

ERIE READER

A Celebration 200 Years in the Making:
The Perry 200 Grand Patriotic Parade

Angie Seykora

Erie Reader 2013
Downtown Debate
Series

Gerrymandering and
Redistricting

Hackers Attack!

UFOs in Erie!

The Reader Eater
Reviews the
Smugglers' Wharf

Pre-Gathering at
Chaffee's Music
Festival

Always...
Patsy Cline

Thrift Store Shopping

*Erie: Coming together as
a community since 1812*



FREE



ERIE'S 23RD ANNUAL WILD RIB COOK OFF & MUSIC FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29th-JUNE 1st

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 29th**

**THURSDAY
MAY 30th**

**FRIDAY
MAY 31st**

**SATURDAY
JUNE 1st**

Big Kid Zone

TEST YOUR SKILLS ON THE
MECHANICAL BULL!

11am-1pm

Big Kid Zone

TEST YOUR SKILLS ON THE
MECHANICAL BULL!

11am-1pm

Big Kid Zone

TEST YOUR SKILLS ON THE
MECHANICAL BULL!

11am-1pm



**YOUNG MUSICIANS
BAND PERFORMANCES**
11am-4pm

Ride-A-Ribba-Ramma

LOCATED IN THE
RIB KIDS FUN ZONE

5pm-9pm

Ride-A-Ribba-Ramma

LOCATED IN THE
RIB KIDS FUN ZONE

5pm-9pm

Ride-A-Ribba-Ramma

LOCATED IN THE
RIB KIDS FUN ZONE

5pm-9pm

Ride-A-Ribba-Ramma

LOCATED IN THE
RIB KIDS FUN ZONE

5pm-9pm

Jackson Station

5-6:30pm

Money's HOT

5-6:30pm

THIRST N HOWL

5-7pm

"Ladies Night"

FIRST EVER PRIVATE PARTY IN
THE VIP TENT FOR THE LADIES
BY RESERVATION. TICKET REQUIRED.

**OPEN CLASS
CRUISE-IN**

**The
groove**

7:30-10pm

Blue BIKE NIGHT

5pm

**THE
DOCK BOYS**

5-7pm

**The
VENDETTAS**

7:30-10pm

"Best Ribs" Judging

5:30pm

Awards Presentation
2013 WINNERS ANNOUNCED
7:15pm

BLACK WIDOW

8-11pm

THE FLOW BAND
8-11pm





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May 15, 2013

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Angie Seykora

From the Editors

On Monday, May 13, we held the third installment of the Erie Reader Downtown Debate Series. In case you missed it on WICU, or on Facebook, or Twitter (#ERdebate) you can read all about it in this issue's "Upfront," which was written live, without a net, during the debate itself, just as we were going to print.

But in a larger sense, these debates -- which, this time, focused on the primary election for the Erie County Executive seat -- are really about the role we, the Erie Reader, see for ourselves in this community.

You see, we realize that the people of Erie are the ones who have the key to the future of this city. In that sense, we are a community institution little different from the Jefferson Educational Society, under whose auspices the Perry 200 Parade takes place on May 25.

Part of a two-year celebration commemorating both Commodore

Oliver Hazard Perry's role in the Battle of Lake Erie and Erie's role in building his fleet that won the day, the Perry 200 Parade is expected to draw upwards of 100,000 people; Alex Bieler's cover story provides a tantalizing taste of how it came to be, and, importantly, what it is intended to accomplish.

The Perry 200 Commemoration is not just parades and pageants, or lectures and luncheons, because the JES is a community institution that happens to be a think tank; thus, its role is to instill in Erieites the ability to entertain an idea without judging it; after all, Aristotle once said that "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it," which is key to continuing vital conversations.

That idea is the idea that Erie, 50 years from now, will still be a place where you can live, work, and play in an affordable, beautiful, family-friendly community -- a commu-

nity where good jobs drive a healthy economy that nurtures all of the artistic, geographic, and human beauty of The Gem City.

We, the Erie Reader, are a community institution that just happens to be media; thus, our role is to provide Erieites the opportunity to hear those ideas, from organizations like the JES and Destination Erie, as well as from those intrepid souls -- political candidates -- whose role would ultimately be to act on those ideas.

The debates, which featured Democrats Kathy Dahlkemper and Erie County Executive Barry Grossman in addition to Republicans Tom Loftus and Don Tucci, are the most important way we feel we can drive the discussions that will make Erie a better place and fulfill our self-perceived role as drivers of discussion.

And the candidates' frank discussions on issues that affect our city and region were certainly timely; in just a few days -- Tuesday, May 21 -- you, yes you, the voters in Erie County, will have the opportunity to decide which of those four people will ultimately act on those ideas.

This is your role.

Your role is to partake in these

debates we produce. Your role is to question, and to think, and to listen, and to vote for the person you think has the best chance to keep Erie livable while still attracting others to the wonderful environment that we possess.

Your role is also to actively engaged in the myriad conversations currently taking place about Erie's future. Your role is to research potential changes underway, and to form an opinion based on what you think of those changes, and to share that opinion in the appropriate forums -- that is, with Destination Erie: A Regional Vision at PlanErieRegion.com, as well as all of your local media, including us here at the Reader since we continually seek to drive a two-way forum between us and you, our Reader readers.

Please take it seriously. The community institutions here can only do so much; after that, it's all up to you, because, for all that we do, and all that they do, only you have the key, and if you don't use it out of fear, ignorance, or sheer disbelief that you can make a difference, you will lock yourself -- and all of the rest of us -- out of a better, more fully-developed future.



By: Cory Vaillancourt

On Monday, May 13, we held the third Erie Reader Downtown Debate Series at the Jefferson Educational Society. The debates focused on the race for the Erie County Executive, and were, as Erie Reader Editor-in-Chief Adam Welsh said in his opening remarks, “a big deal.”

The Democrats

Just before 7 p.m. Democratic challenger Kathy Dahlkemper and County Executive Barry Grossman took their places on the stage and began with their opening statements.

Dahlkemper went first, and led by trying to answer the most-asked question of the campaign:

“Why?”

Dahlkemper’s decision to challenge an incumbent from her own party had a lot of people scratching their heads.

“I love Erie County. I was born and raised



Kevin MacDowell (left) directs the flow between Barry Grossman (center) and Kathy Dahlkemper (right).

On Monday, May 13, we held the third Erie Reader Downtown Debate Series at the Jefferson Educational Society. The debates focused on the race for the Erie County Executive.

here,” she offered. “My number-one priority as your county executive will be jobs and economic development.”

Grossman followed her by emphasizing the team he built during his time in office. “On May 21, you’re not only going to return me to office, but also a talented, veteran team,” he said.

The first question also went to Dahlkemper, as debate panelist and JES associate program director Sara Breese asked the former U.S. Congresswoman to define the role of county executive.

“There are many important roles delineated in the county charter,” Dahlkemper said. “But what I see is a much bigger role than what’s written on paper,” she continued, stressing her relationships in Washington, D.C. as one of her strengths. “What we need is a county executive who is leading and acting as an ambassador,” she opined.

But the position of county executive is not about politicking and deal-making; it is about administering, and Grossman schooled her. “I can tell you from sitting in that seat every day that things come in at 100-miles per hour,” Grossman responded. “This is not about caucuses or meetings.”

The next question came from social media. Ben Speggen asked both candidates if they believe

they kept their pledge to run a positive campaign.

“Yes, I have,” she said, despite the eyebrow-raising TV ad she ran attacking Grossman right out of the gate, blaming him for GE’s recent decision to potentially fire almost 1,000 people. Grossman, in a gentlemanly gesture, declined to hammer her on this point.

At this point in the debate, Dahlkemper seemed to lose certain sections of the crowd’s interest. Her message seemed muddy and undefined, while Grossman, in his blue-collar, managerial way, rattled off all his in-office accomplishments citing the overhauled emergency call center, improvements in hotel and food-industry safety, and producing a balanced budget three years running.

The Republicans

Once Democrats cleared the stage, Republicans Tom Loftus and Don Tucci took their places at the podiums.

Tucci led with the assertion that he has always been a Republican – a direct dig at his opponent Tom Loftus, who used to be a Democrat. He also lashed out at those who preceded him on the stage – Democrats Dahlkemper and Grossman – who, in his words, “are not united, or they never would have encouraged another candidate to run.” And, interestingly – for a man who has never held elected office – he demonstrated that he still has a solid understanding of the job, being administrative in nature.

When Loftus’ turn came, he ran through his resume – highlighting his service as a Lawrence Park Commissioner – and seemed to hold “good government” in high regard, stressing transparency. However, economics dominated this debate, and when Loftus was asked about Destination Erie, he correctly recognized the importance of bayfront redevelopment.

“Our bayfront could be our biggest commodity,” Loftus said. “If the city fails, the county fails.”

Tucci agreed, but put a strange twist on the issue. “One of the problems I see is that the

gentleman from WRT [Principal Eric Tamulonis, who was invited by Destination Erie: A Regional Vision to delivered a presentation at the Blasco Library Tuesday, April 23 regarding an Erie Bayfront master plan] was promoting the way Baltimore flourished. Number one, we’re not Baltimore...we’re a poverty-stricken area.”

Tucci went on to press for the development of industry as a solution to poverty, and seemed to suggest that the GAF site should revert to its former industrial uses.

Both candidates emphasized their fiscal conservatism throughout their debate, drawing stark contrasts between themselves and the liberal Dahlkemper and the moderate Grossman. Loftus’ focus seemed to be on property taxes and assessments, while Tucci’s seemed to hover around refining the budget. However, neither candidate really seemed to differentiate himself from his opponent to the extent necessary for an electoral victory – one candidate had a three-word answer, and the other, Loftus, called for an underwater tube. Yes. An underwater tube. In the bayfront. As the key to our economic success.

And one candidate, Tom McGahen, declined to participate in the debate, leaving this primary wide open for the Tuesday, May 21 primary elections.

So, as the debates ran their course, we learned a little about each of these four candidates; some looked good, some looked bad, and some looked just plain absurd. Hopefully, these debates will make clear to voters who, exactly, deserves to advance to the general election in November.

Because this election is – honestly – a big deal.

Cory Vaillancourt is a brilliant writer/complete back and can be complimented/heckled at cvaillancourt@ErieReader.com. Find him on Twitter @VLNCR. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/to0h6>



By: Chuck Shepherd

Frontiers of Parenting

Caribou Baby, a Brooklyn, N.Y., “eco-friendly maternity, baby and lifestyle store,” has recently been hosting gatherings at which parents exchange tips on “elimination communication” -- the weaning of infants without benefit of diapers (as reported in April by the New York Times). Parents watch for cues, such as a certain “cry or grimace” that supposedly signals that the tot urgently needs to be hoisted onto a potty. (Eventually, they say, the potty serves to cue the baby.) Dealing with diapers is so unpleasant, they say, that cleaning an occasional mess becomes tolerable. The little darlings’ public appearances sometimes call for diapers, but can also be dealt with by taking the baby behind the nearest tree. One parent even admitted, “I have absolutely been at parties and witnessed people putting their baby over the sink.”

Can't Possibly Be True

Washington, D.C.’s WRC-TV reported in March that a woman from the Maryland suburbs showed a reporter a traffic citation she had just received, ticketing her for driving in the left lane on Interstate 95 in Laurel while going only 63 mph -- compared to the posted (“maximum”) speed of 65. The citation read, “Failure of driver ... to keep right.” The station’s meteorologist noted that winds that day were gusting to 40 mph and that the woman might simply have been trying to control her car. [WRC-TV, 3-13-2013]

The principal and head teacher at a Godalming, England, special-needs school were reported by employees in March for allowing a student with self-harm issues to cut herself, under staff supervision. (Unsted Park School enrolls kids aged 7 to 19 who have high-functioning autism.) Teachers were to hand the girl a sterilized blade, wait outside a bathroom while she acted out, checking up on her at two-minute intervals, and then dress the girl’s wounds once she had finished. The school reportedly abandoned the policy six days after implementing it. [GetSurvey.co.uk (Guildford, England), 3-25-2013]

Last year, according to Chicago’s WBBM-TV, Palmen Motors in Kenosha, Wis., sold a brand-new GMC Terrain SUV to an elderly couple, 90 and 89, in which the husband was legally blind and in hospice care, on morphine, and the wife had dementia and could barely walk. According to the couple’s daughter, it was her brother, David McMurray, who wanted the SUV but could not qualify financially and so drove his mother from Illinois to Kenosha to sign the documents while a Palmen employee traveled to Illinois to get the father’s signature (three weeks before he passed away, it turns out). An attorney for Palmen Motors told the TV station that the

company regretted its role and would buy the vehicle back. [WBBM-TV, 3-13-2013]

Democracy Blues

The city council of Oita, Japan, refused to seat a recently elected member because he refused to remove the mask he always wears in public. Professional wrestler "Skull Reaper A-ji" said his fans would not accept him as authentic if he strayed from his character. Some masked U.S. wrestlers, and especially the popular Mexican "lucha libre" wrestlers, share the sentiment. (At press time, the issue was apparently still unresolved in Oita.) [Daily Telegraph (London), 3-13-2013]

At a Jan. 8 public meeting, Cooper City, Fla., Commissioner Lisa Mallozzi, annoyed with local activist (and former commissioner) Gladys Wilson, told her (according to video and audio of the meeting), "(B)low me." Wilson, 81, said later she did not understand what the phrase meant; Mallozzi said later that she meant only that she needed to blow her nose. [WPLG-TV (Miami), 1-14-2013]

Unclear on the Concept

Passive possession of child pornography is not a victimless crime, authorities say, because by definition a child had been abused in the creation of the image, but that reasoning was no relief for New Zealander Ronald Clark, who was sentenced to three months in jail in Auckland in April for watching pornographic cartoon videos of short-statured elves and pixies. A child-protection activist acknowledged that no child was harmed in the creation of the Japanese anime artwork, but insisted that it was still injurious because "(I)t's all part of that spectrum." Clark said he wondered if he might also be convicted for viewing sexual stick-figure drawings.

John Leopold, the former county executive of Anne Arundel County, Md., serving 30 days in jail for illegally forcing his government security detail and another employee to perform personal errands, apparently wasted no time in March displaying a similar attitude toward his jailers. He quickly demanded that the jailers serve him a breakfast of Cheerios, skim milk, bananas and orange juice instead of the scheduled fare. (Last year, Anders Breivik, the imprisoned 2011 mass murderer of 77 in Norway, famously began a hunger strike when rebuffed over his 27-page list of demands, including Internet access and a series of menu and climate-control improvements.) [Associated Press via Yahoo News, 3-20-2013] [BBC News, 11-9-2012]

Suspicious Confirmed

California street gangs stage fights whose locations can be accurately predicted using the same algorithm that anthropologists use to predict where lions and hyenas will fight in the wild to protect their own territories. A UCLA researcher, using the standard "Lotka-Volterra" equation on 13 equal-sized criminal gangs in the Boyle Heights neighborhood in east Los Angeles, produced a table of probabilities showing how far from each gang's border any fights were likely to occur. In the period 1999 to 2002, the formula correctly showed that about 58 percent of shootings occurred within 0.2 miles of the border, 83 percent within 0.4 miles, and 97 percent within 1 mile.

Street Corner SOAPBOX

Gerrymandering's Far-reaching Influence

By: Jay Stevens

Money does not win elections. Well, money helps. But elections are rigged like the games you find on the carnival midway, but it's not money that decides them. Instead, it's redistricting.

If you've read my column regularly, you know I've railed against redistricting in the past. Redistricting, as you may recall, occurs every 10 years when state legislatures across the country redraw the boundaries of state and federal legislative seats based on changing populations.

What happens, of course, is that the majority party in the legislature draws zigzagging, odd geometric shapes for political boundaries to ensure that it remains in the majority. This process is known as "gerrymandering," and it's been with us as long as we've had redistricting. What's different now is that, according to Common Cause, a nonprofit championing redistricting reform, "advances in information and mapping technology has enabled a level of precision in district drawing that in effect, enables legislators to choose the voters they wish to represent..."

But the redistricting of the state House and Senate seats were blocked by the state's highest court because of the "existence of a significant number of political subdivision splits that were not absolutely necessary," according to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, a ruling so vague and unhelpful, it left legislative leaders flummoxed.

So, Republican leaders redrew the maps, and offered a kinder, gentler version of the state's electoral boundaries that was still obviously skewed to favor incumbents and preserve the Republican majority in Harrisburg. And the state Supreme Court approved the changes, despite charges that the map was still highly politically motivated. "Political parties may seek partisan advantage to their proverbial heart's content," ruled Chief Justice Castille in the court's unanimous decision, thus codifying partisan legislative maps.

In short, when you go to the polls in general elections, there won't be much mystery in the outcome of the race.

Redistricting reform has been proposed in the Pennsylvania Assembly – one bill would have

put redistricting into the hands of a transparent nonpartisan board given specific instructions about mapping and public input. Other, broader reforms have been proposed – one, recently made by The Nation's John Nichols, suggested that the U.S. move to parliamentary-style elections with proportional representation instead of winner-take-all elections.

Both would be better than today's system, but both have a flying pig's chance of ice-skating in Hell. That's because incumbents – Republican and Democratic – prefer a system that makes their seats safe. And without a popular ballot initiative that allows voters to bypass the legislature and enact popular reform on their own, we're stuck with the system we have.

Jay Stevens can be contacted at Jay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Snevets_Yaj. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/rbn29>



Here in Erie County, over 30,000 voters were stripped from U.S. House District 3, allowing Republican incumbent Mike Kelly to coast to re-election despite winning a lower percentage of Erie voters than Republican Phil English did in 2008 – an election English lost.

In Pennsylvania, for example, the Republican-led state assembly redrew the U.S. Congressional districts to ensure that it maintained its advantage in the House. In 2012, 49 percent of Pennsylvanians voted for a Republican candidate for Congress, but Republicans won 13 of 18 House seats from the state. Here in Erie County, over 30,000 voters were stripped from U.S. House District 3, allowing Republican incumbent Mike Kelly to coast to re-election despite winning a lower percentage of Erie voters than Republican Phil English did in 2008 – an election English lost.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Women at Work, Redistricting

By: Rebecca Styn

Women at Work

Last week Fortune Magazine published an article written by Warren Buffett in which Buffett argues why he believes women are the key to America's prosperity. This article, "Warren Buffett is bullish ... on women," comes off of a resurgence of hype in the media focusing on women in business. From Yahoo's CEO Marissa Mayer, who, since taking the top job at this Internet giant, has helped their stock grow more than 50 percent in less than a year – to Facebook's COO Sheryl Sandberg, who recently published "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead," which is currently No. 1 on both the New York Times and Amazon best-seller lists, women are making their presence known above the glass ceiling.

In the article, Buffett not only promotes women in business, but points out that we, as a society, have been remiss by only utilizing half the country's talent. And his take on it is actually in line with his work ethic. His style of investing in high-quality and underpriced companies has made him one of the richest men in the world – a mere pittance worth of, oh, say, \$53.5 billion.

In the same vein, he also believes that women are an undervalued resource. And he believes that only in recent years have we begun to correct this problem. His reasoning – which I fully buy into – is that an even greater enemy of change is the entrenched attitudes of those who simply couldn't fathom a world different from the one in which they've already lived – one that requires them to embrace change.

Despite the "all men are created equal" assertion in the Declaration of Independence, male supremacy has dominated most of history. It wasn't

until 144 years later in 1920 that the U.S. gave women the right to vote. Hitting closer to home, in Erie two years later, a woman, Evelyn Briggs, would sit on a murder jury for the first time. And even after that, 33 men would hold a seat on the Supreme Court before history was made when President Ronald Reagan nominated Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981 to be the first woman justice to sit on the Supreme Court.

But do you want to know the scary truth – what our worst enemy actually is? It's ourselves, ladies. We continue to self-impose limitations and talk ourselves out of achieving our potential. And to add insult to injury, we do this to other women.

This has been going on for decades – and is still the case today

Only two years ago, a survey of 1,000 working women by the American Management Association found that 95 percent of women believed they were undercut by another woman at some point in their careers, leaving only 5 percent to say they hadn't thought that.

It's probably time we started taking on more responsibility for ourselves and looking out for those around us. And at the very least, in the fitting words of the Dalai Lama, "If you can, help others; and if you can't do that, at least don't hurt them."

Redistricting

On Wednesday, May 8, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld the newly-drawn boundaries for state House and Senate seats, starting with the 2014 election cycle. While some of these areas don't directly affect us, one in particular does.

As a result of the ruling, the 5th House seat, currently held by Re-

publican Greg Lucas of Edinboro, will move across the state into Berks County. This district currently covers parts of Erie and Crawford counties, but as a result of the redrawn lines, Lucas will now be part of the 3rd Legislative District currently held by Democrat Ryan Bizzarro in Millcreek.

This change is due to the population losses in the western part of the state. And for us here on this side of the state, the ruling is a sad state of affairs; because of this, we will have a smaller collective voice in the state capital and as a result have less influence and clout when it comes to state-level decisions.

The redrawn 3rd House District will now pick up Edinboro and Washington Townships and will lose Waterford Township and borough, Franklin Township, and a small part of Fairview Township.

Initially, the state's highest courts threw out these maps in January 2012, saying they were unconstitutional because they split up the municipalities too much. But the Court unanimously ruled Wednesday to uphold the state legislature's second stab at them, citing that the lines aren't nearly as dramatic as the first go-around.

Less dramatic – or better? Maybe. But these changes still greatly affect us here in the Erie region.

These maps are redrawn every 10 years. If Erie wants to get that seat back in the future, it needs to start bringing people back to northwestern Pennsylvania.

We keep crying brain drain – and it's clearly occurring, as we watch valuable creative resource both leave and eschew our region. And this redistricting is one part of the impact it's having.

Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Email me at rStyn@ErieReader.com follow me on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/bdbnh>



TECH WATCH

Hackers Attack

By: Brennan Donnelly, Epic WebStudios

On Tuesday, May 7, the U.S. government hunkered down with expectations for massive cyber attacks by Middle Eastern Hackers on a mission being referred to as "OpUSA." The OpUSA mission is group of hacktivists from around the world – some of them taking on the Anonymous label – who have set their sights on the United States' most powerful institutions. They had claimed that they planned to take down nine U.S. government websites. On this list were the sites of the Pentagon, the National Security Agency, the FBI, and the White House, and additionally, claims were made towards targeting over 130 banking websites, including those of Bank of America, Capital One, and TD Bank.

According to Adnan Farooqui, a writer for Ubergizmo, the threats behind an attack like this could include: DNS attacks, doxes (leaking email addresses etc), redirects, defaces, DDoS attacks, admin takeovers, and database leaks of the aforementioned targets. In response to the proposed attacks, the Department of Homeland Security released an announcement stating that the attack "poses a limited threat of temporarily disrupting USA websites, nothing more."

A couple weeks back, I wrote an article about the Syrian Electronic Army, a group of hackers who targeted and infiltrated the Twitter account of the Associated Press, which resulted in a temporary dip in the stock market after a tweet went out claiming "Breaking: Two Explosions in the White House and Barack Obama is injured." This group was active again this week and made a breach in Twitter security – this time on the account of The Onion, a satirical news site that has

almost 5 million followers. The group sent out a series of tweets to ridicule U.S. policy on Syria. When the tweets first started, many followers were unsure as to whether The Onion had been hacked, or was simply sending out some sort of sarcastic or satirical messages as, the publication is often known to do.

While I read these stories and found them to be somewhat interesting, much of it seemed to have little effect on my personal life. And many others likely assumed the same.

But then I was made aware that a server, which is host to many local sites, had been compromised, and as a result, its sites are down and an investigation has been opened.

One such local site that was affected was the Erie Chamber of Commerce (www.eriepa.com). Also a message was put out on the Facebook page of Enormis Mobile Specialties – another company hosted on (what I am speculating was) the same server – informed users: "Our website is down today. Servers have been targeted by hackers. We were able to use their IP address to pinpoint the origin of these attacks, which appears to be a known group located in Iran. The FBI has been made aware of the situation and is looking into it further."

While these breaks in security are not turning my world upside down, I suppose I find them mildly annoying in my daily productivity when trying to contact the local Chamber or attempting to shop for automobile products. Although I am unaware of it at this time, I am willing to bet there are others among Erie who have been affected as a result and may be scratching their heads like me.

My takeaway and advice for the average Internet surfer: don't download or install anything you are not sure of. Sure, that seems like simple advice, but sometimes when we feel safe or forget the imposing threat of others on the Internet when hacking attacks don't directly affect us in our everyday routines. Remember, there are countless malware programs circulating right now, and you do not want to be a victim forced to deal with the annoyance of removing them – or worse, the aftermath of vital information being compromised.

Brennan Donnelly can be contacted at Epic@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/eyihs>



JUST TOYIN' WITCHA By: B. Toy



A BAYFRONT TREASURE

Our Mystery Food Critic Visits the Smugglers' Wharf

By: The Reader Eater

Amidst all the talk of Erie's Bayfront and its potential development in the coming years, perhaps it's good to take a moment to observe some gems already there – in particular, we're talking seafood at the Smugglers' Wharf.

Situated at 3 State St. near the Bicentennial Tower, Smugglers' Wharf has been dishing out fresh seafood to Erie for over three decades. With a relaxed atmosphere and feel, the restaurant also offers a nice array of chicken and steak options as well as soups and salads, all prepared in a classic American style.

With a warm breeze blowing in off the lake one particular Thursday evening, my dining companion and I approached the restaurant, noticing the packed parking spaces near the Tower. Families moseyed by, pushing little ones in strollers. Friends tiptoed along the edge, bending to gaze down into the water.

The deep, warm wood tones of exposed beams inside the restaurant set the nautical feel and welcomed us. Quickly seated – we had made reservations, as I would recommend to you – we decided to begin with an appetizer in order to afford us more time to peruse the menu.

Smugglers' offers standard appetizer fare, ranging from shrimp cocktails to mussels to chicken tenders, but both being artichoke enthusiasts, we decided to try Smuggler's Artichoke Seafood Melt.

Blanketed in a thick layer of Swiss cheese, a medley of artichoke hearts and crabmeat are buried beneath. While certainly different and better than your average artichoke dips ripped from the freezer, nuked in the microwave, and slopped on the table with salt-laden stale tortilla chips,

the marriage of artichoke with crab seemed unbalanced, with the sweetness of the crab bullying the tartness expected from such robust chunks of artichoke. Still, the melt was flavorful and distinctive – although bit less creamy and thinner than standard artichoke dip – and the pre-sliced French baguette it came with paired nicely with.

Moving from the "Great Beginnings" to the entrees, we had a good array of options from which to choose without feeling overwhelmed by a seemingly never-ending menu.

For those with a penchant for pasta, the "Pastabilities" section offers three distinctly different possibilities with Shellfish Carbonara, Chicken Fettucini Alfredo, and Shrimp Mediterranean. Diners with a taste for something other than pastas or seafood may be drawn to the four different takes on steak, ranging from prime rib to sirloin to strip to filet mignon, as well as the standout on the menu from the description alone, the Bourbon Pecan Chicken Breast.

While the Spring Specials – the Penne with Clam Sauce and the Flatbread Pizza with Shrimp in particular – caught my attention, my dining companion and I decided to stick to the standard offerings to get a more authentic experience of what the restaurant was like year-round. Sporting a nautical theme and being situated right on the beautiful lakefront, we agreed that it wouldn't be a true trip to Smuggler's Wharf without continuing our experience with seafood entrees.

The Catch of the Day – swordfish that particular evening but varying from evening to evening – can be blackened, baked, or grilled to a diner's determined delight. We again passed on the special, looking for something for which Smugglers' had come to be known.

We narrowed our decision to three options: Smugglers' Signature Lan-



The Reader Eater

Signature crab cakes and broiled sea scallops are among the fresh seafood dishes to enjoy at the Smugglers' Wharf.

gostino-Crab Cakes, Ahi Tuna, and Broiled Sea Scallops. Being a "signature" dish, the crab cakes – served with a "not-too-spicy del Ray sauce" – struck us as a must, so I ordered those with a side of garlic sautéed portabellas and "Old Bay" seasoned potatoes.

Torn between the scallops and the ahi, my companion elicited a recommendation from the waitress, who, without hesitation, suggested the scallops. That recommendation turned out to be one of the better overall parts of our dining experience.

The eight scallops, broiled in garlic butter, lemon, and white wine came topped with bread crumbs, adding a nice crunch to the otherwise delicate texture of the mollusk. Often a problem with sea scallops, which are larger and meatier compared to the tinier bay scallops, is the sometimes-gritty texture from improper cleaning. Not the case at Smugglers', as the scallops were clean, allowing us both to focus more

on the simple yet delicious hints of the garlic butter, lemon, and white wine at work together.

My companion sided her scallops with Smugglers' coleslaw and the fresh vegetable of the day, a squash mix – simple, fresh, and delectable on both accounts, as the coleslaw wasn't drenched in sauce or dry enough to be considered simply cabbage, and the squash wasn't overly seasoned or cooked, letting its flavor linger on a high note.

The crab cakes – a combination of langostinos and "real" crabmeat – were crispy, yet flaky to the tines of a fork. As one who could live on seafood – crab in particular – alone, the "real" crab makes all the difference for these cakes.

The letdown though, came in the way of the "not-too-spicy" sauce. Not spicy at all – granted, I enjoy foods on the spicier side than most – the sauce was borderline bland and underwhelming

at best. And the crab cakes were flavorful enough on their own that a sauce truly isn't needed to augment their sweet tang.

The "Old Bay" potatoes were a table favorite – something truly distinctive. The seasoning complemented the lightly fried, bite-size potato wedges without taking away the natural clean taste of the starch. They also weren't overly salty – an all-too-often occasion at many restaurants.

The garlic-sautéed portabellas were the biggest letdown. Rubbery – it seemed more like a boil than a sautéed – and near flavorless – the garlic was virtually nonexistent – the mushrooms went unfinished and disappointed two mushroom-enthusiasts, as we actually squabbled a bit over who would order them and enjoy the lion's share based on the menu description.

Be forewarned: If you want dessert, skip the appetizer, as our melt and entrees left us with no room to conclude the meal with something sweet. For lighter options, a guest could order something like the Cajun Catfish or the Barbecue Pulled Pork from the Sandwich Board.

Fresh seafood isn't always easy to find. And it's not always able to be enjoyed by a breathtaking body of water. But at Smugglers', you can find both. And come Memorial Day weekend, you'll be able to dine outside – a great bonus for this restaurant.

So with the warm breeze soon blowing summer in, head to Smugglers' Wharf to experience a gem the Erie Bayfront already has. **R**

Smugglers' Wharf is open at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Closing times vary depending on the day. For full menu options and prices, visit smugglerswharfinc.com or call 459.4273.

You can contact the Reader Eater at eriereader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/25g1d>



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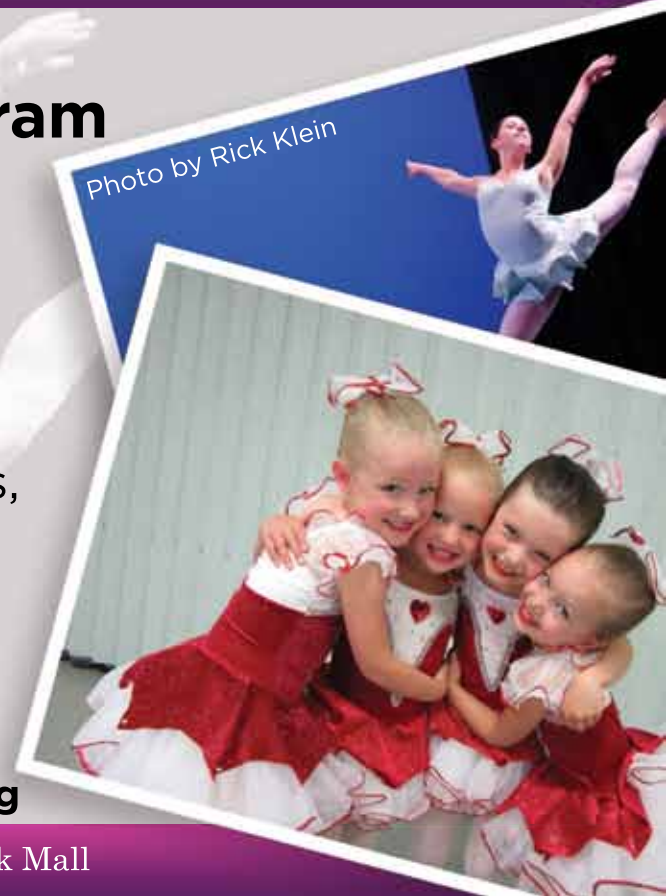
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A Celebration 200 Years in the Making

The Perry 200 Grand Patriotic Parade



In the maneuver that sealed his place in history, Oliver Hazard Perry abandons the battered USS *Lawrence* and makes his way to the USS *Niagara*.

By: Alex Bieler

Take a drive down 12th Street and you'll notice a lot about Erie. There are a fair number of discouraging sights that suggest a bumpy road for this city – quite literally, as cars going 10 miles per hour under the speed limit dodge potholes while cars going 10 miles over the speed limit dodge the cars that go 10 miles under the speed limit.

Still, amid buildings that have seen better days lay markers of a healthy present – and future – of The Flagship City, whether they be signs of established companies, like Smith's Provision Company, newer businesses like Lavery Brewing Company, or the still-fresh walls of the Cathedral Prep Events Center. There are several books-worth of history along this east-west route, with different chapters holding 12th Street in place from the north and south, new tales breaking off down State, Cherry, and every other street that comes in contact with this key stretch of road.

On 12th Street, thousands of people travel to different destinations every day. Some go to and from work, others to class, some out to I-79 to head elsewhere, and – this may come as a surprise to those naysayers that feel as though Erie is not a city great enough to bring in talent that wants to stay – some come *in* from I-79 to be a part of this town.

Yes, there are those that don't give Erie a chance and others that will forever be entrenched in small-town status. But others see potential in this town to do great things.

It's the latter group that has seen the future and is making an event like the Perry 200 Grand Patriotic Parade theirs.

You see, 12th Street – already a microcosm of Erie life – will serve as the grounds for a parade starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 25. This parade will usher in a summer's worth of Perry 200 Commemoration events, all part of an 18-month stretch that began last year – you may remember Managing Editor Ben Spегgen's cover story on the Commemoration last spring – that will help our fair citizens celebrate and recognize Erie's role in Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's vic-

tory in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

Now, you may ask "How can this little parade inspire this city to get behind its history in such a manner that it can show its populace what The Flagship City has the potential to be?"

Well, fair Reader reader, this isn't your average little parade. This is a 1.8-mile route starting at 12th and Cherry streets, that heads east down 12th before hooking a left on State Street and finishing up at Third Street, with 65-foot helium balloons, plenty of floats, and, of course, you.

"We're expecting around 100,000 people to be in attendance," Dan Mucci says. My eyebrow raises as the words leave the Jefferson Educational Society's primary researcher and Perry 200 event coordinator's lips. "I've had some people come into the office or call me on the phone and tell me how they have relatives or friends who are out of state that are going to be coming in for this parade. I think we're going to get a lot of people from a lot of different states."

I glance around the Starbucks the two of us are currently sitting in and eye about 20 people partaking in their beverages of choice. Assum-

ing the number Mucci has estimated is correct, we're looking at a gathering of about 5,000 early evening Starbucks crowds for you caffeine junkies out there.

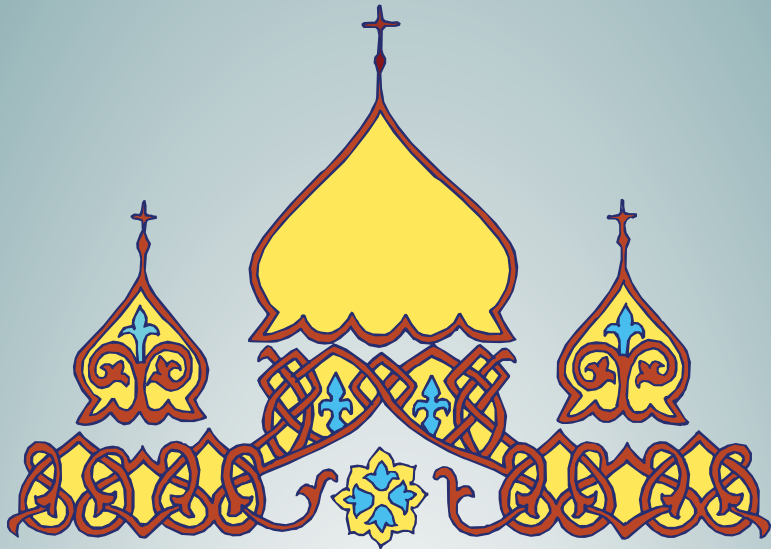
While the number may seem high at first, it's not like this town hasn't seen an event like this before, with the Erie Bicentennial Parade in 1995 drawing in large crowds as well. Of course, given the Perry 200 Parade is in honor of the 200th anniversary of Perry's victory over the enemy in our Great Lake to the north, there's reason to believe that if they run it, people will come. And, as you might have noticed, Erie is down with O.H.P.

"We felt that, given the parade in '95, we should have one for this as well, so we're going to try and top it," Mucci says, resting his head in his right hand as he taps his forefinger against his upper cheek. "It should be a special event for our community. [The Battle of Lake Erie] was a decisive victory for America and put Erie on the map, so I think that's why he's so revered here."

Given the community's attachment to our beloved Commodore, the Perry 200 Commemoration Commission members – a group of nearly 90 Erieites operating under the watch of the

Courtesy of the Erie County Historical Society

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Jefferson Educational Society – have been taking their time in order to make the 18-month stretch as memorable and effective as possible. According to Mucci, the Perry 200 Parade has been in the works for the past two years.

“It’s a huge effort,” the fresh-faced project coordinator – who does a mean Christopher Walken, by the way – explains. “We have a parade committee and pretty much everybody on it is a volunteer. Ray Luniewski, the co-chairman, is a volunteer, Michael Fuhrman [Destination Erie: A Regional Vision Project Manager and fellow parade committee co-chairman] is a volunteer. They all have full-time jobs somewhere

else and they’re volunteering their time to help make this parade the best it can be. When you’ve spent this much time and this much effort organizing something, you want it to turn out the best that it can be, so we’re going to make sure that happens.”

As it stands, most of the details about the parade are set: roughly 190 units, 50 different floats, and nine big Macy’s Day Parade-style balloons will take to 12th Street May 25. However, the committee had a different vision for the parade back in its infancy.

“The original thought was to go with a very large military parade,” Ray Luniewski tells me over the phone. “As we talked about it, it didn’t seem like that was going to have the right flavor to it. We really struggled to get anything from the United States military to come in to a parade such as this, but we also thought it might not be the proper celebration. We swung it around and settled on this grand, patriotic idea, which seemed to roll the military into it but also included a whole lot of fun.”

Instead of the military parade, the projected crowd of 100,000 will be treated to a wide variety of visual treats, including over 20 marching bands and drum corps that will perform throughout the parade. Banners representing the nine American ships will sit on one side of the street in blue, while six red banners stand for the British boats on the other, playing into the Battle of Lake Erie. Certain businesses will tie their livelihoods into the 1813 theme, with dis-

plays of a ship’s galley and how other elements of Erieites lives differ in the 200 years between then and now. While the parade snakes to Third and State streets, the committee has entertainment planned for Perry Square of the musical variety, as well as something of a surprise performance, as well as the aforementioned massive helium balloons will make their return for the first time since the ’95 bicentennial procession. You see, this isn’t Luniewski’s first rodeo when it comes to putting on a parade.

“Oh, I’ve dabbled around in a lot of them, yeah,” he laughs. “I’ve done a lot of different stuff with parades in Erie.” Part of the reason Luniewski was brought in to really shape the Perry 200 Parade was that he had a major hand in the bicentennial parade back in ’95. In addition to that, Luniewski also acted as director of Erie’s own bugle corps, the Lake Erie Regiment, before it was disbanded in 2006.

“I work at Gannon University as an electrician there – that’s what I really do for a living – but I’ve always been involved with the marching bands and the drum and bugle corps in Erie,” Luniewski says, an affection displayed by the excitement in his voice when he describes the performers coming into Erie for the Perry 200 Parade.

It’s unfortunate that our conversation is over the phone, because I can imagine the co-chairman’s eyes lighting up as he happily describes the Cadets Jr. Drum and Bugle Corps, the Woodland String Band, the Preston Scout House Band, and all of the other talented performance groups that always maintain space in Luniewski’s grey matter. He knows that these bands will be awe-inspiring and he’s confident that this latest parade he’s helped build will be something Erieites will remember for decades to come.

“Physical numbers-wise, I don’t know if it’s going to be the largest in that regards, but I know it’s going to be the most spectacular by far. It’s going to blow ’95 out of the water,” Luniewski says.

Of course, there’s only so much that the man can account for. Even with the [Cont. on 21]

“Physical numbers-wise, I don’t know if it’s going to be the largest in that regards, but I know it’s going to be the most spectacular by far. It’s going to blow ’95 out of the water.”



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If We Were You...

WEDNESDAY 5.15

Smokin' Joe Robinson Returns to PACA

Hot on the heels of a highly regarded performance at PACA last January, Aussie guitarslinger Joe Robinson - who is just 21 years old - returns to PACA for another smoldering engagement, this time with the Eric Brewer Trio opening. Reserve your seat online for just \$15, or purchase a ticket at the door for \$20.

When: 7 p.m.
Where: PACA, 1505 State St.
Contact: PACA1505.com

THURSDAY 5.16

May Worlds Collide

Concerts don't have to always be expensive. Instead of dropping triple-digit buckeroos on one band, you could shill out just \$5 for a small army of them. Don't believe us? Check out May Worlds Collide at Basement Transmissions to see a diverse group of acts covering everything

from hip-hop to acoustic pop.

When: 5 p.m.
Where: Basement Transmissions, 1501 State St.
Contact: basement-transmissions.webs.com

Drips & Beats

Another month means another Drips & Beats at the crooked i which means another night of hip-hop heaven for all you grinders out there. This latest edition of the thunderous Thursday calls Pittsburgh's Proseed to the stage, along with local acts Devious, Whodat Peez, Heresy, Rush, and Hibias the Sovereign, as well as body painting and a silent art auction for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

When: 9 p.m.
Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.
Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

Edinboro Art and Music Festival

This popular three-day festival going on all over downtown Edinboro will fill your day with with entertainment in a folk-like atmosphere. Celebrate Appalachian spirit with locally-crafted food, artisans' tents, and live music. Admission is free, so money shouldn't be an excuse not to enjoy

fine art and great live performances. This event comes but once a year, so make sure you stop by.

When: all day, May 16-18
Where: 111 Erie St. (Art Show)
Contact: edinboroartandmusic.com

FRIDAY 5.17

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley JR

Check out the YouTheatre's rendition of the classic 1960s Jeff Brown children's book. The Erie Art Playhouse hosts the story of Stanley, a boy who gets flattened by a bulletin board above his bed and seeks to become his normal self again. This is sure to be a lighthearted musical adventure that the whole family can enjoy.

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

Patron Saints and Other Paintings by Jacqueline Welch

Do you consider yourself a dog lover? Jacqueline Welch may be the artist that will tickle your canine fancy, as she has a gallery display at the Erie Art Museum full of paintings featuring dogs. These paintings range from the simple message of a dog as a lifelong companion to a dog taking the place of a human in a historical event. If that doesn't sound like something that you would be interested in, you probably have cats, right? The exhibit extends through Sept. 15.

When: Museum Hours 11 a.m to 5 p.m.
Where: Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St.
Contact: erieartmuseum.org

SATURDAY 5.18

London Underground

What do you call a mix of Neil Young and electronica? NeiltroniYoung? Electroneil? Youngtronica? According to Mike Edgerly, you can just call it London Underground, his newest musical adventure with his wife Laurie. The talented duo will be taking the stage at The Brewerrie, so make sure to catch some Youngtronica to pair with your brews.

When: 9 p.m.
Where: The Brewerrie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St.
Contact: 454.2200

Bike Around the Bay

The 11th annual installment of this event benefits Environment Erie's education programs. Participants can take a 10, 30, or 50 mile bike tour around the city. The prices are \$20 for an individual and \$40 for a family, but prices increase by \$5 after May 8. Come get some exercise and support a good cause.

When: 8 a.m.
Where: 1 Holland St.
Contact: environmenterie.org

Erie's Largest Nautical Flea Market

Need some equipment for that boat that can finally be used now that the lake has thawed? Come to the Nautical Flea Market to find well-priced sea supplies and see the changes that have been made to the Presque Isle Yacht Club. Vendors are overstocked on marine supplies, so help these guys get some of their money back while saving some of yours at the same time. Erie is a great city for both fishing and boating, so it's time to take up one (or both) of these hobbies.

When: 8 a.m.
Where: 120 W. Front St.
Contact: 838.7749

SUNDAY 5.19

TREC Garden Tour

Just in time for gardening season, join Garden Coordinator Jen Salem for a tour of the gardens at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, where she'll also discuss ways to utilize plants that are native to this region in your own garden at home!

When: 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Where: TREC, 301 Peninsula Dr.
Contact: 833.7424 or TRECpi.org

TUESDAY 5.21

SeaWolves vs. Harrisburg Senators

Okay, we're pretty sure this doesn't mean that the Howlers are taking on Sean Wiley and company from the Keystone State's capital. But we are sure that the first 500 kiddos through the gates each get a free Smith's hot dog, a bag of Utz potato chip, and a Pepsi fountain drink, as part of the "Kids Eat Free Night." So gather up the family and head down to the ballpark and enjoy a game and celebrate foregoing the need to plan dinner.

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

WEDNESDAY 5.22

'Natural Impressions' Mixed Media Student Art Exhibit

Featuring everyone from first graders to college students, this display is a collection of art that can be simple or complex. Exhibitors are from public schools, private schools, and home schools. These aren't just paintings, either - photography, clay, and even digital video are some of the things you can find at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. The event is free, so come show support for these young artists.

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: TREC, 301 Peninsula Drive
Contact: 833.7424



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Fri. May 17

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Sat. May 18

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THURSDAY 5.23

Author and columnist to read at JES

Award-winning author and columnist Lenore Skomal reads some of her work aloud at the Jefferson Educational Society. As a novelist who has received rave reviews on Amazon, her shared experience will no doubt be invaluable to those looking to break into the field.

When: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: JES, 3207 State St.

Contact: 814-459-8000

[Title of Show]

There are musicals and then there are musicals about two guys writing a musical about two guys writing a musical. Don't worry, you can let that last sentence sink in as you head down to see the latest production by local contemporary theater group Dramashop, a crew you may recognize from the cover of the last edition of the Reader. If you like doing that thing people call "laughing," then [Title of Show] may be the musical within a musical within a musical for you.

When: 8 p.m., May 23-25

Where: Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St.

Contact: dramashop.org

FRIDAY 5.24

Scarlet Ledbetter

Not to be confused with any of Nathaniel Hawthorne's works or the Lilly Ledbetter act of 2009, Scarlet Ledbetter is a talented trio of some of Erie's best musicians that just so happened to team together. Now the three-headed string-smith of Keith Wilson, Dominick DeCecco, and Tanner Edwards makes for The Brewerrie, where any Nathaniels, Lillys, or any other open-eared beings that like music shall be entertained.

When: 9 p.m.

Where: The Brewerrie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St.

Contact: 454.2200

SATURDAY 5.25

Perry 200 Grand Patriotic Parade

Snaking its way from 12th & Cherry to 12th & State and then up State to Perry Square, the Perry 200 Grand Patriotic Parade will feature dignitaries, military bands, cartoon characters, local marching bands, clowns, antique cars, helium balloons, and more than 100,000 spectators; join them all for this once-in-a-lifetime event! For more information, be sure to read Alex Bieler's cover story in this issue.

When: 1 to 4 p.m.

Where: Downtown

Contact: 459.8000 or Perry200.com

Dragon Wagon w/ Matt Texter

While we don't know exactly what Daenerys Targaryen would think of them, the folk-rock outfit Dragon Wagon is a welcome sight around these parts. Along with local roots favorite Matt Texter, the Michigan-based, Whiskey-laced bluegrass group can make you feel like you're part of a good ol' mountain jam, minus the fire-breathers.

When: 10 p.m.

Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

The Groove gets in at PI Downs and Casino

The Groove returns to Presque Isle Downs and Casino for this one-night-only event. The band is a multi-talented group of singers, some of which also play instruments, known for their intense choreography in their performances. Tickets range from \$5 to \$10.

When: 9 p.m.

Where: 8199 New Perry Highway

Contact: 464.5409

SUNDAY 5.26

Troika Russian Festival

Considered the unofficial start to summer festi-

val season here in Erie, the Troika Russian Festival features food, music, and adult beverages of the Slavic variety. Come find out why this event is consistently one of Erie's most popular and enjoyable ethnic fests.

When: all day

Where: 109 German St.

Contact: 459.8515

Fireworks at Waldameer

Celebrate Memorial Day with this classic Firework show at Waldameer Park. Come early and enjoy some of the fantastic rides that the park has been adding over the years. The event is free to the public and a great way to conclude a day spent in the park.

When: 8:30 p.m.

Where: 3100 West Lake Road

Contact: 877.1009

MONDAY 5.27

Buck Day!

It's Memorial Day, the sun is (maybe) shining, you're not at work, and there's dollar beers

at the ballpark. That sounds like the recipe for some fun day drinking, and it also sounds like we know what we're doing this afternoon. Beer isn't the only reason to head down to the Uht today to watch the SeaWolves finish an eight-game home-stand, and a four-game series against the hated Akron Aeros. There are also dollar hot dogs, soda and popcorn, and tickets are as low as \$5. Count us in.

When: 1:35 p.m.

Where: Jerry Uht Park

Contact: 814.456.1300

TUESDAY 5.28

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When: 6 p.m.

Where: Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St.

Contact: 456.0282.



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2013 PRE-GATHERING AT CHAFFEE'S MUSIC FESTIVAL PARTY

MAY 18 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



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WITH SPECIAL GUEST MATT TEXTER

MAY 25 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



PHIL DA BASS

MAY 26 // SUNDAY @ 10:00

TUE: Songwriter Showcase & Vinyl Night
SUN: Open Mic & Jam

To-do List

By: Alex Bieler

Pre-Gathering at Chaffee's Party

May is a lovely month, but it sure does like to tease Erie with its weather. Stretches of warm days with blue skies and cool breezes will be broken up by cold mornings, soggy afternoons, and the occasional hailstorm. Instead, we look ahead to the summer, where the days are hot and every evening calls for a trip to Presque Isle.

Of course, some people just can't wait for summer. Luckily for you, a taste of July is closer than you may expect. You see, it's time for a sneak peek into The Gathering at Chaffee's.

For those unfamiliar with the summer music festival that makes its home in Girard, that's alright, because the crooked i is hosting a Pre-Gathering at Chaffee's Party Saturday, May 18 to get a look and listen of the lovely locals that

folk thing and getting the electric feel back into our music. We'll play a lot more electric guitar, a lot fuzzier and dirtier [than before]. More like a Black Keys sound, a bluesier, electrified version of our music."

New tunes, great bands, cold brews – sounds like a summer party in May to me.

Always... Patsy Cline

When people find something they like, they tend to stick with it. Whether it is a certain chair in their house, a go-to blend of coffee, or the General Tso's chicken at your preferred Chinese restaurant, good things get revisited. Just take "Always... Patsy Cline" as an example.

"We first ran it back in 1999 at the then Roadhouse Theatre in Erie," says Amanda Post, star of the locally beloved musical. "The initial plan was that we would run it three or four weeks and see if it sells and just keep going – kind of an open-ended understanding that if it was selling, we'd just keep going with it. It sold quickly and furiously, and I ended up saying right before Christmas, 'I can't do this anymore.'"

The hit ended up relocating to the Warner Theatre the next year, where it played on and off for years, up until four years ago. Still, the popularity of "Always... Patsy Cline" kept calling out, so Post stepped back into Cline's shoes and the show is back for fans both new and old.

Now playing at The Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre located at 1 Fountain St., Cambridge Springs, "Always... Patsy Cline" is continuing to endear itself to audiences with its run continuing May 17, 19, 24, 26, 31, and June 2, with Friday showings at 7 p.m. and Sundays kicking off at 2:30 p.m.

While attendees grew to love the show, Post's admiration for the woman she portrays increased over the years.

"I guess that I would say that I've grown an appreciation," says the WICU news anchor. "Of course, I was aware of her music at the time that we decided to do the show, and I knew that she had died young and that her career was cut short. I read a couple of biographies and got a feel for what her life was like at the time, and she was such a driving pioneer for women at that time in the country music industry. She really made great strides and opened a path for many female vocalists down the road."

Other Erieites seem to agree, given the adoration "Always... Patsy Cline" has in the area. That, or they love Post and company. Either way, the musical doesn't seem to be broke, but locals' eyes are always affixed to the stage.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erierdr.com/1vbzn>



Five different groups will be taking the stage at the crooked i, with Broke Boland scheduled to kick the night off at 8:30 p.m., followed by Strangers & Liars, Shotgun Jubilee, Falling Hollywood, and Eric Brewer and Friends.

will be playing at the Chaffee farm this July 26-27.

"The bands that are playing there are also going to be representing Erie's contribution to the festival," says Nick Taylor, singer and guitarist for Gathering-bound Falling Hollywood. "Basically, you'll get the Erie version of Chaffee's."

And not just a couple of local bands, mind you. Five different groups will be taking the stage at the crooked i, with Broke Boland scheduled to kick the night off at 8:30 p.m., followed by Strangers & Liars, Shotgun Jubilee, Falling Hollywood, and Eric Brewer and Friends. Given that the cover to get in and see the Pre-Gathering is \$5 – or \$1 per band once I force my brain to do math – I'd be inclined to say that's a pretty sweet deal. Even better, Nick told me that Falling Hollywood should be whipping out some new material for your listening pleasure, and what you'll hear might be a slight bit different than what you may have heard on "Set the Table," their first album released last summer.

"We're sort of fleshing it out," Nick says. "I'd say [the songs] are evolving in a way from the

Thrift Store Shopping

A Mecca for Eclectic Personalities

By: Matthew Flowers

Here it comes, another fresh batch of graduates, sent out into the world to find a job – one their freshly-printed diplomas promised them. Some will strike gold in a cushy office job, while others will struggle to make ends meet. In recent years, the economic spectrum has tipped towards the latter – not to mention the average student loan balance for all age groups is \$24,301.

But that doesn't mean you can't dress like you're on the lighter side of the fulcrum.

While you may never look Don Draper dapper, you can achieve the debonair charm of the '60s, or the boisterous, neon color palette of the '80s in one place – without Banana Republic and Urban Outfitter's adding credit card debt to your student loans.

"Thrift stores used to be for people without [a lot of money] to go shopping," Patty Rutkowski, manager of Erie's Thrifty Shopper [2064 W. 16th St.] says, sitting back on a white, Midwestern-style sofa, spotted with stucco-colored diamonds. "It's still for somebody who doesn't have a big budget, you know? But, it's really like this Mecca for the eclectic personality."

Whether we like it or not, our big luminescent box dictates what is in and what is out. It governs the look of the time, and it looks like we're taking a step back as the retro look of the '50s, '60s, and '70s are zooming back into today's style like telescopes searching for the shine of Sputnik.

"Fashion - being a pendulum - swings back and forth," Patty says, pointing to a polished iron lamp, its base topped by an over-sized shade – a large, round, natural skinned, cylinder. "Look at mid-century modern, it's gigantic anymore," she continues. To get an idea of what this style looks like, it's bold yet sleek, clean but unbalanced, yet with perhaps a touch too much orange, all mixed with both the insanity and optimism of the atomic age, and the baby boomer's disenchantment with technology. It's as if the men of the time countered their streamlined wardrobes full of fitted suits, cuff links, and skinny ties, as

the women opposed their brooches, day dresses, and Pill Box hats with loud colored, unusually shaped, post-modern furniture.

But if you're trying to move past the Atomic Era and find your personality in a different generation, then you'll still be searching in the right place. The Thrifty Shopper is loaded with pre-1920 antiques, vintage '40s garb, of course the retro '50s and '60s and onward.

"What I love about [current fashion], is styles aren't so definite... When I was growing up, this would go out of style, that would go out of style, and young people today – everything about their personality is three generations: their generation, their parent's generation, and their grandparent's generation – can pick out the best from all those and put them together."

There is history behind every coat, hat, couch, and vinyl. Working that into the layout of the store makes it a different kind of shopping experience. When you walk in, past the registers and the white marker board announcing sales, there is a cozy library area complete with books, records, tables, chairs, and even a fireplace, almost all of which is for sale – and with a distressed look that comes for free.

"We want people to get a vision when they come here," Patty confirms. Without dividing the store with parcels, the Thrifty Shopper is sectioned into themes, identifiable vignettes that speak to the customer. "We try to tell a story with everything," she says gazing at a white rattan porch set.

Taking a walk through the men's clothing section, you'll also notice an olden day, traditional theme. Surrounding the area are old-fashioned whiskey glasses, golf clubs, suitcases, antique chests, and fedoras.

In contrast, the women's section has a counter island of jewelry, Vogue posters, purses, handbags, and scarves. What's better is you can find your personal style without sacrificing your entire pay check, as the Thrifty Shopper sells brand-new, \$140-price-tag-still-on-them kinds of shirts, usually for about five bucks.

If you're going old-school, you can find your



If you only got \$20 in your pocket, and you're looking for a come-up, you should hit your local thrift store.

"Mad Men"-style Florsheim wing tips, Harris tweeds, and a matching set of tumblers. On the flip side, women can find a pair of Audrey Hepburn ballet flats, high-waisted skirts, and jewelry with a warm patina.

But at this point, it's hard to tell what came first: Erie's unemployment rate scraping clouds at 9.1 percent, or the popularity of shopping at thrift stores. Either way, fashion is retrogressing, but in a whole new way.

"Young people are more 'green' today than any other generation before them," Patty says. "They believe in recycling and repurposing."

Aside from the blatant materialism of Generation X and Y, there is an undercurrent of environmental consciousness that shines through today's television, Facebook, fast food addictions. Moreover, Erie's generosity keeps Erie City Mission's Thrifty Shopper running by donating shoes, clothes, furniture, and volunteering. Mon-

ey raised in these stores helps provide for those in need. From shelters, to free meals, to treatment programs and family care, this money is staying local, and benefiting this area.

"It's such a win-win situation here," Patty says. "We're feeding over 2,000 people a week."

The stories told through a thrift store's merchandise are much like history lessons with racks and shelves packed full of artifacts. But at the Thrifty Shopper, these relics aren't just reflections of the past, they're helping Erie's future.

Matthew Flowers can be reached at mFlowers@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ MFlowersER. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/bndba>



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Mikal Cronin
MCII
Merge

★★★★★



Given his past penchant for psych-rock flare-ups and the time spent shredding with fellow Californian Ty Segall, it would come as no surprise if Mikal Cronin's "MCII" featured non-stop torrents of fuzzed-out shredding. Instead, we're treated to a quieter affair that throws in moments of aggression in just the right spots. Over the course of the album, the 27-year-old Cronin showcases an array of sunny Californian power-pop tunes, each one carefully constructed for maximum effect. His restraint from simply stomping down on the fuzz pedal works to his advantage, making the ripping solo on "Am I Wrong" hit that much harder, while applying enough of a roughness to the excellent single "Shout it Out." Amid the flashes of guitar and occasional swirling strings, Cronin's vocals sound warm, yet vulnerable, complementing his well-crafted power-pop. A guitar-rager of an album would have been fun, but Cronin's restraint makes "MCII" even better. - Alex Bieler

Vampire Weekend
Modern Vampires of the City
XL

★★★★★



Three albums in, Vampire Weekend still manage to sound as youthful as ever. Ever since the opening three notes of "Mansard Roof" welcomed the world into the foursome's brand of Ivy League-pop, Vampire Weekend has managed to charm fans with smart lyrics and a rich sound. Even as the band gets older - frontman Ezra Koenig is 29 - Vampire Weekend still sound as effortless as ever on "Modern Vampires of the City." The insanely catchy bopping of "Diane Young" (if Koenig's vocal take on the word "baby" doesn't get stuck in your head, I don't know what will) will appeal to those that love their Vampire Weekend fast and fun, whereas the Baroque-tinged pop of "Don't Lie" to those who like the band slower and more thoughtful. Yes, sometimes Koenig and company will get too cutesy with vocal processing, but "Modern Vampires of the City" is yet another impressive output by the high-class band. - Alex Bieler

Deerhunter
Monomania
4AD

★★★★★



For those only familiar with "Halcyon Digest," Deerhunter's excellent 2010 release, "Monomania" might be a bit surprising. Of course, those that have followed the Atlanta band have come to expect Bradford Cox and company's stylistic shifts for some time now. The indie band has eschewed the dreaminess of "Halcyon Digest" and instead settled for something much rawer, a grittier rock sound that sounds like a different band than the one that created the stellar 2010 track "Helicopter." At first, the dirtier qualities of "Monomania" can be a bit jarring, but there are plenty of rewards behind the grime. From the fun country-swing of "Pensacola" to Cox's chants of "mono-momania" during the title track's searing close, one can get used to this latest shift in Deerhunter's catalog. It doesn't quite reach the same level as "Halcyon Digest," but sure is a fun ride. - Alex Bieler

Iron & Wine
Ghost on Ghost
Nonesuch

★★★★★



"Ghost on Ghost" bursts open with the cacophonous percussion-based intro to "Buried in the Briars," which then gives way to a slinky-yet-funky 12-string guitar riff, which then crescendos into a burst of warm of horns only to be punctuated by Samuel Beam's vocals. The drums, guitar, and horns all splash in the background as Beam's voice takes to the front - much to be expected of any Iron & Wine work. A vibrant album-opener - closing with a whaling sax solo - "Briars" is the album's strongest point, even making an appearance in midway track "Sundown (Back in the Briars)." While this album features Beam's quintessential heart-on-the-sleeve attitude and feel, it meanders, getting lost with nonsensical ostinatos that distract from Beam's otherwise often sharp and touching observations. Songs like "Joy" - more common album-fare - are quiet yet delightful, but the sha-na-na-nas fall flat, seeming lazy and tired. - Ben Spегgen

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Street Fashionista

Dapper Dan Man

By: Leslie McAllister

Men's style is like a snail in terms of the trendy bits – it moves slowly and is unwavering in its direction. It recycles itself and turns lazily on the fashion wheel of life.

Honestly, men don't have that many options when it comes to dressing. There are the basic elements: T-shirt, dress shirt, pants, shoes, shorts, jacket, sweater, blazer. But then there are the risk takers: tank top, muscle shirt, sweater vest, crop top, cut-off jean shorts. Finally, the trailblazers: smoking jacket, ascot, cravat, leather pants, satin three-piece suit, crushed-velvet capelet (enter Cameron Silver).

So my opinion lies in the accessories. Trends sway with the accoutrements. Right now, and I mean *now*, as I type this, is where men are setting themselves apart from others. They are wearing watches in clean designs, metal bracelets (talk to Evan Everheart), tie tacks, pocket watches, hats, skinny ties, sunglasses, statement rings, cuff links, manning up their iPhones with cool cases and covers, and sneaking a nip off of their engraved flasks (for the alcoholic on the go, thank you Gaffigan).

These are where the future of men's fashion lies (check out www.rendenvelope.com). I know, I know – the murse was short lived, but rest assured there is another transitioning element brewing as we speak.

Could it be the murban (cutoff turtleneck part worn as headband), the manny pack (I think that's obvious enough), or the gote (the gentleman's tote).

Whatever materializes we know this to be true: accessories and gadgets are our favorite gent's artillery to style and be styled. We look to our handsome brood to show us the way to cutting edge coolness. They read *Wire* and we read *Vogue*. It makes sense. Ladies, we're sitting this one out; we'll just try to keep up!

Who? Josh Solt

Where? Jekyll & Hydes

Why Josh? I love Josh's use of gentlemanly accessories, like the tie tack for example. The outfit overall matches but not in the matchy-matchy sort of way. He puts things together that make sense and add appeal.

Let's face it, the ladies love the top-notch way Josh dresses it all up. He is the new Beau Brummel (19th Century dandy gent that changed men's costume from overly ornate to fitted, tapered, tailored, and understated), but Josh doesn't insist his boots be polished with champagne like Brummel did. Josh plays it more reserved than that. I said to my friend Gretchen, after she and I did the shoot with Josh, "He is like the James Franco of Erie." Very cool indeed.

What We Want to Know:

Describe your style.

I really like how clothes are becoming more fitted and clean cut. I don't know if that's a specific style or not – it just works for me.

Favorite accessory for men:

I love watches. I think most people now use



their cell phones to tell time. Watches are just classier, and there are so many new small watch companies out there making really cool and affordable models.

Do you derive inspiration from any specific gentleman?

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, David Beckham, Johnny Depp.

Favorite thing to do in Erie on a Friday night:

I work at Erie Beer, so when I go out, it's the bar scene for me. I have a 14-month old, so it's not as often as I used to. I also like to get out to baseball and hockey games.

How do you spend your summers?

I love summer. I like to golf, grill out, and spend time on our boat.

If you could be one kind of car which would you chose and why?

Porsche 911 Turbo. I think Porsches are beautiful and iconic sports cars

Top three favorite websites right now.

coolmaterial.com huckberry.com kickstarter.com

(I have to say I checked out all three sites and these are really awesome – kickstarter.com talks about a comedy troupe coming to PACA in June. Can't wait to check them out! Thanks, Josh, for turning us on to some great online knowledge).

What is playing on your iPod?

Alabama Shakes

Fill in the blank, if I were an animal I would be a _____.

I think I would probably be a dog. They are loyal and dependable.

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You Ought to Know:

Angie Seykora

By: Leslie McAllister

Minimal – the sound of chimes tinkling, blowing in the wind, a tiny thing singing in the bigness of this world.

Minimal – the absence of space, the smallest in amount or degree, only barely adequate, needing very little.

These are all ways that I would describe Angie Seykora's approach to sculpture. There exist both Zen and minimal elements. She uses everyday materials – cellophane, roofing felt, plastic Christmas tree needles – and yet what's so Zenfully twisted about it is that you begin to see the properties, the natural state of these things becoming magnificent.

In her artist's statement, she acknowledges that these cheap, disposable materials that our consumer culture is so quick to throw away become eye-catching, taking on a new life, a new shape, a heart. You could say Seykora is teaching us. Begging us to see wrapping paper and confetti in a different way.

"This installation is about challenging oneself to look closer, slow down, and begin to see the subtleties that emerge within the making and in the sculpture," she tells me of her work, "Layers of Systems," now hanging at PACA. "I'm provoking a deeper inquiry with my audience."

Seykora wasn't always going to do this, though her soul continually protested.

"I want to be an artist, I would say, as a kid," she says, taking a sip from her latte. "But as I got older I thought it might not be an option."

So she considered a medical career. Perhaps enroll at a college to study pre-med and become a doctor of some sorts. But that didn't fit, didn't feel right, and life events would steer her back to the path of an artist.

"It was after a really bad car accident that I realized art is what I want to give and how I want to express myself," she reveals, staunch and certain as the moment she first felt it.

Art has always been in Seykora's life, but now it was coursing through her, giving her new breath and new life. Life – it's something one notices first from Seykora. She is full of it, vibrating amore and sunshine. She is incredibly positive and wildly passionate about it and her art, infusing all she creates with that spirit.

"I am surrounded by such tremendous support from my family, friends, and the faculty at Edinboro," she tells. Seykora came from the Midwest – Nebraska to be specific – and was awarded a full graduate-assistance program at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

"My undergrad was very traditional and I was predominantly working with metals," she states, recalling her earlier studies and creations. "I wanted to utilize the graduate program to focus on small studies. So I began with anything I could get my hands on – manipulating fabric, paper plates, or any common material that was around my house or accessible to work with. I want to

reach a broader audience with things that are available to everyone, no limits." Fervently, she continues, "These small studies really opened up doors for me and brought me to the place I am at now with sculpture."

Her process is this: she is first inspired by the material's physical properties, not landscapes or architecture – though she finds them lovely – and from there she begins to see conceptual threads that become visible from working with these objects. Take for example her piece titled "Part I" (she is photographed in front of this gorgeous sculpture) consists of roofing felt that is laminated with iridescent cellophane used for gift-wrapping. When looking at the piece, one may see it more for its beauty and less for what it is made from.

"There are illusive qualities here, like the way the sparkle of the cellophane catches the light from where it is cut," she says, showing me the finer details of the artwork. "Also, the piece flattens out when you look at it head-on, though it comes concave off of the wall."

Seykora shares that her installations may shift

"I began with anything I could get my hands on – manipulating fabric, paper plates, or any common material that was around my house or accessible to work with."

because they are assembled onsite.

"From working with steel and bronze, properties that are so exact and complete, I love the flexibility of the pieces now, and they are as simple as I can make them. Nothing is glued in 'Part I,' the layers are stacked so the form changes every time I install it," she says, a passion bubbling up from inside.

Taking a look at Seykora's website, it's easy to see that she comes from large-scale metal sculpture – these pieces, gargantuan and immense – but now she prefers the smaller creations.

"Bigger isn't always better," she opines. "By working smaller it has forced me to consider things in a different way and not get so caught up in the end result; it's playful."

Her studio practice is very meditative and reflective of her sense of creation and art, with that life flowing through it.

"What I do takes patience, and there is much introspection in it. I know that I am not going to get an immediate result – that what I am doing is

going to take time. There is a sense of repose in that," Seykora shares, looking through the window into the sun's rays beaming warmth onto us from outside. "I go into the studio every day. I have often heard, 'Artwork does not make itself,' so I go in and I work. From there I am getting ideas that unfold through doing. It's symbiotic."

With these ideas comes inspiration for new work. "I am interested in the reflection of light off of surfaces both literally and conceptually in its process... I want to push these layered two-dimensional pieces further and even though they are on the wall, this flat plane, I want to play with light in a sculptural sense. How can I mold light in its form and tie it in with the objects. I'd like to see what develops there."

For her, there are really no boundaries.

"Sculpture is an open-ended and broad discipline," Seykora pontificates. "It is simply this – as long as it exists in space, there is so much freedom in it, and this has been the best way for me to express myself."

Recently, when Seykora interviewed artist Anne Wilson in Chicago, Seykora asked, "Do you draw in a traditional sense?"

Seykora decided to answer that question for me, divulging, "I don't draw in a traditional sense. I draw with thread or the materials I am using. What I do is *hand in making*, like knitting or crocheting, I am making marks or patterns in my sculptural form and that is my drawing."

What was not shown at the gallery opening were the prints that Seykora creates, these unbelievably cool and amazing monotypes, which are one of a kind. Printmaking, being her minor, allowed her to work in another medium.

"My process is very connected to the sculptures I make," she elucidates. "I take the plastic Christmas tree needles and press them into the paper creating an impression, which embosses or gives texture as well."

The prints are thus tiny appendages of her sculptural works and in some cases easier to mount on the wall, but altogether thought-provoking and hauntingly lovely.

So who are the artists that have illuminated Seykora's mind? Tony Feher, Anish Kapoor, Eva Hesse, Louise Nevelson – all sculpture artists and creators who have given voice and meaning to the world. What materials does she use on the daily?

Confetti, cellophane, thread, tar paper, roofing felt, electrical tape, vinyl, packaging – virtually anything anyone can connect with – and that's what is important to her, because she breathes life into lifeless things.

"There is so much color in my work and such an absence of it in my daily life. I feel like I get in touch with my colorful side through my art," Seykora says playfully.

With her glossy black hair and wardrobe, fair



Local artist Angie Seykora makes sculptures using everyday objects.

skin and red lips – she loves to see brightly colored, glossy confetti jumping off her two-dimensional layered pieces the same way the colors bound from her face.

Graduating this month, Seykora is pondering her next move.

"I love NYC. I love Philadelphia," she says, eagerly, considering the endless possibility and opportunity that awaits her. "But I also love Erie. Coming from the Midwest, I have appreciated the landscapes here, as well as the architecture. The colors, the trees, there's nothing like this in Nebraska. There is also a great community here."

Angie trails on, continuing to talk about Erie, the place she's most recently been calling home, and the place where her art's most recently been exhibited.

"PACA has been great, Brad [Ford] and Mark [Tanenbaum] are so supportive," she says of the leading men behind the PACA. "Erie is lucky to have such a strong artistic community. The creative people here are so hardworking and they bring such a breadth of life to this town. Erie is a hidden gem."

Seykora's "Layers of Systems" can be viewed at PACA, located at 1505 State St., through May 18. She is also a featured artist in the 90th Annual Spring Show at the Erie Art Museum, located at 20 E. Fifth St. You can see more of her art at AngieSeykora.com.

To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/vkrb0>



MUFON INVADES BAYFRONT

Visitors Treated to an "Out of this World" Experience

By: Cory Vaillancourt

You may not have heard, but, on a recent Saturday, there was a strange sighting at the Bayfront Convention Center.

Partially concealed behind a large black photographic backdrop positioned near the end of the convention center's hallway that would – later that night – serve as the...umm...backdrop of many a McDowell Trojans' regrettable wallet-sized prom photo for lamentful decades to come was an odd sort of creature. Alien to this part of the galaxy, MUFON – the Mutual UFO Network, a nonprofit investigative organization founded in 1969 – had descended on Erie for its first-ever "Eerie UFO Conference."

I decided I had to go check out the landing

I was in search of the bad apples. I hoped to exploit, ridicule, and sensationalize their strange ways, because that stuff sells papers. Even free papers, like this one.

site. I did, after all, call for Erie's economic development plans to incorporate a spaceport at the former GAF site in my regular column, Upfront. I'm also a proponent of draining and paving the bay for the purposes of spacecraft parking. Perhaps some of my developmental suggestions were gaining traction?

Politics aside, the stereotype of the UFO phenomenon as a whole tends to focus on the bad apples: the tinfoil hat-wearing, mom's basement-dwelling, conspiracy theory-hollerin' nerdlings that end up spoiling the whole damn barrel of reasonable, intelligent inquirers.

I was in search of the former – the bad apples. I hoped to exploit, ridicule, and sensationalize their strange ways, because that stuff sells papers. Even free papers, like this one.

Unfortunately for me, John Ventre was there

and was one of those good apples. He's the retired State Security and Public Affairs Director for UPS, and currently serves as the Pennsylvania State Director of MUFON.

"There's no doubt they're real," he said of UFOs. "Let's put it this way – 80 percent of the cases we get can be identified. About 10 percent are people hoaxing us, but then you get that 10 percent of good cases, and probably 3 to 5 percent are real UFOs."

Robin Swope, Pastor at St. Paul's United Church of Christ here in Erie and prominent local paranormal authority, agreed with Ventre. "I know they're real, but what are they? Are they aliens? Are they time travelers? Inter-dimensional? Demonic? Angelic? Who knows. But they are real."

"Eerie" Eric Fargiorgio, a talented artist at Midtown Tattoo also in attendance that day, similarly concurred with Swope and Ventre. "There are too many stories; if you do any kind of research on this, more than an hour's worth, you'll see it's not just bullshit. UFOs? Yeah, definitely real."

Three completely normal people – a retired professional, a man of the cloth, and an artist – all with the same conclusion, and nary a tinfoil hat in sight. Ventre has a background in security and public affairs; Swope has a lifetime of study and devotion to stories of the supernatural; and Fargiorgio has an eye for appearances plus the skill to render them artistically. All are normal, working-class folk whose qualifications lend credence to their beliefs.

But the most highly-qualified apple in the room was the conference's keynote speaker, Stanton Friedman. Born in New Jersey in 1934, Friedman earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in physics from the University of Chicago in the mid-1950s, at a time when that particular school was still ground zero for the then-emerging field of nuclear research.

Upon graduation, Friedman worked as a nuclear physicist for 14 years with such industrial giants as Aerojet General Nucleonics, GE, GM, McDonnell Douglas, TRW, and Westinghouse, where he worked on classified projects including fission- and fusion-powered rockets and aircraft, as well as small nuclear power plants. After becoming interested in UFOs in the late 1950s, Friedman began presenting lectures about them



No little green men, but lots of UFO experts at the MUFON conference, including keynote speaker Stanton Friedman.

in the late 1960s.

Since 1970, Friedman has worked as a full-time professional Ufologist; according to his bio, he's delivered lectures to "more than 600 colleges, and to more than 100 professional groups in 50 states, nine provinces, and 16 countries outside the USA...[and] published more than 80 UFO-related papers." He's also been called upon to present testimony to Congress, and has appeared at the United Nations twice.

"Some UFOs are alien spacecraft; we're dealing with a cosmic Watergate, and there's overwhelming evidence to support both positions," he told me. "My role is to lift the curtain, to get the facts out on the table, and to try to provide some sensible answers to the many questions people have. Man has a long history of assuming he's smarter than he is. It's important for mankind's future to realize we're not at the top of the heap. We like to think we are, but there's alien life all over the place out there, and almost all of it more advanced than we are."

So, on this strange Saturday, I did not find the

apples I was looking for. Okay, there was one older woman sporting a pair of pipe-cleaner antennae, but I got the impression that was daily-wear for her; however, what I really found was a sober, intelligent cross section of Erie listening to a scholarly lecture by a nuclear physicist.

Ventre called the event a success, and pledged that it would return around the same time next year. Maybe, as this event grows, it will become fringier. Maybe, as this event grows, there will be some bad apples for me to mock. But as the stereotypes of the tinfoil hat-wearing, mom's basement-dwelling, conspiracy theory-hollerin' nerdlings rapidly subsided right before my very eyes, I wouldn't count on it.

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[Cont. from 11] years of planning and the meticulous details that have gone into creating the Perry 200 Parade, there's one major thing that can stand in Ray and the Parade Committee's way come May 25.

The weather.
 "We got our shot, we got our date, we just got to hope for the best," Luniewski says when the prospect of Erie's fickle climate is broached. "That's kind of the pitfall of doing an outdoor event. Hopefully the weather cooperates."

He doesn't sound too worried about the prospect of bad weather, although he knows lightning or high winds could mean bad news for the parade. He says there is no backup date for the parade, so while the committee is plenty prepared in case of delays, Mother Nature could swing through with a case of they greys and cancel the event for good. Instead, he's resigned to the fact that Erie's weather will do what it wants – the wishes of humanity be damned – although that doesn't prevent the committee from trying to get a sneak peek at the future.

"In '95 – I kid you not – we went to the almanac, and it was like 'rain, rain, rain, sun, rain, rain, rain,' and the 'sun' date was the day of our parade and we couldn't believe it, but that day, although it was kind of cool, was a sunny day," Michael Fuhrman recalls after I meet him at Under the Clock one warm Thursday evening. "I haven't checked the almanac yet, so you'll have to do that and see what's happening."

The Destination Erie project manager and Parade Committee co-chair is sitting at the bar awaiting a dinner that he's trying to sneak in to his busy schedule. He teamed with Luniewski back in '95 for the bicentennial parade, so it seemed natural for them to team up again 18 years later and volunteer their services along with the rest of the Parade Committee.

"Based on that experience, Ray was the driver, he was the conductor. I provided the resources and helped bring in the specialty units, but Ray was the architect of it," Fuhrman says, setting his fork down on a plate of ahi tuna that recently arrived. "[Jefferson Educational Society President Dr.] Bill Garvey, who was the mastermind behind this whole thing, I would like to call him sort of 'Oz behind the curtain,' when he launched the bicentennial in 1995, he set in motion these types of events, so when he took over the Perry 200, he went back to that moment in '95."

Fuhrman shies away from describing his role, instead focusing on the others involved in the planning of the parade, going as far as to say that without Garvey, there would be no Perry 200. Not to be left out, Fuhrman is sure to shower praise on his co-chair Luniewski, even going so far as to call the May 25 march "Ray's parade." He's just fine with that, as it helps make the Perry 200 Parade a symbol of what Erie can do when provided the chance.

"Ray is a reflection of what the product of Erie can be if given the opportunity to produce," Fuhrman says, jabbing his forefinger into the marble countertop of the bar to emphasize his point. "He's like an unsung hero in a lot of ways, just one of those characters who's unassuming, but when asked to do something for the community, he rises to the occasion and does something that impacts it in a way that business or politics could never do. That's powerful stuff. You think, 'Well, the guy works in maintenance,' but he'll come and put on this huge parade. That's passion. That's love. That's amazing."

For Fuhrman and the other members of the Perry 200 Parade Committee, this event means so much more than your average parade. This is a chance to show just what Erie can do despite what all of the non-believers think. Yes, there will be plenty of people that won't show up and won't cheer on the sidewalks of 12th and State streets when the city blocks off major sections of downtown to celebrate its past. There will even be those among the projected 100,000 Erieites and outside supporters who *will* attend and *will* enjoy the giant balloons and pageantry and *still* not think of the parade as a sign of what Erie can do when given the chance.

However, there will still be people that see this display of grandiosity and be inspired by it, joining the ranks of the Michael Fuhrmans, Ray Luniewskis, and Dan Muccis that keep fighting to make The Flagship City as great as it can possibly be despite all the bumps, bruises, and potholes it has taken along the way.

"You're going to have people on the high end who take civic responsibility and move forward. Then you've got people on the low end who are just going to be jerks," Michael says. "The fight is over the middle. The fight is over trying to get the majority of that middle to move up. Something like this galvanizes the community and inspires it and gives it that injection of momentum. When

"We're still in the arena, taking our knocks and getting hit down, but we're getting back up. GE may leave, but you know what, dammit, we're Erie people and we're going to chug it out."

that opportunity arises like it has in 2013 and you seize it, it reinforces the confidence that the community we're living in is still chugging along and fighting it out. We're still in the arena, taking our knocks and getting hit down, but we're getting back up. GE may leave, but you know what, dammit, we're Erie people and we're going to chug it out."

Erie is a tough town, and its citizens are a tough people. The economy is still down, jobs are being lost, and yes, there are plenty of potholes. But we've fought through it this far and we can continue to do so.

You may have noticed in some of the Reader's recent cover stories that there are people that care about this town and are succeeding within it, whether it be a herd of hip-hoppers that love this town, a contemporary theater group that's rising to the occasion, or a batch of 40 individuals under the age of 40 that show that not all the talent is fleeing in every direction. These are some of the people that embrace our history and are trying to add to it.

"To me, that's life," Fuhrman says, leaning back in his chair. "That's the experience of life, so when Ray's kid gets older, he can say 'My dad did this.' Hopefully that will inspire him to say 'I'm part of this lineage, I've got a calling somewhere.' That's why I do it. That's why we all do it."

For one day, 12th and State streets will be transformed. Gone will be the slow drivers and

blemishes, replaced by a grand celebration that doesn't happen often – the Brigadoon moment of a historic city with much history left to make. However, after the cheers die down and the physical remains of the parade get swept away and the mists of time recede back into the annals of history, the spirit doesn't have to go away. Big things can come our way – we just have to fight for them.

We have seen the future, and it is ours.

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Sudoku

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

		6		5				
	1		3			9	4	
4			2		1			
8		9			4			
				6			8	
	6	4	1		8	2		
5			8		2			
6	9	2						
		3		1				

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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆☆☆

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Fr. month
- 5 Sinbad's bird
- 8 S. Afr. dialect
- 12 Forest ox
- 13 Fiddler crab genus
- 14 Scientific name (suf.)
- 15 Sacred image
- 16 Daughters of the American Revolution (abbr.)
- 17 Gain
- 18 Tenant
- 20 Attic
- 22 Sound perception
- 23 Office of Economic Development (abbr.)
- 24 One of the Seven Hills of Rome
- 28 Joint part
- 32 Father of

Jehoshaphat

- 33 Science class
- 35 Presidential nickname
- 36 Stair post
- 39 Fire basket (torch)
- 42 Month abbr.
- 44 Last Queen of Spain
- 45 Wading bird
- 48 Suitcase
- 52 Firstborn of Benjamin
- 53 Yale student
- 55 Design
- 56 Elbe tributary
- 57 Female ruff
- 58 Death (pref.)
- 59 Eucalyptus secretion
- 60 Row
- 61 Starch (pref.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

W	B	N		A	M	O		A	B	A
B	I	L	E	R	A	S		F	I	L
A	S	E	A	I	R	I	S	R	O	O
A	E	S		T	A	C	E	T		L
			S	T	A	D		R	E	M
P	A	I	R	I	N	G		W	I	T
O	R	N	E		E	A	T		A	I
D	E	G	A	S		P	E	L	O	R
			D	A	S		N	I	U	E
A	G	A		T	E	L	A	E		F
C	A	N	I	S	T	E	R		R	A
C	I	O	N		U	N	E		A	C
	A	N	C		P	A	S		F	E

DOWN

- 1 Metal suit
- 2 Quality (suf.)
- 3 Ger. landscape painter
- 4 Jap.-Amer.
- 5 Waste growth
- 6 Wood sorrel
- 7 Load
- 8 Fencing guard position
- 9 City in Judah
- 10 Rhine tributary
- 11 Penitential season
- 19 Belonging to (suf.)
- 21 At the age of (Lat.)
- 24 Foremost part
- 25 Honshu bay
- 26 Stomach
- 27 Resin
- 29 Nose (pref.)
- 30 Laconian clan group
- 31 Ensnare
- 34 Type size
- 37 Ditchside fortification
- 38 Shelter
- 40 Alfonso's queen
- 41 Salt pond
- 43 Wing (pref.)
- 45 Brother of Cain
- 46 Blue star
- 47 Olive genus
- 49 Same (Lat.)
- 50 Secretary (abbr.)
- 51 Male noble
- 54 Pasture

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
				22			23					
24	25	26				27		28		29	30	31
32					33	34			35			
36			37	38		39		40	41			
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45	46	47					48			49	50	51
52					53	54			55			
56					57				58			
59					60				61			

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A33

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

SEAWALK 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 BISTRO 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.

24 N. Park Row // 455.1072

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

3842 Liberty St. // 864.8702

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