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June 12 - June 25 / Vol. 3 No.12 / ErieReader.com

ERIE READER

CATV AND I AM TV

NEW PROGRAMMING, LOCAL STARS, AND IMPENDING BUDGET CUTS:
THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF ERIE'S PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION

**KEVIN-JOHN
JOBczynski**

**CLIMATE CHANGE
AND LAKE ERIE**

**EMTA BUSES
REROUTED**

**FAST
FASHION**

**"THE SPIRIT
OF ERIE"**

**NAPPY ROOTS
AT THE
CROOKED I**

**ERIE PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS "NEXT
TO NORMAL"**

ALT-J Q&A

**MUSIC, EVENTS,
FASHION, TECH**



FREE



SUMMER SEASON KICK-OFF TONIGHT!

JUN 12 | SOUND CITY (2013) 108 minutes, Rated PG-13.

Dave Grohl (Nirvana, Foo Fighters) directs this documentary about the fabled recording studio Sound City, featuring interviews and performances from iconic musicians.

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JUL 24 | TO THE WONDER (2013)

JUL 31 | KILL LIST (2012)

AUG 07 | THE THIRD MAN (1949)

AUG 14 | THE DEFLOWERING OF EVA VAN END (2013)

AUG 21 | THE HUNT (2013)

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PENNSYLVANIA FRACKING DOCUMENTARY

JUL 17 | TRIPLE DIVIDE (2013) 90 minutes, Rated PG-13.

This documentary explores Public Herald's first investigations into the impacts of shale gas industrial development and how they are handled by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Filmmakers in attendance for VIP party and Q&A Panel

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From the Editors

Donald Draper. Walter White. Daenerys Targaryen. These are the characters we welcome into our lives in high definition to enthrall us, to captivate us, to entertain us, and to distract us from the mundane, the monotony, the struggles, and the challenges of our day-to-day endurance that unfold before us in real definition.

While a few still swear off television and claim what little bit of hipster cred exists for eschewing the glowing rectangles that light up our electric hearths, many find reprieve in becoming lost in the storylines of characters of another time, another place, and other worlds. They're our escape, our entertainment, our connection to something other than us.

But driven by budgets, commercials, and ratings, these stories are far from our own. As much as we revel in losing ourselves in these tales, we're not secretive, chauvinistic Madison Avenue ad men, amoral, cancer-riddled chemistry teachers turned meth cooks, or gorgeous, dragon-wielding conquerors of Westeros.

And reality TV falls short of cap-

turing the "us" in a community. After all, how many of us have a dynasty built around ducks or direct our lives solely on visiting the gym, doing laundry, and getting a fake tan?

So what if the cameras are truly turned on us? And what if we're the ones directing them? What if the community directed and starred in TV? Enter community access television -- something the Erie Reader isn't all that unfamiliar with.

Awhile back we toyed with the idea of a TV show. You may have even caught us once or twice while surfing around. Managing Editor Ben Spегgen would interview writers about what they had contributed to an issue currently on stands. It started small, with Spегgen behind a table and a writer flanking him on each side. There was only two angles, and no one moved around the smallish circular table. Then a cutaway would happen, and suddenly there was a musical guest, first a guy with a guitar off to the side of the table, just out of the first camera's focus, and then second a hard cutaway to a previously recorded bit of a show in a local bar.

Things improved quickly under the guidance of the folks at CATV. The troupe behind ERTV were moved to the studio, and Spегgen posted up behind a desk and guests enjoyed the comfort of a sofa. We even had special effects. And our musical guest was live in the studio. They played three times during that episode, and were still relatively new to the Erie music scene.

That's as far as ERTV went (for the time being), but what came from that is a desire to tell this story. One of the guitarists and singers in that live-in-studio band was Matthew Flowers, whose band Falling Hollywood graced our cover last year when they released their debut album "Set The Table." Since then, the band's been gaining momentum, developing followings in surrounding cities, and is currently working on its second album, less than a year later.

Flowers also showed us he can write more than catchy, thoughtful, and entertaining lyrics and music -- he can write some damn fine stories fit for print here in the Reader. And with that, we bring you his first cover story. It focuses on CATV and I Am TV, and captures the past, present, and future of Erie's public access

television.

Flowers interviews the people behind these stations, the programming and creative direction they explore, and the challenges they face. While one station's been a mainstay in Erie for quite some time, the other is still in uncharted waters. And while one is growing quickly, the other is now facing significant budgetary cuts.

What does this mean for you, for us, for the story of Erie and its community? Those are questions Flowers explores in this character-driven feature of the Matthew Weiners, Vince Gilligans, and George R. R. Martins of Erie's public access universe.

You'll find that, along with a revisiting of climate change and Lake Erie, a look at the rerouting of Erie's buses, a discussion of fair trade and "fast fashion", an interview with hot indie band Alt-J, a profile of Erie celebrity sports artist Kevin-John Jobczynski, previews of the Erie Playhouse's "Next to Normal" and the huge "Spirit of Erie" Pageant, and the upcoming Nappy Roots show at the crooked i.

So stay tuned, Erie, as we continue to bring you the characters that populate our city, the issues and events that matter to us all, and the stories that would make for some great TV.

The "Spirit of Erie" Comes to Life

The Perry 200 Commemoration Continues with this \$200,000-plus Production

By: Ryan Smith

The spirit of nature. The spirit of discovery. The spirit of victory. The spirit of resolve. The spirit of community. The spirit of the future.

That's the stuff "The Spirit of Erie" – a history-making celebration of Erie's storied pasts, its amalgam of presents and its panoply of possible futures – is made of.

And for the Erie Playhouse's creative minds and their all-local cast and crew of 200-plus, bringing Erie's spirit to life means delivering (and, later this month, premiering at the Bayfront Convention Center) the most abounding all-original theatrical spectacle ever to be seen in the Flagship City.

At \$200,000-plus in production costs, the multi-media extravaganza that is "The Spirit" is "truly the biggest thing we have ever produced – and certainly the most costly," says Playhouse Executive Director Almitra Clerkin, who co-wrote the show with Richard Davis (the Playhouse's producing director), her husband the Rev. Shawn Clerkin (who's also directing), and Teri Marshall (the Playhouse's assistant development director); composer Andrew Rainbow penned original music.

"It's huge," says the Rev. Clerkin, "easily the biggest thing ever produced in Erie."

The initial funding to produce the city's biggest-ever show has come from the Perry 200 Commission Board, the Jefferson Educational Society, and a multi-tiered community-sponsorship campaign, says Davis. And with a total of 14,000 seats available (2,000 at each performance) over its six-day run between June 25 and 30, organizers are banking on ticket sales to make all the efforts worthwhile.

"Hopefully, (audiences) will come out," says Davis. "That's the world of show business."

Back in 1963, when city players produced a community pageant commemorating Perry's 150th to the tune of about \$150,000, "a lot of people didn't even have TV," says Davis, "so it was easy for them to wow the masses."

But "audiences today expect more," he says, "(They want) big, spectacular production."

In terms of making that happen, "I think we've succeeded so far," says Davis.

Through six take-your-breath-away segments, the community pageant – a big part of the city's ongoing Perry 200 Commemoration – has been crafted, according to its creators, as a sweeping journey across all things Erie history: A sensational 70-minute ride from pre-civilization and the Eriean natives' first arrival to the subsequent comings of white settlers; colonization and, later,



Dancers Stacey McClure (left) and Jade Burns (center) work on bringing the movement of "The Spirit of Erie" to life with choreographer Kelley Ulmer during a recent practice for Erie Playhouse's biggest-ever production, premiering later this month and one of the main highlights of Erie's Perry 200 Commemoration season.

the great naval Battle of Lake Erie; the advent of the Industrial Age and its impacts on the growing city, as well as tests of its strength; and through to today – and beyond – with celebrations of the city's unique and interwoven diversity and of all that could be its future.

Along with molding hundreds of actors into the one-of-a-kind, history-rich roles "The Spirit" calls for, the mega-sized production also incorporates an array of multi-media auditory and visual

"It's huge. Easily the biggest thing ever produced in Erie."

elements, costume and set changes and more... including flying.

"I'm excited – this'll be the first time I've ever flown in a show," said actress Kelley McDonald, who's taken on the task of physically embodying the "Spirit's" star role.

For the city theater veteran and Erie native, "the character of the 'Spirit' is like Mother Nature, or

a divine essence that binds all of Erie together. She's the original light that created Erie, and (that light is) passed from generation to generation to all of us who love this town.

"She's kind of the heart and soul of this town," says McDonald, and, that said, the role represents "a tremendous responsibility for me" in terms of "accurately portraying who she is... because she could be something different for everybody."

From a production standpoint, bringing the spectacle that is "Spirit" to life is "what we do (with every Playhouse effort), just times 10," says Davis. "It's going to really be something spectacular."

And for now, within the wide circle of people who are making it all happen, "it's a little terrifying" too, he adds.

So far, says Clerkin, "it's been a wonderful and exhausting and anxious journey – we're all hearing and feeling our heartbeats. ...We've been given a huge responsibility, and we want Erie to know we've taken it on full-force."

Echoing Davis' sentiments, Clerkin adds, "That's what we do."

"The Spirit of Erie" runs June 25 (its world-premier opening gala event) through June 30 at the Bayfront Convention Center. For tickets and more details, visit EriePlayhouse.org or call the Playhouse box office at 454.2852.

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NEWS of the WEIRD

By: Chuck Shepherd

The Food and Drug Administration proposed recently to limit the quantity of tiny "mites" that could occupy imported cheese, even though living, crawling mites are a feature desired by aficionados. ("Cheese is absolutely alive!" proclaimed microbiologist Rachel Dutton, who runs the "cheese laboratory" at Harvard University.) In fact, cheese is home to various molds, bacteria and yeasts, which give it flavor, and sellers routinely use blowers to expel excessive critters, but the FDA now wants to limit them to 6 bugs per square inch. However, according to a May report on NPR, lovers of some cheeses, especially the French Mimolette, object, asserting both an indifference to the sight of mites creeping around -- and a fear of taste-loss (since the mites burrow into the hunk, aerating it and extending the flavor). [NPR, 5-11-2013]

Timothy Adams, 24, was charged with home invasion in May in Gardner, Mass., but only after resident Michael Salame slammed him into the floor. Salame is 70 years old, has had eight heart stents, and is forced to wear special coverings on his arms at night because of nerve damage -- yet Adams apparently went down easily and at one point offered Salame "thousands of dollars" to let him up before police arrived. [WBZ-TV (Boston), 5-9-2013]

Ironies

Energy West, the natural gas supplier in Great Falls, Mont., had tried recently to raise awareness of leaks by distributing scratch-and-sniff cards to residents, demonstrating gas's distinctive, rotten-egg smell. In May, workers cast aside several cartons of leftover cards, which were hauled off and disposed of by crushing -- which released the scent and produced a massive blanket of odor over downtown Great Falls, resulting in a flurry of panicked calls to firefighters about gas leaks. [Great Falls Tribune, 5-8-2013]

Well, Of Course! (1) The Ypsilanti, Mich., City Council voted in May on a resolution that would have required the members always to vote either "yes" or "no" (to thus reduce the recent, annoying number of "abstain" votes). The resolution to ban abstaining failed because three of the seven members abstained. (2) Doctors told a newspaper in Stockholm in April that at least one of Sweden's premier modeling agencies, looking for recruits, had been caught passing out business cards adjacent to the country's largest eating-disorder clinic, forcing the clinic to change its rules on patients taking outside walks. [Associated Press via WHTM-TV (Harrisburg, Pa.), 5-23-2013] [The Local (Stockholm), 4-18-2013]

The United Nations Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral forum on arms control

agreements, was chaired beginning May 27th (until June 23rd) by Iran, which, for that time, at least, had the awkward job of overseeing resolutions on nuclear non-proliferation, which the country is widely thought to be ignoring. [Fox News, 5-13-2013]

Compelling Explanations

Unuclear on the Concept: (1) Ruben Pavon was identified by surveillance video in Derry, N.H., in April snatching a grill from the front porch of a thrift store. Pavon explained to police that the store's name, "Finders Keepers," indicated to him that the objects were free for the taking and admitted that he had previously taken items from the porch. (2) In May, Los Angeles police bought back 1,200 guns in one of the periodic U.S. buy-back programs, but they declined to accept the pipe bomb a man said he wanted to sell. "This is not a pipe-bomb buyback," said Chief Charlie Beck. "Pipe bombs are illegal ... " The man was promptly arrested. [WMUR-TV (Manchester, N.H.), 5-1-2013] [KCBS-TV (Los Angeles, 5-6-2013)]

Too Much Information: John Casey, 51, was caught by security staff at an Asda supermarket in Washington, England last October after allegedly stealing a slab of beef. He was convicted in May even after offering the compelling explanation that he had concealed the beef underneath other purchases not to avoid paying for it, but only because the sight of the raw meat gave him "flashbacks" to his dead grandmother, who had passed away of a blood clot when Casey was a child. [Sunderland Echo, 5-23-2013]

The Litigious Society

Keith Judd filed a lawsuit in Iowa in May, in essence to invalidate the 2012 election by having President Obama officially declared a Kenyan and not an American. Judd filed the papers from a federal penitentiary in Texas, where he is serving 17 years for threatening a woman he believed to be a "clone" of the singer Stevie Nicks, because Nicks (or the clone) had tried to sabotage his home improvement company. (Bonus Fact: In the 2012 Democratic presidential primary in West Virginia, Judd, a write-in candidate, defeated President Obama in nine counties and lost the state by only 33,000 votes.) [Des Moines Register, 5-23-2013]

Edward Kramer, co-founder of the annual Atlanta fantasy-character convention Dragon*Con, was arrested in 2000 for allegedly having sex with underage boys, but has yet to stand trial in Georgia because he has engineered a never-ending set of legal delays -- if not because of his version of Orthodox Judaism that limits his diet and activities, then it his allegedly poor health. ("As soon as he puts on an orange jumpsuit," said prosecutor Danny Porter, "he becomes an invalid," requiring a wheelchair and oxygen tank.) In 2011, after managing to get "house arrest," he violated it by being caught with an underage boy. Lately, according to a May Atlanta Journal-Constitution report, he files an average of three demands per day from his Gwinnett County, Ga., lockup, each requiring painstaking review before being rejected. Kramer still owns about one-third of Dragon*Con, whose current officials are mortified that they cannot expel a man they consider a child molester. [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 5-28-2013]

Street Corner SOAPBOX

Climate Change and Lake Erie

By: Jay Stevens

Last issue, I wrote about several threats to the environmental health of Lake Erie. Among them was climate change. But here's the thing: climate change is the biggest threat of them all.

For starters, climate change influences or even causes some of the problems afflicting the lake. Climate change creates the conditions in which algae blooms thrive. And warming lake waters make Lake Erie more hospitable for invasive species. But these are the things we know about during the early onset of climate change. What awaits us in the future, we don't know. And that's what should really concern us.

So what are we doing to curb climate change?

During his Inaugural Address this January, President Barack Obama promised to tackle climate change. "Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science," he said, "but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires and crippling drought and more powerful storms."

To be a skeptic on climate change as a public official requires an obliviousness that borders on recklessness. But then, climate change skepticism is a political position, not a scientific one. Skeptics question climate change, not based on the science, but because it's considered a *liberal* issue.

And yet, here we are, with no climate change legislation on the Congressional table. No funding for climate change initiatives in the most recent budget. Has he gone back on his promises? Is climate change reform dead in the White House?

According to Grist's David Roberts, maybe not. In a post on the environmental website's blog, he noted that the "social cost of carbon" -- the amount of harm, in dollars, that a ton of carbon emissions does -- as calculated by the federal government, increased by 60 percent recently.

"This will, all things being equal, increase by 60 percent the amount of carbon mitigation that can



Tropical Pete

Climate change skeptics ignore science at their own peril.

be economically justified," wrote Roberts. "That's a big deal."

It is a big deal, especially because it represents how the Obama administration has been forced to fight climate change: through regulatory change.

The administration has enacted a number of these changes, from increasing fuel-efficiency standards and appliance-efficiency standards and, of course, the tax credits for improving energy efficiency in homes across the U.S. And now the EPA is looking at regulations that would cap emissions for existing power plants -- a huge step towards reducing carbon emissions, given that almost 40 percent of *all* national carbon emissions comes from coal-burning power plants.

So, why is this a big deal? Because it's not being done through Congress. Ever since a carbon cap-and-trade bill flopped in Congress in 2010, legislators have avoided climate change bills like the plague.

Why? Because climate change skeptics wield too much power.

Here's the thing: There really is no evidence that climate change *isn't* happening, and that human activity *isn't* contributing. There's really no competing theory explaining the readily observable and rapid spike in global temperatures. On the other hand, there's *overwhelming* evidence that global warming is happening, and is here.

Heck, global warming already has had discernible effects on our environment, and economic consequences for the American taxpayer. In the West, for example, federal costs for fighting large

er and hotter fires -- spurred by climate change -- have increased by *billions*. And Lake Erie algae blooms adversely affect fishing and tourism, costing the region an incalculable amount.

That is, to be a skeptic on climate change as a public official requires an obliviousness that borders on recklessness. But then, climate change skepticism is a political position, not a scientific one. Skeptics question climate change, not based on the science, but because it's considered a *liberal* issue.

I can't imagine a worse response to our generation's greatest challenge -- and maybe the greatest challenge to have ever faced the species. We need everyone involved in this problem. And I don't particularly care how we go about fixing it. Heck, if there's a conservative free-market solution, I'm all ears.

Unfortunately that's not where we're at right now. While Obama's policies -- combined with the recession and cheap natural gas -- have reduced carbon emissions (and by over 10 percent since 2005!), it's been done in stealth mode, by regulations and through federal agencies. But in addition to that, I think we need a very public discussion, and a very public solution. ■

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THE WAY I SEE IT

City Buses Rerouted, Texting and Driving

By: Rebecca Styn

Recently, the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA) decided to reroute buses from State Street between 10th and Fourth streets. By the time you are reading this, northbound buses will be using Peach Street and southbound buses will be using French Street to serve passengers on those six blocks.

The decision appears to have been made without consulting those who actually ride The E. And while, oftentimes this type of top-down decision makes sense, when the issue could potentially present a safety hazard, I think those that utilize the services should at least have an opportunity to voice their concerns – concerns such

The decision appears to have been made without consulting those who actually ride The E.

as the safety and well being of others. Just as a starting point, statistically speaking, the number of crimes committed in areas that aren't as heavily trafficked are higher than those that are more congested.

Seeing as Peach and French streets only provide one way routes and French Street isn't considered as main a thoroughfare as State, this may pose a serious threat to the safety of our cit-

izens. Children and elderly and those traveling alone come to mind first.

The excuse to ease congestion on State Street will only bring more congestion to Peach and French streets since they operate one-way traffic. On State, buses pull into designated areas on the parking side, in front of shelters (that presumably would have to be moved, and at the very least, torn down), leaving the lanes open for traffic – moving in both directions. But on Peach and French, there is no room for traffic to pull over to the side.

What it comes down to more than anything is that EMTA doesn't fully detail the causes of the congestion. I will be the first to admit that I don't utilize our public transportation system. Utilizing public transportation is seemingly better from a carbon footprint standpoint, but for some, it doesn't provide the ease and convenience that owning a vehicle does. However, many people do not have that option – or of their own volition opt for public transportation – and having the option of adequate public transportation is more of a necessity than a luxury.

And when those people don't have the option of owning their own car or make the choice to rely on public transportation, I think it's up to us as a community to do our best to offer what is in the best – and safest – interest of the entire community. Whatever the ultimate decision, the community – particularly those directly affected – should be part of the conversation and not just shifted over a block, out of sight, without being welcomed into the conversation about them.

In general terms, change is good for all of us, but the powers to be haven't really given us detailed reasoning for their actions – and until then, I'm just not sure the ends justify the means.

On the road, off the phone

Speaking of transportation... it's summer and school's out. For younger drivers, this break means more time behind the wheel. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), car crashes (and related injuries) happen most often between Memorial Day and Labor Day. And in the last decade, over 68,000 teens have died in car crashes.

However, an even bigger concern is distracted driving. Although all of us know the dangers associated with texting and driving, 40 percent of American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger. And this goes for all ages.

To put this into perspective, sending or receiving a text message averts a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds.

That's the equivalent of driving – at 55 mph – the length of an entire football field... blind.

Despite the risks, the majority of teen and adult drivers ignore cell phone driving restrictions. However, it really is a dangerous game of Russian roulette. Even if you think you are completely cognitive of everything going on around you, the truth is, driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent. So, even when you think you've "got it totally handled," you don't – you only have it 63 percent – less than two-thirds – handled.

So, this summer, put the cell phone aside when driving. You don't know whose life you'll be saving otherwise – and you don't want to have to find out.

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

To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erindr.com/42fb2>



TECH WATCH

Does technology provide the motivation to make you healthier?

By: Brennan Donnelly, Epic WebStudios

Oftentimes, technology has been given a bad rap as an enabler of laziness. Tech activities such as video games and television offer countless alternatives to playing outside or being physically active. But it comes down to how you use the growth of technology, and right now, it is in a direction to leverage these advances towards motivating people and pushing them to get more activity out of their day. So with summer beginning to show its face here in Erie, take advantage of how these technologies can help you to enjoy the beautiful weather – and stay, or get, healthy.

Currently there are many new activity-tracking bracelets and pods being released – often coined as "fitness bands." These devices are most commonly a rubber bracelet that contains motion sensors and an LED display. The devices are typically worn on the wrist and are able to track a person's steps, sleep, activities, and calories burned. The current best-selling and leading models include the Nike+ Fuel Band, Jawbone UP, or the Fitbit Flex.

Depending on the version you chose, all of the information that is collected is either wirelessly (via Bluetooth) or manual synced to a computer and/or smartphone. For most models, this allows you to monitor your progress throughout the day and your amount and quality of sleep throughout the night by simply checking your phone.

Having all of this data neatly organized at your fingertips does a few things. First, it promotes users to set goals, and by having definite goals, a person might be more likely to strive to reach that point.

Additionally users are granted the immediate gratification of the visual results available at anytime so they are able to monitor their progress in real

time. For example, if a user is finishing up dinner and notices that he or she is only 50 steps (or points depending on which tracker used) away from a goal, or setting a new record, it is more likely that he or she might run up and down the stairs a few times rather than plopping down on the couch to watch some television in the evening.

Another key element to these activity trackers is that they provide the opportunity to add social accountability. With the applications that power these devices, a user is able to search for and add his or her friends and propose challenges and competitions. It also offers the option to publicly display activity, which may help to serve

It comes down to how you use the growth of technology, and right now, it is in a direction to leverage these advances towards motivating people and pushing them to get more activity out of their day.

as a reminder of accountability. Personally, I know that if both my friends and I had these, we would implement ridiculous challenges based around who can take the most steps in a day, or who could burn more calories.

Another feature that drew me specifically to the the Fitbit Flex is that it plays well with other apps. I can associate it with my "MapMyRun" app (among others such as "endomondo" and "My Fitness Pal") and this would enable me to compare my tracked activity alongside the speed and distance of my run after a workout.

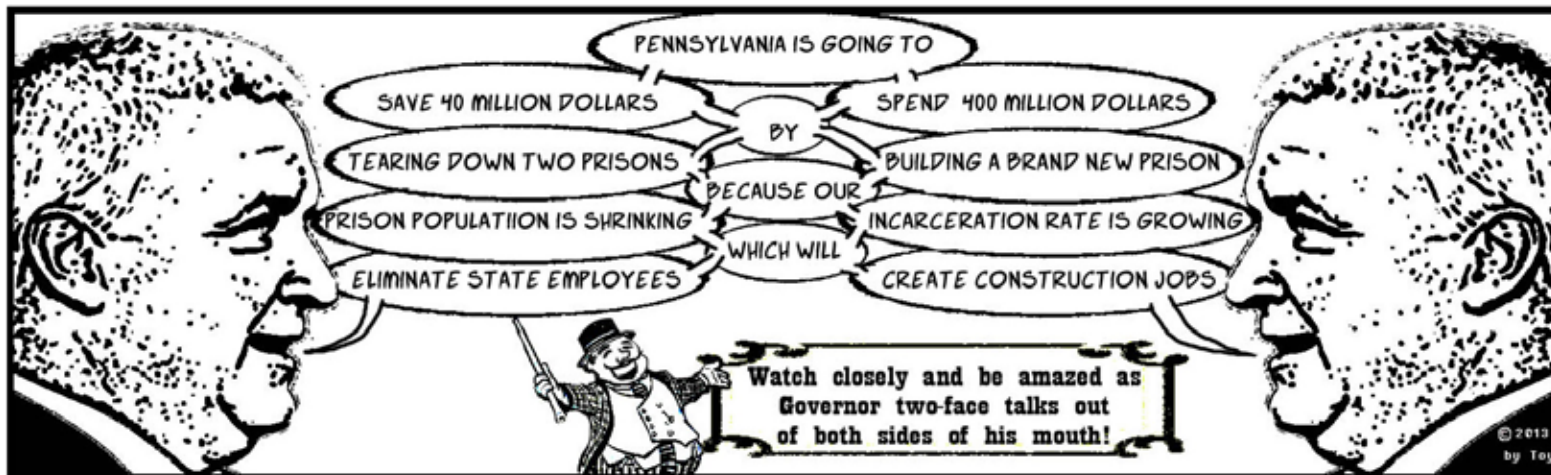
After doing some research on this fast-growing tech segment and asking some friends about their experiences with the different devices, it has sparked my interest and I now even intend to pick up one of these trendy little bands to help push my fitness to the next level (though my desired model is currently on backorder). Now that summer is upon us, I encourage you to do the same. At a minimum, it should serve as a conversation piece when people ask about that cool little bracelet.

Brennan Donnelly can be contacted at Epic@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erindr.com/36xb6>



JUST TOYIN' WITCHA

By: B. Toy



SAY NO TO FAST FASHION

Finding an Alternative to the Junk Food Style

By: Leslie McAllister

In the wake of the current building collapse in Bangladesh – more than 1,100 factory workers died in April 24's Rana Plaza garment factory complex collapse – everyone's lips have been abuzz with the current catch phrase "fast fashion," a term that has hovered in the fashion realm for a while, which has now become a household name.

In layman's terms, fast fashion describes clothing produced quickly to meet the demands of a trendy fashion market. Fingers are mostly pointed at the larger retailers, like Zara, H&M, Topshop, Forever 21, and Target, which sell low-cost, stylish goods that appeal to the masses. These larger commercial outlets taunt and grab their consumer by using shiny, pretty words, like Karl Lagerfeld, Kate Moss, Jimmy Choo, Rodarte, Jason Wu, and (sigh) Missoni, to lure fashion addicts into this socially irresponsible web.

Fret not, my little fashion mavens – you can stay away from the bright, glamorous strobe light and still maintain your chic. But like any diet, it will take some tweaking. Let's call it counting your fashion calories.

First take stock of your closet – yes, not just the clean clothes teeming out of the laundry basket – your *actual* closet where clothes hang. Look again in there before you buy another dress for your 15th wedding of the summer. I bet you have something that will work just fine with some new accessories.

Take the classic LBD and add different accouterments. Drown yourself in turquoise and silver for a boho day wedding or take that black dress to Fifth Avenue and throw on scads of diamonds and strands of pearls a la



Leslie McAllister

Dave and Diane Nieratko outside the new Grasshopper location

Audrey Hepburn for an evening ceremony.

That classic shift can add miles to something you already have before you even think of tossing or replacing it. Yet if you must splurge, visit your local thrift and consignment shops and try to shop locally.

Speaking of local businesses, I sat down with Dave and Diane Nieratko in their new Grasshopper shop, located at 2818 W. Eighth St, to chat about Fair Trade and sustainable clothing. Diane read a recent article online, and she was astounded to find out that since the '80s, women own four times

as many clothes.

"They are filling up landfills," Diane explains of the recent increase in wardrobes, as Dave sat across from her in the back office of their new location.

"It's the demands on the market; there are more seasons now," she continues, fervidly. "It used to just be Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer. Now there's inter-seasons, like pre-fall, holiday, resort/cruise. This requires a lot of man hours – like 14 hours a day in some situations."

To counteract this, Dave and Diane choose products that are Fair Trade certified. This means there's a global

effort in helping countries with skills that benefit their communities. The black and white definition is this: "A trading partnership that seeks equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to and securing the rights of marginalized producers and workers," as told by FINE, an association of the main Fair Trade networks.

"We sell Zulugrass beads, which benefit the Maasai men and women in Kenya. We also order from SERRV, a Fair Trade and nonprofit organization to eradicate poverty by providing opportunity to artisans and farmers," Diane tells me sitting up in her seat.

"Another great thing about Fair Trade is the connection to the culture. It's not just another item made in China. It has a story, authenticity, a heart," Dave says about the benefits of buying consciously.

What does buying Fair Trade mean for the farmer and artisan? Fair Trade USA explains it like this: "Funds are specifically designated for social, economic, and environmental developmental projects. A democratic system is in place where each community determines and votes on how the earned funds will be used." The website continues: "The agreement enlivens developing countries, relieves exploitation, and promotes environmental sustainability."

As far as our abuzz lips go, the stone tossed into the river of tragedy in Bangladesh has caused a ripple effect. This reaction has birthed the Bangladesh Safety Agreement. But the scary thing is 14 North American retailers have chosen to not sign the agreement, which calls for a five-year commitment from retailers to conduct safety inspections of factories and pay up to \$500,000 per year towards safety improvements.

So here's who they are: Walmart, Gap, Macy's, Sears/Kmart, JC Penney's, North Face, Target, Kohl's, Cato Fashions, Carter's, Nordstrom, American Eagle, The Children's Place, and Foot Locker.

Here's a few who have signed: H&M,

Benetton, Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfinger, and Abercrombie & Fitch.

Surprising, eh? So when shopping, take a stance: know how much is enough, know from where your clothing comes, and have a plan for the lifetime of the article. In other words, think beyond the rack and shop informed since even the smallest article of clothing can have a global effect.

Want to know more about this topic? Check out Elizabeth L. Cline's "Overdressed: The Shockingly High Price of Cheap Fashion."

Grasshoppers' Dave and Diane share why Fair Trade is a win-win for all and fast fashion is a thing of the past.

Through buying Fair Trade products you will:

- Gain a connection to the culture
- Ensure authenticity and craftsmanship of an item
- Not be supporting an operation that exploits its employees
- Support a livable wage for a skilled artisan
- Become more socially conscious

Sustainable ways to think about fashion:

- Buy classic pieces that won't go out of style by saying 'no' to fads and trends
- Consider purchasing clothing that uses recycled materials or organic fabrics – cotton, bamboo, hemp, recycled silk
- Trade clothes with friends or host a clothing swap party
- Donate to your local thrift shop
- Buy vintage or secondhand goods

Visit Grasshopper in two locations: 2518 Peach St. and 2818 W. Eighth St. next to Joe Root's.

Leslie McAllister can be contacted at lMcAllister@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @ShopJuJus. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirrd.com/ur6oz>



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CATV and I Am TV

New Programming, Local Stars, and Impending Budget cuts: The past, present, and future of Erie's Public Access Television

By: *Matthew Flowers*

The channel button is soft on the remote; the baseless arrows that point in two simple directions – up and down – are worn from obsessive surfing; the common couch potato's eyes turn bloodshot, the whites partitioned with red cracks like a cold marble floor; exhausted pupils dilate in response to commercial-break cliffhangers and constrict back again as the fleeting transitions between sales pitches and stories carry on.

Television is intoxicating. It fills a void in everyday life by letting its viewers live vicariously through their beloved sitcoms. High definition is clearer than a crystal glass, making sports shows, action movies, and nature documentaries look like they're occurring right outside the illuminated ever-changing window. When we can't laugh in our own lives, we search for a segment that'll draw our lips into a crescent, when we lose our small daily battles, we look for a program that will empower us, and when we're sad, we find a show that'll let our remaining tears seep into our shirt sleeves. But in all our efforts to fill this void, we're sitting in silence on our life-draining thrones, subconsciously pleading for a voice in all the commercialized chaos of cable television.

The content of a citizen's message is important, but what is more important is that each individual has the freedom and opportunity to vocalize these words – be it a sermon, a satire, or service announcement – if their heart's desire is to express such a point. While the First Amendment does not restrict our speech (at least not entirely), we can't expect to demand a time slot on television – in the midst of Fox News, ESPN, etc. – to transmit these thoughts. Many television stations are like immense audio-visual troughs; they aim to feed as much mental mush as they can, weighing us down until we can't move when the commercials hold us hostage. It's about money, access – and most of us can't afford it nor have the connections. Commercial stations control us, whereas community stations liberate us, allowing us to become our own chefs with our own ingredients – they just provide the utensils.

If you're willing to learning the basic recipes and cook for yourself, the guys at CATV can teach you how to serve it – at least while the kitchen doors are still open. Running below a flock of black bird's feet, through a barrage of braided cable lines, your message can reach every TV in the City of Erie. Whether you want to Bi-



Scott Jones, network president, for I Am TV, started the new local station, which currently broadcasts in Erie and Crawford counties, earlier this year.

ble thump, talk politics, chat senior-citizen living, or highlight the Erie Arts, CATV is the heart that helps pump the public's message through those wire veins loud and... well, standard definition, clear.

Community Access Television is "an independent, nonprofit corporation authorized by the City of Erie to administer the public access channel on Time Warner Cable Channel 2," according to the organization's website, CATVerie.org. The studio is located just outside downtown Erie at 142 W. 12th St. where you'll see a small, white building, highlighted in neon-green trim, sporting a sign with a winking – or possibly wincing – yellow cat, its tail high in the air, like an antenna,

backed with three purple letters reading: C-A-T. Coincidentally, the light, knotty pine, wood paneling in CATV's offices has an uncanny resemblance to the set of the world's most famous public access television show, "Wayne's World." Stepping through CATV's doors is kind of like stepping into a time machine, except you only step back into the '90s.

Bob Lechner, the executive director of CATV says the essential mission of their station is to, "empower community voices and visions." Without any pussy footing around, it's a way for the public to speak out. "In many cases we're serving an underserved population," Bob continues. "I like to think that we're an outlet; [CATV] is

a safety valve, it's a voice for people that might express themselves in not very healthy ways." His hope is that individuals will realize they can have a presence in the community without having to make it known through destructive actions.

CATV is a community resource. For \$45 you can become a member of the studio, and after taking a few training classes, you can gain access to lights, cameras, editing software, and most importantly, broadcasting equipment. Once you know the inner-workings of the studio, you're free to start producing television shows for public access.

While most of the producers write shows suitable from all audiences, the FCC has granted

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Safe Harbor Hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. for those who want to craft a racier script, or for those live shows that'll attract loud mouth callers, such as "The Alley's" — the most recently aired segment to use Safe Harbor Hours — where the live calls went uncensored. Surprisingly, as of this article being written, there are no productions on CATV that have been banished to the late night because of adult content.

The rules are minimal at CATV: As long as you give them content to broadcast, you can use their equipment to speak your mind. But if the show insinuates and advocates overthrowing the government, however, or is slanderous or libelous, or patently obscene, it may have to be reviewed by the staff. After edits — generally — the show can be aired again in their revised form.

The station broadcasts 24/7. The channel's range of content is a vast spectrum from church groups to movie critiques, senior living, storm chasing, opinions on hydrofracturing, and puppet shows involving nonsensical Internet movies about cats and wolves selling Old Spice. There isn't much you can't see on CATV, and this is where Bob finds the passion for his job.

"It's the free speech aspect of things," he shares. "We don't even really preview anything that goes on. We're not supposed to."

But what specifically can't be in a program are commercials.

Because there are no commercials on Public Access Television, 95 percent of CATV's income is acquired through grants from the cable franchise and funding from the City of Erie. But a new cable franchise is being negotiated with Time Warner Cable and the city. Now, CATV's finances are in jeopardy.

A franchise is simply an agreement between a city and a cable provider. In return for the cable company running lines through the city, Erie takes a 5 percent fee, and one-fifth of that fee goes to Public Access television.

But the city has fallen on budgetary hard times and has recently informed CATV that there may not be consistent funding for their studio. There was a discussion with City Council on June 5 about the new franchise ordinates, which could eliminate almost \$250,000 from CATV's annual budget. However, the "discussion" was glazed over, demeaning CATV funding to a mere mention in the meeting. Coming up, though, is a public hearing, which is to be held on June 19,

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when a second — possibly refigured — reading of the contract will be given, but more likely, it'll just be a public signing of the new contract.

"We know the city is hurting in their budgeting, we know they're losing their tax base in terms of ways to generate revenue, but truly we're here for the citizens of Erie," Bob says, leaning forward in his folding chair. And over the last 24 months, CATV has managed to support

over 45 nonprofit organizations including Africa 6000 International, The Achievement Center, Community Health Net, Erie Art Museum, and Erie Homes for Children and Adults. "We promote the city," Bob finishes, gazing at the dated wood paneling in his office.

In late May, during the negotiation process, City Council alluded to a new plan that works on a year-to-year basis. In the coming years, it is probable that Bob will have to annually ask for funding and justify CATV's inclusion into the city's budget. "In a year when they may choose to cut us significantly, it almost smacks of censorship, maybe we said or did something that they didn't like." Bob says with the future seemingly in mind. In the wisdom of the 1991 franchise act, the city had to set aside this funding for community access television, separating finances from free speech, limited the chances of such a situation to occur.

What's more is that Time Warner Cable has decided it would not award grants for CATV without creating a new line item on each cable customer's receipt, which would state where this

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Jessica Yochim

Administrative Coordinator Jacob Bartko (left) and Information Systems Technician DJ Barker pose on the set of CATV.

extra money is going. That doesn't sound too bad, right? However, Mayor Joe Sinnott and City Council agreed it would be wrong for Time Warner Cable to make this a new line item, as it would be objectionable for cable subscribers in the city of Erie to see a 15 cent increase on the bill. Meanwhile, "The average cable customer in the United States paid \$81 per month for television services in the year 2012," Bob says, offering the number provided by the Cable Television Association in an exhausted kind of disbelief.

But there is still another option for funding. CATV could begin underwriting shows.

Underwriting is what you see on PBS or WQLN, "This program is brought to you by..." is not considered commercial content. However, Bob is worried they'll have to ask producers to find underwriting for their own programs. "There is going to be less and less desire to underwrite programs that are in standard definition," Bob explains. "[They] don't look as good because they're made with the 1991 vintage gear that we have." And underwriters want warm, fuzzy, high-definition content – something CATV can only produce if they can achieve funding.

No grants from the cable company means no new equipment – and even more vital, no funding from the city means no fuel for operations. Moreover, like antique cars, these obsolete electronics are expensive to repair, except in the end, the car gets a shiny coat of paint and a "classic" or "vintage" label while the cameras still produce a pixelated picture.

"All our stuff we keep running with spit and baling wire like Scotty Star Trek," Bob says, with a laugh. For those of you who don't know, "Scotty" is the engineer aboard the Enterprise in

the show "Star Trek." If CATV were a starship, DJ Barker, the Information Systems Technician would be Montgomery Scott, fixing everything from the warp drive to the subatomic scan in the force field.

DJ stumbled into CATV in the late '90 during some of the darkest years of his life. "Previous to working with CATV, I was pretty much a suicidal shut-in. I didn't have a direction in life... I was becoming a recluse... a hermit," DJ admits, reminiscing on his days devoid of natural light. But the idea of having a voice was a beacon for him to come out from within his gloomy refuge he'd fortified. His drive to broadcast forced him to unlock his doors, pull open his shades, see some daylight, and reunite with society.

Before working for CATV, he'd work his third-shift janitorial job and edit in the studio during the day. "I started as a member, became an employee, and they'll probably bury me under this place," DJ says in a laugh. He has been working with CATV since 2006, and as a self-proclaimed jack-of-all-trades, DJ labors to keep things running smoothly. In the midst of all the repairs, from that busted warp drive to the glitch in the subatomic scan – his essential tasks are to help pilot this Erie Enterprise by ensuring there is content to be broadcasted and make sure the programs make it on the air.

"I decided that I wanted to put something on [CATV] to try to tell my story, which at the time I didn't even know I had a story," DJ says. "I just wanted people to see something different."

To break up the monotony of some stuffy scripture readings, Bible babble, and God talk, he began producing a puppet show called "The Mister Bear Today Show" to tell [Cont. on 20]

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If We Were You...

WEDNESDAY 6.12

FILM Kick-off Party featuring "Sound City"

FILM at the Erie Art Museum kicks off their summer season with a kick-off party featuring the Dave Grohl-directed documentary "Sound City." The documentary has been garnering lots of buzz since its debut at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. The Erie Reader-sponsored event will also highlight the upcoming season. Show up early for food and drinks.

When: 6 p.m.
Where: Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St.
Contact: facebook.com/FILMErieArtMuseum

THURSDAY 6.13

Erie Downtown Partnership Block Party

Downtown Erie is the ideal place to be on sum-

mer Thursdays. Food, drinks, and live music from The Romantic Era and Money Shot should make for a great night this Thursday. Sullivan's Pub is where the festivities will be located, so it's time to head downtown and unwind -- after all, the weekend's almost here!

When: 6 to 10:30 p.m.
Where: 301 French St.
Contact: 455.3743

Chasing Moira w/ Falling Hollywood

We're not quite sure why Moira is being chased and Hollywood is falling, but when you got two bands this good coming together, it really doesn't matter. The breezy, Dave Matthews Band-tinged Chasing Moira and the whiskey-splashed folk-rock of Falling Hollywood come together for a Sherlock's show that will make Thursday night feel alright.

When: 9 p.m.
Where: Sherlock's, 508 State St.
Contact: 453.760

FRIDAY 6.14

"A Bench In The Sun"

Erie Station Dinner Theatre hosts this comedy about two elderly gents in a retirement home that sit on a bench and bicker all day. Now, the retirement community is in risk of being demolished, and they have to prevent this from happening. So whether young or old, pull up a seat in the theater tonight and see if these gents can save the theater.

When: 7 p.m.
Where: 4940 Peach St.
Contact: 864.2022

"The Diary of Anne Frank"

Relive this emotional and thought-provoking classic about eight people hiding from Nazis during World War II, as An All Act Theatre showcases its talented youth performers. Admission is \$10 per person and \$7 for students and seniors. This should be both an enjoyable performance and a realistic reminder of the harsh realities of the Nazi occupation, all told through the world's most famous diary.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: 652 W. 17th St.
Contact: 450.8553

SATURDAY 6.15

Fossils, T.J. Borden, and Alex Wilson

What's better than having one experimental musician play for you? Having two! And what's better than having two experimental musicians play for you? Having three! And what's better than... well, you catch our drift, so check out Basement Transmissions tonight when they host Canadian improv jazz/noise/psyche monsters Fossils, Buffalo solo cellist T.J. Borden, and Albion noise-master Alex Wilson, as well as some potential guests to be added later.

When: 7 p.m.
Where: Basement Transmissions, 1501 State St.
Contact: basement-transmissions.webs.com

The Final Clue

At this special event at the Watson-Curtze mansion, the Erie County Historical Society will take you back to the 1920s. Teams of 6-8 will partake in solving a murder mystery, much like Clue. Dressing up is optional, but most will arrive wearing clothes from the era. Single tickets are \$50 and team tickets are \$250. After party tickets are \$20.

When: 8 p.m.
Where: 356 W. Sixth St.
Contact: 454.1813

The Lower Eastside Connection CD Release Party

Local hippie-hoppers The Lower Eastside Connection have been repping their Erie pride since their inception, so now it's our time to return the favor. In honor of their new CD, The LEC will be hosting a party for you hip-hop, funk, and rock fans out there, so get out and support our local scene.

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

SUNDAY 6.16

Daniel Ellsworth & The Great Lakes w/ Looka Looka Looka

With Daniel Ellsworth & The Great Lakes returning to the crooked i yet again, it's probably safe to say they've come to like our town, which is good, because there's plenty to like about the Nashville, Tenn. band. The quartet's 2011 release "Civilized Man" was named to Amazon's Top 100 Albums of the Year list, with catchy-as-hell track "Shoe Fits" landing at their No. 7 track of 2011, so this bands got the goods for a Sunday night out on State Street.

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

MONDAY 6.17

Sounds of Summer concert series kicks off

We talk all the time about how much there is to do in Erie in the summer, and for most people that's true. For some, possibly some members of our senior community, many of these events may be a bit much. To you, we say head over to Saint Mary's Home East tonight and enjoy the sounds of the Gem City Jazz Ensemble. This series of free concerts will take place at parks throughout the city, so grab a blanket and some chairs and go enjoy a summer night out in Erie.

When: 7 p.m.
Where: Saint Mary's East, 607 E. 26th
Contact: 814.870.1234

TUESDAY 6.18

SeaWolves vs. New Britain Rock Cats

Wolves versus cats? We're pretty sure we know who'll win this one, even if the cats are a-rockin'. But what we are absolutely positive of though is 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



- Thu. June 13** **Chasing Moira**
- Fri. June 14** **Whiplash, Beyond Silence, and Numbskull**
- Sat. June 15** **Renegades of Funk**
- Thu. June 20** **Kevlar, 86 to Nowhere, and Paradox Please**
- Fri. June 21** **Drunk in Memphis & French Kiss**
- Sat. June 22** **Icarus Witch**
- Thu. June 27** **Sherlock's / Molly's Summer Block Party**

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

WEDNESDAY 6.19

Colton Harper Quartet CD Release Party

Colton Harper of the multi-platinum selling band Rusted Root brings his quartet to PACA for the release of his new LP, Fools Resolution. Harper draws musical influences from is world travels, including such places as Brazil, West Africa, and Europe. Tickets are \$10.

When: 7 p.m.
Where: PACA, 1505 State St.
Contact: paca1505.com

THURSDAY 6.20

Boom Bap: Summer Edition All-Ages Hip-Hop Show

Boom Bap returns to help dole out a whole bunch of hip-hop goodness. The all-ages show is set to stuff the stage with performers, bringing in Buffalo, N.Y.-based rappers Mad Dukez and Fresh Kils, Cleveland's Muamin Collective, Erie's own Ghost the Ill Figure, plus even more out of state talent.

When: 6 p.m.
Where: Basement Transmissions, 1501 State St.
Contact: basement-transmissions.webs.com

FRIDAY 6.21

Lake Erie Speedway Racing

Racing and fireworks make for a great summer night at the Speedway, so check out the Advance Auto Parts Monster Jam featuring Grave Digger,

Monster Mutt, Grave Digger The Legend, Captain's Curse, Stone Crusher, and Hooked.

When: 6 p.m.
Where: 10700 Delmas Drive, North East
Contact: 725.3303

SATURDAY 6.22

Bay Swim

Living in Erie, it's hard to resist staring at our lake and feeling the urge to swim. If you can't fight that urge any longer, we suggest an outlet - this one-mile long swim starting at Presque Isle State Park and ending at the Erie Yacht club. It's sure to separate the casual swimmers from the hardcore water fans, but both are welcome. And if you're just looking to support your local swimmers, spectators are welcome too. Cost is \$50 and limited to 300 swimmers.

When: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. check in, 9 a.m. start
Where: Presque Isle State Park Vista 3 Parking Lot
Contact: 833.7424

Girls Girls Girls

Some girls just want to have fun, and for the members of Girls Girls Girls, having fun means being badass. The all-female Motley Crue tribute band has gone from breaking out in New Jersey to touring across the nation. Now, these live wires are coming to State Street to show you their wild side.

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

SUNDAY 6.23

The Riverside Inn Dinner Theatre presents "Boeing Boeing"

Bernard is a self-styled Parisian womanizer.

And he has three fiancées -- an Italian, a German, and an American. If that doesn't scream drama, what does? Well, this is a '60s farce, so there's some laughs to boot, especially when an unexpected schedule change -- you guessed it -- brings all three women to Paris and to Bernard's apartment... at the same time! Thankfully, Bertha -- Bernard's housekeeper -- is there to help with the juggling act since this womanizer's love life is certainly up in the air.

When: 2:30 p.m.
Where: The Riverside Inn Dinner Theatre,
One Fountain Avenue, Cambridge Springs
Contact: 800.956.9490

MONDAY 6.24

Cruisin' the Bay

Attention car lovers! Mondays this summer are for you. Fire up that classic car and get on down to the Bayfront Parkway Park-n-Ride. Don't have a sweet vintage ride? Who cares! Bring

the family down and enjoy food, music, raffles, giveaways and contests. A great way to spend a Monday night in the summer.

When: 6 to 9 p.m.
Where: Bayfront Parkway Park-n-Ride, foot of Liberty St.
Contact: 814.474.5183

TUESDAY 6.25

Lagoons by Pontoons

Listen. Watch. Enjoy. All as the sunsets over the waters at Presque Isle. Take in the sights and sounds of the Isle's event wildlife while experiencing a PI sunset during this special Lagoons by Pontoons evening session. Registrations for the boat's 16 seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis by phone or in person at the Park Office, starting 10 a.m. Monday, so reserve early so you don't miss this free event.

When: 7 p.m.
Where: Lagoon Launch, Presque Isle State Park
Contact: TRECPI.org

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the crooked i

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GNOSIS

JUNE 20 // THURSDAY @ 10:00



THE NAPPY ROOTS

JUNE 21 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS

ALL FEMALE TRIBUTE TO MOTLEY CRUE

JUNE 22 // SATURDAY @ 10:00

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

To-do List

By: Alex Bieler

Nappy Roots

Just over a decade ago, a movement began that all of the country boys and po' folks out in the world could embrace. On Friday, June 21, our fair city is welcome to see the Nappy Movement up close and in person.

The crooked i will play host to Nappy Roots, the beloved alternative hip-hop group that came onto the scene in 2002 with the successful debut album "Chicken, Watermelon & Gritz." Since then, the Kentucky-based rap group has had their music showcased in the Madden NFL videogame series and featured on several movie soundtracks, a level of success from a quartet with humble beginnings.

"Just being some college students, some young black guys with a dream from the state of Kentucky in the middle of nowhere, to be able to get nominated for Grammys and sell over 2 million records, to just have the type of career we've had, it's a dream come true," says Nappy Roots member Buffalo Stille.

It's been a great ride for Stille and company, winning awards, going out on the USO tour in the mid-2000s with stars like Robert De Niro and John Stamos, and even having school kids from Wisconsin sending in anti-bullying videos using the Nappy Roots' song "Good Day" in the background, the latter of which helps reassure Stille that their music has made an impact on Nappy Roots fans.

"We don't take it for granted at all," Stille says. "We could have just had one hit record and fell to the wayside, so it was a blessing for the fans to support us for this long. And we're still moving. We're not going to slow down anytime soon."

That last point brings us to the upcoming show at the crooked i, a show that Stille is excited to play for both the devoted Erie chapter of the Nappy Movement as well as potential new fans that may just be learning of the Kentucky crew now, the type of people that, like the members of Nappy Roots, keep a positive attitude throughout life.

"Everybody gets dealt a plateful of shit every once in a while, so it's how you make it," Stille says. "A lot of stuff can come from bad stuff, and if you turn it into something great, like you're rolling with the punches, that's what Nappy's been doing for so long. It's just a statement that we wanted out there that no matter what kind of hand we ever get dealt, we're always making something positive out of it because that's the type of group we are."

With Nappy Roots coming to town, we'd like to think that June 11 will be a Good Day.

"Next to Normal"

Every once in a while, you need to mix things up. For some, that may mean switching to a half-pound of roast beef instead of the safe-yet-delicious oven-roasted turkey at your local grocer. For the Erie Playhouse, it means bringing a Pulitzer Prize- and Tony-winning musical to their stage.



Nappy Roots take the stage at the crooked i Friday, June 21.

The 2009 Broadway sensation "Next to Normal" will be brought to life in the W. 10th St. theater, playing a three-weekend run, with upcoming 8 p.m. shows June 13 to 15 and June 19 to 22 and 2 p.m. matinee performances June 16 and 23. The 2010 Pulitzer Prize winner for Drama, the first musical to achieve the honor since "Rent" in 1996, focuses on a mother suffering from bipolar disorder, a condition that has drastic effects on her family and herself.

"It's certainly something different for the Playhouse," Producing Director Richard Davis says. "We tend to do a little more mainstream shows and don't often do edgy theater, but 'Next to Normal' is certainly edgy subject matter dealing with mental health and a family trying to deal with that. It has adult situations and adult language, so it's a little departure for the Playhouse, but the show is so good and the message is so powerful that we just had to do it."

Davis, who's been directing shows for nearly 25 years, will put on the rock musical with the help of a six-person cast, including Trisha Yates as the central character Diana and Ken Brundage as her husband Dan. With much of the show comprising of musical numbers, the director sounds thrilled to have the talent to produce the three-time Tony Award Winner.

"The score really is amazing," Davis says, the excitement evident in his voice. "The music is really incredible, and we have six of the finest singers in the city that are in the show."

With a talented cast and the experienced Davis in control, a little adventure into something different, like "Next to Normal," should be an exciting change for the theater veterans. **R**

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://erindr.com/zjxgc>



Q&A with Alt-J

The British Indie Buzz Band Takes a Break from Touring to Answer a Few Important Questions

By: Alex Bieler

It's not uncommon to dream about success. Some people have visions of hitting the game-winning homerun in the bottom of the ninth inning of Game 7 in the World Series; others see themselves thanking all the beautiful people for their shiny new Academy Award.

Then you have those bands that become critical darlings over the span of a year for a project that started in college.

Alt-J is one of those bands.

2012 was a good year for Alt-J. The British quartet wowed numerous critics with their debut "An Awesome Wave," taking home the Mercury Prize and having the release named "best of the year" by NPR's Bob Boilen. Now working on a U.S. tour, Alt-J guitarist and vocalist Joe Newman answered a few questions about the band's success, comparisons to Radiohead, and what he's currently reading.

Alex Bieler: For a band that pretty much started by creating music that its band members wanted to hear, does all the success feel sort of like a dream and you're just hoping nobody wakes you up?

Joe Newman: If I wake up to find this to be a dream, I'm not quite sure how I'd react. There would be a lot of crying and screaming and swearing. We have been flabbergasted by the response to our debut album.

AB: I've been impressed with how much you guys pop up. I was watching "Silver Linings Playbook" the other day and heard you guys in the movie. Even 90.5 WERG, one of Erie's local college radio stations, has "Breezeblocks" in fairly heavy rotation. I'm going to guess that your whole plan all along was to take the state of Pennsylvania by storm.

JN: Yes, our main focus was to dominate Pennsylvania straight from the get go.

AB: Speaking of "Breezeblocks," I'd be willing to say that you and Frightened Rabbit [in their song "State Hospital"] have led plenty of Americans to find out what an actual breezeblock is. Ever get any feedback from the masonry industry?

JN: Not yet. The construction business has called us on occasions.

AB: Now, as a big Radiohead fan, I'm always intrigued when a band starts getting compared to them. What is it like to get that kind of feedback?

JN: Flattering but maybe premature. Radiohead's great success has come from their consistency, and as of yet we've only pushed out one album. But it's fantastic that people

find resemblances in our music.

AB: Given references to "Where the Wild Things Are" and "Leon: The Professional" in your songs, it wouldn't surprise me if you guys were big culture buffs. Are you reading or watching anything interesting at the moment?

JN: I'm about to read "Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch," and today I was handed our fellow

If I wake up to find this to be a dream, I'm not quite sure how I'd react. There would be a lot of crying and screaming and swearing.



Alt-J recently played shows in Cleveland and Pittsburgh in support of their U.S. tour.

labelmates album – "Fields of Reeds" by These New Puritans – which I'm excited about. I don't know that we are culture vultures; we only care to sing about what we find interesting, and much of what we find interesting is others' work, often in the form of books and cinema.

AB: When you come to America, is there anything you look forward to doing in your spare time? Also, I saw that Gus was wearing a Minnesota Vikings shirt when you guys were on Triple J in Australia, so I've always wondered if any of you had a special connection to the States, be it Minnesota or not.

JN: We have no real connection other than that jumper Gus wears and the fact that we all look forward to returning to Minnesota. We like the

accents.

AB: You're already 1-for-1 on Mercury Prizes. Do you have anything in mind for your next album to try and make it 2-for-2?

JN: Reggae breakdowns, and we've been working on Thom's voice – he can do an impressively low Lamb of God-like metal voice so maybe that plus Gus MC'ing? Could work?

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://erirdr.com/a0i80>



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Chrome Moses

Chrome Moses
Self-released

★★★★



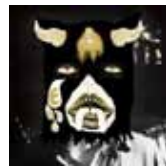
Hailing from a town just two hours south on I-79, Pittsburgh rockers Chrome Moses provide some good old-fashioned rock on their self-titled seven-song release. The trio kicks things

off with "Boot Zipper Blues," a rollicking four minutes of The Strokes-inspired guitar work, bopping bass lines, and cymbal crashing goodness. Guitar fans will be pleased by the thumping, bluesy solos provided by Joe Piacquadio, whose soulful voice permeates through the tracks, breaking into a brawny, Caleb Followill-like squeal when provoked. After "Boot Zipper Blues," the rocking continues on "Black Hearted Girl" and "Cinnamon Moon." The second half of "Chrome Moses" continues along the same formula, and though it contains admirable efforts, it doesn't compare with the first trio of tracks, although bonus track "Knock One More Time" provides a nice, swampy change of pace while showing off Piacquadio's vocal abilities, rounding out an intriguing first release for the Steel City band. - Alex Bieler

Portugal. The Man

Evil Friends
Atlantic

★★★★



While it may not seem so long to some bands, the nearly two years Portugal. The Man took to release their follow-up to their Atlantic Records debut "In the Mountain In the Cloud"

was a long gap for the Alaska-raised, Portland, Ore.-based band, having pumped out an album each year from 2006 to 2011. Still, when the group got Brian Burton, aka Danger Mouse, to produce latest effort "Evil Friends," the extra time seemed worth it. With Burton behind the knobs, the band maintains a darker vibe throughout the album, all while keeping songs fun, in large part due to frontman John Gourley's youthful voice. Portugal. The Man certainly succeed in creating a batch of tunes that keep your head bopping ("Evil Friends" and "Hip Hop Kids"), although by the latter third, the formula starts to drag. Still, with Burton's help, Gourley and company succeed in pumping out a rousing, radio-friendly release. - Alex Bieler

Laura Marling

Once I Was An Eagle
Ribbon Music

★★★★



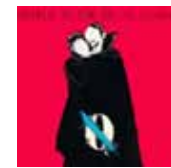
When it comes to Laura Marling, the phrase "wise beyond her years" immediately comes to mind, and understandably so. At just 23 years old, the British singer/songwriter manages to create

deftly arranged, '60s folk-inspired songs with engaging lyrics, all in a voice similar to if Regina Spektor aged a decade or two and ended up settling for cold-hearted logic over fanciful dreams. Appropriately, her latest album "Once I Was An Eagle" focuses on the battle of logic and love, kicking off with a wonderful four-song set highlighted by the soaring yet tragic "I Was An Eagle," in which Marling announces "Every little girl is so naïve... I will not be a victim of romance. I will not be a victim of circumstance." Over the course of a hefty 16 songs, Marling's journey out of and back into love capture your imagination, lovely songs wrapped in sepia tones. - Alex Bieler

Queens of the Stone Age

... Like Clockwork,
Matador

★★★★



This album to most, more than anything, will be about the supporting cast. "Clockwork" sees the return of former bandmates Nick Oliveri and Mark Lanegan, along with Dave Grohl drumming

for one-half of the album, coupled with guest spots from Trent Reznor, Jake Shears, Alex Turner, and even Elton John. But make no mistake: This album is Josh Homme – the sole continuous band member and principle singer/songwriter – a collection of wails, coos, oddities, and pleasures. The band's sixth studio album – the first after their last two albums (2005's "Lullabies to Paralyze" and 2007's "Era Vulgaris") fell far short of the critics' darling (2002's "Songs for the Deaf") – lacks the thrashing intensity of "Songs," but is no less pleasing. It's quieter but sharper with Homme's barbing songcrafting, proving that he knows not only how to write damn good songs but how to assemble a damn good cast to support his work. - Ben Speggen



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Street Fashionista

Kelly Lee Kleinert-Haney

By: Leslie McAllister

We are beyond lucky to have such an amazing peninsula in this town. Lake Erie is our truest gem, and when the summer rolls in, it's the only place to be. Our sunsets are amazing, our little amusement park is adorable, and Sara's is the place for the tastiest peanut butter yogurt and the ziestiest curly fries!

What better way to enjoy that fiery descending orb, drum circles, and picnics on the beach than in the flowiest, boho-iest kind of way. White gauzy, lacey, maxi dresses with flowers in our hair – shoes not required.

Your uniform for the summer consists of the following, in no special order:

The cutest bike with the cutest basket – think: vintage-esque beach cruiser with a brown wicker basket, full of fresh flowers or a little doggie. Gi-

She is *the* bohemian goddess – a modern day Yemaya, spirit of the water personified, a maiden in the mist with an adorning crown of flowers.

gantic sunglasses – aviator or retro, your decision. A straw hat -- floppy or fedora, whatever protects your precious skin. Your most flattering swimwear. A boho maxi dress – white cotton, black and white striped, lacey love, or asymmetrical – pick one.

Loads of Tibetan prayer beads around your neck or wrist. A bottle of water or a sparkling coconut seltzer. Ridiculous quartz crystal rings or amethyst shards dangling from your neck – think the Astral-Goddess-gone-beach-babe-for-a-day. A daisy chain of flowers to crown your head. A Mexican Serape to lie upon for reading tarot, sharing secrets, or cloud gazing. And sunscreen, sunscreen, sunscreen.

Prepare to be lulled into a hypno-trance listening to the crest and crash of the waves.

Gents, pack your beach bag with the following: Board shorts in a plaid pattern, short-sleeve button-down cotton shirts, slick shades, boogie board, and while you're at it, a long board too (why not?). Add canvas Vans, Bocce, some flowers for your lady fair, an ice-cold beverage, the

know how to help your girl fly that pesky kite, a teacup Chihuahua for your pocket (chicks dig Chihuahuas), a Frisbee, and a childlike imagination.

Chicks also go wa-wa for the childlike imagination thing – we're all still kids at heart.

Who? Kelly Lee Kleinert-Haney

Where? Presque Isle Beach One

Why Kelly? She is *the* bohemian goddess – a modern day Yemaya, spirit of the water personified, a maiden in the mist with an adorning crown of flowers. Her gauzy, lacey maxi is perfect for walking the beach in search of heart-shaped rocks, boldly colored glass and other curiosities.

The charm bracelet and bejeweled sandals are the exact accompaniment to play up her day dress. Be it frolicking, chasing babies, or meditating on the beauty of nature, Kelly's style is effortless, gypsy-esque, and immaculate.

What We Want to Know:

Describe your style.

I often have a really hard time describing my style. My closet is *very* confusing, as I like so many different types of fashion. However, I very rarely wear pants, so however I am dressed I am always a lady.

From where do you get your inspiration?

I could give a 500-word answer for this. Ha! I seriously find inspiration in *everything*. My brain never ever stops!

If you had to pack in a flash for a weekend getaway to the beach what would you bring?

Bathing suit, cover up, iPhone, mascara, wine. This is all assuming this getaway is kid-free! *In my dreams – ha!*

As a make-up artist, what are your Top 5 must-have beauty essentials and Top 5 makeup products?

Loaded question! I could go *on!*

Top 5 beauty essentials:

1. Kiehl's Midnight Recovery Concentrate
2. Kiehl's Vitamin C serum
3. Face wipes (I actually like Target's)
4. LUSH Ocean Salt scrub (best exfoliator ever)
5. The Body Shop Coconut Body Butter (the whole coconut line is a must-have, actually)

Top 5 makeup must have's:

1. Mascara!! MAC Haute n Naughty or Dior Show
2. Foundation: MAC Studio Fix Fluid
3. Eye brow pencil, I wear MAC Lingerin
4. Blush: NARS Orgasm
5. A great finishing powder is a must: Makeup Forever HD Loose Powder

Items in your closet you are currently obsessed with (p.s. I instgram stalked you – love the sunglasses, had to buy them; don't hate me).

I am pretty obsessed with my floor-length sheer kimono. I have gone to wear it out about three times now in Erie and haven't... I'm just not sure Erie is ready for it! My high-waist jeans from Urban Outfitters, and my disco pants from American Apparel. Every girl needs a pair of those! You'll feel like Sandra Dee at the end of "Grease!"

Name your three favorite websites for shopping and inspiration.

Three – I have more than three, I am *really* good at online shopping – favorite websites to buy clothing are ASOS, Mod Cloth, Nordstrom, Forever 21, Lulu's and Nasty Gal. And karmaloop.com and urban outfitters.com too.

Handbags or shoes?

Shoes! Although in the summer, you will most likely catch me just in flip-flops – or barefoot, ha – no one has time to chase kids around in heels!

What is your most beloved tattoo? Have you stopped counting how many you have?

Yes, I have stopped counting! I am getting a bodysuit, so counting is just ridiculous at this point. My favorites are the ones for my daughters.

What is on your agenda for summer fun?

I have manifested this summer to be the most fun summer ever, so I have a lot of plans! My favorite will be going to the Jersey Shore – as I do every year – for a few weeks. It's very nostalgic for me.

You are an Erie transplant. Tell us your story – where are you from and how are you liking Erie? What surprises you most about this town?

I am a transplant! My husband and I moved here about two years ago. We were both artists working in Philadelphia; he is a tattoo artist, and I am a makeup artist.

We love, love, love Philadelphia, but when my husband's friend said they needed some tattoo artists at Ink Assassins, we thought we would give it a try. The idea of less crime, a cheaper cost of living, and the ability to be a stay-at-home mom was a refreshing idea, so we moved.

I'm not going to lie, the first year and a half were not fun for us! It was a more drastic change than I had anticipated. But over time, it became better for sure. The peninsula really is a gem – we go daily. And even weekly in the winter. We are totally an outdoors family!

Antiquing is great here, and there are definitely



Leslie McAllister

a handful of really good independently-owned restaurants, which we prefer. It really is a good place to have a family.

Check out Kelly's blog – Kelly's World – full of cupcakes, makeup, and fun times with her kiddies at www.kellyleerules.blogspot.com, or follow her on twitter @kellyleerules, and for a killer tattoo, find Pat Haney at Ink Assassins, located at 2601 Peach St.

Find me out on the town and challenge yourself to get noticed by the Erie Reader!

Leslie McAllister can be contacted at LMcAllister@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @ShopJuJus. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/zevcg>



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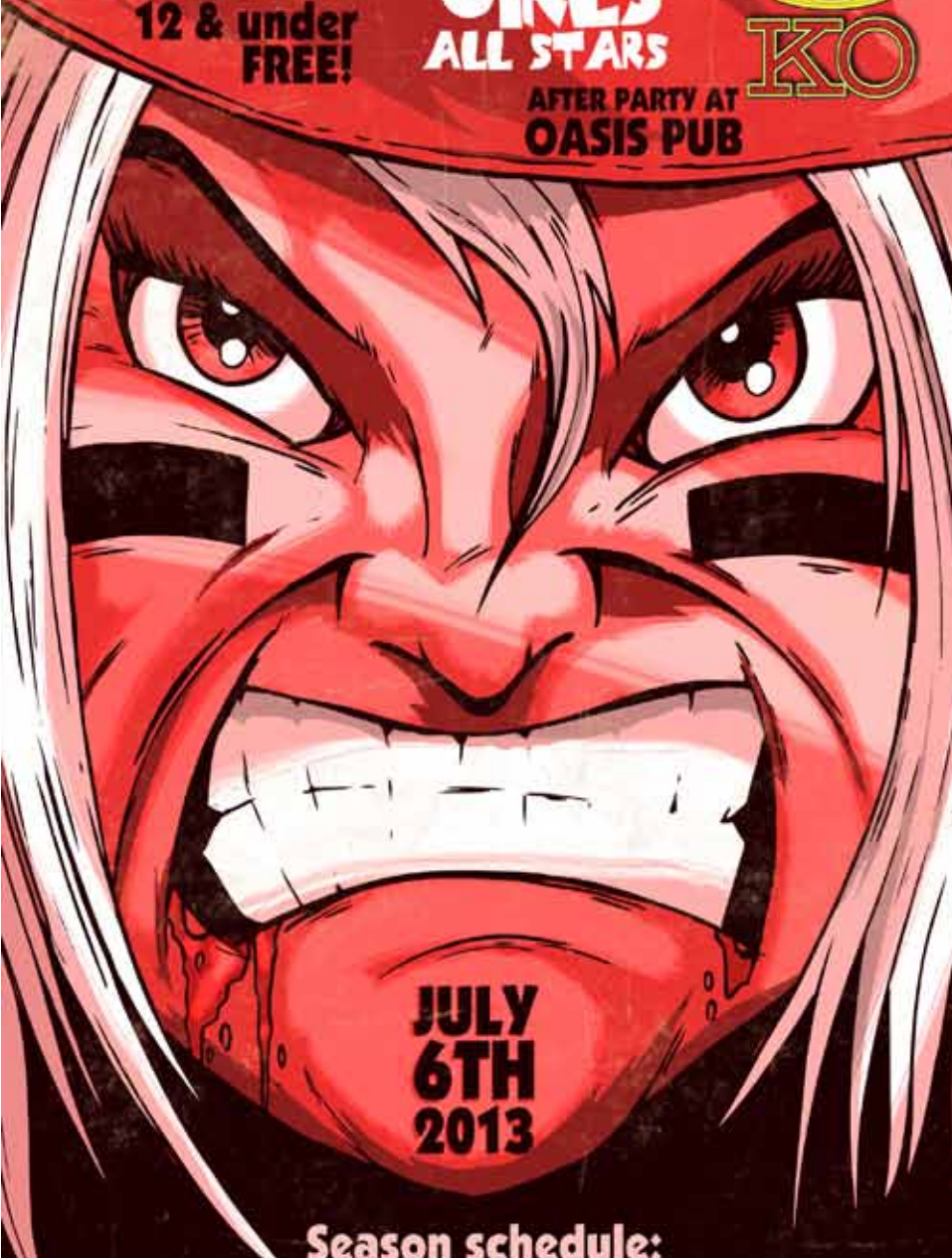
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You Ought to Know:

Kevin-John Jobczynski

By: Alex Bieler

A buzz has started outside a small square room in The Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center, with several pairs of eyes peeping in to catch a glimpse of a rather animated athlete being interviewed by JET 24's Craig Smylie.

Standing with the local sportscaster is Pittsburgh Steelers free safety Ryan Clark. The hard-hitting defensive back is pretty loose with the different media members in the room, joking around before signing autographs at the 10th Edinboro University Sports Memorabilia Auction with wide receiver teammate Antonio Brown. The Steelers stars are two of the special guests for the event, scribbling down their John Hancock's on a special Clark-approved poster created by the third man sitting at the signing table, celebrity

The goateed artist talks openly of his past. At the Sports Auction, he warmly greets everyone that approaches, his muscular arms reaching out to shake the hands of those that approach him.

a huge sports buff, save for his love of football. Before the Sports Auction, Kevin-John was more interested in landmark art, bringing in some cash flow with his craft, but not enough to pay all of the bills. The McDowell High School graduate eventually contacted Edinboro about tickets, offering to donate some of his work to benefit the auction and to provide a gift for his pigskin hero. It was this gesture that helped put him on the sports-art path.

"Rod really liked the piece, and he asked me to help him carry it out to his car when the [Auction] was done," Kevin-John says, recalling the memory fondly. "We talked, and he said, 'I'm opening up a restaurant in Pittsburgh, and I'd like to have a portrait of myself playing football in the restaurant. Would you be interested in doing that?'"

Eventually, Rod would go on to show Kevin-John's handiwork to his teammates, which led to more projects for the artist, oftentimes for trade – an autograph here, a jersey there. However, even with new high-profile clients contracting him for work, Kevin-John couldn't yet call art his primary career. Still, for someone that discovered his love of drawing early on, it was a step towards turning that passion into a career.

"I've always wanted to draw, that was always my thing," Kevin-John says. "I don't know the reason; it's just something inside of me. When I found out that a pencil or crayon or marker could make something out of a piece of paper, I wanted to draw things that I like. When I was a kid, it was Batman and dinosaurs and 'Star Wars.' For some reason, I just wanted to replicate those things on paper."

The goateed artist talks openly of his past. At the Sports Auction, he warmly greets everyone that approaches, his muscular arms reaching out to shake the hands of those that approach him. He wasn't always quite as gregarious as he is now, something that his art helped change.

"I was socially awkward as a real young kid, like a grade-school kid," Kevin-John says, unexpected words from a man that was surrounded by Auction-goers in The Ambassador. "I didn't necessarily know how to communicate very well with other kids and that sort of thing, but as soon as I would start drawing, I would have 12 kids huddled around the table watching me. I realized really early that if I drew a dinosaur better than anybody else in the classroom, that's pretty cool, so I kept doing it."

Fast-forward to the late-'90s and Kevin-John stayed true to his word, keeping one foot in the art world as he planted the other in what some naysayers deemed "real jobs." He worked in advertising, he sold cars, and he worked in radio – all while he pursued his dream career on the side, despite one boss telling him to give up on art and beg his parents to take him back.

Eventually, he did leave something behind. But it wasn't what his boss suggested.

"I realized that until I made [art] a full-time career, it wasn't going to become a full-time career,"



Celebrity artist Kevin-John Jobczynski, originally from Erie, now works for Disney.

sports artist Kevin-John Jobczynski.

"It's pretty sweet," Clark says, as he plants his signature beside his Kevin-John-crafted likeness. "I think he made my muscles very representative of who I am – they're very swole. He always does a great job. To have somebody like him involved with this event is huge for this area because he's a guy that's from here and he loves it."

This isn't Kevin-John's first foray into the world of sports. Far from it, in fact, as the Millcreek-bred artist has worked with a SportsCenter studio's worth of professional ballplayers, from Steelers greats "Mean" Joe Greene and Jerome Bettis to NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt, Jr. Heck, even ESPN itself has contracted him for his art. Still, all success stories have a beginning, and appropriately, Kevin-John's sports-art career got its start due to Edinboro's fundraiser.

"Way back in the mid-'90s was the first time that they had a sports memorabilia auction and my all-time favorite athlete was Rod Woodson, and he was coming to be the guest signer at the auction," Kevin-John says. "I hadn't really done anything sports-related back then at all, maybe just a few pieces for personal consumption."

It may come as a surprise, but despite all of his experience with sports art, Kevin-John isn't

he says. "I took the leap of faith and left my job and took the shot. I worked my ass off, starved, almost lost my house, but I survived, eventually started eating again, and now it's more wonderful than ever."

Now the Millcreek man has built up an impressive resume. It's hard work, with portraits taking roughly 80 to 100 hours to complete, often forcing Kevin-John into 16-hour workdays to complete a commission on time. Yes, there are times where he isn't always enthralled with his situation, but when he recalls the multitude of unloved part-time jobs – from selling ads to whipping up graphics – he remembers how special his career is to him.

Of course, a recent contract with Disney certainly hasn't hurt his morale at all, although if it weren't for a friend's insistence that he submit his work to the company, he wouldn't be working with the massive corporation. Despite his doubts, Kevin-John ended up being chosen by Disney and now gets to work with the company his idol founded.

"It's like a dream come true," he says, the joy evident in his voice. "Open my high-school yearbook, and where it says what you want to do, it says, 'I want to be a Disney artist.' I can't stop

sketching Walt Disney right now because it's so much fun. I'm having the time of my life rendering my idol for his company."

Now Kevin-John lives in Florida, not too far from Disney World, part of a personal goal to eventually live by the beach on the ocean, but none of it ever would have happened if it weren't for a little luck, a lot of talent, and the will to stick to his dreams.

"You can't be scared to fail," Kevin-John says, dispensing words of advice to other potential artists. "I've failed thousands of times. So you fail – you learn from it and keep going."

And keep going he did, eventually making his dream a reality. If Kevin-John's life – from the awkward dinosaur-aided early years to having bosses trying to talk him out of his passion – was a Disney movie, you couldn't have drawn it up any better.

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Contributed Photo

[Cont. from 11] his undiscovered story. “I have nothing against religious programming,” DJ says whole-heartedly, “but I had to have something on the channel to balance out the number of religious shows that [CATV] had.” Interestingly and importantly, roughly 50 percent of CATV’s programming is still religiously affiliated. DJ’s show may not directly reflect his life, but it allowed for some of the pent up insanity – stored in his head like an old, forgotten box, buried beneath nights of watching mop strands swirl across a dirty floor – to finally go free into the cable lines.

After a couple productions, DJ reduced his social anxiety and stepped out from behind his puppet stage, still moving to the second safest spot – behind the camera. But he was also establishing himself as a talented producer, and soon he was doing more work on others’ shows than his own. After a few months, he started filming and editing with other CATV members, ultimately meeting with other passionate producers. While DJ never found a common bond with what he describes as “the truck driver mentality” third-shift crew at his janitorial job, he was able to use his new common thread to weave friendships in the studio. “[CATV] taught me how to interact with people. It’s taught me how to deal with real life.”

In contrast with his new understanding of life, his show “Please Stand By,” is far from factual. The premise of the show is simple, clever, and outlandish: What would animals broadcast if they took over a TV station?

With its epileptic transitions, spliced with bizarre Internet footage, and undertones of creepiness due to big, fuzzy, life-sized creature costumes, “Please Stand By” is the show that re-

minds us that you can put just about anything on public access. The canned laughter and audience cheer in Episode 14, “Cheesy Schwarma,” is reminiscent of something Hunter S. Thompson would find inspiration from during a long night in a hotel room, dying to make sense of the nonsensical.

The animals are played by DJ and co-writer and producer Joe Kwitkowski. The anthropomorphic rodents all carry a different slew of strange talents, issues, and ethnicities. “[The animals] have strange backstories. The kangaroo is from Russia, the elephant – his name is Chung-Kei – he’s a Samurai pachyderm,” he says, as if thick-skinned, sword-wielding Japanese mammals are commonly written in and type-casted as warriors.

DJ’s main character is a skunk, who has had an amazing revelation with help from his co-star, a half wolf-half raccoon played by the show’s second half, Joe: *If I make a television show, then humans will bring me food.*

The desk in DJ’s office now serves as his puppet stage. Except, today if you ask him what he likes more, sitting behind the scenes or out under the stage lights, he’ll tell you he’d rather be in front of the camera. After years of working with CATV, DJ has found a creative family here, and the studio has become a second home for him.

Despite the subject matter of “Please Stand By,” he takes his job seriously and still believes the voice that CATV allows the citizens of Erie to have is significant. “I think [what we do] is important because we give people a voice,” DJ says.

“It [means] that somebody might run a program that [is] critical of things going on in the city,” Bob says, possibly thinking of his next meeting with City Council. Although little of the

programming is directly political, at least it is a possibility, and as Bob reminds us, “It’s a healthy thing in a free society.”

The whole idea behind a well-developed television show is to give the impression of experience without actually having to go through the experience. However, our society loves being on camera, being part of the show rather than apart from it. We can scroll through a thousand mouse-clicks’ worth of pictures of ourselves and reminisce about each one; likewise, if the counter goes up on our YouTube channel, we smile and watch our own video again, as if to see if we’re still in it.

So, what if Erie was the subject of a network, a real commercial network?

No longer would we simply see our celebrities merely on television screens, but rather in our city’s streets. Erie would be TV, you would be TV, and even I would be TV – all with: I am TV.

I Am TV is not only an independent, local television network but the persona of network president, Scott Jones. As if his eyes were two lenses themselves, he wants to bring the experience he’s found in Erie – from concert coverage to counterculture – to your television screen.

He’s got a grin that indicates he’s truly happy to see the sun each day, and a couple worry lines, like scars, that note he hasn’t always experienced life through the lens of a camera. Caused by his days of combat in Afghanistan, Scott pushed down on the fast-forward button of life and wouldn’t let up when he arrived back to the States.

He talks fast but confident, as if the ideas are coming to him faster than his words can be col-

lected, and he’s trying to get them all out there before he can’t anymore. His I Am TV persona has intensity to it, an intensity that breeds a contagious enthusiasm for life in the Erie community and all its opportunities. “Living everyday like it’s your last” isn’t just a cliché idiom for Scott – it is a principle. “We should be ashamed for not doing more with what we have,” he says, still smiling.

“There’s pre-deployment Scott, and there is post-deployment Scott, and post-deployment Scott came back on a mission to take a city.” If Erie had a Pirate Radio, he’d be the one standing at the ship’s wheel. “Post-deployment Scott came back on a mission to affect change.”

Scott believes Erie is in the midst of a renaissance, he believes the importance of art, music, and culture is coming back to this city, and he wants to be a part of this transformation. “There are a lot of organizations out there that are doing the same types of things,” he admits. But these organizations may be lacking the perspective I Am TV has acquired. “We have primetime cable television... who else can get primetime television access? I Am TV, that’s it!”

From 8 to 10 p.m., Thursday, Friday, and Saturday on channels 180 [Erie, Erie County] and 225 [Crawford County], viewers can experience the artistic rebirth of Erie on I Am TV.

If Scott is steering the ship, picture Paul Gorman, executive producer of “Inked in Erie,” with the telescope, keeping an eye out from the crow’s nest. While Scott is more sales-minded, Paul lends himself to content.

Their dynamic is nothing new – one guy at the wheel, another looking beyond the horizon charting the direction – but it’s this contrast in

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personality that makes a creative organization thrive. Years ago, when Paul was still playing in a band called the Gypsy Poets, Scott approached the guys about being filmed for a television show, Scott's first attempt at launching an independent TV station.

Later, Scott approached Paul again, but this time his station had a mission, "to transform lives in the community by building [a] creative outlet and connecting people to this outlet."

For over a decade, Paul had been producing independent films, shows, and webisodes with no real outlet to connect them to. "Scott knew about my work," Paul says, while measuring an imaginary portfolio packed full of work with his hands "So he approached me with the idea of the network and said, 'Hey, I got a whole bunch of primetime television space, would you want to develop a show or two for me?' and I'm like, 'Holy Hell, Scott. Yes!'"

There are three aspects that separate I Am TV from CATV: funding, content, and the end goal. I Am TV is for-profit, meaning they have advertisers and commercials between and during their broadcasts.

"It's all still community-based," says Paul, counting up the local advertisers – some of which include Arts Bakery, Harley Davidson, and Dave Hallman Chevrolet.

Because I Am TV has a costly and limited timeslot, Scott and Paul are choosier about who puts what where. "It's not like anybody can walk in and drop something off," Paul says, fully aware that without quality content, Scott won't be able to find funding. "We're after something different. We want to be more engaging, we want to get the community involved, we want to draw out the creative people, and give them a place to work."

I Am TV is still in its infancy stage, launching March 23, 2013, but it's generating revenue – enough to start paying producers a small wage. However, this also means limiting what content, and how much of it, is put on air. The hope is that quality content will attract more sponsors, fueling the team with more broadcasting time, which in turn means more Erie producers, journalists, and artists have a shot at landing a local job they're passionate about "Anybody in the region that wants to do a show has that opportunity," Paul states, likely with the caveat of quality in mind,

"Our short-term goals right now are to stay in primetime... Where we want to end is to be a 24/7 network that reaches as far as we can go."

Where I Am TV has made its biggest mark is through "Inked in Erie," a television show akin to "LA Ink," "Miami Ink," and "Inked," except it's kept at a gritty, street-level without the added glamour of Hollywood interference. Erie is home to more than a dozen tattoo parlors, a huge "Inked" community, and a dramatic undercurrent of tattoo-artist trash-talking.

"Inked In Erie" has become – I don't want to overstate it – a viral phenomenon. The Facebook page has reached almost 300,000 people," Paul says while pointing to a stack of DVDs of the first season.

With a clever concoction of curiosity-provoking culture and a chance to see familiar faces,

"Inked in Erie" is a double-threat when it comes to piquing the audience's interest. "The 'Ink' community itself is its own subculture, but what I managed to do with the show is get people in our community on television."

In Episode 1 of the first season, the I Am TV crew follows Jack, a 78 year-old army veteran and terminal cancer patient whose dying wish is to get his first tattoo. Patrick Stephens, aka Phat Pat, over at Vicious Rumors received a call from Erie hospice and the Make-A-Wish Foundation regarding the war hero's yearning for ink. Jack's family was adamantly opposed to the idea of him getting tattooed, so much so, that they threatened to sue anyone involved in the process. Thus, the old timer's skin was inked in secrecy, only Phat Pat and I Am TV's camera crew were present and the parlor even locked its doors until Jack left with his new tattoo, the "little life owl" he always wanted.

By the time he arrived back at his nursing home, his family had found out, but they softened when they saw Jack, so proud of his bird. Since that first episode, Jack has returned for another tattoo, an Eagle over his heart, and plans to go back for a third, a mouse.

At the heart of it, CATV and I Am TV have the same longing to capture these beautiful moments in our underexposed city. "We really want to know what the community wants," says Scott. Through social media, which Scott has deemed I Am TV's "foundation," these stations can reach out to the public like never before. I Am TV holds live TV contests via Facebook and Twitter where people can win free "ink" for submitting a picture of their worst tattoo. Conversely, CATV is glad to give lessons and provide resources for anyone longing for a public voice.

As there may very well be a renaissance in the Erie arts, as Scott Jones indicated, we should cultivate our local up-and-comers by continuing to support local organizations like this. But we must also ensure we have the means to communicate – rich, poor, or underserved, a privilege Bob Lechner is scared to lose if CATV doesn't receive proper funding.

"We don't know where CATV is going to be in a year, but we're trying to make it symbiotic so that they can help us and we can help them," Paul adds.

By the time an experience has been filmed, edited, and projected through our televisions, we sometimes forget what we're watching and why we're watching, diluted from all the junk food television. But these local stations are broadcasting from our city, our streets, and maybe even your neighborhood, and they play a vital role in our community by showing us the stories of you, of me, of our city – of Erie and its people.

Matthew Flowers can be contacted 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/5xehb>



LEGAL NOTICE

FICTITIOUS NAME NOTICE

1. Fictitious Name: The GeekERIE
2. Address of the principal place of business: 3626 Harvard Road, Erie, Pa. 16508
3. Names and addresses of the persons who are a party to the registration: Sean Edward McGrath, 3626 Harvard Road, Erie, Pa. 16508
4. The application for registration of the fictitious name was filed with the Department of State under the Fictitious Name Act on or about April 19, 2013.

June 12

Sudoku

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

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DIFFICULTY: ★★★☆☆

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Luzon people
- 4 Fastener
- 8 Inspire
- 12 Eat
- 13 Vivacity
- 14 Bad (pref.)
- 15 According to (2 words)
- 16 Pallid
- 17 Biblical giants
- 18 Ankles
- 20 Site of Hannibal's defeat
- 22 N. Caucasian language
- 25 Glacial pinnacle
- 28 Tube
- 31 Gambol
- 33 Bantu language
- 34 Commotion
- 35 Son-in-law
- 36 Standard (abbr.)
- 37 Self (Scot.)
- 38 Nutmeg husk
- 39 Migratory worker
- 40 Siberian antelope
- 42 High definition television (abbr.)
- 44 Yemen capital
- 46 Rockies peak
- 50 Yahi tribe survivor
- 52 "Cantique de Noel" composer
- 55 Age
- 56 Sign
- 57 Inclined way
- 58 Turk. title
- 59 Defy
- 60 Revise
- 61 The (Ger.)

DOWN

- 1 Anti-satellite (abbr.)
- 2 Non-ferrous alloy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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B	O	L	O		E	N	C	L		G	I	S		
E	D	E	N		A	G	H	A		O	D	E		

- 3 Three-banded armadillo
- 4 Mild
- 5 Axilla
- 6 Rom. first day of the month
- 7 Slavic prince
- 8 Environment
- 9 Atle
- 10 Here (Fr.)
- 11 Read-only memory (abbr.)
- 19 Fr. author
- 21 Heb. zitherlike instrument
- 23 Fancy
- 24 Easy job
- 26 High (pref.)
- 27 Pet lamb
- 28 Approve
- 29 Design
- 30 Emery
- 32 Act
- 35 Federal agent
- 39 Egg (pref.)
- 41 Pedestal for a bust
- 43 Allure
- 45 Berne's river
- 47 Conduct
- 48 Goad
- 49 Moselle tributary
- 50 Iodine (pref.)
- 51 Small (Scot.)
- 53 Family member
- 54 Male friend (Fr.)

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A35

ERIE'S EATS

American Fusion

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

1662 W. 8th St. // 456.3096

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

2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

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

1201 State St. // 464.8989

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

101 Boston Store Place // 454.4700

American

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

1109 State St. // 453.6454

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

414 French St. // 454.1557

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

1317 State St. // 459.4276

Barbecue

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

732 W. 4th St. // 451.0007

Breakfast

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

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

2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

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

833 W. 38th St. // 520.6246

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

3512 Liberty St. // 866.3216

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

2340 E. 38th St. // 825.2727

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

1504 W. 38th St. // 866.0517

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

26 N. Park Row // 455.0002

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

2614 Glenwood Park Avenue // 455.0860

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

123 E. 12th St. // 456.6891

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

928 W. Erie Plaza // 456.0102

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

103 Meadville St. Edinboro

// 734.3400

Brewpub

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

123 W. 14th St. // 454.2200

Caribbean

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

1402 W. 10th St. // 454.0700

Chinese

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

3202 Pitt. Ave. // 836.9657

Delicatessens

TERESA'S ITALIAN DELI

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

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

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

2060 Interchange Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 866.1183

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

17 W. 4th St. // 455.5718

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

2620 W. 8th St. // 836.8702

French

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

18 N. Park Row // 871.6477

Gastropubs

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

8 E. 10th St. // 456.0072

Irish

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

506 State St. // 453.7800

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

1624 W. 38th St. // 866.0552

Italian

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

3531 W. Lake Road // 835.3900

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

2826 Plum St. // 866.9621

MI SCUZI Southern Italian cuisine with fresh, homemade pasta.

2641 Myrtle St. // 454.4533

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

1518 Walnut St. // 455.0041

Japanese

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

1014 State St. // 455.0596

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

970 Millcreek Mall // 868.7999

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

3000 W. 12th St. // 838.2495

Mediterranean

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

3602 W. Lake Road // 838.7197

Mexican

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

333 State St. // 454.5626

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

1315 Parade St. // 452.1966

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

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

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

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

2052 Edinboro Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 459.2121

Middle Eastern

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

2174 W. 8th St. // 452.4544

PALM MARKET AND DELI

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

2702 Parade St.

Pizza

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

3826 W. Ridge Rd. // 835.3360

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

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

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

Vegetarian

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

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

Wings

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

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

Interchange Road (Across from Millcreek Mall) 868.9464

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

664 W. 26th St. // 452.6347

GREENGARDEN TAVERN

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

1543 W. 8th St. // 454.3367

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

4205 E. Lake Road // 899.8661

Steakhouse

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

8199 Perry Hwy // 866.8359

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

2670 W. 8 St. // 838.2162

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

2112 E. Lake Rd // 455.4947

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

2800 W. 8 St. // 833.1116

Thai

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

36 N. Park Row // 454.4069

12 NEWS



ERIE'S MORNING NEWS TEAM

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MARK SOLIDAY

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