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Pictured on the cover from left to right: Ferki Ferati, Shawnta' Pulliam, Carolyn Eller, Shirani Straker, and David Hunter. Photo by Matt Kleck (c) 2013, Erie Reader. All rights reserved.

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From the Editors

An Open Letter to City Council

In this issue of the Erie Reader, 40 fantastic individuals under the age of 40 are profiled. These men and women of diverse racial, religious, and political backgrounds are the future of our community. They represent the birth of a new, progressive model of leadership that rejects the old "business as usual" model and embraces this, the dawning of a new era in Erie. Unfortunately, this era of "business as usual" is not yet over. In fact, not too terribly far from where you now sit at this very moment, that era is alive and thriving. The lakefront parcel formerly home to the GAF shingle plant sits empty today, simultaneously a symbol of what once was and what will soon be. That lakefront parcel is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reshape

this community, for better or for worse. And with the absence of a much-needed urban planning department in the City of Erie, we continue to stand before this locked door; what lies on the other side is the future, the identity, and the lasting impression that will solidify that bright future. Wallace Roberts & Todd, the lead consultant for Destination Erie: A Regional Vision, is recognized as one of the best regional planning firms in the world, yet their recommendations may go ignored by a small group of developers, ensconced in their smoky back-

rooms and intent on foisting their antiquated visions upon the future leaders of this community. This, paired with an overall lack of collaboration, is the epitome of "business as usual." They are about to lock us out. All of us. Perhaps the only thing that stands in their way is an intrepid group of elected officials who have the power to stop them from locking us out by demanding intelligent mixed-use development and the incorporation of a pedestrian bridge down to the bayfront. So, to the Erie City Council, we say: Don't give up the GAF. Don't let it become another Niagara Pier. Don't let them lock us out -- you have the key. Respectfully, The Editorial Staff of the Erie Reader

The lakefront parcel formerly home to the GAF shingle plant sits empty today, simultaneously a symbol of what once was and what will soon be.

LGBT Voices

Defining Terms

By: Rich McCarty

Approximately 150 years ago, the world was introduced to the term “homosexuality.” In fact, before 1865, the word did not exist. The term was coined by the Hungarian social-scientist, Karl Maria Kertbeny. While the world had known of same-sex activity, and while some cultures had recognized erotic and emotional desires for members of the same sex (check out Plato’s “Symposium,” circa 380 BC), modern investigations into sexuality did not really begin until the categories “homosexuality,” “bisexuality,” and “heterosexuality” were established in the 19th and 20th centuries.

We sometimes fall into the trap of understanding something so rigidly that we can close ourselves off to new insights, terms, or descriptions – like insisting upon a flat Earth at the center of the galaxy.

Categories are useful because they help us name our realities. But as wise people have noted, any attempt to describe something is a slippery task. *Words* never quite capture what we’re trying to describe (think of how we all struggle to articulate deep feelings of love, joy, pain, or sorrow).

Likewise, we sometimes fall into the trap of understanding something so rigidly that we can close ourselves off to new insights, terms, or descriptions – like insisting upon a flat Earth at the center of the galaxy. And so, as “description” is ongoing work for *everything*, it most certainly requires great care when describing human sexuality and gender-identity.

For example, while the categories “homosexual,” “bisexual,” and “heterosexual” do describe real – or given – sexual orientations, the terms are rather generic. These clinical categories only describe *basic* erotic and relational directionality—which is to say, whether we are attracted to the same-sex, the opposite, or both.

But we’ve also come up with more personalized terms. In the 1950s and ‘60s, some self-identified homosexual people preferred the word “homophile” in order to emphasize that homosexuality is as much about “love” (philia)—as it is about

sex. Yet as history would bear out, “homophile” gave way to the preferential categories of: *lesbian, gay, bi,* and *straight*. And with more insight into gender-identity, “*transgender*” was established as a category too.

Of course, we may be so accustomed to these terms – lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight, and transgender – that the effort to define them, however incomplete those definitions might be – may seem a bit remedial. But if we are going to better understand the relationship of the LGBT community within the larger Erie community, providing basic definitions may be useful for our mutual understanding.

We can begin with the term “Lesbian” (L). This term refers to women who are sexually and emotionally attracted to other women. “Gay” (G) refers to men who are sexually and emotionally attracted to other men. “Bi” (B) describes people who have sexual and emotional attraction to both physical sexes.

“Transgender” (T) describes people whose innate gender identity does not match one’s physical sex assigned at birth, as well as those whose “masculine” and “feminine” expressions reverse social norms for male and female bodies.

And yet, even these brief definitions of LGBT are woefully incomplete. What is more, there are those who describe themselves as “Queer” (Q)—for whom lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight, or transgender *categories* too narrowly restrict their sense of sexuality or gender.

Among queer-identifying folk are those who consider themselves “hetero-flexible” (heterosexual people who may enjoy, from time to time, a same-sex encounter), “homo-flexible” (homosexual people who may occasionally enjoy opposite-sex encounters), “pansexual” (people whose emotional attraction allows for a sexual relationship—regardless of one’s sexual orientation or aesthetic preference for masculine or feminine characteristics), and “intersex” (people who are born with mosaic chromosomal patterns, providing for male and female physical characteristics—and sometimes, non-phallic/non-vaginal genital formation).

Complicating matters even more, some LGBT communities use the word “queer” as an umbrella term, under which all sexual and gender minorities may unite. As a result of such complexity, we in the LGBTQ communities sometimes refer to ourselves as belonging to an “alphabet soup.” Indeed, the more we investigate sexuality and gender, the more letters we add to our communi-



Does the alphabet soup of LGBTIQAA need to be simplified?

ty—even straight *allies* – who we often designate with an “A,” however, “A” is also used to include people who are *asexual*.

Could we simplify this? Maybe. In fact, earlier this year, London-based therapists suggested the terminology of *Gender and Sexual Diversities* (GSD) to replace the alphabet soup of “LGBTIQAA.”

GSD would indeed include all of us. Because when it comes down to it, we each have a wide array of sexual experiences, feelings, and relationships – or none at all; as well as varied ways of performing our gender identity—whether we are LGBT or straight; pansexual, hetero/homo-flexible, intersex, or queer.

Of course, there is an inherent temptation to overlook our differences and rally behind the rhetoric that we are “*all the same*.” We do better, I think, to learn and respect our differences by acknowledging the plethora of gender and sexual diversities, as well as keeping ourselves open to new insights – and definitions – that help us better understand ourselves and our neighbors. 📌

Rich McCarty holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies, specializing in sexual ethics. McCarty works in Erie as a professor, serves the community as an ordained minister, and proudly identifies as a member of the LGBT community. You can contact him at rMcCarty@ErieReader.com.



NEWS of the WEIRD

By: Chuck Shepherd

Fines to Fit the Crimes

In March, Microsoft was fined 561 million Euros (about \$725 million) by the European Commission after, apparently, a programmer carelessly left out just one line of code in Microsoft’s Service Pack 1 of European versions of Windows 7. That one line would have triggered the system to offer web browsers other than Microsoft’s own Internet Explorer, which Microsoft had agreed to include to settle charges that it was monopolizing the web-browser business. (Also in March, the government of Denmark said that Microsoft owed it about a billion dollars in unpaid taxes when it took over a Danish company and tried to route its taxes through notorious tax havens such as Bermuda. According to a March Reuters report, Denmark is among the first European countries to challenge such U.S.-standard tax shenanigans and is expecting payment in full.)

Recurring Themes

Being identified with the number 666 (the “mark of the beast” in the Bible’s Book of Revelation) continues to trouble the righteous. Walter Slonopas, 52, felt required to resign as a maintenance worker for Contech Casting in Clarksville, Tenn., in February after receiving his W-2 form, which he noted was the 666th mailed out by Contech this year. (However, perhaps Slonopas is not so innocent. He had been working for Contech for less than two years, yet had already been “assigned” the number 666 twice -- on the company’s payroll books and the company’s time-clock system.)

The Iconic Phantom Black/Hispanic Perpetrator: In February, victims of crimes in San Antonio, Texas, and Terrebonne Parish, La., complained to police that they had been assaulted by, respectively, a “Hispanic male” and an “unknown black man” -- whom the victims admitted later did not exist. San Antonio police learned that their victim had been accidentally, embarrassingly, shot by a friend mishandling his gun. Louisiana authorities found that their victim had not been abducted and raped (and had her baby stolen). Rather, she had wanted to hide her miscarriage from family and friends and invented a phantom attack as more acceptable.

Chinese New Year, especially, turns out not so festive if busy young professional women are unable to show off a boyfriend to their parents. Thus, men offer themselves as fake boyfriends for the equivalent of about \$50 a day, plus extras including about \$5 an hour to accompany the woman to dinner, \$8 for a kiss on the cheek, and \$95 to spent the night -- on the couch, of course, since “sex” is not part of the concept. Recently, a reality TV series appeared for men needing women for home visits -- often they are gay men

UPFRONT- ON VACATION

who have not "come out" to their parents.

Backward Incentives: Society continues to suffer from questionable company policies that encourage precisely the wrong behaviors. Bartender Twyla DeVito said she knew that one of her regulars at the American Legion Post in Shelby, Ohio, was too inebriated to drive home and thus telephoned police, alerting them to a potential drunk driver. An officer responded, observed the driver, and arrested him when his blood-alcohol read twice the limit for presumed impairment. Two days later DeVito was fired because, as her boss allegedly said to her, "(I)t's bad for business to have a bartender that will call the cops."

The Fabulous British Government "Safety Net": Heather Frost, 36, and mother of 11, is getting a brand-new, specially designed house through the Tewkesbury (England) Borough Council, which deemed inadequate the duplex that the family had been using at taxpayer expense for five years. Frost had complained that she needed larger quarters because one daughter now owns a horse and needs to stable it (and, said a stable worker, had almost acquired two more horses, but that deal fell through).

Fathers caught up unfairly in state laws on child support have appeared in News of the Weird, but Lionel Campbell's story seems unusually harsh. Authorities in Detroit continue to bill Campbell for past-due support (which Campbell admits he owes even if unsure how much), but only recently did he discover that they were counting \$43,000 past-due to support "Michael," who had died 25 years ago at age 3. Campbell said he had thought the support was for another child, born seven years after Michael, but it turns out neither the authorities nor Campbell knows precisely which fatherhood Campbell is paying for. The latest audit reduced Michael's \$43,000 balance to about \$6,500.

Third-World Penis-Snatchings Continue to Vex: In Tiringoulou (pop. 2,000) in the Central African Republic, phantoms are thought often to steal penises, or shrink them, but according to a March dispatch in the magazine Pacific Standard, the stories' origins may simply reflect distrust of outsiders. Townspeople over-attribute worldly powers to strangers, and when outsiders' business deals go sour, men check their genitals. Also, animal-organ poachers operate nearby and arouse suspicion that they may be after human genitals, as well. (Asking for perspective on this weirdness, though, the Pacific Standard reporter wondered what Tiringoulou citizens might think about Americans who, for instance, starve themselves "near to death because their reflection in the mirror convinces them that they are fat.")

More Poor Planning: (1) In San Diego, Calif., in February, two people broke into a Hooters after closing and stole a jukebox, apparently, said police, mistaking it for an ATM inside the darkened restaurant. (2) Jose Perales Jr., 24, was charged with breaking into Dr. John's Lingerie Boutique in Davenport, Iowa, in February. Surveillance video revealed he was wearing men's clothing when he entered, but left in a dress and blond wig. In fact, while changing clothes, his bare back was visible, revealing "Perales" tattooed on his shoulder.

Street Corner SOAPBOX

By: Jay Stevens

Same-Sex Marriage

Last week, the Supreme Court heard arguments for two cases related to same-sex marriage. The first challenges California's Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriage; the second challenges the Defense of Marriage Act, which denies benefits to the same-sex partners of federal employees. It's likely the justices will punt on the issue – deciding the cases on technical grounds – and pass up the opportunity to rule finally on the legality of same-sex marriage.

That's a shame. Not because I want to see my gay friends and neighbors enjoy the same rights I have to marry – I do – but because such a ruling would clearly define the amount of individual liberty we have to form personal relationships. That is, gay marriage *does* affect us all.

In order for a ban on same-sex marriage to stand, the state has to show why it has an interest in preventing gays from marrying. In the past, state courts have focused on a reason that threatens not only the families of gay couples, but the personal relationships of *all* couples: the idea that marriage is primarily a biological function necessary to produce children.

In order for a ban on same-sex marriage to stand, the state has to show why it has an interest in preventing gays from marrying. In the past, state courts have focused on a reason that threatens not only the families of gay couples, but the personal relationships of *all* couples: the idea that marriage is primarily a biological function necessary to produce children.

Simply put, producing babies is beneficial to the state, and marriage is a bond meant to produce babies; therefore, gays can't marry because they can't produce babies.

That means, of course, that if your marriage isn't producing babies, then it shouldn't be a marriage. Does that mean childless couples shouldn't be married? Couples with adopted children? Couples with an infertile or sterile partner? Well, yes, admitted the majority opinion of the 2006 New York Supreme Court decision upholding a ban

on same-sex marriage. But "limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples likely to have children," read the decision, "would require grossly intrusive inquiries, and arbitrary and unreliable line-drawing."

Breathe easy, you menopausal women. Your marriage is legal because the government doesn't have an effective way to track your fertility. Yet.

Such a view of marriage, as primarily a vehicle for procreation, means that any married couple not actively trying to have children is violating their state-sanctioned bond. It's not a great leap from this to, say, outlawing contraception and divorce, or criminalizing adultery.

But the most egregious thing about this view of marriage is that it rings false. Marriage isn't a utilitarian agreement built around baby-making. Instead, "civil marriage is at once a deeply personal commitment to another human being, and a highly public celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family," wrote Massachusetts Supreme Court Chief Justice Margaret Marshall, in that court's

2003 decision legalizing gay marriage. "The decision whether and whom to marry is among life's momentous acts of self-definition."

You know it's true when you read it. Marriage is a "personal commitment to another human being" and a "celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family." Marriage *does* "fulfill yearnings for security, safe haven, and connection that express our common humanity" and this is why it's an "esteemed institution."

And these are the reasons that I am married.

If gay marriage bans are upheld, it means that the state has the ultimate say in who and how we marry. It means we are not free to create our own families, or even to make our own destinies. It means none of us are free to marry for love.

Jay Stevens can be contacted at Jay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Sneveys_Yaj.



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THE WAY I SEE IT

Sequestration, Pope Francis

By: Rebecca Styn

Sequestration Process in Erie

Erie County will likely see upwards of \$2.7 million in federal funding cuts to drug and alcohol counseling, mental health treatment, child care, and other programs because of the sequestration process. Overall, it will cut \$85 billion from the federal fiscal budget for 2013-14.

Within this last year, we have seen two of the deadliest shootings in U.S. history occur in a Colorado theater and a Connecticut elementary school. Couple that with the continual concerns of the potential rise in violence locally and nationally, I am disappointed to learn these cuts are even an option.

Locally, Erie County has nearly

We can whine about our own personal responsibility, or we can face the fact that reducing resources and access to mental-health care comes with a heavy price tag.

2,000 individuals that are homeless. We also have the highest-ever recorded number of unsheltered homeless people -160 individuals - which is four-times as many as there were in 2012. And these numbers include children. On a pragmatic level, we can whine about our own personal responsibility, or we can face the fact that reducing resources and access to mental-health care comes with a heavy price tag.

Many of us have taken so much of our own time, money, and efforts and put them into ideas that don't address these issues head on when we should be focusing on the root of these problems.

Perhaps it's time we looked inward and started putting this energy towards solutions that are proactive rather than reactive.

Viva il Papa!

A man who deeply understands and empathizes emphatically with the issues above has now taken the reigns as our new Pope. Jorge Bergoglio is the first non-European pope in 1,300 years, and the first to take the name of St. Francis of Assisi, who preached the virtue of living in poverty.

Unprecedented

From the time he accepted the Papacy, he has been captivating the world with one humble and impromptu gesture after another. Less than 24 hours after he became pope, he seemed to break more rules than his predecessor did in eight years. Read on, Reader readers:

Unorthodox

What is unconventional by any papal standard, on the night of his election, Pope Francis paid his own hotel bill and shunned the standard limo ride, instead riding the bus with his brother cardinals. On more than one occasion, he's stood outside the gates of the Vatican to greet those passing by. He's had lunch with his predecessor, Benedict XVI, where he was invited to take the pew reserved only to the Holy Father, but instead, responded to

Benedict that they "are brothers" and insisted that the two kneel together in prayer at the same pew. The last time a similar event happened was in 1294.

Unscripted

He started off his first Papal speech with a warmer and friendlier welcome: "Buona Sera" (meaning good evening in Italian), rather than the traditional "Praise be to Jesus Christ" or "Dear brothers and sisters." And he had no words prepared for his first mass, so nobody knew what he was going to say. He celebrated Holy Thursday Mass in a juvenile-detention center not far from the Vatican. During the ceremony he washed the feet of some of the young prisoners as a Christ-like gesture of humility commemorating a solemn moment during the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of the apostles.

And we are only a few weeks into his papacy.

What may be the most traditionally-oriented and ritualistic faith in the world of Christianity is now being led by a humble and spontaneous leader. It's a religion that's lost much of its credibility over the last several decades due to the scandals within and outside its ornate walls, so to speak. Perhaps Pope Francis will shed a new light on this sanctioned religion and bring change and growth in a seemingly stagnant and corrupt religious institution. Even his namesake, St. Francis, is famous for the vision of a talking crucifix telling him, "Francis, rebuild my church."

And perhaps, he will accomplish just that. If Pope Francis does indeed continue to address the root of the Church's troubles, perhaps the impact of the global trend of cuts to social services won't be as severe as it looks.

Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Email me at rStyn@ErieReader.com and follow me on Twitter @rStyn.



TECH WATCH

What to Do with Your Old Phone

By: Brennan Donnelly, Epic WebStudios

In with the new, letting go of the old?

For most every American who has a mobile phone, the opportunity to upgrade their device rolls around every other year. Some look forward to the occasion more than others depending on how much they use and/or abuse their device.

For users who may have dropped the device in the toilet and are now left with a finicky old thing that doesn't vibrate or only works when you hold it a certain way, this day cannot come soon enough. For some users, like myself, who are forced to "live" on their phones and can virtually complete every function of their job from the mobile device, we eagerly count down to the day of renewal. To the resistant flip phone owner who claims they hate technology but feel that they are required to own it, their renewal may pass without them even realizing, until their current device bites the dust.

Whichever category you may fall into above, the question is: what does the average consumer do with their old device once they receive their new tech upgrade?

Well, as it turns out, most Americans take it home and drop it in a drawer - myself included. A user's reasons behind doing so differ for a variety of reasons, ranging from privacy concerns regarding information that may be stored on the phone to not actually knowing what to do with an old device - or my personal reason of wanting to save it as a backup, so when the day comes that I accidentally drop my phone out of a moving vehicle, I will have something I can activate the same day to keep me connected.

Realistically, I have only ever needed a backup once. And admittedly, it may be a bit overboard that I now own a backup for my backup's backup. But

once I feel that it is time to retire a backup (due to getting a new one) what am I to do with a 4, 6 or 8-year-old phone? It becomes hard to believe that this technology would be desired by anyone.

Remember these important things before you pitch that old device, or allow it to hibernate in a drawer any longer. At the time of upgrade, users get a deep discount off retail prices. This means someone may be able to sell an old phone for more than expected. For example, the original iPhone, which is now 6-years old, can easily pull in \$50 on eBay.

A users' other options include recycling or donating the device. By recycling your phone rather than putting in a landfill, you will be saving the planet from the decomposing of batteries, chips, and processors, which are potentially hazardous - and hey, it's pretty cool to do your part as Captain Planet.

Funding Factory, which is located on the Bayfront Parkway right here in Erie, inspects roughly 20,000 handsets a month and would be happy to take yours, and if it still holds some value, they will even shell out some cash to you.

Funding Factory, which is located on the Bayfront Parkway right here in Erie, inspects roughly 20,000 handsets a month and would be happy to take yours, and if it still holds some value, they will even shell out some cash to you.

If you decide that donation sounds like a better route, feel good about it, as you may be hooking someone up who otherwise may not have been able to join the cellular conversation with a device they will brag about to their friends (much like you did when you first got it). Other donation programs are available online and include support to soldiers, elderly, and domestic abuse victims. The process is simple: print out a shipping label provided by and paid for by the accepting donate cause, and mail it away.

Numbers differ depending on the polls/studies that are conducted, but many people admit to having three or more old phones stashed away. Granted, we at Epic work in a tech company, but more than half of our staff falls into this category. We are all taking a pledge to do our part to donate, recycle, or make a buck where we are able and I encourage you to do the same.

Brennan Donnelly can be contacted at Epic@ErieReader.com.



JUST TOYIN' WITCHA By: B. Toy



THE READER EATER

Our Mystery Food Critic Drops by Picasso's

A less than ideal location up by the Millcreek Mall serves as the home to a surprisingly good little gourmet sandwich shop known as Picasso's. It's easy to miss on your way through the Starbucks drive-thru, especially since this particular storefront has housed multiple vendors in the past. But one visit to this shop should have any eater coming back to the area for a sandwich instead of a latte.

It's a small and friendly environment that serves as a gallery space not just for featured art-

on the chalkboard-painted tabletop before my food was delivered.

Before discussing food options and flavors, I'm going to warn the meat-free eaters out there, along with the even more dietary-restricted vegans, that this menu is very meat-and-cheese heavy. There are three vegetarian signature sandwich options, two of which are primarily cheese. There is, however, a "Build Your Own" option that one could easily get meat-and-cheese-free friendly with. They also offer gluten-free bread for a considerable upcharge (\$2) for those with allergies.

For the meat lovers, however, options abound, with standouts such as the "DaVinci," which comes with Italian sausage, cheese ravioli, and Alfredo served on multigrain bread. You could even go a little further with the "Botticelli," which features pepperoni, salami, ham, provolone, and pesto mayo served on sourdough bread.

And for those who are looking for a truly unique sandwich to Erie, the obvious choice is the "Lee Roslyn:" a Twinkie, ham, and cheddar cheese on multigrain bread. This is going to sound slightly blasphemous to some, but I don't like Twinkies. However if I did, I would have grabbed this sandwich to-go, stopped at Six Pack House on the way home, and gobbled it up with a cold Pabst alongside to keep them with the favorable Americana snack cake.

But since I am not a Twinkie or a stacked-meat lover, I opted to try two different sandwiches than those mentioned above: "The Mona Lisa" and the "Starry Night." "The Mona Lisa," which is comprised of turkey, Havarti cheese, artichoke hearts, baby spinach, tomato, and pesto mayo all served toasted on multigrain bread, was truly a pleasure in taste and texture. Even though it sounds like an overload of ingredients, the flavors are distinct and well-matched. The spinach was fresh and kept the sandwich from seeming soggy, and the pesto mayo was actually discernable and united the other flavors well. This is definitely a menu item that I would not only recommend, but that I will try again.

The "Starry Night," on the other hand, fell a bit short for my palate. A riff on the well-known classic Reuben, the "Starry Night" is made with corned beef or turkey, sauerkraut, Swiss cheese, and wasabi mayo on toasted pumpernickel bread.



The "Mona Lisa:" turkey, Havarti cheese, artichoke hearts, baby spinach, tomato, and pesto mayo all served toasted on multigrain bread.

It's a small and friendly environment that serves as a gallery space not just for featured artists, but also for an extensive menu of sandwiches that one is not likely to find anywhere else in this town.

ists, but also for an extensive menu of sandwiches that one is not likely to find anywhere else in this town. The price points are completely reasonable, if not lower than some other sandwich venues, with the most expensive item maxing out at only \$7.99, as well as the option to order only half a portion, bringing that price point down even lower.

Upon entering the shop – especially as a first-time visitor – I was overwhelmed by the giant chalkboard menu, but the eagerness of the staff to simply offer assistance allowed for a quick acclimation to the scene. If the staff had nametags I would namedrop two particular young ladies who were not only friendly, but also knowledgeable about the menu and the ingredients in question. As for the time spent waiting for my meal, let's just say that I barely had time to make a doodle

The wasabi mayo, obviously meant to be a substitute for the Thousand Island dressing and the horseradish that one usually finds on a Reuben, left the sandwich seemingly dry and bland. The wasabi was undetectable, which is a shame for anyone who craves that nasally burn, and the lack of sauce left me craving something with every bite. While this corned beef sandwich was not bad, there were much more tantalizing items on the menu that I wished I had opted for instead.

Both of these sandwiches paired well with a bag of potato chips and a \$.99 deli pickle that's a desirable snack in its own right. Most exciting of all was that I was able to indulge in a glass bottle of Coke from Mexico. This is a big deal for anyone who misses that classic Coke flavor but just can't ingest high-fructose corn syrup, along with some other unsavory ingredients. While the Mexican variety is still not "healthy" by any means, it is

made with real sugar and the taste is as satisfying as a getaway to south of the border during the tail end of an Erie winter. Sipping one of these bad boys along side my sandwich was truly a pleasure.

So next time you're up by the mall and you're feeling burnt out on chain restaurants, keep in mind this little gem in the sea of big box stores. I will admit that I would be much more likely to frequent Picasso's on a regular basis if it were located somewhere like downtown – here's hoping they open a second location – but the location alone is hardly a reason to not go out of the way in search of a flavor that is truly unique to Erie.

You can contact the Reader Eater at ReaderEater@ErieReader.com.



Erie's 40 Under 40

Introducing the Class of 2013: 40 Young Innovators, Entrepreneurs, and Leaders Shaping the Future of Erie



From left to right: Stacey Orr, Zack Orr, Perry Wood, Amanda Sissem, and Cal Pifer.

By: The Editors

Our mission to serve as the city's independent, alternative source for news, culture, and entertainment has also allowed us to function as both a conduit for conversation as well as a platform to promote all that is good in this fishbowl we call Erie. And as a consequence of our travels and travails throughout the various overlapping circles in our community, we – your Erie Reader writers and editors – have had the great fortune of meeting people from all walks of life who make Erie what it is today: a gregarious, generous, gifted community of good people doing good things.

Of those people, we soon learned that an awful lot of them are right around our age; shortly after that, we learned why: of Erie County's estimated 280,000 residents, more than 150,000 of them are under the age of 40.

Accordingly, we set about compiling a list of those under 40 that we think are worthy of recognition, because of their personal story, their professional accomplishments, or their impact on our community. After considering all 150,000 of our young denizens, we narrowed it down to 149,996, and then 18,469, and then 420, and

then, finally, just 40.

As we compiled that list, we quickly learned there is no shortage of young talent in our area. Therefore, congratulations are in order for those who made it; in the future, we expect even greater things from these 40 fine folks than they've already accomplished. For those who did not make the list – the other 149,960 – no offense is intended; just keep on grindin', because there's always next time.

So, without further ado, we proudly present the Erie Reader's "40 under 40," class of 2013.

In your face, brain drain.

Eric Brewer, 28, musician

A graduate of Fairview High School – where his specialty was "cutting class to go home and practice guitar" – Eric still graduated with honors before earning a scholarship to Duquesne University's School of Music. And although his day job is teaching guitar and bass at World of Music and the Fleming School of the Arts, his real passion lies in performing live, both locally and regionally. "Being a teacher is very rewarding, and it is a truly amazing feeling to play music for people. Hopefully it lifts their spirits and inspires them in some way," he said. "Erie is an incredible community, brimming with many interesting and talented people. As long as we all work together,

this city will continue to be a truly inspiring place to be."

Amanda Sissem, 36, executive director

The new executive director of ArtsErie, Amanda is an Erie native who attended the University of Georgia and graduated with bachelor's degree in social work and obtained a master's degree in nonprofit management from Regis University. Amanda, whose first job was at Whippy Dip, works to connect people with the resources needed to create positive change. "I'm proud to work with a variety of partners to seize the power of the arts to inspire, educate, heal, fuel innovation and drive economic growth," she said. "I challenge young leaders to make a commitment to lead here and to lead now. Stop waiting for an invitation to join the conversation. Our time is now. Our community needs us." She swears that to this day, she can still make a perfect 4-ounce orange-vanilla twist.

Bob Merski, 37, government

Born and raised in Erie, Bob once seriously considered becoming a priest. While obtaining a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a minor in religious studies at Mercyhurst University, he took the psychological test and

went through the interview process to enter the seminary. This, Bob said, is what made him recognize the call to serve to others, a call he answers as an Erie City Council member. Bob also works for the Erie School District as a special-education teacher at East High School and has 17 years teaching experience. "It's an exciting time to be a young person in Erie," he said. "Our young people have a passion for Erie that makes me believe that we are on the cusp of something great. Now more than ever, young people in Erie have a chance to make an impact on the community. The old conventions and 'dyed in the wool' attitudes are changing, making way for a renaissance in the City of Erie led by our young people."

Ferki Ferati, 29, executive director

Born in Mitrovica, Kosovo, Ferki and his family moved to the United States when he was 16 years old. After completing his bachelor's degree in intelligence studies at Mercyhurst University, Ferki began working at the Jefferson Educational Society, and now serves as executive director. He's brought the likes of E.J. Dionne, Paul Kennedy, Gen. Michael Hayden, Francis Fukuyama, David Brooks, Karl Rove, and Norman Ornstein to Erie through the four Global Summits held at the JES to date. Most recently,

this lover of Roman history who's visited over 30 countries on five continents completed his master's degree in public administration at Gannon University and helped raise over \$1.8 million for the Perry 200 Commemoration. Ferki also played a vital role in securing \$1.8 million HUD grant for Destination Erie: A Regional Plan, and is a man who firmly believes in the Horace Mann quote: "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."

Ashley Sornberger, 32, entrepreneur

After attending Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to major in elementary education, Ashley spent 11 years working at Bayside Ob-Gyn. The Erie native left that position two years ago to concentrate on her husband, Don, and their business: Mid-Town Tattoo, which they own together in addition to Gem City Gallery apparel store. "The most important thing about us and our business is that there is no 'stereotype of people,'" she said. "I have a son and two stepdaughters that obviously know about our business - I hope that we have taught them and others that you cannot judge a book by its cover." Not being an artist herself allows her to focus on her business, which employs eight tattoo artists and one piercer, among others. "I've learned a lot being in our business five years and hope to continue for many more."

Patrick Kelley, 33, attorney

Patrick is a 1998 grad of Villa Maria Academy who then earned a BS in industrial labor relations at Penn State University. He then at-

tended law school at Cleveland State, where he graduated in 2006 with a JD/MBA. "Currently I am the managing attorney at SafeNet, where I represent victims of domestic violence in connection with domestic relations matters," he said.

**We – your Erie Reader
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good people doing
good things.**

"Most people are surprised to learn how big of a problem domestic violence is in Erie County, and it is gratifying to know that I can assist victims at crucial times in their lives." He also said that he would be remiss if he failed to mention his love of music – particularly live music – specifically, the Grateful Dead.

Burim Loshaj, 24, artist

An Albanian refugee from Kosovo, Burim has called the United States home for the last 13 years. A Mercyhurst University graduate with a bachelor's degree in graphic design and a minor in web production, Burim works as a part-time graphic designer at Jamestown Community College and also freelances for various organizations in the Erie area, including the Erie Reader. "Young people are the lifeblood of Erie and keep its energy and spirit alive," he said. The young designer, who looks to make Erie a more beautiful place through his work, is planning to release his own font design in the next few weeks.

Heidi Euliano, 36, entrepreneur

Heidi grew up in Erie, graduated from McDowell High School, and continued her education at Syracuse University where she majored in psychology with a concentration in health and exercise science. "I moved to Los Angeles upon graduation to find that Erie has much opportunity for college graduates who want to pursue many career avenues with a lower cost of living and a simpler life than that of a large city," she said. "I found myself enveloped in traffic and endless jobs that weren't for me, so I returned to Erie to start my career as a commercial real estate professional." Given an opportunity to start a business with her uncle and father (of Baldwin Brothers, Inc.), she jumped at the chance and is currently an owner and operator of nine Niagara Car Wash locations. "Opportunity, hard work, and honesty make for a fulfilling journey," she said.

C. Brown, 25, musician

Born and raised in Erie, C. Brown works to show people that hip-hop is actually more about unity and celebrating life than anything else. A graduate of East High School, C. Brown, in addition to being one of Erie's most prolific and talented rappers, has worked as a janitor for Peterson's Property Maintenance for four years, and jokingly admits to having lied about losing his virginity to fake girl named "Mary" in middle school. "Since we are the future, we have started to create a better future with our music, illustrations, fashion, etc., to inspire others as well as bring people together."

David Hunter, 29, entrepreneur

Born in Erie to Dave and Sue Hunter, David graduated from McDowell High School before attending Fordham University and then Mercyhurst University. He started working for Merrill Lynch just after college, and was "about the worst financial advisor ever... That's when I decided to pursue my true calling as a self-employed business owner with a tech startup." After meeting Shaun Rajewski, they founded Epic Web Studios. "Every time we launch a new website for a local organization, we are helping to keep the perception strong that Erie is a wonderful place. Young people are transforming the landscape of Erie. We've moved beyond the image of 'another manufacturing town' and into a growing center for education, tourism, healthcare, and – if I have anything to say about it – technology. From my standpoint, the future of Erie is bright, gleaming with optimism, and I am elated to be a part of it."

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From left to right: Heather McBrier, Marty Schwab, C. Brown, and Dan Kern.

Jessica Yochim

Carolyn Eller, 27, public relations

For the last three years, Carolyn has served as the director of marketing and public relations at the Erie Art Museum, where she oversees audience development strategies, publicity, and marketing for the museum’s programming, which she sees as the “most rad job in Erie.” She said that “young people make Erie special because we have the opportunity to influence the future of our community by what we’re doing *now*, a role that I do not take lightly.” This Calvin College graduate who obtained a degree in mass media studies also produces major events and exhibit openings as well as the annual Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival. “I’m passionate about communicating how the museum plays a critical role in developing [art in the Erie community]. I have the privilege of raising up the next generation of art lovers and supporters to maintain the vibrancy of the arts and culture scene in Erie.”

Jason Lavery, 31, entrepreneur

In August 2009, Jason, along with wife Nicole, founded Lavery Brewing Company. Currently serving as the brewery’s president, Jason, an Albion native, graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s degree in humanities and a master’s degree in communications. Together with his wife/business partner and fellow brewer Jason Lynch, he’s on track to

brew 31,000 gallons of beer in 2013. Helping to make Erie a craft beer destination, Lavery’s innovative and creative brews can also be found throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware and soon in Michigan. As someone who never stops moving, stating that he’s never sitting on his “haunches watching for something to fall into his lap,” Jason has plans to launch a pub attached to his brewery in August. “Ambition, creativity, optimism, and drive are the main attributes of Erie’s next generation of movers and shakers,” he said.

Zach Flock, 29, artistic director

Assistant director of eMarketing in the Office of Admissions at Gannon University by day, artistic director of Dramashop by night, Zach manages online marketing and recruitment initiatives for Gannon and helped found the up-and-coming theater company. “Young people bring an optimism to Erie that many older residents have lost,” he said. “When we see an empty storefront in Downtown Erie, we don’t think about what used to be there and closed – we think about the potential for something new.” A Gannon graduate with a bachelor’s degree in theatre and communication arts, the New Stanton, Pa. native is currently working on his master’s degree in public administration at Gannon, and is a self-proclaimed “political junkie.” “Erie is undergoing a renaissance, and in many ways,

young people are leading the charge,” he added.

Katie Keenan, 32, assignment editor

Originally hailing from Saegertown, Pa., Katie attended Westminster College, where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in broadcast communications and visual arts technology, and currently serves as the assistant director and assignment editor at Lilly Broadcasting; she also keeps anything coworkers might ever need in her desk, ranging from office and cleaning supplies to cold and flu supplies. “We, the under 40s, have been told while growing up ‘we are the future.’ Well, the future has arrived. Hopefully we can continue our positive influences and we’ll continue to make Erie a reenergized, refocused, and revitalized community for generations to come.”

Chip Wachter, 36, architect

Born in Erie to a large family, Mercyhurst Prep alum Chip Wachter graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor’s of architecture degree, which included spending a year in Florence, Italy; his work has also brought him to Boston, Paris, Nantucket, Brooklyn, and Hell’s Kitchen in New York City. Currently, he is a partner at Kidder Wachter Architecture and Design. “Much of our work is with helping local businesses grow and evolve,” he said. “We have the opportunity to make Erie a better place to

live one client, one building, one neighborhood at a time.”

Chris Sirianni, 35, entrepreneur

Born and raised in Erie, Chris serves as the president and general manager of The Brewery at Union Station. A graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s degree in business management, Chris – a cancer survivor, concert junkie, and closet historian – has committed himself to creating an environment where aspiring artists, musicians, and brewers have a venue and platform to be recognized, and has helped local non-profits raise over \$100,000 annually. “I am Erie’s biggest fan – for the talent and generosity of our people and for the assets and resources,” he said. “It’s up to our generation to help Erie see its full potential.”

Shawnta’ Pulliam, 33, entrepreneur

Although Shawnta’ wears multiple hats in the Erie community, she believes that “we all have a destiny and purpose in life.” She founded Nurturing Hearts, a self-esteem and self-development nonprofit organization for at-risk girls to help instill in them a sense of purpose and self-worth; she also owns Shawnta’ Pulliam Arise LLC, a motivational speaking, community program development and consulting agency, where she has taken on a new role at UPMC Hamot as

a part-time facilitator for women from all facets of life – all while working full-time at General Electric. “We hold the keys of vision towards a higher level of change,” she said. Born and raised in Erie, this poetry-writing belly dancer attended Gannon University, where she studied psychology and criminal justice.

Dan Kern, 28, chef

Chef and owner of 1201 Kitchen, Dan creates and cooks food “in the pursuit of deliciousness” and provides people “a place to enjoy each other’s company.” Dan attended Johnson and Wales University in Denver and graduated with an associate’s degree in culinary arts and a bachelor’s degree in food service management. “Youth provides us with unbridled enthusiasm and en-

Erie, Marshall quotes the bard himself, William Shakespeare: “It is not in the stars to hold our destiny, but in ourselves.”

Heather McBrier, 36, entrepreneur

Heather grew up in Albuquerque, N.M. and was a marketing and finance major at the University of Denver. Six years ago, she started McBrier Events, an event planning company; two months ago, she co-founded Ink Design House, an advertising agency specializing in graphic design, marketing, and printed materials. “I always try to give the audience something they haven’t seen before,” she said. “I think that the young people of Erie make it special and better because they choose to live here instead of a major metropolis. There is the forever problem of brain drain and young folk leaving Erie; I think those of us that choose to stay and make a life here are special because we know that we can make a big impact on a mid-sized town and have a great quality of life.”

Ryan Bizzarro, 27, government

McDowell High School Grad, Ryan double-majored in criminal justice and political science at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and received his master’s degree in public administration from Gannon University; he’s currently the youngest state representative ever to be elected from this area. “Being a state representative gives me the opportunity to make Erie and the Commonwealth a better place every day. Whether it’s meeting with residents in our district to hear their ideas and concerns or voting on leg-

islation in Harrisburg, I was elected to positively impact the community in any way that I can, and plan to do so as effectively and efficiently as possible,” he said. “It’s our job as leaders to inspire others to get involved in our community.” Ryan said the next big step in his life is to settle down and start a family of his own.

Marty Schwab, 39, entrepreneur

As the proprietor of popular State Street music venue the crooked i, Marty Schwab does a little bit of everything, from mopping floors to booking bands. Originally from Falconer, N.Y., Marty earned his BA from Mercyhurst University in business administration and an MBA from the University of Alabama. “I think Tracy [Evans, his partner in crime], my staff, and I have given Erie a place where original music, original art, and independent thought can blossom and flourish, regardless of genre or stereotypes. There is such an extreme concentration of talented musicians and artists in Erie,” he said. “Stereotypes and pettiness have no place in a healthy scene.” Despite his education and commercial success, Marty’s secret to mental clarity a bit more youthful: “I have crayons and a coloring book on my desk... coloring helps me with my thoughts.”

John Elliott, 38, CEO

Licensed professional engineer with a bachelor’s degree in engineering and geology from Calvin College and master’s degree in civil engineering from Michigan State, John currently serves as the president and CEO of the Economic Development Corporation of Erie

County. This husband and father of three heads the county’s lead economic development agency and is responsible for infrastructure projects, business park and port developments, financing, and business assistance programs, and has raised capital for dozens of local companies while initiating a comprehensive plan to use local ports and railroads to attract new industry to Erie. “Only the young in spirit can have the successes that requires us to move from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm,” said John, who finds balance in life singing with his kids, painting, collecting vintage apple trees, inventing cocktails for his friends, and structuring multi-million dollar deals bridging the public and private sectors.

Kim Thomas-Plyler, 30, government

Native Virginian, Kim earned her BA in broadcast journalism from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. “The most rewarding part of being a journalist was the impact I hopefully had on people’s lives,” she said. “Viewers trusted me to let them know exactly what was going on in their community, and how it would affect them.” After spending almost seven years as a reporter and anchor for WJET-TV news, she recently joined the office of State Senator Sean Wiley as the director of communications and public relations. “Young people are the lifeblood of any community. We are the future leaders, the entrepreneurs, the parents, the mentors, and the educators of Erie. We must continue to work hard to ensure future generations can thrive and live the lives they’ve always dreamed about in a place they are proud to call home.” Last August, Kim married Jordan Plyler. [Cont. on 20]

"I am Erie's biggest fan – for the talent and generosity of our people and for the assets and resources. It's up to our generation to help Erie see its full potential."
- Chris Sirianni

ergy to push forward in the pursuit of creating a better place to live,” he said. As someone who confesses he still believes in Santa Claus, Dan works through 1201 to prove that “if you’re true to yourself and what you love, people can relate to that, and in turn, show support.” He hopes that that spirit will “encourage others to pursue their craft in a city as great as Erie instead of moving their talents elsewhere.”

Marshall Blount, 20, entrepreneur

Home-schooled from an early age and a survivor of meningitis, Marshall grew up loving to travel, which led him to realize how special Erie really is. Recently, he started a Facebook page called Erieite Pride, which has the mission of ensuring that Erie is represented in a positive way. “The reason I started Erieite Pride was to make people who haven’t taken a good look at their city in a while to stop for a moment and say, ‘Wow, I remember this!’” A few weeks ago, Marshall received a certificate of achievement from the Erie City Council for his efforts. “It was an honor, and I’m truly grateful for that,” he said. Of

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If We Were You...

WEDNESDAY 4.03

FILM at the Erie Art Museum presents: "The Imposter"

The next selection for the popular film series at the Erie Art Museum is "The Imposter," a documentary about a 13 year-old boy who disappears from his home in San Antonio, Texas, only to be found alive three years later in Spain with a harrowing tale of kidnap and torture. But all is not as it seems. Get to the Erie Art Museum early for drinks, food, and friends.

When: 7 p.m.
Where: Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St.
Contact: Facebook.com/FilmErieArtMuseum

THURSDAY 4.04

John Waters' "This Filthy World"

You read the Erie Reader interview, now go see the show at Edinboro University! As of press time, a VERY limited amount of \$10 tickets remained.

When: 8:30 p.m.
Where: Louis C. Cole Memorial Auditorium
Contact: EdinboroTickets.com

Crooked BASS: Natask EP Release Party

It's the beginning of a new month which means there's one thing that you can count on. Well, actually there are several things, like fingers, calculators, and the constant emotional turmoil of Cleveland sports fans. That aside, the first Thursday marks an all-new Crooked BASS at the crooked i, this time featuring the release of DJ Natask's EP and supporting sets by Ghost Alive and Matter.

When: 10 p.m.
Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.
Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

Novelist Sapphire at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Performance poetry, novel reading, gender discussion, and empowerment issues! If you're thinking what I'm thinking, then get ready for an exciting event. Acclaimed-author Sapphire will be speaking at Penn State Behrend as part of the 2013 Gender Conference. Sapphire intends to speak on the issues of empowerment and adversity while discussing her fiction and poetry. Sapphire is the author of New York Times bestseller

"Push," which later became the Oscar-winning movie "Precious" and the sequel novel "The Kid."

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Penn State Behrend, Reed Union Building, 4701 Station Road
Contact: 818.898.6171

FRIDAY 4.05

"The Liberation of Jerome Gleason" at All An Act Theatre

Join the cast and crew of the All An Act Theatre as they produce the world premiere of "The Liberation of Jerome Gleason." This tale follows the struggles of Jerome and Sybil Gleason as they battle the hardships produced by the Great Depression. Jerome, a dreaming and charming poet, often clashes with the rough attitude of Sybil, which makes for an adventure as the couple uncovers a dark secret about their past.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: All An Act Theatre at Columbus Square, 652 W. 17th St.
Contact: 450.8553

The Ladies of Acoustic Grammar

Instead of just playing songs for the ladies, Acoustic Grammar is pumping out plenty of tunes by the ladies. A fiver of females - Heather Devore, Optimistic Apocalypse, Life(Liss), Amber Alley, and Jessica King - will take the stage at The Beer Mug on this fantastic Friday for all the gals and guys ready for a good time.

When: 9:30 p.m.
Where: The Beer Mug, 1108 Liberty St.
Contact: 454.4753

SATURDAY 4.06

The Clarks

After what feels like an eternity away [Ed. Note - they came to town last year], The Clarks are set to return to Erie, a town that they've called their second home. Well, make sure to give the Pittsburgh-based band a proper Gem City greeting when they stop by Sherlock's and play their brand of good, old-fashioned rock 'n' roll, lest you have to wait another eternity before they swing by again.

When: 8 p.m.
Where: Sherlock's, 508 State St.
Contact: 453.7760

Erie Asian Festival

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka - do these words make you hungry? If so, you probably failed geography; however, here's your chance to sample regional delicacies from across Asia at the Erie Asian Festival! Demonstrations and performances will also take place throughout the day, so head on down to the Hammermill Center at Gannon University for this exciting and unique festival.

When: noon to 5 p.m.
Where: 620 Peach St.
Contact: ErieAsianFestival.com

SUNDAY 4.07

Erie Extension Canal: Gateway to the Great Lakes

The fabled Erie Canal once linked the North Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico - and it ran right through Erie! Revisit the heyday of barge traffic at the Erie Maritime Museum through images and artifacts donated to this important local history exhibit.

When: All day
Where: 150 E. Front Street
Contact: FlagshipNiagara.org

MONDAY 4.08

Erie SeaWolves vs. Binghamton Mets

Baseball is back, and we declare spring officially here. The SeaWolves actually open the season against the Altoona Curve on April 4, and for all we know we'll be in first place when this three-game series begins at 6:35 tonight. The forecast is calling for dry conditions and a high temp in the 50s, so grab your jacket and head down to the Uht. Nothing helps you think summer better than a night at the ballpark.

When: 6:35 p.m.
Where: Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10 St.
Contact: 456.1300, seawolves.com

TUESDAY 4.09

Analyzing Alexander the Great: Does He Deserve the Title?

Sure, he died 2,326 years ago and he was great then, but is he still all that special? Should we just start calling him Alexander the Average? Alexander the Acceptable? Alexander the Meh? Come listen to William P. Garvey, Ph.D. at the Jefferson Educational Society, as he addresses whether we should continue addressing Alexander as Great or one of these new terms. For the record, we're voting against The Meh.

When: 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: 3207 State St.
Contact: 459.8000 or JESerie.org.

WEDNESDAY 4.10

Waylon Speed

Some nights just call for a bit of beef jerky, beer, and a good bit a fiery, country-fried rock 'n' roll. Well, you may have to provide your own jerky, but you can get plenty of the other two when you head down to the crooked i to see the bearded bandmates of Waylon Speed for a good blast of blue-collar tunes.

When: 10 p.m.
Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.
Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie



Sat. Apr. 6

The Clarks



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THURSDAY 4.11

Swing Dancing

Whether you are a tapper or a flapper, don't be afraid to get into the swing of things down at Rocco's Tavern and get your limbs a dancin'. Think of the night as chance to hone your Charleston, Fox Trot, or whatever dance you've been working on or to just try out something new.

When: 8 p.m.
Where: Rocco's Tavern, 4040 W. 12 St.
Contact: 833.7127

FRIDAY 4.12

Pines of Rome Symphonic Series

Get your melody on as you travel down to the Warner Theatre to listen to Franz Schubert's symphony. Enjoy the unexpected musical eruptions with its uplifting and exciting classical music. Then enjoy American Samuel Barber in his remix of James Agree's poem Knoxville: Summer of 1915. All of this music is brought together under the composition of Respighi, as he brings his touch of the sounds of Rome, complete with birdcalls and brass bands in performance of the Pines of Rome.

When: 8 p.m.
Where: Warner Theatre, 811 State St.
Contact: 455.1375

Cope w/ Shotgun Jubilee

Everybody needs a vacation from time to time, but you don't need to shell out the big bucks to head down to Florida, because Cope is bringing the sunshine here. Kings of the Tampa Bay, Fla. jam scene, the sun-soaked rockers mix together elements of reggae and roots to warm up the crowd along with local jammers Shotgun Jubilee.

When: 10 p.m.
Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.
Contact: [facebook.com/thecrookedierie](https://www.facebook.com/thecrookedierie)

SATURDAY 4.13

Erie Roller Girls vs. NEO Audio Assault

Erie's own flat-track roller derby team opens their 2013 season at Presque Isle Skating and Event Center (formerly Evan's). Derby dames (and dudes) of all ages can catch all the derring-do at this family-friendly Erie institution, which is under new ownership and has been making improvements to both the rink and the refreshments.

When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: 3162 West Lake Road
Contact: ErieRollerGirls.com

Dramashop's Erie Reader Staged Reading Series presents: "8" by Dustin Lance Black

If you're a fan of legal cases and staged readings, this event might pique your interest, as "8" by Dustin Lance Black conveys the legal argument of Perry v. Schwarzenegger trail. With the addition of witness testimonies, this tale tells how the overturning of California's Proposition 8 came to be. With the use of actual transcripts, Black has put together an intense and heartbreaking look at this big case

When: 8 p.m.
Where: PACA Performing Arts Center & Theater, 1505 State St.
Contact: Dramashop.org

Bad-Ass Benefit

If you're the type that keeps thinking of how you can make our fine city a bit more badass, then get your bad ass down to the crooked i for the Bad-Ass Benefit. Featuring the '70s-style funky grooves of Gold and the DJ stylings of Natask, part of the event's proceeds will go to help start the Bad-Ass Film Festival, a film series that celebrates all the is awesome in this world.

When: 10 p.m.
Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.
Contact: [facebook.com/thecrookedierie](https://www.facebook.com/thecrookedierie)

SUNDAY 4.14

Erie Playhouse presents: "Grease"

Travel back to high school and visit the halls of Rydell High as it takes up residence on the Erie Playhouse stage. Sing along with the senior class as they take you back to the '50s for an adventure filled with gum-popping, hip-shaking, and hot rods while tapping your toes and singing the popular tunes.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St.
Contact: 454.2852

MONDAY 4.15

The Erie Broadway Series presents: "Rock of Ages"

You've seen the movie, now catch the live show that sparked the world-wide phenomenon. "Rock of Ages" features 28 mega-hits of the 80s and tells the age-old story of small-town country girl going to the Sunset Strip and falling for big-city rock star. This high-energy show features the music of Journey, Night Ranger, Styx, REO

Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Twisted Sister, Poison, Asia, Whitesnake, and many more. If ever there was a stage musical tailor made for Erie, this is it. Seating is limited, so act fast.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Warner Theatre, 811 State St.
Contact: 452.4857

TUESDAY 4.16

The Riverside Inn Dinner Theatre presents: "The Last Romance"

Robert Frost once wrote something about taking different paths. Apparently they make the difference. And apparently widower Ralph had the same thoughts, since during a daily stroll, he took a different way, which led him to a second chance at love, as he meets Carol. You can take whatever path leads you to the Riverside Inn Dinner Theatre to see their heart-warming tale unfold on stage. No Frost required.

When: Noon
Where: One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs
Contact: 956.9490




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To-do List

By: Alex Bieler

"Chasing Ice"

While many of us grumble and moan about winter's extended stay into what – according to the calendar – should be the spring season, there are others that aren't quite so eager to see everything melt away. In fact, when it comes to the issue of climate control, the idea of losing the ice and snow seems much less than ideal.

After the documentary, which starts at 7 p.m., the Reader's own Managing Editor Ben Speggen will lead a Q&A with a Skyped-in Orlowski to discuss a documentary that has won awards at Sundance Film Festival, South By Southwest Film Festival, and other reputable film destinations.

Yes, a few piles of snow here and there in our town might not seem so huge, but the people of Erie will get a chance to see the shrinking of glaciers at a not-so-glacial pace on the big screen when critically-acclaimed documentary "Chasing Ice" comes to FILM at the Erie Art Museum Wednesday, April 10. Part of FILM's weekly Wednesday series, which has brought in big-buzz movies such as the Academy Award-nominated "Beasts of the Southern Wild," "Chasing Ice,"

which was also nominated for an Academy Award (Best Original Song), chronicles environmental photographer James Balog's mission to provide evidence of climate change and the disappearing glaciers he and his team come across.

The night, which is sponsored, yes, Reader readers, by the Erie Reader itself, promises to bring more than just director Jeff Orlowski's hauntingly beautiful images to the Art Museum. In fact, it will help bring the director himself to the screen. After the documentary, which starts at 7 p.m., the Reader's own Managing Editor Ben Speggen will lead a Q&A with a Skyped-in Orlowski to discuss a documentary that has won awards at Sundance Film Festival, South By Southwest Film Festival, and other reputable film destinations.

If the post-documentary Q&A isn't enough discussion for you, then we've got something in mind for you conversationalists out there. Following the Q&A following "Chasing Ice," the Reader will be hosting "Breaking Ice: A Meet and Greet with the Erie Reader," where you can congregate with the lovely people behind our fine paper at U Pick 6 Tap House whilst having some fine adult beverages.

Whether you're a cinephile, an environmentalist, or stalking one of our Reader writers, "Chasing Ice" nice offers the gift of film at FILM, as well as the chance to hang out with some cool characters in real life.

Strangers and Liars CD Release

A couple of Erie Reader issues ago, you may have stumbled upon that fine Music Review section of ours and laid your eyes on four 150-word blocks of descriptive goodness. One of the four musical musings happened to be dedicated to "Five Seat Concert Hall," the debut album by local quartet Strangers and Liars. Well, as much as we try to use our words to try and lead your ear toward what you could hear, we can't just get up and play the music for you.

Now, if only there was an official show where



FILM at the Erie Art Museum presents: "Chasing Ice" with a Skype Q&A with director Jeff Orlowski.

you could get to hear "Five Seat Concert Hall," why that would be... wait, what's that convenient voice in my head? It's telling me that Strangers and Liars will be playing an official CD release party with Scarlet Ledbetter that starts at 10 p.m. Friday, April 5 at the crooked i? How swell!

Tommy Link, the de facto leader of the Gem City jammers, said to me that he is quite excited for the event, and understandably so. Not only is "Five Seat Concert Hall" the Strangers and Liars' first album, it's Link's first with a band, as he had previously recorded only as a solo artist. After the band, which consists of guitarist and vocalist Justin Anderson, bassist Russ Straub, drummer Tom Hitt, and Link on guitars and vocals, gelled quickly, they took to the studio and were pleased with the results.

"We were happy with it," Link said. "There's a good foundation. We've really only been playing together for a little over a year now, and we got into the recording process pretty early on and it kind of developed from there. In the end, it was really good – it's a good place to start and give people an idea of what we're about."

It doesn't take too long to hear influences of Tom Petty in Strangers and Liars' music, something that Link readily admits. While the leader

of the band – a position Link says the rest of the group placed him in when he wasn't looking – wrote several of the songs on "Five Seat Concert Hall" as solo pieces, the rest of band also shared his affinity for some of the premier performers of yesteryear.

"That was what really drew me and Justin together in the beginning, and that's who inspired me as a songwriter – people like Tom Petty, Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Bob Dylan, George Harrison, all those really good storytelling songwriters who write with a kind of accessibility," he said. "That was what we always wanted to pull out, the idea of something people can relate to, whether it's a story spelled out with names and details or the Tom Petty stuff where he can paint a scenario and you fill in the blanks."

With the upcoming CD release show at the crooked i, you can see some of Erie's own storytellers on stage and form your very own review of "Five Seat Concert Hall" – the live edition.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q.



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TUE: Songwriter Showcase & Vinyl Night
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An Art Show for All of Us

Celebrating the Possibilities

By: Pen Ealain

Who makes art? Who makes good art?

Apparently everybody.

What the heck? I spend four and a half years as an undergrad earning a BFA and then this show comes around every year at the Barber National Institute that's "all inclusive" and "for everybody" and "celebrates the artistic abilities of all people." And it has the audacity to be good. Is there no justice?

This ecumenical approach to art smacks of... Communism! We all know Communism doesn't work: The Russians tried it and failed. People tend to leave the commune at a fairly early age to go and make their way in the real world.

Dash, from "The Incredibles," observes that "everybody being special is just another way of saying nobody is." In America, the land of individual ambition and capitalist initiative, the rigorous believe that when every kid gets a trophy, then nobody has incentive to rise above the pack. In this context that means that if everyone gets accepted into the art show, then mediocrity will be the obvious result. Who's going to bother putting good work into a show that you will get into anyway?

Well, apparently a lot of people will.

The show in question is "Celebrating the Possibilities" at the Barber National Institute, and it opens the evening of April 12 starting at 5 p.m.

Last year's opening rambled through three spacious rooms on the ground floor of the Barber Center. As visitors entered from the foyer, they were immediately presented with an effective presentation of framed drawings and watercolors on crisp display boards. As guests moved into the large conference area, they happened upon an array of sculptures and many more panels and walls bedecked with visual creativity in nearly all its forms. With everything from mural-sized paintings made by groups of children to obviously professional pottery with sumptuous flowing glazes, it was hard to take it all in. Nearly 500 pieces were shown last year.

But that isn't to say that the show was disorganized or abstruse. On the contrary, curators Frank Fecko and Judy Baker did an exemplary job of arranging hundreds of disparate pieces into thematic groups.

This year's show will be similar in tone. You will find work by professional artists hanging next to work by talented amateurs, but children's work will be separated. Intentionally, there is no independent category for the disabled, so any work from a client of the Barber Institute will be hard to differentiate. That "even playing field" is a precept of this show's philosophy.

To give you an example of how a show that celebrates art from all people is organized, we can look at two similar works from two wildly disparate artists: Prominent painter Rob Weber and a newcomer to the art world Michael Howard.

When I first saw Howard's painting of one of his great loves – his morning coffee – I thought it may have been by Weber. The bold, uniform tones, the fun mood, the simplified forms all were evocative of Weber's paintings. Then Fecko showed me that there was something missing. "There's no house," he observed.

He was right. Weber always puts a house in his paintings. So Fecko showed me Weber's entry to the show: A study of bubbles in champagne appropriately named for this show: "Celebrate." There are no houses in this painting either. Fecko is thinking of hanging these two pieces next to each other for comparison and to emphasize the fact that both artists are playing with the process they use to make art.

Those processes can be as varied as the art itself. Howard, for example, created his painting over the course of months, while Weber's piece took considerably less time. In this show there are huge archival photographs like Michael Tkach's frost-covered tree in pale, sparkling tones alongside well-composed snapshots like Eric Miller's study of a rusted and forgotten old car printed on standard glossy paper.

The kindergarteners at Emerson Gridley worked closely with their teachers to produce a happy mural of cats in shoes with a painterly flag and a pretty yellow bird that can't help but make you happy when you see it. A highly-detailed colored pencil drawing by Janet Shilling of a girl blowing bubbles and sparkling blown glass bowls by Barbara Thomas Yerace also will bring a huge smile to your face.

Maybe that is what the show is really about. Why do we all need to be included? Why, to make us happy, of course!

Why make art? We make art for the same reason. There are two things that set us apart from the animals and make us truly a human family. Those things are creativity and fellowship. Inventiveness and close communal interaction are the qualities that have made humans the dominant species on this planet. They are the things that give our lives meaning and make us happiest. So when an art show celebrates the artistic abilities of all people, it should make us happy as well.

Maybe all-inclusiveness doesn't always work as an economic theory or as a way to coach a varsity sport. But maybe "The Incredibles" got it backwards – when no one is treated differently from anyone else, it makes us all special. That's one possibility worth celebrating.

"Celebrating the Possibilities" – The Dr. and Mrs. Robert Guelcher Annual Community Art Show will be at the Barber National Institute at 100 Barber Place in Erie near the foot of East Avenue.

Show hours are April 12, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; April 13 and 14, noon to 3 p.m.; April 15 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Pen Ealain can be contacted at PEalain@ErieReader.com.





MUSIC REVIEWS

Justin Timberlake
The 20/20 Experience
RCA

★★★★★



If Justin Timberlake's work with 'NSync was Mountain Dew, syrupy and sugarcoma-inducing, and his previous solo efforts were a couple Red Bulls and bottom-shelf vodkas you'd down at the club while donning a black shirt with golden wings bedazzled on it, his third solo record – "The 20/20 Experience" – is a signature martini you'd sip slowly at a classy lounge wearing nothing less than, well, a "Suit and Tie." Pop icon Timberlake bucks industry standards (see: any Samberg-produced SNL video and his decision to wait six-and-a-half years to release another record – eons in the pop world). Here, he's growing up, eschewing pop-friendly "SexyBack"-esque tracks for throwback soul and R&B – "That Girl" – and swing-induced grooves – "Suit and Tie." Timbaland's still present, but farther in the background, as JT's autotune-less voice combined with the flow and rhythm of the album swell. Here's hoping in seven years he serves us up a Manhattan. ~ Ben Spегgen

The Heligoats
Back to the Ache
Greyday Records

★★★★★



Some albums grab your attention right away, but not many immediately greet you. Leave it to Chris Otepka and The Heligoats to welcome the listener right away on latest album "Back to the Ache," when Otepka kicks album opener "Good Morning" off with a, well, "good morning." It's a charming start that puts the focus entirely on Otepka, while guitar strums, sparse piano, and echoing reverb build slowly behind him, a gorgeous awakening from a dreamlike state. "Back to the Ache" relies heavily on Otepka's vocals, his slightly nasal voice trembling lightly as he lets loose a stream of lyrics equal parts brainy and odd on songs like "26.2" and "Drai Zich." Otepka's musings on fitting in with the rest of the world are clever enough to reward repeat listens and heartfelt enough to keep you pleased the first time around. ~ Alex Bieler

Phosphorescent
Muchacho
Dead Oceans

★★★★★



After releasing "Here's to Taking it Easy" back in 2010 Matthew Houck, who performs under the moniker Phosphorescent, decided that he needed a mental-health break. While he hid himself away in a small Mexican community to get away from the world, his recovery from physical and mental exhaustion helped build the basis for his latest album. "Muchacho" is seeped with pain and loss, the sonic equivalent of a man being kicked while he's down before he finally struggles to get back up. The atmospheric opener "Sun, Arise!" leads into the beautiful atmospheric bath of swirling strings and background pulses on "Song For Zula" while the pain drips off of Houck's cracking tenor. From there, he shifts closer to his southern country roots, taking his lumps in stride, providing look into a man's soul at his lowest and his slow ascension back to humanity. ~ Alex Bieler

The Strokes
Comedown Machine
RCA

★★★



In a way, The Strokes may have nailed their discography in a single album title with "Comedown Machine." On their first two records, the classic debut "Is This It" and the great sophomore release "Room on Fire," Julian Casablancas and friends played like a veritable machine, assembling together tight tracks played with extraordinary precision. Unfortunately, then came the comedown. Since those first two albums, The Strokes just have not been able to match that same magic that vaulted them into stardom. On "Comedown Machine," they still pump out perfectly catchy tunes, but they seem to be trying too hard to move in a new direction, fusing '80s New Wave and a recurring falsetto that gets lost in the music at times. "Comedown Machine" contains brief moments that hint at what made The Strokes essential, but ultimately it slides by as just good enough. ~ Alex Bieler

FILM
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APR 3 | THE IMPOSTER (2012)

A 13-year-old boy disappears from San Antonio, TX. Three and a half years later he is found alive in a village in southern Spain with a story of kidnap and torture. His family is overjoyed, but all is not quite as it seems. 99 mins. Rated R.

Rib Sample with a Blooming Onion or Veggie, Fruit and Cheese plate from Outback Steakhouse.



Dinner and a Movie for \$15 must be purchased by 12pm on the Tuesday prior to the film at FilmSocietyNWPA.org. Join us weekly for the AFTER PARTY at U Pick 6 Taphouse!

APR 10 | CHASING ICE (2012)

Followed by Skype Q+A w/director Jeff Orlowski
Sponsored by the Erie Reader

Follow National Geographic photographer James Balog across the Arctic as he deploys time-lapse cameras designed for one purpose: to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers. 80 mins. Rated PG13.

Pepperoni Pizza or Antipasta salad, both with Spinach Dip side from U Pick 6 Taphouse. \$2 pizza slices for purchase at the door!



FILM at the Erie Art Museum is presented by the Film Society of Northwest Pennsylvania, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, with the support of these sponsors: Erie Art Museum, Erie Reader, Edinboro University, Magic Hat Brewing Company, U Pick 6 Taphouse, and Outback Steakhouse.

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Street Fashionista

Always Looking Your Best

By: Leslie McAllister & Anna Cipriani

I wrote a piece a few issues back on the pretty, punk-rock girl, Dawna Northup. She reminded me of fantastic women with vibrantly colored hair and untimely style. And during the interview, she mentioned Iris Apfel and Ilona Royce Smithkin. I immediately thought of Linda Berkey, owner of A Woman Tailor.

I would like to go on record by saying that women who dress dauntlessly and daring are the most stylish women on the planet, and I am inspired by chic ladies who are aglow with color and prints. They look polished, luminous, dynamic, electrifying – and I love them for it.

Women who dress dauntlessly and daring are the most stylish women on the planet, and I am inspired by chic ladies who are aglow with color and prints.

And hey, why stop with your clothes? Brightly colored hair can achieve the same result. I love bold pinks, like Linda's, as well as soft lavenders and frosty blues.

Wearing zippy clothes helps a woman to achieve a crisp and youthful look. Another great way to look so pulled together is to have your clothes properly tailored, hence, Linda.

She makes a great point below that I cannot stress enough: wearing baggy clothes makes you

look big. By putting on the larger T-shirt to hide the accumulated weight that sneaked up on you just makes you look like you're hiding it. So instead, wear a flared-leg pair of jeans with a fitted top and distract the eye by pairing a blazer with it. The flared-leg accentuates your curves, and the blazer hides the flaws whilst still making you look glamorous. When you take that fitted top and wear it in a beaming blue or a sunny yellow, you trick the eye and draw the attention upwards and away from those stubborn 5 pounds.

Guys you can do this too. Instead of the same office white button down try a soft purple one – you will look alive and rested, as the color reflects off of your face and instantly perks you up. Try pink too – because real men do wear pink. The rosy color adds life to your cheeks.

Who? Linda Berkey, owner, A Woman Tailor
Where? At her store located in the Colony Plaza

Why Linda? Linda, first and foremost, has the most gorgeous, boldly colored magenta hair. She keeps her style fresh and youthful while still dressing professionally and sophisticated. Linda puts the fun in functional fashion – because we have to get dressed every day, we might as well be expressive in how we put together outfits. By pairing a funky, black knit top with her brightly patterned pants, she keeps it modern and on point. Well done!

What We Want to Know:
Fill in the blank. Style is _____. Always looking as young as you can.

Greatest style lesson learned, period: Honesty. If a customer asks me what a garment looks like on, I will tell them if it looks nice or if it just sucks.

Greatest lesson learned in tailoring: I took courses for extensive pattern making. Having that skill really helps me understand how a garment or pattern is designed. It helps me to rip garments apart and know how to put them back together so the clothes can work properly.

What's wrong with apparel construction today? There's no quality control. Unfortunately, people don't know how to sew. At least one to two times a week, a pair of pants will come in with differ-

ent inseams on each leg – and that's just one example.

Least favorite fashion trend: I can't stand long jackets with long skirts. I love fitted things. I like showing curves. People don't realize that large garments make them look bigger.

Finish this sentence, my daily uniform is: Wearing color – and I love wearing flared or tapered-leg pants. I try to always have color. People need to get away from the "suit" look and pair unexpected colors. Color allows people to stay youthful.

Best-kept tailoring secret: I don't know. I have lots of them! I have a lot of insight on how a garment is made. I'm very good at visualizing what can be done with a garment and what will or won't work.

Biggest tailoring challenge/emergency: A customer called me on her wedding day. She put her dress on before having to leave for the wedding at Peek'n Peak and the invisible zipper wouldn't zip. I rushed over to her house with my sewing machine in-hand and got the zipper fixed.

What do you love about Erie? I love Erie summers. Our weather is usually stinky, so when it's beautiful out, I like to enjoy it.

On being an animal lover: I have four dogs – two Maltese [They were awesome. Linda had them in her shop and they plopped down next to her and cuddled as we talked. You can tell she has a connection with her animals], a Border Collie mix, and a Bluetick mix. I also have three cats!

I found one of my dogs while traveling. Someone dropped it off at a gas station. And my cat, Izzy, was adopted from the Humane Society.

Some extras on Linda for fun:

Linda started sewing at age 7, but wanted to be a park ranger while growing up. And when she was a senior in high school, she used to get called into teach middle school students by the teacher.

She has a degree in sewing, and the most intricate piece Linda has worked on was a wedding dress with lace and beadwork. She had to lift the lace, which can be tricky, work on the beadwork, and put it back together. Very couture!

Linda works 68-plus hours a week while putting out 200-250 garments with the help of her



employee, Natalia. But during her time off, Linda is an avid gardener – specifically, she likes rose gardening and making boxwood and French topiaries.

My favorite thing about Linda is how fun and professional she is. Also, A Woman Tailor is the only place in town I take my vintage clothes and designer jeans to be hemmed – Linda keeps the original hem on the jeans! She and Natalia are extremely talented!

A Woman Tailor – The Colony Plaza 2554 W. Eighth St. 838.1844



Q&A with Emily Brooks:

Local Actor Discusses Appearing in "The Appearing"

By: Matthew Flowers

Every artist takes a different path to success but each path is woven with a common thread: rarely is one's first attempt at their chosen craft greeted with ovation. The sculptor makes a pinch pot first, the novelist writes a book about himself, and the rocker learns his first major scale. The world of film acting in is no different.

Erie native and McDowell Graduate Emily Brooks comes from a theater background, acting in school plays until that thread wove its way into her true calling, her true tapestry: film acting. Maybe you've seen her cast a spell as the White Witch in "Narnia" at the Erie Playhouse [13 W.

I literally left my body and everything was so real, it was like, really happening to me. This was the first time I had – 100 percent – felt like I was not acting at all... It was really scary, and really real.

10th St.] or as the charming Reon Sweeney chasing Billy Crocker in "Anything Goes" at Mercyhurst [501 E. 38th St.], but now you can see her somewhere else: the big screen.

Under tight wraps just like the conclave, "The Appearing's" release date is still secret. The film – based on true events – revolves around a young women's exorcism, her secret past, and the battle with the demons lurking inside her. Emily Brooks promises it'll be out this year; and to make up for it, she dishes about her humble roots

in acting, a moment of possession, and most importantly, [slight spoiler alert] stabbing Patrick Swayze's brother.

MF: What sparked your interest in taking on an acting career?

EB: I started singing at church when I was a little girl... The next thing I know I'm at the Erie Playhouse auditioning for "Rumpelstiltskin."

MF: In how many plays have you acted?

EB: Oh my gosh, a lot. [Laughs] I'd say 40-plus.

MF: How many of those were back in Erie?

EB: The majority of them were in Erie... Then I moved on to [Indiana University of Pennsylvania] and did shows there... [But] I'm done with theater actually... I realized I just wanted to do film acting... So my parents mustered up some money so I could take this workshop [at the New York Film Academy].

MF: After your study in NYC, did you still have to do some research for your part in "The Appearing?"

EB: Oh yes, I got so into this. I watched every single exorcism movie that was on Netflix and then some. I researched real exorcisms that have happened throughout time, I listened to Latin over and over again... I wanted this role so bad, and I [only] had three days to read the script, figure out my character, and get the Latin down... I consumed myself with this stuff.

MF: Is that your actual voice in the Trailer for "The Appearing?"

EB: That is *really* me.

MF: How is "The Appearing" different from other exorcism movies?

EB: I start out really nice, like Miss Betty homemaker, but then as the movie goes on, I'm looking messed up. [In] the newer exorcism movies [the possessed] look messed up from the beginning... I think that's one of the biggest differences – it's more shocking and more suspenseful as well. You're just waiting for it, waiting for it, waiting for it, and it just drags you along, and then *BAM!* it happens.

MF: Are you a big horror movie buff?

EB: Totally, I'm such a sicko. My mom always tells me that because I have always loved horror movies since I was a little kid. I don't know, I like to be scared... It's interesting to me.

MF: What is the best piece of advice you've received from another actor, actress, or director?

EB: [During the last take of "The Appearing"] I literally left my body and everything was so real, it was like, really happening to me. This was the first time I had – 100 percent – felt like I was not acting at all... It was really scary, and really real. Don Swayze [Patrick Swayze's brother] says to me afterwards, "That's an actor moment." I looked at him and I was like, "Okay, Don." He's like, "No, you should go and write about that and you should go and buy yourself a cupcake or something." [Laughs] He says, "You've just experienced a moment you'll never go back from."



Erie native Emily Brooks stars in the upcoming feature-film "The Appearing."

MF: Who does Don Swayze play in the movie?

EB: Sheriff Hendricks... We have this retractable knife, and there is this part where I use it on him – almost – ahh, I'll leave that open to interpretation, but I accidentally stabbed Don Swayze because the retractable knife stopped retracting and it became a real knife! [Laughs]

MF: Tell me a little bit about the director, Daric Gates.

EB: This is like his first big film he directed... He does a lot of work; anything from sound to [film] editing... He worked crew on a bunch of big films ["Mr. & Mrs. Smith," "Friday Night Lights," "A Lot Like Love"].

MF: How many movies have you acted in?

EB: I just got cast in my second big film since "The Appearing." It's filming for seven weeks, and it's actually filming in Pittsburgh... It's a bigger budget than "The Appearing" and it's also going to be in 3D... Unfortunately, I can't even talk about the title right now.

MF: Have you ever worked with an actor or

actress that just couldn't act worth a damn?

EB: Yeah. A lot. [Laughs]

MF: What do you do in that situation?

EB: Just believe in what's happening as much as you possibly can... [But] a lot of it also has to do with direction. If an actor is doing poorly and cast in that roll, I'd blame it on the direction. I think every actor that does get a part is talented in some way, and it's up to the director to bring that out of them, and sometimes directors don't want to do the work.

MF: What is your biggest achievement?

EB: The immediate thing that popped in my head was being able to rise above negativity and the people who said I couldn't do this, and do it... I think it's getting here [to L.A.]

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You Ought to Know: Adam Holquist

By: Alex Bieler

When it comes to intelligence, there's quite a few ways that people can measure the gifts of the mind. There's the IQ Test, brain imaging, or even that good ol' fashioned personal judgment of a person's street smarts. What's the best way to judge how sharp a person's grey matter is, you ask? I don't know, I'm not smart enough to tell you that.

Still, not everybody can be the brightest crayon in the shed, which is always evident when driving downtown on a snowy Monday night in March, a situation I found myself in on my way to U Pick 6 Taphouse. I make my way in and ask the server if it matters what table I take in an empty section. After a deserved smart-ass comment of "I don't know, we're so busy" from my server, I took my seat to await a man gifted with quite a bit of smarts and less of the traits of an ass.

It's not too long before Adam Holquist ambles in from the biting chill of State Street, cheeks rosy from the cold. He greets me and shakes my hand before settling down, removing his jacket to reveal a "King of Limbs"-era Radiohead T-shirt. He's got youthful features – the aforementioned rosy cheeks, short haircut – but behind those black rectangle-framed glasses lays a veritable treasure-trove of information, accumulated through the years, which began back in his earliest times in Titusville.

Between sips of Founders Brewing Company's All Day IPA, I learn that Adam graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a major in chemical engineering and a minor in petroleum engineering. He now works as an air quality engineering specialist for the Department of Environmental Protection down in Meadville.

"It sounds fancier than an engineer, but is actually one less fancy," he quips. Despite his profession, Adam doesn't quite fit the stereotypical quiet personality of his science-loving brethren.

"I've always kind of been the exception to that," Adam says. "Yeah, I'm an engineer and I grew up loving math and science, but that's not the only thing that I care about. I grew up loving music and words and all that stuff too."

He's kept up with those passions. Originally a bass player, Adam started toying around with the electronic arts after he graduated, eventually starting up an experimental music venture of his own.

"The first onewayness project that I did was in 2002 right after college, and then I kind of set it aside for a long time," he says of his ambient electronic music moniker, to which Erie Reader's Managing Editor Ben Speggen has given a pair of favorable album reviews. "I was just out of college and broke and unemployed, and spent about a month staying up late every night playing with software. At the end of that, I kind of had an EP."

It wasn't until years – and one job, marriage, and daughter – later that he revisited onewayness after a musical collaboration reintroduced him to soft-

ware synths and ambient sound. Eventually, he went out and started performing live as onewayness, travelling as far west as St. Louis for a show, although he's got people interested all the way out in California.

"I don't think [Alex] Trebek is going to become a fan or anything, but he seemed kind of intrigued about it," Adam says.

While you try and wrap your head around "Jeopardy" host Alex Trebek knowing about the person you ought to know's experimental electronic music project, this would probably be a good time to remind you that Adam is a very smart man – so much so that you can catch him on an upcoming episode of "Jeopardy" Tuesday, April 9. Of course, he may be on more episodes than that, but he's under contract not to discuss the results until that episode airs, so good luck getting that information out of him.

Much like most of the rest of us, Holquist grew up watching "Jeopardy." Unlike some of us, he actually remembered most of the stuff he learned while growing up. It was part of an absorption process where Adam just wanted to know more.

"Some of it is trivia, but a lot of it is cultural literacy," he says. "There's stuff that I happen to know that people go 'Well, how do you know that?' I don't know – I heard it at some point. It's keeping tabs on popular culture, what's going on in the world. I care about everything – sometimes to my own fault."

Adam finally got the call to go on "Jeopardy" late last year, but this wasn't his first time going through the show's process. Previously, he'd moved on past the online test, heading to a regional qualifier where he, and other participants, took another test and played in mock games set up on a projection screen. But he never got a call inviting him to L.A.

"The numbers are something like 100,000 people a year who take the online test," Adam explains. "Of those 100,000, they'll see 2,000 or 3,000 for live auditions, and of those 2,000 or 3,000, they'll use about 400 a year on the show."

After going through the regional qualifiers for a third time last year, the bespectacled brainiac wasn't getting his hopes up again. Instead, he was focused on working on a collaborative album with a fellow musician when he finally got the call.

"I was at Charles' [Shriner of dRachEmUsiK] house, his studio, out in Indianapolis. I was sitting at his kitchen table when my cellphone rang, and it was a 310 area code," Adam says mimicking his bewilderment at the time. "I think some people wait by the phone when they've had their audition, like, 'Oh, I better wait for "Jeopardy" to call.' I



Adam Holquist performing live electronic music as onewayness.

Adam is a very smart man – so much so that you can catch him on an upcoming episode of "Jeopardy" Tuesday, April 9.

tried to just completely put it out of my head, like, 'They're not calling.' I'm like '310? I'm not answering this,' and I put it down and went back to eating my soup and they didn't leave a message."

Later that night, his phone rang again. But he still didn't answer. When they called again the next day, they finally left a message and Adam realized someone in Los Angeles desperately wanted to contact him. When he called back, he finally received an official invite to the west coast. "To their credit, they don't mess around," Adam says of the contact process. "If they want you, they will find you. They will track you and find you."

A month later, Adam and his wife were on their way to California, heading out west on Black Friday. When they arrived at their hotel, Adam started sizing up the competition. "One guy who was checking in right in front of me somehow made it clear he was one of the ['Jeopardy'] people and he couldn't figure out how the elevator worked, and I thought that was a good

sign," he says, laughing.

On a fateful Tuesday, the new contestants and the returning champion took the 8 a.m. shuttle to the studio. While the whole experience felt almost like a dream, there was one moment that really took our local possible-champ for a spin.

"Walking onto the set for the first time was the most surreal part of the whole thing, because it looks exactly like it looks on TV and nothing like it looks on TV," he says. "Everything is just a little bit heightened, and there's nothing fake. All the colors are brighter, all the edges are crisper, it feels like your life is a little more HD."

Luckily for Adam, he got some bonus time to adjust to the experience, as he wasn't called to play during the Tuesday filming session. The next day, however, it was time to take his place at the podium and to finally come face-to-face with the host. "You literally don't meet Alex until he's at

your podium to do the little chat after the commercial break," Adam says, explaining that it's in large part to help prevent any visions of impropriety. "The only interaction you have with him is what you see on the show. You don't get to hang out with him, you don't get to know him, but he's cool."

While he couldn't talk about how he did on the show, Adam was happy to say that he did get to chat with Alex about onewayness, something that the at-times magnificently-mustachioed man was intrigued by enough to bring up during the end credits banter.

And now that he's been on "Jeopardy," Adam can't go back.

"It's your one shot at it," Adam explains. "If you've ever been on 'Jeopardy' in the time that Alex Trebek's been host, you can't come back – unless they invite you back for some reason."

Still, even with his sudden "Jeopardy" ineligibility, the engineering specialist by day, musician by night still won't curb his appetite for information.

"Whether there's something that you're preparing for or not, I still try to keep up on things and be aware of the world around me," Adam says, although his "Jeopardy" viewing habits have changed a bit since his experience last year. "There are little things that I notice, like technical things. I notice little details, like the way people hold [the buzzer], strategic decisions. I still watch it, and the biggest thing I think about is, 'Do I know this?' It's like being an ex-high school football player – you want to stay at your playing weight."

For a smart man like Adam, it shouldn't be too hard to stay sharp, and he won't need an IQ Test to prove it. After all, the guy is an engineering specialist by day, musical wizard by night, and, to top it all off, he gosh darn thunked his way onto national television. Even better, the multi-faceted Radiohead-shirt-donning thinker from Titusville is simply a guy who enjoys good conversation over tasty brews, which is the most lovely parting gift of all.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q.



Born in Akron, Ohio, Adam attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, where he studied animation, befriended Jordan Held and Gus Trauth, and formed MoreFrames Animation. As a partner and creative lead, Adam directs and produces commercials, motion comics, short films, and music videos, and handles all aspects of production. “There’s a growing number of young Erieites bent on seeing an era of creative revitalization,” he said. “If we don’t give up on her, we can see Erie to her full potential.” Active within Erie’s arts and culture scenes, this husband of over nine years has helped establish an internship program with EUP to provide students with real-world experience, and has instructed animation classes at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

Shirani Straker, 38, entrepreneur

Born and raised in Erie, Shirani attended high school in Massachusetts before matriculating at Antioch College in Ohio, where she majored in primary and elementary education. In 2004 Shirani and her mother opened Cultured Purl, a yarn store located at 3141 W. 26th St., where she also started a group called Knitters For a Cure, which raises money for cancer research. “I have noticed a city pride that many young people in Erie share. That pride manifests itself as a way to make Erie an even better place to live, whether it be opening a restaurant that will enhance Erie’s appeal, starting a weekly paper that highlights Erie, or helping others in the community – that pride is what moves this city forward.”

Perry Wood, 34, executive director

“Young professionals in Erie are tenacious, bull-headed, and masochistic; we have to be, or we would’ve left a long time ago,” said Perry Wood, a native of Franklin who came to Erie in 1997 to attend Mercyhurst University where he majored in political science and then completed the master’s degree program in organizational leadership. In April 2011, Perry was appointed executive director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, where he oversees an annual endowment of \$6 million. Under his tenure, ECGRA has invested over \$22 million in Erie County through more than 100 nonprofit entities in the areas of local government, heritage, arts, culture, public safety, human services, neighborhoods and revolving loan funds for small businesses.

John C. Lyons, 35, filmmaker

This Albion native spends his days working at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in the technology and communications department, but as a small-business co-owner, the Edinboro graduate with a bachelor’s degree in computer science created Lyons Den Productions LLC in 2004 with his wife Dorota Swies. Director of the Edinboro Film Series, executive director of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, and curator of the FILM at the Erie Art Museum Film Series, John has worked on four movies in the Erie area, including “There Are No Goodbyes” and “Schism,” and is endeavoring to make Erie a hub for film in the country through a major impact on the city’s economic development.



From left to right: Adam Williams, Ryan Bizzarro, and Bob Merski.

“Young people have to make their own opportunities in Erie and ignore the noise,” he said. “It’s our time to shape our city’s future. No more living in the shadows of other people.”

Katie Hanlin-Stachewicz, 31, entrepreneur

A genuine “Erieite,” Katie attended Villa Maria Academy, Penn State University, and then Edinboro University of Pennsylvania where she received her degree in graphic design. After a string of jobs including Molly Brannigans – where she would meet future husband Russ – she partnered with him to open U Pick 6 Beer Store in May 2008. “We make a great team, and we both believe strongly in providing our customers and clients with the best quality and service,” she said. Shortly thereafter, she opened advertis-

ing and marketing firm Creative Affairs before opening the U Pick 6 Tap House on the corner of Fourth and State streets. “Erie is a great place to let young people strive and achieve goals. I know that’s why I stayed.”

Ben Pratt, 26, researcher

A Pittsburgh native, Ben attended Mercyhurst University and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in international business and a minor in Spanish. Ben, the director of research at the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership and project coordinator for Destination Erie: A Regional Vision, credits strong support from family and friends for his accomplishments to date. “I am simply a member of a team of great mentors that want to see more great things come to Erie.

The world is what you make it. I’d like to make a world that makes it easier for people to choose to be happy in Erie,” he said, referencing the Abraham Lincoln quote, “Happiness is a decision we make every day.”

Jason Porreco, 27, entrepreneur

After starting his automotive sales career at his father’s Mazda dealership before he was even old enough to drive, Jason attended the National Automotive Dealer Academy in Washington D.C., where he finished at the top of his class and is still the youngest to ever graduate; he’s also proud of his native American heritage, being a full-blooded Mattaponi Indian. “My mother modeled with Vanessa Williams in the Disney movie Pocahontas,” he said. Originally from West Palm Beach, Fla., where he attended high school at the Kings Academy, he is now the general manager at Bianchi Honda, the largest volume Honda dealership in Pennsylvania. Of his accomplishments, Jason said, “You will succeed with hard work and continuous dedication to your career and the community.”

Zack Orr, 37, musician

Originally from Decatur, Ga., Zack attended high school in North East before earning a BA in broadcast communications from Westminster College in New Wilmington and then attending the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he earned a two-year professional music certificate in guitar performance and music business. Zack is an internationally-recognized independent singer/songwriter and owner of Space Lounge Productions, an AV production shop specializing in high-end web content for

“There is such a diversity of passions and interests in Erie. I am constantly impressed by how people can combine professional aspirations with social welfare, all while considering the future of our great town and the direction we would like it to head. Erie is in good hands.” - Adam Williams

artists and the business sector; he also has production experience with the South by Southwest Music Festival and in the television industry. Said Orr, "The truly successful young professionals in this city are the ones creating their own scene, rather than grinding against the often change-resistant status quo." Zack is married to fellow "40 under 40" honoree Stacy Orr.

Stacy Orr, 35, entrepreneur

From Newbury Park – a suburb of Los Angeles – Orr earned a master's degree in social work from UCLA after earning an undergraduate degree in social work from Kansas University. Currently a yoga instructor at yogaErie and co-director of the Satya School of Yoga, Stacy owns Stinky Yogi LLC, an essential oil product line sold both online and at yogaErie. She also sings a mean karaoke rendition of "Sweet Child O' Mine" by Guns n' Roses. "Erie had me at my first sunset...Moving here was a very conscious choice. It has been a great place to establish my business and develop a sense of community that I could have never anticipated." Stacy is married to fellow "40 under 40" honoree Zack Orr.

Adam Williams, 30, attorney

An Erie native, Adam earned his bachelor's degree in management from Penn State Erie, The Behrend College and went on to complete his JD and MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. Self-employed with Erie Business Law, Adam also practices with Shapira, Hutzelman, Berlin, Ely, Smith & Walsh, primarily focusing on small businesses. "My goal has been to become the 'startup' lawyer in Erie," he said. "In the two years since I hung my shingle, I have helped hundreds of people jump through the legal hurdles to start and grow businesses, to create jobs, to feed their families, and to make Erie a better place in their own way." Adam added that his wife deserves to be on this list more than he does, and that she could not be more supportive of his work. "There is such a diversity of passions and interests in Erie. I am constantly impressed by how people can combine professional aspirations with social welfare, all while considering the future of our great town and the direction we would like it to head. Erie is in good hands."

Meredith Estrich, 30, veterinarian

Hailing from Titusville, Meredith did her undergraduate work at Allegheny College and earned her veterinary degree at Cornell University; accordingly, she serves as a veterinarian at North East Animal Hospital. "I do a little of everything from well care to surgery, and I strive to help my clients understand veterinary medicine and make the best choices for their pets," she said. Meredith is training for her first half-marathon, which she said helps her deal with stress and allows her to eat more cupcakes. According to Meredith, "Erie is becoming a more vibrant, diverse place as a direct result of young people choosing to make it their home rather than just the place they grew up."

Cal Pifer, 28, executive director

Originally from Erie, Cal is a graduate of the University of Texas who has also lived in Perth, Australia, Houston, and Newport, R.I. He

currently serves as executive director of the Erie County Historical Society, where he is responsible for the leadership and growth of Erie's oldest cultural organization. "I returned to Erie three years ago to work with the Flagship Niagara League, and have tried to show through both organizations that Erie possesses truly world-class cultural assets. Erie is hungry for new leader with fresh ideas," he said. "Young people are critical as we make a systemic change."

Shannon Morton, 29, financial advisor

A former Warren Dragon, Shannon holds a BBA in finance from Mercyhurst University and works for Evans Capital Management. "We are a small company, so we wear many hats in any one day, but my main focus is retirement planning," she said. "I enjoy helping people – whether it be helping to plan important aspects of their lives or getting them involved in their community." An avid runner who loves to use her creativity baking up treats in the kitchen to share with others, she hopes that young people find success through inspiring others and use their creativity to bring a fresh perspective to all ages.

Curtis L. Jones, Jr., 37, government

The oldest of 14 children, Curtis graduated from Thiel College with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in theological studies. Currently he serves as the associate pastor of Abundant Life Ministries International and previously served as president of Erie City Council from 2008 to 2012. "My life is dedicated to helping shed enlightenment and the importance of self-knowledge and self-actualization to reaching one's highest potential," said the proud husband and father of four. "My greatest asset is the ability to be a brother to people in every area and demographic in our community, whether it is talking to a young person at their school, a young man in prison, a business professional in the boardroom, or the entire community as president of city council. This allows me to help us all realize that we are one community, and we are and can only be great because of each other. When we all think that way there will be no limit to our community's success."


Abby Lechner, 32, executive consultant

Villa Maria High School and Xavier University grad Abby Lechner was born and raised in Erie; after returning from Charleston, S.C., in 2009, she landed at Decision Associates, where she handles mid-level management recruiting for manufacturing and nonprofit clients in the Erie area. She also serves on the board of the Erie Art Museum, the Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network, and the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. "Erie's young people make our hometown special because of their generous spirit and strong desire to make a difference," she said. Abby and her husband Matt are expecting twins in May.

Jon Box, 34, entrepreneur

Born in the Philippines, Jon moved to Oakland, Calif., where he grew up street smart. He joined the US Army and served as an Infantryman, and later graduated with a bachelor's degree in graphic communications before moving

to Erie to found The Box Street Couture. He also helps organize events like Drips & Beats that focus on social awareness, including toy drives, anti-bullying campaigns, and cancer awareness. "To be honest, I never really thought special of what we do," said the man who credits Erie with giving him a second lease on a life he thought was over. "We followed our dreams and we love hip-hop. Coming from a big city, I saw the potential of this city as for how much raw talent resides in it. It was just a matter of giving them the plateau to show the rest of the people their talents as artists." Jon lives by the motto "One Erie, One Love."

And so should you. 

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

1		8						
2	4	9						
				7		9		
			2	9	5		7	
5		1						3
		2	9			4		1
		1	3	8				7
	3			4				8

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Sayings (suf.)
- 5 Afr. cotton garment
- 9 Stupid person
- 12 Molding
- 13 Seed coat
- 14 Capture
- 15 Husky (2 words)
- 17 Cost of living index (abbr.)
- 18 Son of Shem
- 19 Halt
- 21 Weaverbird
- 24 Rear
- 27 Generation
- 30 Branchi
- 32 Cleopatra's attendant
- 33 Salt (Fr.)
- 34 Medieval sword
- 36 Amer. Broadcasting Corp. (abbr.)
- 37 Belt
- 39 Hall (Ger.)
- 40 Nat'l

Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)

- 41 Trio
- 43 Idea (pref.)
- 45 Tiber tributary
- 47 Down with (Fr., 2 words)
- 50 Classic car
- 52 Anime
- 56 Eastern church chalice veil
- 57 Jot
- 58 Skin eruption
- 59 Before common era (abbr.)
- 60 Unable to hear
- 61 Sacred (pref.)

DOWN

- 1 Hawaiian frigate bird
- 2 Irish sweetheart
- 3 Death (pref.)
- 4 At the age of (Lat.)
- 5 Tactical Air

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

V	O	A		J	A	R		E	S	K
P	A	L	L	A	L	I		M	A	A
B	L	D	G	V	E	N	D	E	T	T
S	E	T		L	E	A	S	E		E
				I	T	A	L		E	N
M	I	M	E	S	I	S		S	A	N
A	C	E	R		N	B	E		T	E
N	I	S	A	N		E	N	D	E	M
				H	A	S		C	U	R
B	O	G		P	A	U	L	I		L
A	T	A	L	A	N	T	A		L	I
H	E	R	B		T	A	V		I	N
A	B	S		O	S	E		B	E	T

- 6 US military fort
- 7 Biology (abbr.)
- 8 "Pomp and Circumstances" composer
- 9 Persia (2 words)

- 10 Mulberry of India
- 11 Federal Bureau of Investigation (abbr.)
- 16 Likeness
- 20 Fr. month
- 22 Express disapproval
- 23 Asian mountains
- 25 Kemo
- 26 Black measles
- 27 Assistant (abbr.)
- 28 Toothed wheel
- 29 Hamlet's castle
- 31 Burden
- 35 Pellucid
- 38 Have (Scot.)
- 42 Mechanical man
- 44 W. Indian magic
- 46 Medicinal herb
- 48 Spore sacs
- 49 Trigonometric function
- 50 Mortar beater
- 51 Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
- 53 Greek letter
- 54 Clod
- 55 Grandfather of Saul

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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56				57					58			
59				60					61			

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A30

ERIE'S EATS

American Fusion

AVANTI'S If you've only eaten breakfast at Avanti's, you are in for a big surprise. Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, this daytime diner changes over to a fine dining establishment. Check back often since the menu changes weekly. BYOB

1662 W. 8th St. // 456.3096

SUMMER HOUSE CAFE With an ever-changing menu and lots of fresh baked goodies, this local favorite serves breakfast and lunch daily and stays open for dinner Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. BYOB

2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

1201 KITCHEN Featuring Latin/Asian-inspired food, this hip downtown spot is full of great art, and the marble bar is a perfect place to try their fresh sushi. With a menu that changes every four to six weeks, be sure to check in often.

1201 State St. // 464.8989

UNDER THE CLOCK - Located in the historic Boston Store, Under the Clock is reviving the old phrase "Let's meet under the clock." With a "sophisticated casual"-style restaurant experience, Under the Clock offers lunch and dinner menus with something for everyone. The steak salad is a must-try for any self-respecting carnivore. Looking for something lighter? Try their seared ahi tuna.

101 Boston Store Place // 454.4700

American

PLYMOUTH TAVERN An Erie institution with great food and drink specials every night of the week.

1109 State St. // 453.6454

PUFFERBELLY Set in a decommissioned firehouse, the Pufferbelly is full of artifacts from Erie's fire fighting past.

414 French St. // 454.1557

CALAMARI'S Extra-long bar, with a large outdoor patio for those warm summer nights.

1317 State St. // 459.4276

Barbecue

THREE-B SALOON Beer, Bacon & Barbecue—the name says it all. Featuring slow-cooked brisket, ribs, and other down-home favorites. If you behave yourself, you may get a free slice of bacon with your beer.

732 W. 4th St. // 451.0007

Breakfast

SUMMER HOUSE CAFE Open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day of the week, the Summer House Cafe serves

up some of Erie's more unique breakfast and lunch options. Their breakfast burrito is a must-try, but be sure to check in for fresh daily specials.

2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

JO'S BROOKLYN BAGELS A walk through the door says it all. Well, at least it's speaking to your noise. Inhale deeply and breathe in those aromas. Fresh bagels and coffee. What's not to love about that combination? A little piece of Brooklyn right here in Erie.

833 W. 38th St. // 520.6246

PEGGY'S RESTAURANT A landmark in the Liberty Plaza for a few decades now, Peggy's serves up quick, affordable meals and plenty of room for conversation. You can sit at the long counter that spans nearly the entire restaurant, grab a booth up front, or get a table in the back.

3512 Liberty St. // 866.3216

THE BREAKFAST PLACE Low prices and big portions—just the way Erie likes it! The Cajun eggs are a must-try.

2340 E. 38th St. // 825.2727

PANOS Open late night with an attentive wait staff who will never let your coffee mug go empty. Try the famous Greek omelet.

1504 W. 38th St. // 866.0517

SIDEWALK CAFE Tucked away on historic North Park Row, you'll find one of downtown's popular breakfast and lunch places.

26 N. Park Row // 455.0002

GEORGE'S With retro decor trimmed in red and black, George's is known just as much for looking like a retro diner as it is for the friendly safe and great grub. They're famous for their mashed potatoes, but don't get stuck on only that. Try the soups and sandwiches on for size too.

2614 Glenwood Park Avenue // 455.0860

DOMINICK'S Famous among Erie's late-night bar patrons who swear by this place as a sure-fire hangover cure.

123 E. 12th St. // 456.6891

HYATT'S - Serving up breakfast and lunch standards for years and is a staple in the West Erie Plaza.

928 W. Erie Plaza // 456.0102

FLIP CAFE Tired of the chain restaurant dishing out breakfast by the numbers? Then try this sweet little spot tucked away in Edinboro. Flip Cafe serves breakfast and lunch from morning 'til afternoon, so stop in and try any one of the favorites, including "Flip Bread." You won't pay much and you'll go home happy thinking about coming back again.

103 Meadville St. Edinboro

// 734.3400

Brewpub

BREWERY Erie's only brew-on-premise pub and eatery, the Brewery is on a mission to, "Revitalize Downtown Erie One Pint at a Time."

123 W. 14th St. // 454.2200

Caribbean

PIEAPPLE EDDIE Southern regional cuisine served up with a bit of Caribbean flair. Featuring savory dishes like Creole shrimp and andouille sausage over grits, seared catfish served with rice and beans and fresh sauteed vegetables, and grilled Angus Rib Eye steak. Deserts include grilled pound cake served w/fresh glazed pineapple, ice cream and rum sauce, and luscious lime layer cake. BYOB.

1402 W. 10th St. // 454.0700

Chinese

GOLDEN WOK Quality ingredients, affordable prices, and consistent service make this Chinese restaurant stand out among the rest.

3202 Pitt. Ave. // 836.9657

Delicatessens

TERESA'S ITALIAN DELI

Teresa's Deli has been a staple in Erie for over 60 years, and it's no secret why. Now in its third generation, the Theresa's staff still makes the food fresh every day, following the same scratch recipes used since 1949.

3201 Greengarden Blvd. // 864.5322 and 810 E. 38th St. // 459.1145

PICASSO'S With signature panini-style sandwiches like the Lee Roslyn (Twinkie, ham, and cheese) and the DaVinci (sausage, ravioli, and provolone), Picasso's is a must-try. Great vegetarian options available.

2060 Interchange Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 866.1183

TICKLE'S DELI - This popular deli features good prices and big, tasty sandwiches including the famous "Big Freddy." Call ahead if you can because this downtown hotspot gets busy at lunchtime.

17 W. 4th St. // 455.5718

GERRY'S 8TH STREET DELI From the world-class deli to the homemade soups, Gerry's offers everything you'd expect from a deli. But with sandwich names like "Cluckmeister," "Chive Turkey," "Tongue Fu," and "Breast of Times" just to name a few, you're going to want to keep going back to check out all of these one-of-a-kind sandwiches. Deli hours run Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2620 W. 8th St. // 836.8702

French

BERTRAND'S BISTROT A menu featuring local meats and vegetables and organic and Kosher ingredients when possible. The crepes and award-winning wine selection are more than enough to encourage a trip to France via downtown Erie.

18 N. Park Row // 871.6477

Gastropubs

JECKYL & HYDES - Just like the title characters—wait, character—this gastropub seems bent on being two things at once—and that's a good thing. While the seating area is small, which makes for a cozy experience, the tastes are big and bold.

8 E. 10th St. // 456.0072

Irish

MOLLY BRANNIGANS - Got a hankering for bangers and mash? Have no idea what the heck bangers and mash is? Head to this authentic Irish gastropub where you can get your fill of Irish-ness and Irish drinks. From Jameson to Guinness, from Shepherd's Pie to Purcell's Fish and Chips, Molly Brannigans brings the Irish pub to downtown Erie.

506 State St. // 453.7800

MCGARREY'S OAKWOOD CAFE Known for the award-winning Reuben, McGarrey's believes in big portions of comfort food served up hot and fresh. Although Irish in name, McGarrey's also dishes out American and Italian cuisine so that you're bound to find something satisfying.

1624 W. 38th St. // 866.0552

Italian

ALTO CUCINA Chef Pat Rodgers mixes the old-world with the exotic. Beautiful décor, with an outdoor deck for the summer months.

3531 W. Lake Road // 835.3900

COLAO'S Authentic Italian, fresh seafood, and a cozy, intimate setting.

2826 Plum St. // 866.9621

MI SCUZI Southern Italian cuisine with fresh, homemade pasta.

2641 Myrtle St. // 454.4533

AMICI RISTORANTE With dinner hours from 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and a takeout menu available Monday through Saturday, Amici Ristorante dishes out fresh food at affordable prices. From wings to pizza to fresh perch sandwiches and more, the menu has something for everyone. Call ahead one hour for takeout since food is prepared fresh per order.

1518 Walnut St. // 455.0041

Japanese

SUSHI AND ASIAN CUISINE Fresh sushi and sashimi steal the spotlight of this show but their supporting cast shouldn't go unnoticed. The Kim Chi is a great place to start and any of the noodle choices make for good choices to continue on. With veggie-friendly options and a staff happy to serve you, Sushi and Asian Cuisine is a must.

1014 State St. // 455.0596

AOYAMA Think it's hard to find a daily sushi bar in Erie? Find your way to Aoyama for the hibachi experience combined with an extensive sashimi and sushi menu. You'll have the choice between hibachi-style seating and the traditional sit-down dining experience, so your mood can do the choosing for you. Reservations are highly suggested.

970 Millcreek Mall // 868.7999

HIBACHI From flinging shrimp to slinging steak, Hibachi combines dinner with the show without service charges or ticket fees. If you're fine with sitting beside your date instead of across from him or her, opt for this straight-off the grill without time-to-chill dinner experience.

3000 W. 12th St. // 838.2495

Mediterranean

PETRA Open since 2004, Petra serves as Erie's window to the Eastern Mediterranean. The folks at Petra want you to have "a unique culinary experience." And with Mediterranean-inspired items on the menu you're unlikely to find anywhere else, this is a one of a kind dining experience.

3602 W. Lake Road // 838.7197

Mexican

EL TORO LOCO With a full bar and the best margaritas in town, there is something for everyone. Enjoy a little taste of Mexico right here in downtown Erie.

333 State St. // 454.5626

LATINO'S With fresh ingredients and a commitment to serving up the authentic Mexican-cuisine experience, Latinos is the place to go for more than just the average Tex-Mex experience. The place isn't flashy, but with food this good, it doesn't have to be.

1315 Parade St. // 452.1966

EL CANELO With three locations to serve the greater-Erie area, you're never more than a 15 minute drive from all the chips and salsa you can handle served up with sizzling fajitas, hand-wrapped enchiladas and burritos, and a whole lot more. The Super Crab Quesadilla is a must-try that

won't break the bank but will definitely stretch your belt.

2709 W. 12th St. // 835.2290 and 4236 Peach St. // 860.8187 and 4459 Buffalo Rd. // 898.1531

MOE'S With friendly staff serving up fresh, made-to-order southwest fare, Moe's is a great place for quality, on-the-go Mexican food.

2052 Edinboro Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 459.2121

Middle Eastern

CASABLANCA From traditional to modern recipes, from strictly vegetarian meals to meals centered around a choice selection of fresh meat, Casablanca Grille looks to provide something for everyone looking for a good Moroccan meal—and the diversity's a good thing too since when it comes to Middle East Mediterranean cuisine, Casablanca is it. Reservations are recommended.

2174 W. 8th St. // 452.4544

PALM MARKET AND DELI

This authentic Arabic market and eatery offers delicious, freshly prepared food and baked goods for a very reasonable price. The market offers a wide variety of exotic food and merchandise.

2702 Parade St.

Pizza

PAPA JOE'S With specialty pizzas ranging from "Vegan Demise" to "Chicken Gorgonzola" and subs that go by the names of "Enchanted Eggplant" and "Chuck Norris," Papa Joe's brings more to the table than any commercial pizza joint. And to boot, they serve up a mean falafel sandwich—something that's a must.

3826 W. Ridge Rd. // 835.3360

VALERIO'S More than just Pizza, Wings, and Subs! Local Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria that has been serving Erie County for over 17 years. Offering a variety of Homemade Italian Dinners, Seafood, Daily Lunch Specials, and Catering Services. Check out our menus online at www.valeriospizzeria.com. With 3 convenient locations to serve you, we'll have you singing...Manga Italiano!

2179 W. 32nd St. // 833-2979 and 1803 E. 38th St. 825-2693 and 724 Powell 833-8884 // Catering Office// 866-3193

STEEL 12 Jonesing for some Pittsburgh eats but don't have four hours to kill on a roundtrip just for some grub? Hit up this Peach-Street eat for fries on your sandwich and a pizza crust that can't be beat. But if yinz are really looking for a chal-

Vegetarian

WHOLE FOODS CAFE Offering a wide variety of vegetarian staples, including wraps, sandwiches, soups, pizza, and seasonal specialties.

1341 W. 26th St. // 456-0282

Wings

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

Fourteen original sauces and loads of televisions make BWW a great place to meet friends for the big game. Full bar menu available.

Interchange Road (Across from Millcreek Mall) 868.9464

ODIS 12 Award-winning wings and affordable sit-down dining. Odis 12 features over 100 different flavors, including the crowd-favorite "ugly cousin."

664 W. 26th St. // 452.6347

GREENGARDEN TAVERN

Classic corner bar atmosphere, great prices, excellent wings. Honey-hot barbecue and cranch are standouts. Go Browns!

1543 W. 8th St. // 454.3367

PARK TAVERN - Known for its wings, the Park Tavern boasts a family-friendly smoke-free environment. Try some Herbies or crispy Cajuns. Buffalo Cajun is also recommended.

4205 E. Lake Road // 899.8661

Steakhouse

SENSORY 3 Next time you're at Presque Isle Downs & Casino, take a break from the table games and check out this bar and grille if you're cashing in your chips for fine dining, we bet on being satisfied by a fine steak since Sensory 3 serves up some of the best cuts in the area.

8199 Perry Hwy // 866.8359

COLONY PUB & GRILLE - Multiple fireplaces and three intimate dining rooms make the Colony a popular spot for a romantic dinner.

2670 W. 8 St. // 838.2162

RICARDO'S Opened in 1943 by two brothers, Ricardo's serves up some of Erie's finest steaks. Chef Peter West and Cathy Merks run one of Erie's choice restaurants that's known for its hand-cut, grain-fed western beef and delicious, mouth-watering ribs cooked outside year-round. Hearty Italian fare with casual feel of fine dining make Ricardo's a must.

2112 E. Lake Rd // 455.4947

VICTOR'S - Located inside the Bel-Aire hotel, Victor's offers fine steak and seafood with drink specials every night of the week.

2800 W. 8 St. // 833.1116

Thai

KHAO THAI The only full-time Thai restaurant in Erie. Luckily, it's fantastic! Try the drunken noodles for a spicy delight. Vegetarian friendly. BYOB

36 N. Park Row // 454.4069

ERIE'S MOST TRUSTED WEATHER APP!



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