in Erie though, newspaper descriptions of the night locally were much less morbid. They generally described the city's Halloween celebrations as "delightful." These events included bobbing for apples, snatching dangling apples, roasting chestnuts over bonfires, and walking backwards in an orchard holding a mirror in an attempt to see one's future spouse. Another trick believed to pre-

dict one's future spouse involved paring an apple, twirling the peel around one's head three times, and tossing it to the ground. Whatever letter the peel resembled was the first letter of their true love's name.

On Oct. 31, 1891, the Erie Daily Times ran a report that these October celebrations mostly included only the "older and more innocent features" of Halloween that had been preserved from previous centuries. The worst of it, they said, was not beyond "horse play and rude burlesque." Still, during some of these years in the city, there were reports of occasional holiday thefts as well as rascality that included bricks through windows, windows lathered with soap, backyard trees cut down, outhouses tipped over, doorbells disappearing, and porches being painted. "Parents could help by keeping their children at home or at least warning them to behave themselves," one Erie police captain told the paper.

In 1907, there'd been "considerable malicious mischief" by "Halloween jesters." The following year, the police chief ordered the entire force to patrol the city all night. "[I]t will be well for the parties out celebrating tonight to have a care that they keep within the bounds of the law and reason," advised the Erie Daily Times.

"Authorities of a century or two ago say that at Halloween, the pixies, the sprites, and the witches emerged from their hiding places and played queer pranks with humanity," the paper explained a few days later. "Nowadays the small boys play the pranks."

Altogether though, local vibes were generally positive. Many organizations and businesses hosted elaborate family-friendly Halloween gatherings. In the early 1900s, the Boston Store organized public parties with entertainment such as the Gem City Orchestra and games such as trying to eat doughnuts suspended from strings. Halloween parties at people's homes were also often reported upon.

"As the guests arrived, a very dignified and awe-inspiring ghost pointed with a bony white hand to the place where they should place their hats and coats," described the newspaper of a party hosted by Florence P. Robinson at 337 W. Fifth St. Each room in the house



This historic photo from around 1920 in Allegheny County shows area children dressed in their Halloween costumes — around this point in American history, many local schools began hosting Halloween celebrations where they "ate ice cream, cake, doughnuts, and candy while having balloon races and hidden apple hunts."

was themed. One room had even been transformed into a dark cave with a witch's kettle, candle-lit lamps, and a fortune teller named Queen Algarsa. In another room, ghost stories were told. The paper called the function "one of the most enjoyable Halloween parties ever given" in Erie.

"This is the time when spirits and fairies return to their old haunts and all who wish may lift the veil which hangs over the future and its mysteries by certain ancient, well tried methods," the paper said. Young boys, they wrote, saved their pennies to buy the "ugliest false face" from the "corner shop's window exhibits," while girls often made their own costumes for local masquerade balls. Even adults, they argued, couldn't resist that "well-remembered childish feeling and a delicious fear of being caught by evil spirits."

Many churches involved themselves in Halloween festivities around the turn of the century, too. One church social hall was decorated with cornstalks, pumpkins, and apples where apple cider was served as ghost stories were shared and a fortune teller made predictions reading palms and tea leaves. There was also the shared tale that children born on Halloween possessed

special gifts. "They have second sight and are able to commune with the spirits. It enables them to peer into the future," noted the Erie Daily Times.

In the 1920s, local schools were hosting Halloween celebrations. In 1926, the Erie Daily Times described kindergartners in an orange-and-black decorated classroom who were costumed as rabbits, clowns, and pirates. They ate ice cream, cake, doughnuts, and candy while having balloon races and hidden apple hunts. Prizes were awarded for the best costumes.

By 1941 though, the editors of Erie Daily Times claimed that the "old fashioned Halloween Party [is] sadly out of date." One's party, they argued, now had to "elicit a gasp from your guests the very moment they make the mistake of setting foot inside your door." The goal was no longer to merely entertain, but to inspire *fear* with "eerie" rooms that inspire a "proper emotional response" from guests.

Halloween was popular on local college campuses, too. In 1948, Penn State Behrend held a Halloween dance for 50 cents per couple. This dance became a yearly tradition, often with a new name and a new campus organization sponsoring it. In 1957, for instance, it was

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called the *Punkin Ball* followed by the *Pumpkin Prance* the next year, each a semi-formal dance that lasted until midnight where Erie Hall was adorned with pumpkins, corn stalks, white picket fences, and a large decorative moon. There was cider, doughnuts, costume prizes, bobbing for apples, and plenty of other games.

The following decade, the festivities were embraced by Behrend's growing counterculture. "Halloween, which you might only consider a night set aside for tiny cherubs to plunder your neighborhood, is indeed just the chance that you've been waiting for," student Debi Cole wrote in the student newspaper in 1968. "When else can you dress, act, walk, and talk like just the person or thing you want to be and get away with it? Consider this Halloween your big chance. Be anyone you want. ... It should be interesting to find out how

many Behrendites wish they were Raquel Welch or Steve McQueen."

By the 1970s, there was a further shift towards the more macabre. This coincided with mainstream horror movies becoming more violent, intense, and disturbingly dark from *Rosemary's Baby* (1968), *The Exorcist* (1973), *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* (1974), to *Black Christmas* (1974) — and, of course, a few short years later, John Carpenter's slasher masterpiece *Halloween* in 1978.

That same year, local reporter Ed Mathews noted that Halloween celebrations had changed dramatically

it now serves a new purpose for children in a city," another city resident (and self-described former "Halloween Scrooge") explained. "It is a dramatic experience of friendliness and caring about a neighborhood ... I feel grateful for our neighbors who help to teach children about how the world should be. Halloween in Erie would make a believer out of anyone."

Three haunted houses visited by local children were also operating that year: the March of Dimes Haunted House on Ottawa Drive, the Presque Isle Jaycees Haunted House in Fairview, and the

loween.

Entering the 1990s, the conversation shifted to the commercialization of Halloween. Many waxed nostalgic over the good ol' days before the spooky season became a \$3 billion dollar industry (over \$12 billion today). One local resident penned an op-ed for the Erie Times-News expressing puzzlement over the amount of money people were spending on their costumes. It wasn't until the mid-90s that the editors of the Erie Times-News acknowledged that, like many other things, Halloween had officially entered the culture wars.

"Sometimes it seems that these days no event or issue escapes being dissected and analyzed until half the fun is squeezed out of it," they wrote. Some parents, they explained, objected to Halloween celebrations due to perceived "satanic undertones." Others were upset by the holiday exposing children to so much candy, setting a dangerous nutritional precedent. "Still, count us among those who view Halloween as a fun-filled lark that offers children a lot of enjoyment while doing them no harm," defended the editors, adding that they believed most parents likely agreed. "Just let the kids be kids and have some fun."

Today, families across Erie County continue all sorts of traditions, whether it's carving elaborate pumpkins (and cooking those delicious seeds), dancing the night away at ZooBoo, watching scary movies, or simply seeing how many neighborhood trick-or-treats one can attend over the final week in October. However one chooses to (or not to) celebrate though, one thing is for sure: Halloween is more popular than ever.

Jonathan Burdick runs the public history project *Rust & Dirt*. He can be reached at jburdick@eriereader.com

By the late 1800s in Erie though, newspaper[s] ... generally described the city's Halloween celebrations as "delightful." These events included bobbing for apples, snatching dangling apples, roasting chestnuts over bonfires, and walking backwards in an orchard holding a mirror in an attempt to see one's future spouse.

in recent decades too — but for the better. "The day after Halloween is nowhere near as bad as it used to be when everybody was upset over what had happened to them or their property," he wrote. "Now the youngsters on the whole are quite well behaved." He added that the emphasis on families providing "good candy and fruit" for trick-or-treat likely kept "the youngsters" occupied. He recalled a time as a kid when he had dumped a family's garbage can on Halloween night. His father found out and marched him right back to the yard to clean it up. "That changed our understanding of fun at Halloween in a big hurry," he quipped. Children trick-or-treating for goodies was now what more and more people were associating with the holiday.

"Whatever the tradition of going trick-or-treating meant in the past,

Gravel Pit Park Haunted House just west of North East. Despite this positivity though, it also included the first local report warning parents to look through candy for hidden razor blades.

By the 1980s, Penn State Behrend was sponsoring all-night horror movie marathons on VHS in dorm hall basements. Party culture also was increasingly associated with the night. The student paper printed a report about the concerning nature of out-of-control, alcohol-infused Halloween costume parties across college campuses that had become increasingly popular over the previous decade. Many, the report stated, "often devolve into chaotic, violent street brawls ... [with] injuries and property destruction." Some campuses around the country even began shutting down their campuses and sending students home during the week of Hal-



This newspaper ad from the Erie Times News in 1978 shows costumes influenced by popular culture at the time — the 1970s also coincided with less mischief happening on Halloween and a shift in the focus from tricks to treats.



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The History and Afterlife of Erie's Only Pet Cemetery

Hearthside continues legacy of stewarding the souls of our companions

By: Erin Phillips

It's something we always know is coming — when you adopt a pet, you're signing up for eventual heartbreak. But the time we get to spend with that animal, knowing it is so finite, is so special. There is a bond between pet and owner that goes beyond the day-to-day — it is true, non-judgemental, unconditional companionship and when we eventually lose that pet — the grief can be as real as any human loss.

When a human being dies, there is the comfort of tradition to help us move through the steps of grief — the funeral, the burial, and the ability to visit a monument or gravesite when one feels the need to reflect on a loved one's life; it provides a sense of closure. Often, the burial and memorializing of a pet is less formal — a backyard gravesite or a cremation provided by a local animal shelter. Humans have been burying animals for millennia — the oldest known pet cemetery, mainly used for cat burials, was found in Egypt dating between the first and second century CE. Archaeologists have found canine remains that were buried with humans in Siberia from over 8,000 years ago. It is in our DNA to mourn and memorialize our companion animals.

In 1949, there was a sentimental confessional published in the Erie Times News from someone who found a deceased dog on the road. The citizen named B.D. Moon lamented, "The dog lives a good life, and a faithful one, but they still have to die in time and it seems to us a little bit kinder to make arrangements for their final resting place when the time comes." The story came with the headline, "No Place For Erie's Dead Dogs: Every Canine Has a Day-To Die" with the subhead, "What the city needs is a 'bow wow heaven,' something complete with flowers and markers."

Erie County wouldn't truly have a solution to Moon's request for nine more years when the Hearthsides Pet Cemetery broke ground, so to speak, in 1958. Built to fill a community void, local veterinarian Art Paavola heard the requests, over and over, from his patients' owners at Erie Animal Hospital (the practice he established) for a place to lay their beloved pets to rest. And so, for that reason, Dr. Paavola created Erie's first and only official pet cemetery. In an Erie Times News article from 1978, the writer noted, "Amidst the rolling hills of Elk Valley in McKean is an acre of meticulously kept lawn surrounded by blue spruce that is resting place to more than 500 household pets."

At the time, Hearthsides was one of just 400 pet cemeteries nationwide, and according to Paavola, only about 1 percent of pet owners choose to bury their pets in an established cemetery, but the need was enough that he felt called to create one. In the 1978 interview, Paavola noted that those who seek out the cemetery come from all walks of life, "Pets of poor people, judges, doctors, even ministers, are laid to rest here."

Additionally, Paavola notes that part of the reason he created the cemetery was personal: "The pet ceme-



The Hearthsides pet cemetery has a number of features that help define it — like the hearth namesake, the mini-mausoleum, and a number of memorial benches and statuettes. The cemetery was established to fill a need in Erie — for folks to have a final resting place for their beloved pets, and one that honors their memories.

tery gives me a lot of personal satisfaction since most of the deceased pets belong to friends and clients, and after taking care of an animal for 10 to 15 years, and nursing it through various illnesses and injuries, I, too, get attached to them. I could give you a life history of most of the pets buried there."

Eventually, Paavola's sons Jeff and Tom took over operations at Hearthsides and in November of 2022, the project left the Paavola family for the first time in its history when it was purchased by the Farrar family. For Jennifer Farrar, the decision to purchase the property and carry on the tradition was also personal — her family had a plot in the cemetery for their dog Jack, who tragically passed away very young from liver failure after eating a poisonous mushroom.

The cemetery provided comfort to their grieving family. Farrar comments, "It was very traumatic and the former owner of Hearthsides, Tom Paavola, was so kind and comforting helping us lay Jack to rest." She continues, "I knew how much it meant to my young sons to feel their puppy was buried in a beautiful place that we could visit. When it (Hearthsides) became available, we felt we could help other families through the difficult time of losing a pet."

Hearthsides Pet Cemetery is a unique place. Nestled off of Rick Road in McKean Township, it is sunken down from the road and wooded on three sides — a

peaceful, pastoral area. The titular "hearth" memorial is visible from the road, as are some other features like a gazebo, a decorative fire hydrant, stone benches, and a mini-mausoleum.

The story behind the mausoleum is an interesting one. A newspaper article from 1983 noted that the marble mausoleum was purchased by Dr. Paavola that same year but the "two and a half ton pillared structure" had been on display in the (then) Mason Memorial Studios (3830 W. 26th St.) showroom for the past 48 years.

Originally the mausoleum was built by the Vermont Marble Company for their exhibit in the 1933-34 "Century of Progress" World's Fair in Chicago. A year after the fair, Erie's Herbert Mason acquired the mini-mausoleum. When Paavola purchased the structure, he modified it to be a "mini-tomb" to house the cremated remains of pets. It still stands on the grounds of Hearthsides today.

One can't help becoming a bit misty as one walks through the cemetery grounds — some families have multiple pets buried in plots with sentiments etched on the gravestones like, "He was a good boy." Farrar notes, "It's incredible the care and attention that people pay to their plots for years and decades after their pet passes away. Each week when we are there we will note plots that people have weeded, added

FEATURE

mulch, added a seasonal flower or pinwheel. It's an incredible testament to the bond that people forge with their companion animals."

One etched sentiment on a particularly notable grave in the cemetery reads, "He made us laugh." This gravesite belongs to a chimpanzee named Bonzo. The story goes that this particular Bonzo (there were a few) may have spent some time in Hollywood, but was actually not the famous chimp that starred alongside Ronald Reagan in the 1951 film *Bedtime for Bonzo*. This Bonzo, famously buried in Hearthsides, was retired from the movie industry and was coming through Erie with a traveling circus when he fell ill and was treated by Dr. Paavola at Erie Animal Hospital. Unable to save the chimp, he kindly offered to bury him at Hearthsides. Farrar regularly receives inquiries from people about the gravesite of Bonzo — it's something that often draws visitors to this corner of Erie County.

Today, Farrar notes that the care of Hearthsides is a true family affair, "My 17-year-old son James and I are officially co-owners. He has wanted to have his own business since he was in elementary school and has always helped many friends, family, and neighbors take care of their properties. When Hearthsides was for sale, we discussed that it would be a chance for him to finally have a property of his own to help care for. My other son, Anthony, and my parents also pitch in with some mowing, trimming, and property clean up on occasion as well."

While some may associate pet cemeteries with the folklore perpetuated by Stephen King in the 1980s, Farrar and family have never experienced anything even remotely considered spooky at Hearthsides and, she notes, "We are lucky that people have generally been very respectful of the property, other than the

"It's incredible the care and attention that people pay to their plots for years and decades after their pet passes away ... It's an incredible testament to the bond that people forge with their companion animals." — Jennifer Farrar, Hearthsides Pet Cemetery co-owner

occasional litter." Aside from a note in the newspaper in 2003 when police responded to a report of "numerous individuals found engaged in a party where minors were consuming alcohol," at the site, there has been no report of any reanimated animals (or human beings for that matter) in the slightest.

Hearthsides Pet Cemetery is purely a place of comfort and solace, giving families an opportunity to memorialize their pets, provide a permanent place for them to rest, and stand as a monument to a different kind of history — a history of humans and their animals — the bond they share, and that unconditional



Purchased by the Farrar family in 2022, the maintenance, upkeep, and continuation of the Hearthsides Pet Cemetery is truly a family affair. Co-owned by Jennifer and her teenage son James (right), his grandmother (left) and other family members are always willing to pitch in to help keep the cemetery beautiful.

form of love that, if you're lucky enough to experience it, you know is worthy of remembering.

For more information on Hearthsides Pet Cemetery, their services, and their story, visit hearthsidespetcemetery.com or email hearthsidespet@gmail.com

Erin Phillips got to share a few (too short) beautiful years with her buddy Tank, a chocolate lab who was the absolute goodest boy. She can be reached at erin@eriereader.com

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The Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit XVI

Erie's think tank provides plenty of opportunities to ponder

By: Chloe Forbes

BEGINNING SUNDAY OCT. 20

A two-and-a-half-day affair with five events in 2009 has grown to 14 events spanning weeks. However, the Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit's mission remains the same — capturing the power of knowledge. For Global Summit XVI, 22 invited guests will go beyond current events and address those issues most pressing to people in the area.

"In a U.S. presidential election year, of course, we're focused on U.S. politics and the future and fate of democracy. But we're also looking at other pressing issues of the day — from artificial intelligence to leadership, from the housing crisis to immigration, from the future of sports to the state of the economy," said Jefferson Educational Society (JES) Vice President Ben Spегgen.

Still, as the program grows, Spегgen said they've spaced out the events to create a more sustainable pace for those who would like to attend all the events. "As we've grown, we know 'right-sizing' matters, because we've heard attendees in the past say 'there is just so much to choose from!' Rather than forcing people to choose between events, the JES team has worked this year to create a pace that we believe is sustainable so that if someone wants to attend all 14 events and learn from all 22 invited guests, they can without becoming exhausted or overwhelmed."

The JES offers programming year-round, and Spегgen said the Global Summit is a great way to get people who might be apprehensive in the door. "The JES team's focus this year, like in years past, was not just to have 'something for everyone' but to excite everyone about something — at least just once. We've found that when folks who've never attended JES programming come through the door for the first time to an event of specific interest to them, the nature of the experience — the shared learning experience being shoulder-to-shoulder with folks who may or not agree with them together at a platform for civil, civic dialogue — helps open the door to curiosity and pique an interest in attending more events," he said.

From looking at how President Abraham Lincoln would see immigration today to exploring counter-arguments about how population growth leads to an abundance of resources globally rather than a drain, JES hopes to intrigue and inspire members of its audience while keeping them up-to-date with the latest happenings.

"We strive to ensure a lineup of speakers that aren't just entertaining; they're informative. Whether it is their life's story or their bleeding-edge research or their expert analysis and commentary, these speakers are here to help advance conversations occurring with global-level significance and local-level implications. And that is something northwestern Pennsylvania residents can participate in in their own backyard," Spегgen shares.

"A hallmark of our events is opening a dialogue between the people on stage and the audience in front of them," Spегgen continued. "By being able to ask these



The 16th annual Global Summit, organized by the Jefferson Educational Society, will be bigger, better, and more streamlined than ever before. With 22 speakers and moderators scheduled at venues throughout the Erie area and with subject matter ranging from political to historical and economic to athletic, attendees will find the local think tank offering plenty of opportunities to learn and engage.

folks questions, we're creating an information highway that isn't just a one-lane road. So, I hope folks will gain more insights and knowledge about the topics of interest to them, while also being active participants in these critical conversations shaping and informing the future of our region and beyond."

The Global Summit is hosted each year by the JES in cooperation with numerous sponsors including Erie Insurance, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, and many more. Early bird ticket pricing starts at \$25. Tickets for these events are on sale now at JESerie.org or by calling (814) 459-8000. As in previous years, all students will be admitted free with pre-registration through JES.

A Conversation with Liz Cheney and Sister Joan Chittister

Thursday, Oct. 17 // 7:30 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier

During the height of a politically fraught time, Liz Cheney comes to town to converse with Erie's own Sister Joan Chittister. Cheney chaired the House Republican Conference and was a U.S. representative until her opinions on the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol led to her party largely turning on her. She served as Wyoming's at-large congressional district representative from 2017-23. She now finds herself in the position to fight for democracy rather than for one party or another.

Chittister has written and spoken extensively about women in the church and society, along with human rights, peace, and justice. She has served as president

of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and for 12 years was a prioress of her community, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. She has authored over 60 books and hundreds of articles and has been featured on shows like Oprah's *Super Soul Sunday*.

The Future of Sports

Sunday, Oct. 20 // 7:30 p.m. // Cathedral Prep auditorium, 250 W. 10th St.

The JES welcomes back Jon Wertheim, accomplished journalist and CBS *60 Minutes* correspondent who made his Global Summit debut in 2022, to moderate a conversation about the future of sports.

The talk will feature Stephen A. Smith and his best-selling memoir, *Straight Shooter: A Memoir of Second Chances and First Takes*. Smith is a well-known sportscaster, journalist, actor, author, and podcaster who comments on everything from basketball to global affairs.

Escaping the Housing Trap

Monday, Oct. 21 // 7:30 p.m. // Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom, 628 Peach St.

Although a necessity, housing has become a source of anxiety for many as pricing continues to skyrocket. Founder of Strong Towns — a nonprofit that advocates for financially resilient cities — Charles "Chuck" Marohn covers the history of housing policy and how urban land use and civil engineering can create stronger communities. His main focus centers around the development of dense towns and the restructuring of subur-

ban America in response to the ongoing housing crisis. News platform Planetizen named Marohn one of the 15 Most Influential Urbanists of all time in 2017 and 2023.

Artificial Intelligence: Where is the Technology Headed, and How is it Impacting Business and Consumers?

Tuesday, Oct. 22 // 7:30 p.m. // Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom, 628 Peach St.

As artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT find their way into every part of life and business, Tristan Hoag unpacks what that means for the future. Hoag is the North American regional co-chair for BCG X, Boston Consulting Group's tech build and design unit.

Hoag leads global efforts in building AI and digital systems that transform clients' core businesses. He has led several initiatives to transform businesses' structures using information technology (IT) to cut down on costs and increase efficiency, including a global newspaper.

An Evening with Heather Cox Richardson and Tom Nichols

Tuesday, Oct. 29 // 7:30 pm. // Collegiate Academy auditorium, 2825 State St.

Back for more, author Tom Nichols is a returning speaker from the 2023 Global Summit. Nichols, a staff writer for *The Atlantic* and author of *The Atlantic's* daily newsletter, will converse with historian Heather Cox Richardson. Cox Richardson's narrated newsletter/podcast *Letters from an American* tackles the history behind today's politics and reaches millions of Substack subscribers.

Nichols is known for his commentary on the decline of modern society and threats to democracy, as highlighted in his new book *The Death of Expertise*. Cox Richardson's latest book, *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America* covers how unrealistic ideals could have led America to this point. In her book, Cox Richardson does more than detail history, though; she calls readers to action and reminds them to remain vigilant and continually participate in democracy.

Gannon READS — Try to Love the Questions: From Debate to Dialogue in Classrooms and Life

Wednesday, Oct. 30 // 7 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St.

Gannon READS (Reading to Enhance Awareness of a Diverse Society) is returning to the JES guest list as well this year, as its public reading series relates to global issues at the Summit.

In an era when civil discourse is inherently important, professor Lara Schwartz outlines a framework in her book *Try to Love the Questions* where educators and students can engage with discussions pertaining to civil discourse, effectively setting up college communities to navigate the intersection of free speech and inclusion.

Schwartz is a lawyer, past civil rights strategist, and

a professor in the School of Public Affairs at American University, where she is also the founding director of the Project on Civil Dialogue.

The American Dream is Not Dead (But Populism Could Kill It)

Monday, Nov. 4 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.

Dr. Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, will speak on his book *The American Dream is Not Dead: (But Populism Could Kill It)*, which examines long-term trends in economics that affect typical workers and households and challenges a pessimistic narrative presented by both parties.

Strain is an accomplished researcher and scholar in labor markets, public finance, social policy, and macroeconomics. His essays and op-eds have been published by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Financial Times*, and others. He is regularly interviewed by CNBC, MSNBC, and NPR, and has testified before Congress.

The Generous Leader: 7 Ways to Give of Yourself for Everyone's Gain

Wednesday, Nov. 6 // 7:30 pm. //Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom, 628 Peach St.

It's said that teamwork makes the dream work, and strong leadership stems from actions like generous communication, listening, inclusion, allies, development, moments, and vulnerability. Joe Davis, manag-

ing director and senior partner at Boston Consulting Group (BCG), will share insights from his book *The Generous Leader: 7 Ways to Give of Yourself for Everyone's Gain*, which enabled him to solve challenges through collaboration. The book focuses on Davis' testimony and experiences of CEOs from recognizable companies that reveal what mistakes and actions informed their success.

Davis was a regional chair for BCG and oversaw operations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. He also co-founded the firm's Washington, D.C. office and was instrumental in advancing BCG's diversity, equity, and inclusion agenda.

Superabundance: The Story of Population Growth, Innovation, and Human Flourishing on an Infinitely Bountiful Planet

Thursday, Nov. 7 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.

Superabundance is a concept that examines why population growth and freedom to innovate is a valuable resource rather than a drain on traditional resources. Marian L. Tupy, founder and editor of *HumanProgress.org*, speaks about the concepts in the book he co-authored, drawing on statistics and his expertise in philosophy and history.

After analyzing the prices of hundreds of commodities, goods, and services spanning two centuries to quantify the human resource footprint, the authors found that the more people, the more innovation. The only thing more significant than growth is the ability to speak, publish, share, invest, profit, etc. — to be free.



Jefferson Educational Society Vice President Ben Spегgen (right) is excited to bring a streamlined, staggered event schedule to the Global Summit this year – making attending 14 individual events possible for attendees.

From Erie to the Hall of Fame: The Life and Legacy of Fred Biletnikoff — the 2024 Recipient of the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award

Friday, Nov. 8 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.

Frederick “Fred” Biletnikoff, former professional football player and coach, was born in Erie and is this year’s recipient of the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award. Learn about his time as one of the most sure-handed and consistent receivers of his day with a propensity for making spectacular catches. He was known for running smooth and precise pass routes and is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and College Football Hall of Fame. He played as a wideout for the Oakland Raiders and was later an assistant coach for the team.

Leading a Diverse Workforce Today and Tomorrow: A Panel Discussion featuring High-Ranking Officials from the FAA, Aerospace Corporation, and More

Monday, Nov. 11 // 7:30 p.m. // Gannon University’s Yehl Ballroom, 628 Peach St.

Speaking on a diverse workforce is a diverse panel, featuring industry leaders passionate about advocacy. The panel includes Edward L. Bolton Jr., last year’s Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas award recipient, a retired U.S. Air Force Major General, and a senior advisor to the Aerospace Corporation CEO; Dr. Karen Bolton, a tenured professor (emeritus), elected school board director, and equity and

inclusion advocate; Angelia G. Neal, an HR executive with over two decades of knowledge in leveraging positive impact; and Via Van Lieu, principal director and chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer at the Aerospace Corporation.

Lincoln and the Un-Civil War on Immigration

Tuesday, Nov. 12 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.

As immigration issues land on the radar of many residents, it’s a topic ripe for discussion at the Global Summit. Harold Holzer plans to tackle it from a historical perspective, drawing from his most recently published book *Brought Forth on this Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration*. Holzer is the Jonathan F. Fanton Director of The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College in New York and author, co-author, or editor of 56 books on President Lincoln and the Civil War.

Post-Election Analysis: Washington Insiders Weigh in on 2024 Presidential Election

Thursday, Nov. 14 // 7:30 p.m. // Cathedral Prep auditorium, 250 W. 10th St.

As the clock ticks down to a presidential election of incredible historical significance, the Global Summit sticks to its core values of analyzing how today’s global impacts have local implications. Join a handful of D.C. insiders after the election to unpack what it means for the country and beyond, including political commentator Chris Mat-

thews who will join lobbyist and CNN political commentator David Urban, and CNN political commentator, ABC news political contributor, and former communication director on Capitol Hill, Tara Setmayer. Erie’s own Steve Scully, long-time Global Summit chairman and host of SiriusXM’s *The Briefing* will moderate the discussion.

We Are the Leaders We Have Been Looking For

Friday, Nov. 15 // 7:30 p.m. // Gannon University’s Yehl Ballroom, 628 Peach St.

Eddie Glaude Jr. believes that ordinary Black Americans can shake off their reliance on a small group of professional politicians and pursue avenues like grassroots movements and self-cultivation to achieve a more just democracy. In his speech, Glaude — an author, political commentator, public intellectual, and educator — will draw on his latest book (*We Are the Leaders We Have Been Looking For*), released in April, that addresses the very notion that individuals don’t have to look further than themselves. Glaude is a distinguished professor at Princeton University and was the inaugural chair of Princeton’s Center for African American Studies and served over 14 years in that position.

For more information and for tickets to any of these events, visit: jeserie.org/global-summit-XVI

Ben Speggen can be reached at speggen@jeserie.org

Chloe Forbes can be reached at chloeforbes14@gmail.com.

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Footlights Theatre Performing Arts Center Finds a New Home at PACA

Youth theater program moves to Erie's creative capital in the historic Mayer Building

By: Edwina Capozziello

The Footlights Theatre program is celebrating its 50th year in 2025. To celebrate the golden anniversary, they have moved into a new space that will expand opportunities for the youth theater students it serves. The studio is on the second floor of the Mayer building at 1505 State St., right down the hall from PACA's theater, a space that some may recall as the former home of PACA Technical Director Dave Schroeder's PACA [LIVE!] concert series.

"Finding a home at PACA was just sort of a natural progression. I came in last year as the artistic director (of PACA) and really found a welcome place there. Mark Tanenbaum (PACA's executive director) has wanted to bring youth theater into PACA and forming this partnership seemed the natural way to go," says KC McCloskey, co-owner of Footlights. "We've not had a theater of our own or a consistent place to perform and being able to incorporate into the PACA theater season will give our student performers more opportunities, and we are able to give them directing, stage management, and technical production opportunities as well," she adds.

A Bit of History

1975: Alex Clemente (The Erie School District), Len Ekimoff (City of Erie's Parks and Recreation Department), and Jim Schneider create a summer recreation program free to all Erie children regardless of experience, background, or social status. Initially called Student Summer Theatre, they presented *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* that summer.

1994: Students hold a contest to rename the program and the Student Summer Theatre program was reborn as The Footlights Theatre Program.

1998: Current Footlights co-owners KC McCloskey and Sara Little meet during a summer show production.

2012: McCloskey takes over as director.

2017: Footlights begins to expand beyond a summer program.

2020: Little and McCloskey form their business partnership and begin offering studio classes.

2024: Footlights officially moves into the Mayer Building at PACA.

Honing Skills with David W. "Mr. Director Sir" Mitchell

"Footlights moving into the PACA building couldn't make better sense" says co-owner Sara Little. "The aura and the vibes you feel as you walk through the halls screams — well, calmly whispers — inspiration," she quips. "Exposing our students to a building filled with a variety of artists soothes my soul," she adds.

Little and McCloskey both have long performance histories in Erie. Little began dancing at Little Dance Studio as a child and eventually became a dance teacher there. "During middle school, I joined Footlights Theatre, then under the direction of David W. Mitchell. I quickly transitioned to the staff at age 17 (my first job) and choreographed *Annie* and *Bye Bye Birdie*," Little recalls.

McCloskey adds, "I started my journey in theater



The Footlights Theatre program is celebrating their 50th year in operation — offering the dramatically inclined youth of Erie an outlet for their creativity. This anniversary also marks a new collaboration between the program and local venue PACA, as Footlights is moving into the space at 1505 State St.

at The Roadhouse when I was 17 in their production of *King Lear*. Through that production I met David W. Mitchell, who invited me to join Footlights. I worked with Dave for the next 25 years both at Footlights and at All An Act Theatre Productions."

In a video put together in celebration of the upcoming 50th anniversary, a multi-generational group of former Footlights students talk about what they took away from their youth theater experience. Many were recorded saluting and referring to David W. Mitchell by his preferred moniker "Mr. Director Sir."

The video is filled with heartwarming memories and gratitude. Former students talk about the confidence they built, enabling them to pursue degrees and other opportunities both in and out of the limelight. There are recollections of multiple summers growing up with the same students and even some that found their future spouses. The video is full of familiar Erie faces gushing with "thank yous" for Footlights, what the experience meant to them and how it enriched their lives.

What's Next

McCloskey wants the community to know that "Footlights is fully inclusive and supportive of all our students and staff. We're passionate about what we do and we value what the performing arts can bring to our lives. Class enrollment is ongoing and auditions are happening soon."

Upcoming productions in the works are student directed — they are *Firefly Tales in October* and auditions for *She Kills Monsters* and *Six, Teen Edition* in November, both of which will run in the spring.

Footlights mom Jennifer Blount says one of her favorite things about the program is "they challenge the kids to help them grow as actors and people. They give them different and sometimes difficult material but

are so wonderful with teaching the kids that they get many great learning experiences." Blount, whose children Olivia and Dustin were amongst the first of the Footlights group to migrate over to PACA, adds that the move "gave the kids an opportunity to learn how to adapt to a new setting to perform in." Blount also says "Footlights is a great theater community and we have been welcomed with open arms at PACA."

Co-owner Little, who has a varied performance background and who recently made her own stage return in PACA's production of *Pippin*, says of the move, "I have always been a big believer in being well-rounded and knowing all the ins and outs of how an organization works."

Little believes that newer and more experienced performers working in the same setting is key to development. "Being steps away from the PACA theater gives countless opportunities for our students to see and work with adults in our community," she adds. The collaborative model will allow students to not only build on acting, dancing and singing abilities but also on back-of-house skills like set building and costume design under the guidance and care of the Footlights staff.

Here's to another 50+ years!

While the Footlights Summer Program is funded through the City of Erie Parks and Recreation Department, for the remainder of the year they rely solely on monthly tuition from their studio classes. For questions or class information, or to make a donation visit: footlightspac.com or email the owners: kc@footlightspac.com / sara@footlightspac.com

Edwina Capozziello is a Tampa, Florida transplant and Erie's biggest fan who is fulfilling her lifelong dream to see her name in news print thanks to this publication. She can usually be found at a local event or thrift store with a black iced coffee in hand. You can reach her at edwina.capozziello@gmail.com.

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For the past decade, Panache Salon and Spa has been honored to be voted Best Salon in the Best of Erie Reader contest. Your unwavering support and recognition have truly inspired us, and we are deeply grateful.

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Keeping Erie Weird: Jane Jacobs' Vision Presented in Erie

Maria MacDonald, the Center For the Living City, and the Greater Erie Awards

By: Erin Phillips

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

Jane Jacobs, often referred to as "the foremost urbanist of all time," wrote those words in her groundbreaking book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Jane Jacobs was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and eventually lived in and loved New York City and fought her whole life against those buzzwords that many people in power like to attribute to growth — "urban renewal" and "slum clearance." To Jacobs those words did not hold the true value that bureaucrats, urban planners, and redevelopers like to think they do. Jacobs argued that those words, and the actions that came as a result of them, do not respect the actual needs of city dwellers.

Jacobs was a true activist in her time — in the 1960s, she set herself up against powerful people like Robert Moses, and often won. Her work was key in preventing the proposed Lower Manhattan Expressway, which would have bulldozed right through New York's SoHo neighborhood. She was often dismissed by powerful men as an "uneducated housewife," but she was tenacious, her writing and work prolific, and today she is widely regarded as a key figure in truly sustainable city planning by scholars like Richard Florida (famed urbanist who spoke at the Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit in 2023) and Robert Lucas (a Nobel Prize winning economist).

You've seen the slogan, "Keep (insert city name here) Weird!" That sentiment was basically Jane Jacobs' entire belief system. Throughout her life and work, she constantly urged folks to "respect — in the deepest sense — strips of chaos that have a weird wisdom of their own not yet encompassed in our concept of urban order." Jacobs was a proponent of neighborhoods, building culture and trust organically, resisting the allure of efficiency at the expense of character, and ultimately, standing up for the actual people who make a city what it is.

In 2005, a group of activists, practitioners, and academics, in collaboration with Jane Jacobs, founded the Center for the Living City out of Scranton — which has grown to become a leading global urbanist organization that aims



This year, Preservation Erie will present their Greater Erie Awards to the following recipients at their annual event happening on Thursday, Oct. 10 at the Erie Center for Arts and Technology: [clockwise from top left] FEED Media Art Center, WQLN's *Chronicles* Series, Jonathan Burdick of *Rust and Dirt*, The expERIENCE Children's Museum, The Historical Institute of Culture & the African American Experience, The Presque Isle Light Station, Sarah Reed Children's Center, and Wally Knox.

to advance social, environmental, and economic justice forums through "inviting all perspectives, particularly those of the marginalized, to participate in the creation of solutions that are empathic, responsive, and community-based." In short, they keep the "urban renewal" and "slum clearance" types away from the conversation while welcoming in and activating citizens to participate in civic

also a practicing interior architect and the founding faculty member and program director of the interior architecture program at Marywood University in Scranton. Her work on the project "Reclaiming Forgotten Spaces" earned her an Excellence in Design award from her alma mater, the Rhode Island School of Design. And she is visiting our city to give the keynote address at local histor-

Meyer, president of Preservation Erie relays. "Like Jane Jacobs before her, MacDonald speaks to the benefit of applying empathy, compassion, understanding, and curiosity to community challenges, such as ensuring the availability of quality, affordable housing for all and the reclamation and activation of key underused or vacant spaces."

The Greater Erie Awards are presented annually by the board of Preservation Erie, a local nonprofit whose mission is "to promote, preserve, and enhance the distinctive character of greater Erie through community-based planning, design, and historic preservation." The Greater Erie Awards are an opportunity for the group to recognize some of the positive historic preservation projects happening organically throughout Erie — many of which are citizen-led and would certainly please Jane Jacobs and her disciples.

This year the local awardees receiving recognition are:

For Adaptive Reuse (which involves the rehabbing of a forgotten historic space for a purpose outside of which it was originally built): FEED Media Art Center, The Historical Institute of Culture & the African American Experience, and the Sarah Reed Children's Center

In the category of Preservation Ex-

You've seen the slogan, "Keep (insert city name here) Weird!" That sentiment was basically [famed urbanist] Jane Jacobs' entire belief system. Throughout her life and work, she constantly urged folks to "respect — in the deepest sense — strips of chaos that have a weird wisdom of their own not yet encompassed in our concept of urban order."

engagement and leadership, coming up with creative urban solutions about how to evolve cities that are welcoming, environmentally sound, vibrant, active, and equitable.

And the director of the Center for the Living City is coming to speak in Erie.

Maria MacDonald, in addition to her role at the Center for the Living City, is

ic preservation nonprofit Preservation Erie's upcoming Greater Erie Awards.

"The Center for the Living City understands the value of community and place — the importance of sidewalks, parks, corner stores, community centers, etc. to maintaining neighborhoods with economic resiliency, social strength, and environmental sustainability," Melinda

FEATURE

cellence (Preservation with a capital P — those large-scale projects directly contributing to preserving Erie's built history): The Presque Isle Light Station

For Education and Advocacy (those folks/organizations bringing knowledge of local history and historic buildings into the public eye): Jonathan Burdick of Rust and Dirt (and long-time, well-loved Erie Reader contributor), Wally Knox, and WQLN Chronicles

In the category of Design Excellence (examples of new construction that take into account the surrounding historical structures in their design): The expERIENCE Children's Museum

According to Meyer, "The Greater Erie Awards program was created over 10 years ago as an opportunity to shine a spotlight on impactful preservation and community design projects happening across the county. Rather than let these positive examples of perseverance and stewardship go unnoticed, the award program aims to raise awareness of them, as many are efforts spearheaded by individuals who love the greater Erie community, its history, and its special places and are called to action."

Erie is a city very much akin to Scran-

ton, and one that Jane Jacobs would argue deserves preservation (through its buildings, character, and people). Historically, we've built our identity around our ability to manufacture things — rusty belts and all that. When that identity dwindled and needed to change, we struggled — and continue to struggle — to redefine ourselves. And while there are and have been many plans — some of which the likes of Jacobs might argue are short-sighted (i.e. the Bayfront Connector Project, the McBride Viaduct, the myriad of downtown development plans throughout generations, etc.) — Jacobs would look to the people and what they're doing, outside of government directives, to make life better, more affordable, and weirder (in a good way) for all of those in Erie.

The 2024 Greater Erie Awards will take place on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Erie Center for Arts and Technology's Ada Lawrence Room. For tickets and info: tickets.eriereader.com

Erin Phillips serves as the secretary of the board of directors for Preservation Erie. She can be reached at erin@eriereader.com

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CORPORATE NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Articles of Incorporation – Nonprofit have been filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, PA on or about 11/21/2023, for:

Central PA Drag and Variety, Erie PA, 16502.

The corporation has been incorporated under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988, as amended. Rev - Apr 10 -1a

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EVENTS

These BOOTS Were Made for Walking: Eerie Stories, Legends, and Lore Evening Tour

Go for the ghosts, stay for the memories

BEGINNING FRIDAY, OCT. 4

Eerie has been home to some, well, eerie happenings in its time (which isn't surprising for a city that's over 200 years old), and Heather Cass and her daughter Lauren want to tell you all about them.

They're the co-owners of Tour Erie, a brand-new small business in the Gem City that typically features walking tours of the waterfront. For spooky season, however, they are offering something very special to residents and visitors to the area.

"We know that Erie loves ghost tours and ghost stories as these types of events are always well-attended ... I figured there was room for one more," said Cass.

Naturally, Cass and her daughter had to be choosy when picking which sites to lead their tour groups to, since they didn't want to overlap too much with anyone else, but that didn't prove too difficult. "Erie really does have an abundance of spooky lore, something

that came as a bit of a surprise to me, because I realized quickly that I'd just have to pick and choose some stories to tell," said Cass. "We have some classics...but we also tried to find some things we hadn't heard before."

The 1.5-mile, mostly-flat-terrain tours start and end at Voodoo Brewing, where the 21+ participants can sample a special brew and receive a discount if they stick around and order food. "I'm excited that Voodoo Brewing is partnering with us, giving us a warm place to start and finish," Cass mentioned.

Parents are also warned that due to the nature of the topics discussed — bloody murder, the supernatural, and true crime — this tour might be a bit too scary for very small children, so discretion is advised.

For the older kids and adults in the room, though, said Cass, "I think people will find it entertaining and a fun thing to do on a fall evening. We include a little history and some humor as well." — Cara Suppa

CONTRIBUTED



Mother/daughter duo Heather and Lauren Cass are taking their popular Tour Erie series in a spooky new direction with their upcoming slate of guided tours entitled *Eerie Stories, Legends, and Lore*. Learn some ghost stories, spooky legends, and terrifying surprises in the 1.5 mile guided walking tour happening each weekend in October.

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in October, 5:30 p.m. // Meet at Voodoo Brewing, 101 Boston Store Pl. // Adults: \$17, Kids 12 and under: \$10, Kids 4 and under: Free // For more info and to book your tickets, please visit: toureriepa.com/tours

Spooky Season Ghost Story at PACA with *The Woman in Black*

Two-man play teeming with surprises

BEGINNING FRIDAY, OCT. 4

Looking for a good ghost story? This October, PACA will put on a performance of *The Woman in Black*, a chilling tale where a lawyer and an actor retell the lawyer's encounter with a mysterious specter that haunts a small town. For eight performances beginning Friday, Oct. 4 and continuing through Sunday, Oct. 20, the people of Erie will be their audience.

PACA is the first Erie theater to obtain the rights to this play, which is based on a 1983 novel of the same name. Director J.D. Mizikowski describes the process of bringing the story to life through the cast, crew, and set design. "The staging is a little more difficult as it's not what many consider traditional. It's designed to use a lot of imagination and a lot of representation," Mizikowski says.

Daniel Stripp and Ken Brundage star in the play and are the only actors, making for an intimate performance. Dave Schroeder builds the ambiance with eerie lights and sound. "Everything is gelling so well and we certainly have a number of surprises," Mizikowski says.

Mizikowski expects audiences to get a good scare out of the play, saying the

DIGG IT DAVE



The black box theater at PACA will be the perfect backdrop for Erie's first performance of stage adaptation of the 1983 novel *The Woman in Black*, which tells a spooky ghost story that will "make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up."

show will be "a fun thrilling night with lots of moments that will make your skin crawl and the hairs on your neck stand up. It's a perfect way to start off the spooky season." — Alana Sabol

Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 4 to Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10 at 7:30, Sunday, Oct. 20 at 2 p.m. // \$20 // PACA, 1505 State St. // For tickets and info: tickets.eriereader.com

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EVENTS

A Killer Lineup: Eerie Horror Fest

Film Festival packs nonstop events over two-day Warner Theatre event

BEGINNING FRIDAY, OCT. 4

The Eerie Horror Fest (EHF) is set to return this October, and this time, catching the whole thing just got a lot more possible. After listening to audience feedback, the regional film festival decided to consolidate their events and screenings into just two days. “Even though people love all the programming going on, it’s tough to take that much time off of work” explained Margaret Dieudonne, EHF’s executive director.

That certainly isn’t to say that there isn’t a huge amount to see and do.

From Friday afternoon until late Saturday night, there are more than 65 different events and screenings to catch. Nine full-length films will be shown along with a whopping 42 short films.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4

Kicking off the fest will be *My Life with the Living Dead*, a documentary about the co-writer of *Night of the Living Dead* and the man directly responsible for inventing modern zombies as we know them, John A. Russo.

Following that will be *Adjust Your Tracking*, making its return to the Eerie Horror Fest after its 2013 debut. This brilliant love letter to the obscure underbelly of geek collector culture was made by Erie’s own Dan Kinem and regional filmmaker Levi Peretic, and saw a limited edition 10-year anniversary Blu-Ray release last year.

Friday evening will also see a screening of the 1988 camp classic *Killer Klowns from Outer Space*. Prior to that, there will even be a Killer Clown costume contest, making for a colorful showing to be sure.

Late Friday night will be a presentation of *Dracula: Prisoner of Frankenstein* featuring an introduction by John Dickson and Will Morris, hosts of the ironically named *Oscarbate* podcast — just in time for their miniseries on the films of Spanish B-movie maestro Jesús Franco.

ERIE HORROR FEST



In a streamlined, jam-packed, 65-event celebration of all things horror – the Eerie Horror Fest is planning a spooky time at the Warner Theatre. With film screenings, kids activities, Q & A panels, celebrity appearances, vendors, and more – get the Halloween season off to a scary start.

SATURDAY, OCT. 5

What’s this? Saturday morning will see a screening of Tim Burton’s *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, a family-friendly centered event with trick-or-treating for the kids following the film.

Director Tyler Hall will introduce his new film *Phantom Lights: UAPs of the Forest*. The documentary explores the Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (the new term for UFOs) witnessed throughout Chestnut Ridge, just an hour south of Pittsburgh.

Following that will be a block of short films which garnered special awards from the fest. *Wake, We Joined a Cult, A Prayer for My Father, SCRATCH, JUGGERNAUT, Les Bêtes, Floater, and The Red Stone* each walked away with deserved distinction. “We are here to highlight independent filmmakers,” Dieudonne detailed. “It does not matter the level that they’re at, we want them to know that their film was incredible. It needs to be shown on an incredible stage such as the Warner Theater.”

Special guest and director Rusty Cundieff will on hand for a Q&A about his 1995 movie *Tales From the Hood*.

Cundieff will also be available for meet and greets on both days of the fest.

Capping things off will be a midnight screening of *Lisa Frankenstein*. The hit comedy-horror film was written by Diablo Cody and directed by Zelda Williams, and will tie in with an ‘80s themed party at Voodoo Brewery.

Dieudonne noted that one of this year’s goals was “making the Horror Fest more accessible, bringing horror and multiple forms of media to Erie and the surrounding area.” With a fully-packed schedule that won’t require more than a half-day off work, the 2024 Eerie Horror Fest is thinking on its feet, something so many unfortunate victims on screen fail to do. Showcasing diverse viewpoints, time periods, and sub-genres, the fest hopes to illustrate the true breadth of the medium “showing people that horror is accessible, horror is human.” — Nick Warren

2:15 p.m. to 1:55 a.m. on Friday, 10:15 a.m. to 1:41 a.m. Saturday // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // All Access Passes \$45, Single Day and Saturday morning passes also available // For tickets and more information, go to eriehorrorfest.com



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EVENTS

Erie's 40 Under 40 Experience: Class of 2024

Join us to celebrate this year's class with epic party at FEED

FRIDAY, OCT. 11

It's that time of year again — the time when the folks at the Erie Reader take the opportunity to publicly celebrate this year's class of 40 Under 40 inductees with an experience, in the truest sense of the word.

This annual party, now in its sixth year, is not just for those inspiring young people selected for the distinction, it is for anyone who would like to join in for a truly epic night of music, dancing, food, art, and celebration.

FEED Media Art Center, an adaptively reused historic commercial space in the heart of Downtown Erie, will be the backdrop for the celebration this year. The overall vibe of the venue is raw, creative, and interesting, with a multitude of areas throughout to host all of the components you've come to expect from the 40 Under 40 Experience.

Erie Reader Publisher Adam Welsh, who has helped to organize this event each year comments, "FEED is the perfect venue to host this event, and I can't wait for everyone to see what we've put together. I think this year has a chance to be the best 40 Under 40 Experience we've done yet."

This year will feature original music performances from **Shadow Plea** (Dave Tamulonis, 40 Under 40 Class of 2022) and **SANIS** (Alex Staley, 40 Under 40 Class of 2024), with DJ Vinnie Hoffman from **Erie Encore Entertainment** keeping the party going between sets. The ever-popular silent disco will be back and better than ever (provided this year

by **RokkBoxx**) with multiple hand-curated channels provided by **onewayness** (Adam Holquist, 40 Under 40 Class of 2014) and **LoneSav** (also Alex Staley, 40 Under 40 Class of 2024).

There will be live art, painted in-house and available to purchase via silent auction by **Cesar Westbrook** (40 Under 40 Class of 2020) and live tattooing (provided by Matt Mele from **Code of Honor Tattoo**). There will be live drawings provided by **Anthony Carson** (Erie Reader cartoonist-extraordinaire), always on hand to capture your joy in portable art form.

The food will be provided by **Cali's West** catering with vegan treats created by **Sundae Vegan Desserts** (Samantha Randall, 40 Under 40 Class of 2022) with additional sweets available from **Casey's Ice Cream Cart** (Casey Corritore, 40 Under 40 Class of 2023). Specialty coffee brews will keep you awake and shaking on into the night, provided by **North Edge Craft Coffee** (Doug Baker, 40 Under 40 Class of 2022). And of course, all necessary libations will be provided by **Allegheny Beverage Company** (John DiMario, 40 Under 40 Class of 2023) and **Taylor & Tonic Bartending Services**.

Don't suffer from FOMO, make sure you stop into FEED and see what everyone's been talking about for all these years. It will definitely be an experience. — Erin Phillips

7 to 11 p.m. // FEED Media Art Center, 1307 State St. // \$40 (pre-sale) // For tickets and info visit: tickets.erie reader.com



Join the folks from the Erie Reader, the current and former classes of Erie's 40 Under 40, and all those who love to party at our sixth annual 40 Under 40 Experience, taking place this year at FEED Media Art Center. The vibe will be energetic, creative, avant garde, and, as always, full of appreciation for the work of all of our 40 Under 40 honorees.

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SINGLE GAME TICKETS



EVENTS

Attend the Tale of Sweeney Todd

Erie Playhouse kicks off spooky season with the *Demon Barber of Fleet Street*

BEGINNING FRIDAY, OCT. 11

A barber by day, killer by night, Sweeney Todd emerges from the gloom of 19th century London with only one goal in mind: vengeance. With the aid of dotting Mrs. Lovett, following the newfound mysterious and gruesome success of her pie shop, and the grunt work of young Tobias Ragg, will Mr. Todd have what it takes to right the wrongs of his past?

From the musical genius of Stephen Sondheim, the Erie Playhouse is proud to present the Tony Award-winning *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* on their mainstage this eerie October, with further creative direction by Richard Davis.

Devon Yates, music coordinator for the Playhouse, is excited to be joining her co-lead Jason Lawergren (Sweeney Todd) onstage as the lovestruck shop owner, Mrs. Lovett: "This has truly been a dream come true. I've wanted to play her for as long as I can remember."

Aside from coordinating, Yates has had the privilege of directing music for several of the shows in 2023. Yates' family have been longtime members of the Playhouse, extending their talents from acting to music direction over the years. Her father, Bruce Yates, is the music director for this production.

"He conducted the show last time it was onstage when — fun fact — my mom

played Mrs. Lovett!" Yates noted the extra sentimental value this musical held for her.

In addition to the many returning talents to the Mainstage, several members of the ensemble are making their debut with this musical, including Moriah Bartlett, Aaron Darold, Ciara Ferris, Gina Ghamo, Michael Griffin, Betsy Harben, Hunter Jeffery, Emily Minch, Alex McCauley, Henry O'Neil, Julya Polaski, Shelly Schuster, Robert Stepnowski, and Adrienne Reuss.

Due to the heavier content matter of this production and recurring themes of violence, it may not be suitable for younger audiences. — Cassandra Gripp



Based on a serialized work of Victorian fiction, the Sondheim musical *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* will take to the LECOM stage at the Erie Playhouse this October — with dynamic characters, swelling songs, and plenty of local talent, you won't want to miss it.

Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 11 through Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. // Thursday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, Oct. 20 and Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. // Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. // \$19-30 // For tickets and info: erieplayhouse.org

Erie Philharmonic Kicks Off Symphonic Series with Tchaikovsky

Experience three moving pieces in one night

SATURDAY, OCT. 12

The Erie Philharmonic is starting its 2024-25 Symphonic Concert Series with a musical tour of the world, culminating with Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, Gabriela Ortiz's orchestral composition *Kauyumari*, and Jean Sibelius's Violin Concerto, with renowned violinist Stefan Jackiw accompanying the symphony.

"Experience the emotional depth of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 and the profound Sibelius Violin Concert, masterfully performed by violinist Stefan Jackiw," The Erie Philharmonic describes. "The evening also introduces Gabriela Ortiz's composition *Kauyumari*, a vibrant blend of contemporary rhythms and traditional melodies, showcasing the richness of Mexican music."

Tchaikovsky composed his fifth symphony between May and August of 1888, dedicating the piece to German music teacher Theodor Ave-Lammemant. He met Lammemant in January while performing at a concert in Hamburg. Lammemant, who served as chief director of the Hamburg Philharmonic Society, told Tchaikovsky that although he did not like many of his compositions, he thought the younger composer had potential and urged Tchaikovsky to move to Germany. Remembering this interaction in great detail, Tchaikovsky dedicated the fifth symphony to Lammemant, which premiered on Nov. 17, 1889, at the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg.

Sibelius started composing his Violin Concerto in 1903 and premiered it in 1904, with the Helsinki Philharmonic Society featuring Hungarian violinist Victor Nováček. At the time, Sibelius finished the composition at the last minute and had to replace German violinist Willy Bruster as a soloist due to financial difficulties in traveling to Berlin. The premiere was received poorly, and Sibelius withheld the 1904 version from publi-

"Experience the emotional depth of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 and the profound Sibelius Violin Concert, masterfully performed by violinist Stefan Jackiw."

— Erie Philharmonic

cation to revise the piece significantly. On Oct. 19, 1905, Sibelius premiered the improved version of the concerto with the Berlin Court Orchestra under the direction of Richard Strauss. Dedicated to Hungarian violinist and child prodigy Franz von Vecsey, the 1905 version was shorter and less complex than the original, performed by orchestral leader Karel Halíř.

Ortiz's works have been performed worldwide by the Berliner Philharmoniker, New York Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra. Her inspiration for *Kauyumari*, known as "blue



Be transported by the mesmerizing Violin Concerto by Jean Sibelius performed by violinist Stefan Jackiw, who will be accompanying the Erie Philharmonic as they present their first symphonic concert of the season this October.

deer," came from the Huichol people of Mexico who view the deer as a spiritual guide that helps them communicate with their ancestors and guard the planet. The composition premiered in 2021, at the Walt Disney Concert Hall with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She teaches music composition at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and

has received recognition from the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Academy of the Arts.

Experience all three of these pieces, lushly performed on the historic Warner Theatre stage. —Thomas Taylor

7:30 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // \$17-\$61 // For tickets and info: eriephil.org



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EVENTS

Pink Martini to Make a Splash as MIAC Season Opener

Little orchestra serves up multicultural sonic cocktails

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16

Each year, the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture (MIAC) hosts a multitude of talented and popular artists from around the world, and their 2024-2025 season opener Pink Martini is no exception, promising an exciting and memorable start to the season.

Founded in 1994 by pianist Thomas Lauderdale, the initial purpose behind the group was to help provide more beautiful and inclusive soundtracks for political fundraisers — supporting causes like affordable housing, the environment, libraries, education, and parks, to name just a few. A year after its founding, Lauderdale invited his former Harvard classmate, singer China Forbes, to join the ensemble.

Making their European debut at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival and their orchestral debut with the Oregon Symphony in 1998, the band has continued their success through the decades, playing with more than 50 orchestras around the world — including the Los

Angeles Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, and the BBC Concert Orchestra at Royal Albert Hall in London.

“We’re very much an American band, but we spend a lot of time abroad and therefore have the incredible diplomatic opportunity to represent a broader, more inclusive America,” said Lauderdale. “[We represent] the America which remains the most heterogeneously populated country in the world, composed of people of every country, every language, every religion.”

With 11 studio albums under their belt — released on its own independent label, Heinz Records (named for Lauderdale’s dog) — and more than 3 million albums sold worldwide, Pink Martini brings their 30th anniversary tour to the Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center to kick off the latest MIAC season.

“I cannot think of a better way to kick off our season of encore engagements than with Erie’s favorite globe-trotting ‘little orchestra,’ Pink Martini,” said



Kicking off the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture’s latest season is the dynamic, globe-trotting “little orchestra” Pink Martini. Expect a rousing, colorful evening that will have attendees dancing in the aisles.

Dr. Brett Johnson, artistic director for MIAC. “The band’s multilingual repertoire offers something for everyone to enjoy, and their infectious energy is certain to have patrons dancing in the aisles.” — Ally Kutz

7:30 p.m. // Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. // \$30-\$55 // For tickets and info: call the box office at (814) 824-3000 or visit miac.mercyhurst.edu

Basement of Terror: Step Right Up

Erie’s Basement Transmissions gets scary (good)

SATURDAY, OCT. 26

The witching hour is upon us once again as Basement Transmissions transforms into the Basement of Terror for their annual Halloween show. This yearly fete celebrates its third year — adding more bands, a sponsorship from John’s Wildwood Pizza, and more tricks-and-treats for all the little monsters in attendance. For those of you who suffer from coulrophobia (fear of clowns) beware — this year’s theme is dark circus/carnival, the decor featuring giant clown animatronics.

The event’s co-organizer and vocalist for Odd Atrocity, Cy Eihwaz (40 Under 40 Class of 2024) says she’s excited for this year’s non-musical performers as well: “We have stilt walkers, a juggler, flow performers, and other surprises, including a costume contest.” Eihwaz continues, “There will be an on-site professional makeup artist for people who don’t have a costume, but want one.” Expect carnival games on hand for those wanting to test their luck.

Every memorable Halloween party has a ghoulish soundtrack and at Basement of Terror you’ll be doing the Monster Mash to some of the Erie area’s finest



The third annual Basement of Terror takes over local venue Basement Transmissions for a full day of music, mayhem, and haunted hijinks. With a killer clown theme this year — celebrate the season with a full slate of music, vendors, projection art, and more.

heavy acts, including local bands Odd Atrocity, Souls Collapse, Heart of Atlantic, and Massive Denial. From beyond Erie’s hallowed waters, Dead Cassette will be creeping in from northeastern Ohio, along with the aggro sounds of the Steel City’s Psych Ward Grips, and the macabre musings of Skellebox from northern Virginia.

In between sets, enjoy spooky projections, music from DJ LoneSav (40 Under 40 Class of 2024) and visit vendors including Lavender Cat Creations, The Raven’s Nest, Shadow Knight Curiosities,

Eerie Horror Fest, Art & Retro-Vending from Culture Vulture, and many more.

You better tell your mummy that you will be home late and get into your very beast attire, because there’s no clowning around — this year’s Basement of Terror is an hour longer than previous years, starting at 4 p.m. and going until midnight. — Larry Wheaton

4 p.m. to midnight // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$15 at Door, \$10 Pre-sale // 18+ unless accompanied by an adult // For more info: facebook.com/basementtransmissions

The Erie Cook Book Revisited: Fricatelli

Combining the bounty of summer with the comfort of autumn

By: Morgan Yezzi

A pan meatloaf that takes moments to go from stovetop to table, fricatelli is what I would describe as a fringe comfort food. A meal that supports the summer-to-fall transition – scratching the autumnal itch while combining the vegetal goodness clinging to the last fiery bits of summer with the malaise of dark nights to come. I've had this recipe bookmarked since

MORGAN YEZZI



my initial read-through of the 1881 *Erie Cook Book* and by happenstance, in late August, I brought Laura's oblong patties to life. For a funky little addition, tightly tuck a cube of provolone into the raw meat mixture before cooking. Serve with lemon slices, as traditional.

How I Serve:

A heap of basil leaves, grated parmesan, over top a bed of hot risotto with parsley sauce.

Fricatelli

(Serves 2)

- 1 lb. ground beef - 80/20%
- Seasoning mix: 1 tsp each: oregano, chili flakes, salt, pepper, baking soda
- 1 minced anchovy
- 3 eggs (1 whole scrambled, 2 yolks)
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large red tomato
- 2 frying peppers, such as cayenne
- 2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 lemon, thinly sliced

For serving:

- Lemon slices
- Basil
- Grated parmesan
- 1 egg yolk

Mix the beef, seasoning mix, anchovy, one egg, and breadcrumbs together until combined. Separate the meat mixture in half and form into oblong shapes. Heat the olive oil in a stainless steel pan and add in the meat. Fill the space around the fricatelli with tomatoes, peppers, and garlic cloves. Remain cooking over medium heat for 3 minutes. Make a small indent into the top of each piece of raw meat and place a yolk in the indent. Flip the fricatelli when it loosens and cook the other side for 3 minutes. I serve the fricatelli at medium. Turn off the heat and garnish in the pan with a handful of basil and a heavy grating of parmesan. Serve immediately.

Adapted from Laura Sterrett's recipe for Fricatelli on page 33 of *The Erie Cook Book*



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Gem City Style: Halloween Issue

“Monster” Mark Kosobucki: Illustrator

By: Jessica Hunter

Here at the Reader, Mark Kosobucki’s cover illustrations are an important part of our Halloween traditions. But his fascination with the macabre goes all the way back to his youth. I recently spoke to the talented illustrator and special effects artist, Collegiate Academy graduate, and 2015 honoree of Erie’s 40 Under 40 about his influences and experiences.

Jessica Hunter (JH): Tell us a little bit about “Monster” Mark Kosobucki and what inspired you to become an illustrator? What were the early influences that put you on your career path?

“Monster” Mark Kosobucki (MK): I’ve always loved drawing. I’d watch *The Real Ghostbusters* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* every Saturday morning and try to copy pictures out of *Tales from the Crypt* comic books. By seventh grade I started watching more horror stuff and listening to music. Once I saw Bernie Wrightson’s artwork in stuff like *Swamp Thing*, I was pretty hooked. Wrightson, Jack Davis, and Jack Kirby are probably three of the most influential artists for me. John Landis, George Romero, and Tom Savini made me want to work on movies.

JH: Can you walk us through your creative process when developing a truly unique haunting piece?

MK: Usually, a lot of revision. Which is something I didn’t appreciate or utilize when I was younger. Most of my current work is sketched and then revised on a light table two or three times before I start inking. Sometimes, throwing stuff out and starting over is a helpful part of the process. If I get halfway through an image and I’m not excited about it or love it, it’s not unusual for me to rip it up and start over. Or in the case of sculpting, breaking it apart and starting over. Sometimes, I’ll walk away from a piece for a week and come back to it and see it completely different and start changing a bunch of things.

JH: What role does storytelling play in your illustrations, how do you convey a narrative through your art?

MK: Storytelling is always a positive. The better things I’ve designed attempt to illustrate some kind of concept or story. A lot of the album covers and movie posters I love do this. Compare and contrast the art from *Nightmare on Elm Street* which is this incredible nightmarish artwork of a woman in bed to *Scream* which is just a bunch of people in the movie. I don’t really get to know much from looking at the cover of *Scream* but with *Nightmare on Elm Street*, there’s a lot to keep me looking and guessing. However, sometimes, it’s what you don’t add to an image that can make something more compelling. The poster from *Alien* comes to mind. It’s very simple but it’s still telling a story.

JH: Your portfolio is incredible. What has been your favorite project to date? Do you have anything exciting in the works?

MK: In my graphic design work, finally getting to do two images for the Misfits and one for Alice Cooper are jobs I’ve chased since I started doing graphic design and illustration. I wrote to the Misfits at least a

JESSICA HUNTER



Jessica Hunter paid a spooky visit to “Monster” Mark Kosobucki, who has, among many other interesting art and design projects, been responsible for the illustration on a number of the Erie Reader’s covers – including this month’s.

dozen times before a contact put me in touch with their management. I never quite know what’s next on that side of things. Some things just kind of happen. A client I do work for may open a show with this huge band headlining and the next thing I know, there’s an

email from their manager or something.

The last film I worked on that I really am proud of is called *The Special*. I got to create puppet blobs for it and puppeteer them as well as do some cool makeup in the movie. I didn’t get to do all the special effects

JESSICA HUNTER



Inside of "Monster" Mark Kosobucki's studio is a panoply of horror-related paraphernalia – film posters, collectibles, art, DVDs, action figures, and more line the walls and serve as constant inspiration for his work.

work in the film, but it's the first time I felt like I was working on something I might have watched in high school and fell in love with. The head casts of the lead actor, I did them in my kitchen and had to mail them to California. I wasn't actually part of that effects group, but in a small way I was.

I've stepped back from doing makeup since 2021 and have focused on a book project and script which I do hope to bring to screen eventually. If I get to direct one feature film in my life, it's going to be this project. At this moment, I'm still getting the ducks in a row. A lot of film projects I've been approached with feel very rushed, and I'd like to take my time on this and make it as good as it can possibly be.

JH: What advice would you give to aspiring illustrators who want to focus on horror or dark themes in their art?

MK: Absorb as much as you can and pay attention to artists who are better than you. That's tough, and sometimes I'll catch myself being jealous and force myself to like and follow a person's work. In the end, it helps me work harder and examine what I might be doing wrong. I see designers all the time do work I am jealous of and I'll zoom in on images they completed and try to figure out how they did this awesome piece.

JH: What is the last horror movie that actually fright-

ened you? What is your favorite horror movie and why?

MK: Usually stuff like *The Strangers* and *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer* are not fun for me to watch and creep me out a lot. I'm not ashamed to say I'll avoid that stuff or turn it off. I dislike when movies get too real in the sense that the supernatural or cartoonish elements are removed and things that can actually happen are shown. There needs to be an element of comedy in horror movies. Jason and Freddy are cartoons to me. Leatherface is a cartoon to me. But, I'll skip the lake scene in the movie *Zodiac* every time.

My favorite horror movie? It's probably *Creepshow* — everything about it lands with me. It has everything I want in a scary movie. There's a perfect balance of horror, comedy, sex, and gore. I never get tired of it. All the puzzle pieces fit exactly right in my opinion. I still remember seeing it the first time when I was a kid — maybe around nine or 10, and just loving it.

You can catch "Monster" Mark at the Eerie Horror Fest presenting Character Design Through Drawing and Sculpting on Friday, Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. Visit eriehorrorfest.com for more info.

Jessica Hunter can be found at jessicahunterphotos.com

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MOVIE REVIEWS

A Filmmaker's Apocalypse

Megalopolis is a Fascinating Disaster



Has there ever been a more ambitious filmmaker than Francis Ford Coppola? The rebel who tried to conquer Hollywood has always chased seemingly impossible ambitions and made films on his terms. Sometimes that resulted in *Apocalypse Now*; sometimes *One from the Heart*, but his films were always uniquely his. This still holds true with his four-decades-in-the-making passion project, *Megalopolis*, which contains all of Coppola's best and worst qualities. The film is convoluted, bombastic, overproduced, and absolutely fascinating. It's a failure to be sure, but I can't help but love films that swing for the fences ... even if it's a swing and a miss.

Set in the fantastical city of New Rome, we follow Cesar Catilina (Adam Driver), a brilliant architect who plans to build a utopian city with a substance he invented called "megalon." This city could be the start of an era of peace and prosperity, but those within New Rome's government wish to keep the status quo and members of Cesar's extended family may resort to violence to stop his dream.

What started as a kind of Marxist retelling of Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* in the admittedly brilliant original script has devolved into a mess of subplots that get introduced and dropped in the same scene and twists that seem to go nowhere. It feels like Cop-



pola is throwing every idea and dream he ever had into this film and none of it coalesces. That said, it is beautiful to look at and great ambition is always admirable. It's hard to recommend a film like *Megalopolis* but I'm happy auteurist disasters on this scale can still be made. — Forest Taylor

Written and directed by Francis Ford Coppola // Starring Adam Driver, Giancarlo Esposito, Nathalie Emmanuel, Aubrey Plaza, Shia LaBeouf, Jon Voight, Jason Schwartzman, Talia Shire, Grace VanderWaal, Laurence Fishburne, Kathryn Hunter, James Remar, D.B. Sweeney, Balthazar Getty, and Dustin Hoffman // 138 minutes // Lionsgate // Rated R

Long Live the New Flesh

The Substance is a disgustingly good time



Since at least *All About Eve*, filmmakers have told stories about older starlets competing with pretty young competitors. Well-worn stuff, to be sure, but I don't think anyone has told the story quite like Coralie Fargeat (*Revenge*) with her new film *The Substance*. She gives us a campy retelling of *Jekyll & Hyde* mixed with *Dorian Gray* and a healthy dose of Cronenbergian body horror added to the mix. The result is one of the most sickeningly fun times at the movies in years.

The plot follows Elisabeth Sparkle (Demi Moore), an actress who suddenly finds herself aging out of her job as the host of an exercise program. Fate leads her to a mysterious company that offers her a chemical known only as "The Substance." Injecting it causes her to split into two selves; herself and Sue (Margaret Qualley), a younger version of herself. They must now alternate between each other each week. Sue uses her time to reclaim her fame and beauty, but what happens when she refuses to let go?

Fargeat has some sadistic fun satirizing the shallowness of the entertainment industry as well as society's perverse obsession with youth and beauty. Her film creates a kind of hyper-reality full of intentionally hammy performances, gaudy colors, and extreme close-ups of both food and the human body. This makes the horror elements all the more stomach-churning. Her wild story culminates in a climax that is surely



one of the most grotesque I've seen in quite some time. To explain any further would spoil the enjoyment of this strange film, so all I can say is see it with a crowd. *The Substance* is coming to Max on Nov. 24. — Forest Taylor

Written and directed by Coralie Fargeat // Starring Demi Moore, Margaret Qualley, Gore Abrams, Olivier Raynal, Tiffany Hofstetter, Tom Morton, Jiselle Burkhalter, Axel Baille, Oscar Lesage, Matthew Geczy, Hugo Diego Garcia, and Dennis Quaid // Mubi // 141 minutes // Rated R



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BOOK REVIEW

Sleep Tight

Gripping new horror novel ticks all the boxes

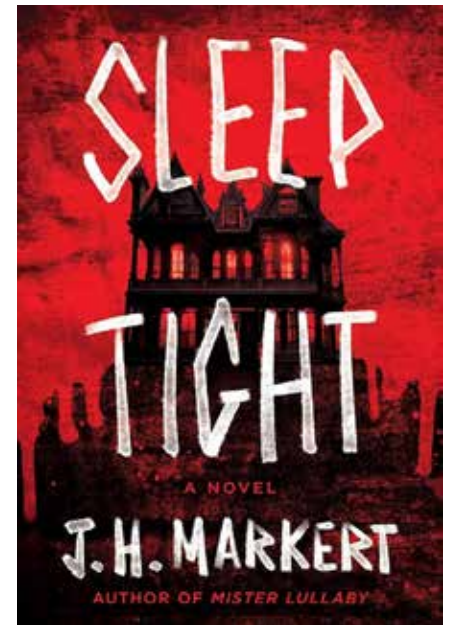
It is rare that a book pulls you in from the get-go, with non-stop action and suspense peppering each chapter and urging you toward the end. Enter *Sleep Tight*, the newest from J.H. Markert, which will have you on the edge of your seat from page one.

When the small town of Twisted Tree finds itself terrorized by a mysterious figure known as Father Silence, it is Tess Claibourne's detective father who helps to discover the House of Horrors that contains the bodies of 19 victims and a sole survivor, and arrest the man who is responsible for the disappearances. Haunted by that fateful night, Tess and her family breathe a sigh of relief almost two decades later when the criminal is executed. But the past has a way of catching up to those who try to outrun it.

The morning after Father Silence's execution, Tess' father is found murdered by a new killer, calling himself the Outcast, a nod to Father Silence's pattern of taking those whom society rejected. Now a detective herself, Tess reels from the loss, confronting memories that have been buried for years.

But when her own daughter is kidnapped by the Outcast, Tess' memories begin to resurface, forcing her to confront what really happened the night Father Silence was arrested all those years ago. With no true leads and the clock ticking, she finds that the one person who may hold the key to finding her daughter is the child who escaped Father Silence's terror.

J.H. Markert expertly spins a sticky



web of mystery, pulling the reader in until they are entirely wrapped up in the interconnected strands. Each chapter inches closer toward solving the case, but keeps you guessing at each turn, with just enough pieces of the puzzle revealed to make it frustratingly good.

Right from the start, *Sleep Tight* wastes no time being bogged down in mundane details, starting into the action and suspense from the first chapter. The book keeps the momentum throughout, making for a heart-pounding read that is sure to keep readers on their toes, guessing and second-guessing each character along the way, trying to figure out where the true evil lies. — Ally Kutz

Crooked Lane Books // 336 pages // Horror, Thriller



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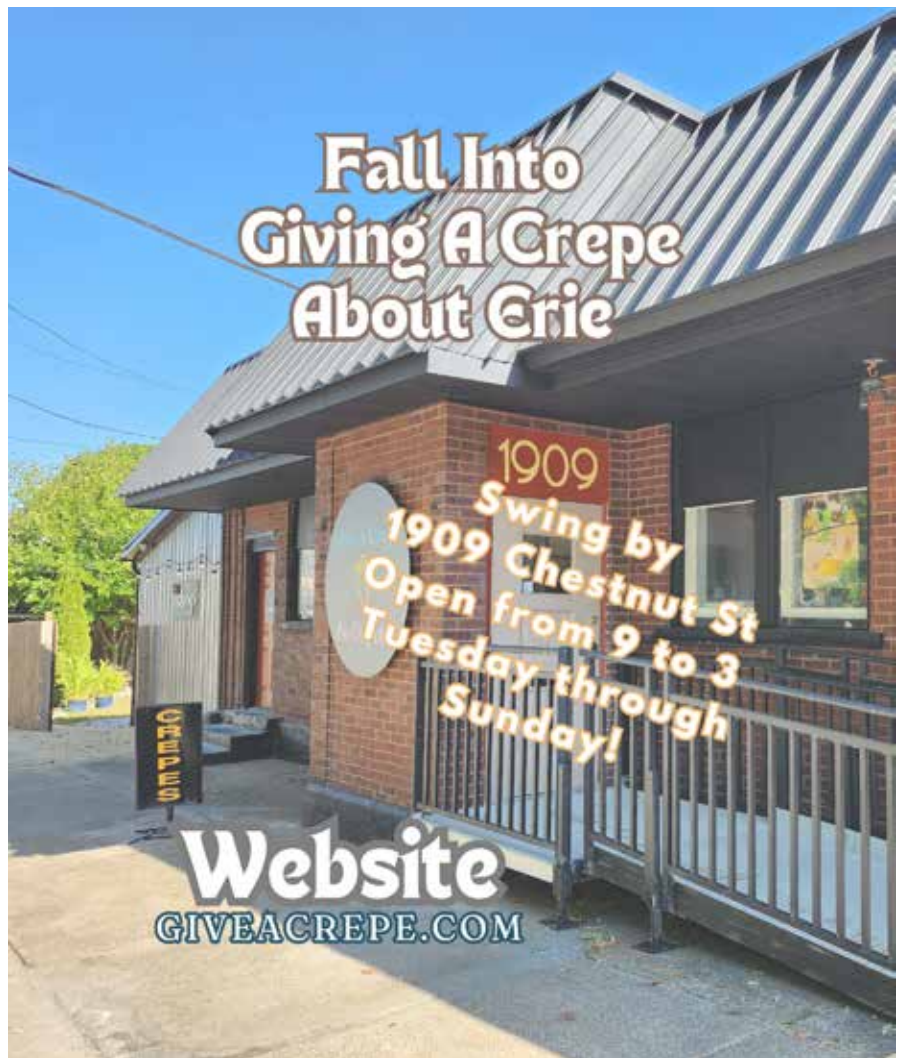
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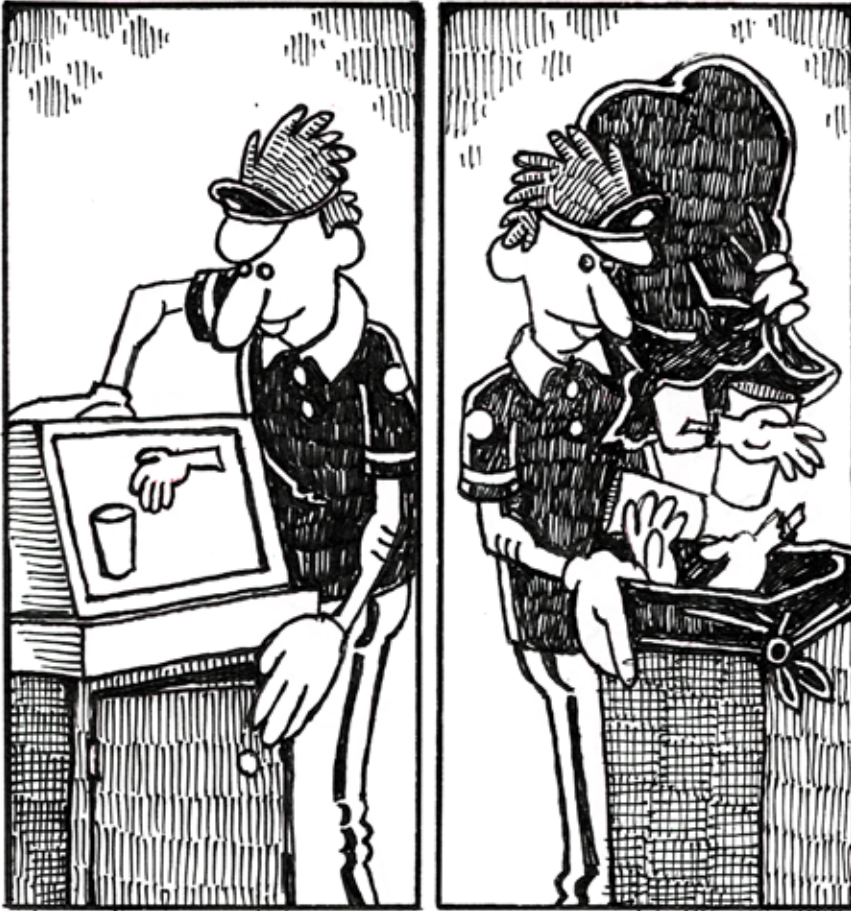
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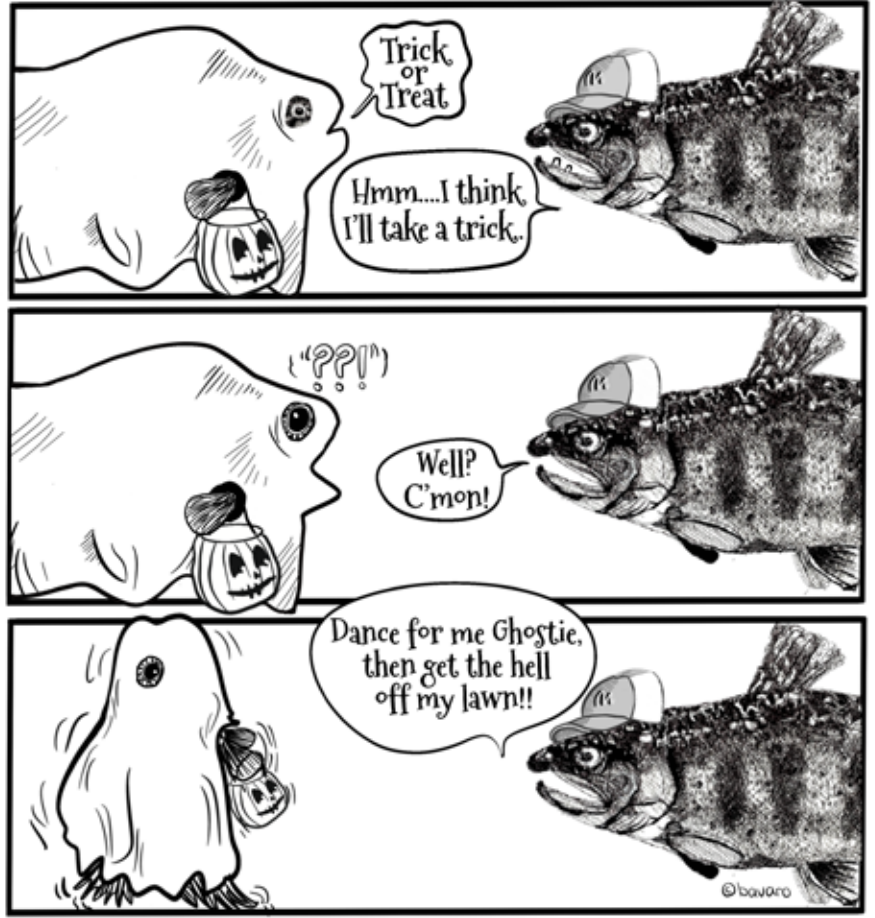
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THE PARTY OF THE YEAR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

FEED Media Arts Center, 1307 State St.

7-11pm • Tickets \$50, Presale Price \$40

*DJ Services provided by: Vinnie Hoffman of Erie Encore Entertainment
With entertainment by:*

Shadow Plea (Dave Tamulonis) and SANIS (Lone Sav)

Silent Disco by: RokkBoxx with three curated playlists

by Adam Holquist (onewayness) and Alex Staley (Lone Sav)

Live art by: Ceasar Westbrook Drawings by: Anthony Carson

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julie
my anti-aircraft friend
 Atlantic Records



Born out of the modern '90s revival, Orange County rock trio *julie* stunningly showcases their potential on *my anti-aircraft friend*.



Today's internet has been kind to the alternative cultures of the past. Through newly widespread social awareness of musical subgenres like shoegaze and slowcore, acts such as My Bloody Valentine and Duster are more popular now than ever. This development has led to many bands launching full-fledged resurrections, going as far as to release more new music in the last five years than they had in the previous 30.

While seeing these bands return has been exhilarating, many people wondered when the next generation of artists inspired by the alternative acts would appear: therein lies *julie*. Releasing their first singles in 2020, the band's sound pays reverence to the old guard while also improving its soundscape.

On *my anti-aircraft friend*, the trio of twenty-somethings display a level of musicality rarely seen in a genre known for being noisy and loud. Every track is a master class in dynamics: transitioning from abrasive to serene in seconds. This level of aptitude creates an album that does not overstay its welcome and leaves the audience wanting more.
 — Nathaniel Clark

Thot Savors
I'll Take a Shit Right Here
 Self-released



What started out as a cheeky collaborative concept for a project in 2022 has turned into a full-blown experiment that keeps churning out original sounds in a genre all their own. Local solo artists Sean Harris, Bryan Gildone, Elias Kerr, Avery Mooney, and Rick Bowser released their third full-length *Thot Savors* project in July. More aggressive, fundamentally punk, and much more intense than their self-titled debut, the *Thot Savors* can always be relied on to deliver the goods. The music takes you on a trip through a wide range of emotions that pump you up, make you laugh, cringe, and run it back, asking yourself "What did he just say!?"



With an uncanny ability to ad lib and freestyle, the artists have created a project that is much more improvisational as a whole, and at times the listener feels as though they are right there in the studio. Fan favorites include "Zippity Doo Dah," "Shawldy," and "Charcoal Dogs," which features DJ Lucas, an up-and-coming Massachusetts artist with a significant following. Enrgy Beats, a Flint, Michigan producer who has built a sound with major artists Rio Da Young OG and YN Jay, takes the reins on "Watchlist Music" and live track "Alligator Funk," featuring Subjct 5. *I'll Take a Shit Right Here* is much more feeling, off book, and less chiseled. The talent and chemistry is undeniable.
 — Amy VanScoter

Frank Marzano and Friends
Stone Soup
 Self-released



Chill the wine and turn down the lights, because locals Frank Marzano and Friends are setting the mood on their debut release *Stone Soup*. The smooth jazz guitar work of Frank Marzano comes through on his first release with the "Friends" title. It's an instrumental album that features cover songs like the campfire sing-along, "You Are My Sunshine," the old standard "My Funny Valentine," Leadbelly's "Goodnight Irene," Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World," and Bill Withers' "Just The Two of Us."



The original composition "The Night They Invented The Blues" has a 1950s doo-wop feel, mixed with surf rock guitars. *Stone Soup* consists of Frank Marzano on lead guitar, mandolin, lap steel, and ukulele. Joshua Karickhoff, from The High Life and Sacred 13, plays bass and drums, and they both supplement with various keyboards and percussion. This may be Marzano's first release under this title but he is no stranger to the music scene — having played in the Chicago band Childhood's End during the '80s and '90s, releasing the solo albums *But Enough About Me* (2007), *The Boy Who Always Got Picked Last* (2012), and *American Proust* (2015). He has plenty of experience with the guitar and that is apparent upon listening to *Stone Soup*.
 — Larry Wheaton

Ralphie's Gone Blind
RGB EP
 Self-released



Buzzing and vicious throwback to classic 1990s skate punk and street punk, Ralphie's Gone



Blind are making exactly the kind of music they want to hear. If you grew up amidst old issues of *Thrasher*, *Punk-O-Rama* and *Fat Wreck Chords* compilations, then you will feel absolutely at home with this local band. I know I sure do. After seeing the band live multiple times, I pretty much knew what to expect, and I was there for it. Sing-along choruses and nostalgic, fist-pumping anthems all the way through? Hell yeah. These five tracks authentically encapsulate the feeling of the band, in all their heartfelt glory. The dual attack of guitarists Chris Lucero and Jonathan Buscemi grind gracefully on every track, with overdriven tones ideal for the assignment. The rhythm section of drummer Skylar Otto-Smith and bassist Frank Fisher provide those picture-perfect frequency levels that really fill things out. Hearing the cymbal work coincide with that punchy picked-bass tone is what that sound is all about, while singer Joe Rose's grit and charisma is captured beautifully. Perhaps a highlight of the EP is "Summer of 98," a track which gives you everything you need to know about the band from North East. This is a labor of love, clear as day.
 — Nick Warren

TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



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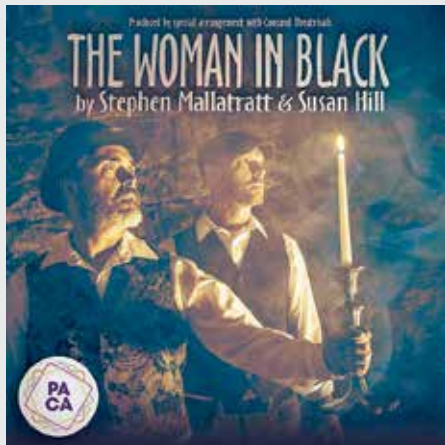
Thu 10/03

Golden Hour Photo Club
@ 5:30pm / Free-\$150
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford Street, Edinboro

Fri 10/04

What in the Why?
@ 5pm / Free
FEED Media Art Center, 1307 State Street

Featured



The Woman In Black
@ 7:30pm / \$20
PACA, 1505 State Street



Sat 10/05

The Woman In Black
@ 7:30pm / \$20
PACA, 1505 State Street

Thu 10/10

Golden Hour Photo Club
@ 5:30pm / Free-\$150
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford Street, Edinboro

Featured



2024 Greater Erie Awards & Keynote
@ 6pm / \$25
Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Avenue



Featured



electroFLUX presents
Tom Law + AI Margolis, Abigail, REEDSEED, onewayness, Data Wretch
@ 6pm / \$5-\$6
FEED Media Art Center, 1307 State Street



Fri 10/11

Featured



40 Under 40 Experience 2024
@ 7pm / \$40-\$50
FEED Media Art Center, 1307 State Street



Sat 10/12

Into the Woods Six Miler
@ 9am / \$30
4105 Asbury Road

What in the Why?
@ 12pm / Free
FEED Media Art Center, 1307 State Street

Sun 10/13

What in the Why?
@ 12pm / Free
FEED Media Art Center, 1307 State Street

Fall Wedding & Events Expo
@ 3pm / Free
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford Street, Edinboro

Fri 10/18

The Woman In Black
@ 7:30pm / \$20
PACA, 1505 State Street

King's Rook Club EDM BEETLEJUICE NIGHT ft. PUPPY + GRIMACE
@ 9pm / \$5
King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach Street

Sat 10/19

70's Costume Night! with Shapes + Mushróóm
@ 9pm / \$7
King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach Street

Sat 10/26

Featured



Psychic Groovin' ~ 4 Psychics 1 Price!
@ 10am / \$25-\$25
The Hippie Space, 211 Main Street West, Girard



Featured



Erie Roller Derby's October Doubleheader
@ 4:30pm / \$10
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier



Big Blitz + Lopaka Rootz Monster Mash
@ 9pm / \$10
King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach Street

Featured



Masquerade at the Museum
@ 7pm / \$100-\$100
Erie Art Museum, 20 East 5th Street



Sun 10/27

Firefly Tales
@ 2pm / \$15
PACA, 1505 State Street

Featured



Trees & Treats
@ 3pm / \$10-\$12
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford Street, Edinboro

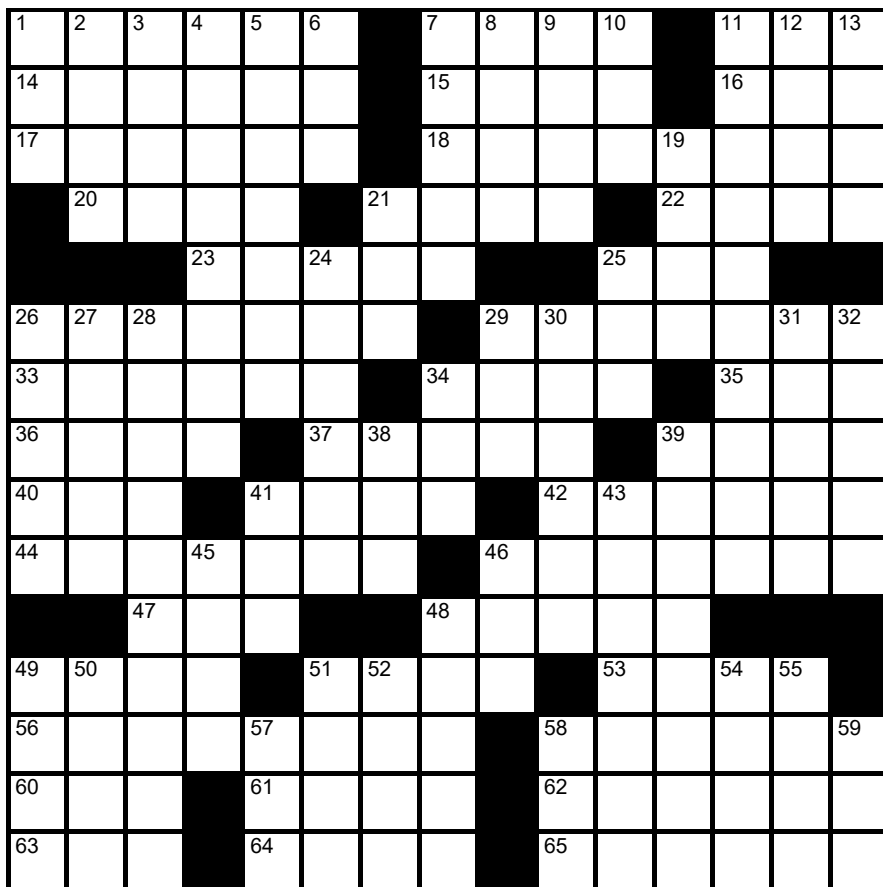


Thu 10/31

Golden Hour Photo Club
@ 5:15pm / Free-\$150
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford Street, Edinboro

Calendar information is provided by event organizers. All events are subject to change or cancellation. This publication is not responsible for the accuracy of the information contained in this calendar.

CROSSWORD



Across

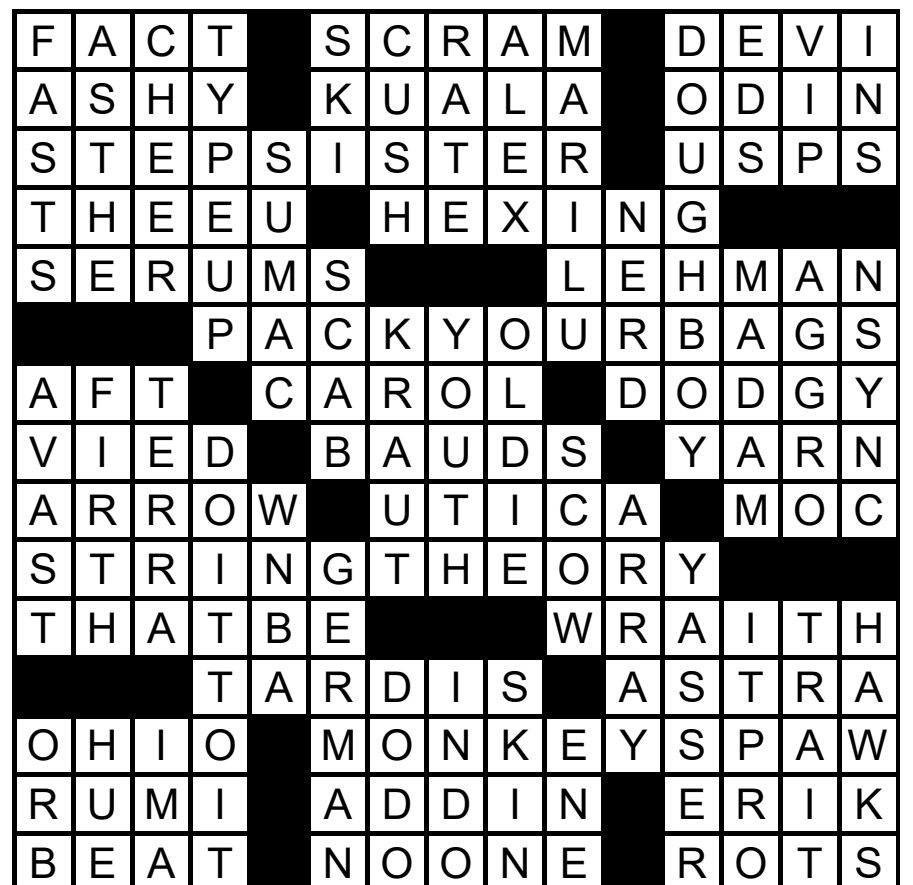
1. President Franklin
7. Immediately
11. Leatherworker's poker
14. Of a part of the heart
15. LBJ son-in-law Charles
16. By way of
17. *Big, round housecats (answers to starred clues are new words added to Collins Official, for international non-US play as of 1/1/25)
18. *Most materialistic and high-class (using four different vowels)
20. In ___ (basically)
21. Golf stroke
22. Algonquian-speaking Canadian group
23. Four-hour movies, maybe
25. Feathered scarf
26. *Flattens out like a hot resting dog (just a fun word to say)
29. *Whatchamacallit (previously in the list, but with a Y)
33. Infants' sicknesses
34. Four-handed piano song
35. Psychologist/writer/PBS host LeShan
36. Little help
37. Mario's brother
39. Video games playable by large groups simultaneously
40. Happy tail movement
41. Bit of a cloud
42. American tennis star Stephens

44. *"Isn't that true?" (not a type of mineral)
 46. *Became a huge fan of (all tenses are now fair game)
 47. "Oh yeah? ___ who?"
 48. "The ___ Kid" (1950s Western)
 49. Liquidation event
 51. Oktoberfest ___ (website with an "O'Fest Essentials" category)
 53. Nevada neighbor
 56. *Cranial attack in a fight (surprisingly, new to the list as one word)
 58. *Subject-changing segue word (either spelling is new)
 60. Java brewer
 61. Multigenerational baseball surname
 62. Sweetsop relatives
 63. "Yup," without the out-loud part
 64. Forrest played by Tom Hanks
 65. Malaria-carrying fly
- Down**
1. Lobby gp.
 2. "Am ___ only one?"
 3. Greek god of love
 4. Wash, as containers for leftovers
 5. Sweet spheroid on a stick
 6. Golfer Ernie
 7. Photographer Diane
 8. Chimney remnants
 9. Be adjacent to
 10. Simple sandwich, for short
 11. Statistician's unnamed

- guy
12. Sagacious
13. "The ___ Show with Stephen Colbert"
19. Desktop image
21. Computer lab inventory
24. "This party rocks!"
25. Commit to the ___
26. Uh, it's a vowel sound
27. King of Troy in "The Iliad"
28. Place for "iced tea"?
29. Harbor hauler
30. Bank jobs
31. "What Have ___ to Deserve This?" (Pet Shop Boys song)
32. Became less difficult
34. Tzatziki, for example
38. Fair ___ laws
39. Any one species constituting a genus
41. "The ___" (Diana Ross musical)
43. Gaps
45. Oregon college near Portland
46. Maya Harris, to Kamala Harris
48. Jokester
49. Avoid
50. Bubbly British chocolate bar
51. "Life & Beth" streamer
52. Molecular component
54. At the drop of ___
55. "___ the weather up there?"
57. Checkout purchase (if you forgot to bring one)
58. Fitting
59. Sugar suffix



Answers to last puzzle





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L|E|C|O|M HEALTH

Thursday, October 17 – through Friday, November 15, 2024

WEEK ONE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Liz Cheney and Sister Joan Chittister. Cheney is a former U.S. Representative for Wyoming's congressional district, author, GOP leader, and pro-democracy activist. Chittister is an author and peace and human rights activist.
Location: Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier.



LIZ CHENEY SR. JOAN CHITTISTER



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Stephen A. Smith with Jon Wertheim. ESPN's premier commentator Smith will talk about the future of sports with celebrated writer and CBS "60 Minutes" correspondent Jon Wertheim.
Location: Cathedral Prep Auditorium, 250 W. 10th St., Erie, PA 16501



STEPHEN A. SMITH JON WERTHEIM



MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Charles Marohn. Founder and president of Strong Towns, Marohn is a land-use planner, author, and civil engineer.
Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room at Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. Seventh St.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Tristan Hoag. A specialist in artificial intelligence and IT architecture, Hoag is region co-chairman of BCGX - Boston Consulting Group's tech build and design unit.
Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room at Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. Seventh St.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Heather Cox Richardson with Tom Nichols. Two of America's greatest voices on democracy, Richardson and Nichols are accomplished authors, speakers, and professors.
Location: Collegiate Academy Auditorium, 2825 State St.



HEATHER COX RICHARDSON TOM NICHOLS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 7 P.M.

Gannon Reads: Lara Schwartz. Lawyer, author, professor, and former civil rights strategist, Schwartz is an expert on civil discourse.
Location: Warner Theatre, 811 State St.



WEEK TWO

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Michael Strain. Author and expert at the American Enterprise Institute, Strain will discuss the American Dream and its challenges from populism.
Location: Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Joe Davis. Chairman of Boston Consulting Group's Center for Inclusion and Equity, Davis will discuss "the generous leader" and ways to give of yourself.
Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room at Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. Seventh St.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Marian L. Tupy. Senior fellow at the Cato Institute will tell the story of population growth and innovation and discuss his book, "Superabundance."
Location: Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Fred Biletnikoff. NFL and college football Hall of Famer and Erie native Fred Biletnikoff will receive the 2024 Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award.
Location: Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.



WEEK THREE



MAJ. GEN. ED BOLTON, JR.



ANGELIA G. NEAL



DR. KAREN BOLTON



VIA VAN LIEW

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Maj. Gen. Ed Bolton, Jr., Ret., with Angelia G. Neal, Dr. Karen Bolton, and Via Van Liew. Panel discussion on creating a diverse workforce features leaders of the FAA, Aerospace Corp., and the federal government.
Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room at Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. Seventh St.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Harold Holzer. Abraham Lincoln expert and prolific author Holzer will discuss Lincoln and American immigration.
Location: Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.



CHRIS MATTHEWS



TARA SETMAYER



DAVID URBAN



STEVE SCULLY
GLOBAL SUMMIT
CHAIRMAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Chris Matthews, Tara Setmayer, David Urban, and Steve Scully. Prestigious Washington insiders will analyze the 2024 presidential election.
Location: Cathedral Prep Auditorium, 250 W. 10th St., Erie, PA 16501



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

Eddie Glaude, Jr. Prominent Princeton University scholar and national media commentator will address Black communities, race in America, and challenges to democracy.
Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room at Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. Seventh St.



Free admission to all events for Erie County students who pre-register.

For more information, visit www.jeserie.org



Reserve your seats today at www.jeserie.org (limited capacity for all programs)