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July 10 - 23, 2013 / Vol 3, No. 13 / ErieReader.com

# ERIE READER



## THE GATHERING AT GWINNFFEE'S

### THE STORY BEHIND ERIE'S HOMEGROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Jeremy Galante** / GE and the Union Negotiations / **Erie Summer Music Series**  
The Future of Fiber Optics in Erie / **Regional Center for Workforce Excellence Audits**  
Jazz & Blues Walk / **Roar on the Shore** / Erie Summer Festival of the Arts / **The Bad Haircut**  
Shakey Graves / **The Great Blue Heron Music Festival** / Pineapple Eddie's Reviewed

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## Schedule of Events

### July 11 - July 14

45th Annual Erie Arts Festival  
Erie Bayfront Convention Center

### August 24 - August 25

Erie International Airport Aviation Gala  
& Open House Weekend  
Erie International Airport

### September 5

Memorial Tribute/Memorial Dedication  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church (tribute)  
Dobbins Landing (dedication)

### September 5 - September 8

Flagship Niagara League/Highmark  
Tall Ships Erie 2013  
Port of Erie

### September 7

Barber National Institute  
"Beast on the Bay"  
Obstacle Course Challenge  
Presque Isle State Park

### September 8

Grand Finale/Erie Philharmonic  
Concert/Perry Monument Relighting  
Liberty Park/Perry Monument





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Jeremy Galante

## From the Editors

By now it shouldn't come as a surprise that the negotiations between GE and union workers have come to the end of the line in Erie and it's time for 900 people to get off the train and make room for some riders destined for southern tracks. Although it may not have been perfectly clear, the writing on the wall has been legible. And instead of reading it, many choose to bury their heads in the sand — or as B. Toy illustrates, cry "No fair" — only to awaken to a rapidly changing industrial landscape.

And they blame GE. But as Jay Stevens writes in his Street Corner Soapbox this issue: "GE's long-term interests are not the same as Erie's... In fact, it's likely GE will some day move all of its Erie operations out of state..."

"That," Jay writes, "is how GE operates."

And rather than reacting with our

heads (maybe putting all of our economic eggs in one basket ain't such a hot idea since we're standing in the summer sun with yolk on our face), many of us react with our hearts, seeing this as a drawn-out, bitter breakup (how could GE, the business we've been courting for so long up and leave us for another city? What can Fort Worth, Texas give GE that we haven't been giving for so long?).

But that's business. And what GE's doing is smart — for GE. Business is about the bottom line, and if remaining in Erie isn't meeting it, a business has every right to uproot and plant elsewhere, while we remain stuck somewhere in the first four stages of the Kubler-Ross model.

And we can't afford to be reactive. We need to be proactive. And perhaps the first step is asking ourselves: What are we doing to make Erie not only attractive to businesses and

residents, but new businesses and residents?

We're blue-collar at heart, and our history is thick with tales of how we made things. Created things. Used our hands. Manufactured.

In fact, we still are manufacturing. This issue marks the return of Upfront, and in this issue, Cory Vaillancourt talks about manufacturing in Erie, and as it turns out, we're manufacturing fun. From 8 Great Tuesdays to Block Parties to the Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series, Erie creates event after event, to the point it becomes hard to take a night off from all the events.

And some Erie folks have been manufacturing fun for over three decades. What began as a small gathering of friends has grown to an Erie summer mainstay, and Doug Chaffee is keeping the party, the legacy of The Gathering at Chaffee's going strong. Matthew Flowers writes the comprehensive, inside story on how The Gathering came to be, its evolution, and how Doug is using the festival as a chance to give back to those in need.

Beyond that, we have the Perry 200 Commemoration pressing onward, sponsoring the Erie Summer Festival of the Arts — one third of Alex Bieler's To-do List in this issue. There, you'll also find the Jazz & Blues Walk and Roar on the Shore — two events that couldn't seem more opposite in crowd but share solidarity in purpose: Manufacturing Fun in the Gem City.

The desire to create is strong in Erie. Take for instance Richard Boller, who penned an original play debuting at Renaissance Theatre. Take restaurants like Pineapple Eddie's, serving as reprieves from the pox of cookie-cutter restaurants dishing out nothing more than frozen microwaveable dinners.

In Erie, it's in our nature — our history — to create. And as long as we have people like Doug Chaffee and events like The Gathering we will always have a shot at a bright future, regardless of which trains stop here or simply pass on through. Because as businesses come and go, we remain rooted to this city, and our future is what we decide to make of it.

By: Cory Vaillancourt

Erie is still a manufacturing town at heart – despite the nonsensical imaginings of the Wally World crowd – and free outdoor music is the fuel firing the ovens that those rusty blue collars still congregate around. In the winter, sans fuel, their chief output is clinical depression – but in the summer, fully fueled, their chief output is fun.

Now, winter appears to be over, but Erie's summer season is off to a soggy start. I think every single Block Party so far has been a wet one, and the Crawford County Music Festival was also subject to the fickle whims of an uncaring atmosphere – so much so that the much-beloved fete at Sprague's Farm and Brew Works could have been renamed the "Crawford County Muck Festival." In fact, it rained so much in June that those *really* tan Erieites you see walking down the street aren't really tan – they're just covered in a light coating of rust. Or mud.

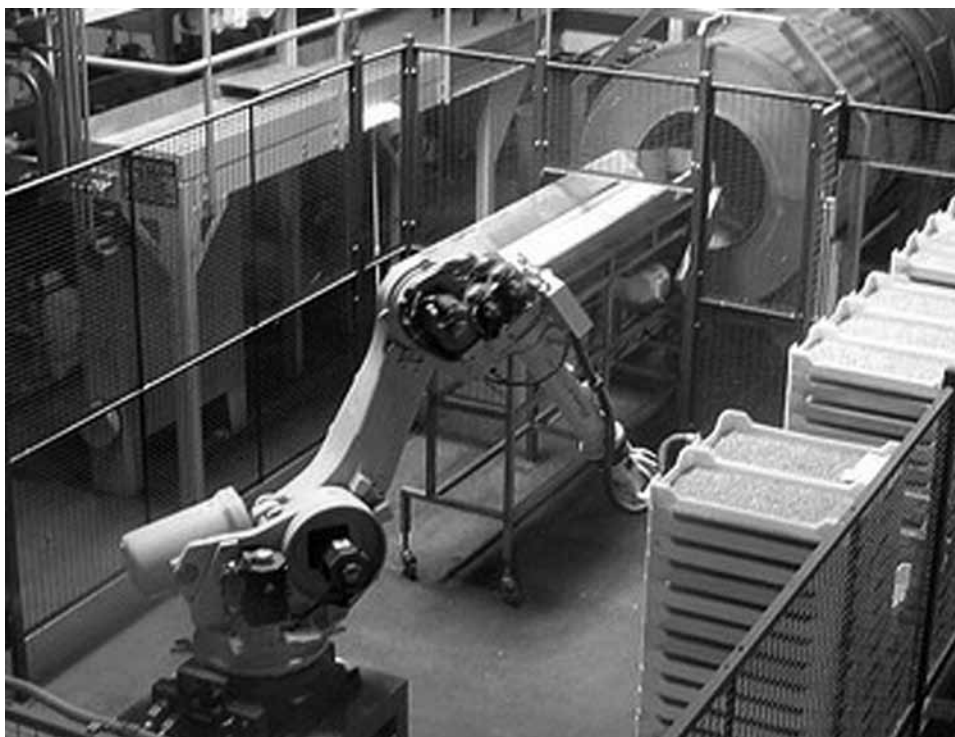
However, with a string of cloudless low-80s days and high-70s nights rapidly approaching, things seem to be clearing up – and just in time, too, because this is the part of the year that Erie really puts the pedal to the metal and starts grindin' her gears. One of Erie's favorite things to do in the summer – the 8 Great Tuesdays music series at the Burger King Amphitheater in Liberty Park – lurched off the starting line recently with legendary bluesman Walter Trout.

With a string of cloudless low-80s days and high-70s nights rapidly approaching, things seem to be clearing up – and just in time, too, because this is the part of the year that Erie really puts the pedal to the metal and starts grindin' her gears.

The Block Parties are still racing up and down State Street neck-and-neck with Roar on the Shore, The Gathering at Chaffee's is starting to rev its mighty motor (as Matthew Flowers will tell you in this issue's cover story), and the Erie Art Museum's Blues and Jazz Festival is about to come roaring out of the pits as it does each year, burnin' rubber and spitting fire.

Celebrate Erie is still trailing the pack with a wheel in the ditch and a wheel on the track, but that's another column for another day. Where were we? Oh yes, EAM.

EAM's Blues and Jazz Festival in Frontier Park will be held this year on August 3 and 4. Again, remember not to abbreviate it as "BJ Fest" on your kitchen-fridge calendar if you want to stay married. But the fest is a perennial favorite in this



Erie knows how to crank out the summer fun.

town, as much for the location as the quality of artistry EAM Executive Director John Vanco exposes us to each summer. That magical little corner of Frontier Park – where the Erie Reader tent has been known to pop up over the past few years – is a special place for Erieites. It is synonymous with summer.

But not far from that magical little corner, just a few dozen yards to the west, lies an overlooked and underappreciated summer music series that many people simply aren't aware of yet. Perhaps it's because it's on Saturdays, when State Street flexes its sometimes-anemic muscles, preening and peacocking for attention like a rouged-up streetwalker. Perhaps it's because it allows no alcohol, or because it starts at the too-late-for-dinner-too-early-for-drinks hour of 6 p.m., or because people don't typically associate world-class jazz music with a confectioner; but then again, who associates world-class jazz music with an art museum?

Whatever the reason, the Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series doesn't get nearly the due it deserves. In fact, you probably didn't know that it hit the track smack dab in the middle of that rainy, rusty June and that, as of press time, four of the 10 scheduled performances have already passed. On June 15, JD Jazz and Christian Howes explored the jazzier side of the violin; on June 22, Dave Stryker and Blue to the Bone brought forth the bluesier side of jazz; on June 29, The Sicilian Jazz Project somehow married Italian folk tunes with jazz; and on July 6, Bruce Johnstone and Tim Clarke laid their hornier interpretations of jazz atop Tony Grey's basslines, Brad Amidon's beats, and Frank Singer's impeccable picking.

Looking forward, the 2013 Summer Music Series will continue to offer offbeat, unusual, and interesting performances and performers span-

ning – or rather, broadening – the spectrum of jazz in Erie. Blues, Afro-Caribbean, Latin, world jazz, and even bluegrass will all be dispensed in delightful doses over the coming weeks as Dollar Bill and the Spare Change, Giacomo Gates, Cocomama, The Special Consensus, Tom Principato, and the Adrienne Hindmarsh Quartet with Pete Mills take the stage on July 13, 20, 27, August 10, 17, and 24, respectively.

These performances all take place outside, just across the street from that magical little corner of Frontier Park. They are family-friendly, they are within walking distance for thousands of us, and they are free.

Yes, there's that one word everyone in Erie – blue collar, white collar, or no collar – loves to hear, even more than "fried" – FREE. Gratis. No charge. Complimentary. On the house. Literally priceless.

In locally tough economic times – when jobs get gone and local brains get drained – seeing local businesses and cultural institutions step up and provide free fuel for our fires is inspiring.

So if Erie's never going to "give up the ship" of manufacturing, as one Perry 200 Commemoration mural on West 12th Street gaily suggests – let's again become known for manufacturing something. Something we're good at manufacturing. Let's become known for manufacturing fun.

*Cory Vaillancourt is a brilliant writer/complete back and can be complimented/heckled at cVaillancourt@ErieReader.com.*

*Find him on Twitter @VLNCRT. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://er-irdr.com/kmcot>*



# NEWS of the WEIRD

By: Chuck Shepherd

## Sieging Cheaters

As many as 50 exam monitors were forced to take cover at a high school in Zhongxiang, China, in June, fending off outraged students (and some parents) who hurled insults and stones at them after the monitors blocked cheating schemes on the all-important national "gaokao" exams. (It was "siege warfare," and eventually "hundreds" of police responded, according to a dispatch in the Daily Telegraph of London.) Metal detectors had found secret transmitters and contraband cellphones used by groups beaming in exam answers from outside. Independent proctors had been assigned because of longstanding suspicions that the schools' own proctors routinely enabled cheating (with results such as the 99 identical papers submitted in one subject on the previous year's exam). Said one student (in the mob of about 2,000), noting how widespread cheating is nationally, "There is no fairness if you do not let us cheat (also)." [Daily Telegraph (London), 6-20-2013]

## Things People Believe

Sheriffs and government deed-recorders in several states have reported annoying attempts recently by "Moorish American nationals" to confiscate temporarily vacant houses (often mansions), moving in without inhibition, changing the locks, and partying joyously -- based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting them sovereignty beyond the reach of law-enforcement. There is a venerable Moorish Temple Science of America, but these trespassers in Florida, Maryland, Tennessee, and other states are from fanciful offshoots that demand reparations (usually in gold) for Christopher-Columbus-era Europeans having stolen "their" land. A North Carolina police investigator told the Washington Post in March that "every state" is experiencing the "Moorish American" invasion. [Washington Post, 3-18-2013] [South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 1-28-2013]

Britain's Anomalous Mind Management Abductee Contactee Helpline is the nation's "weirdest" support group, wrote the Daily Mirror in June, providing a range of services to victims of kidnapping by extraterrestrials and other haunting incidents to about 1,500 people a year, according to co-founder Miles Johnston. AMMACH uses an ordinary wall-stud detector to locate bodily implants and employs magnetic field meters and mineral lamps to identify "signatures" left on a skin's atoms by visits to another dimensional reality, Johnston explained. "We are under the threat of termination as a species if we do not get this sorted out." [Daily Mirror, 6-9-2013]



Sheriff's deputies arrested Shane Kersey, 35, in March as the one who made phone calls to four schools in New Orleans's Westbank neighborhood, threatening to burn them down. When taken into custody, Kersey had aluminum foil wrapped around his skull and secured by a baseball cap but explained to an officer that he needed it "to prevent microwave signals from entering his head." [WWL-TV (New Orleans), 3-6-2013]

Among the character witnesses in May at the New York City sex-trafficking trial of alleged pimp Vincent George, Jr., 33, and his father were three of the younger man's ladies, who praised him unconditionally to the jury as a good father to the children they bore for him and as the person responsible for helping them kick their drug habits. Heather Keith, 28, and Danielle Geissler, 31, referred to each other as Vincent, Jr.'s "wife-in-law." Geissler admitted that George ("Daddy") slapped her around a bit, explaining that they both "slapped each other around sometimes but never over work or staying in the (prostitution) life." (Three weeks later, the Georges were acquitted of sex trafficking, although convicted of money-laundering.) [New York Daily News, 5-28-2013; 6-19-2013]

**Oops!**

Tim Blackburn, 50, fell off a ladder in Stockton-on-Tees, England, in 2007, and shattered his arm so badly that doctors had to remove four inches of bone and attach a metal scaffold around his arm that took six years to heal completely (and then only because of help from a cutting-edge ultrasound procedure). In May 2013 -- one day after he got a clean bill of health -- Blackburn tripped over his dog and tumbled down the stairs in his home, and his arm "snapped like a twig," he said. [United Press International, 5-22-2013]

**Bright Ideas**

Technology companies are making great strides in odor-detection robots, valuable in identifying subtle scents ranging from contaminants in beer brewing to cancerous tumors in the body. And then there is CrazyLabo in Fukuoka, Japan, which is marketing two personal-hygiene robots, available for special occasions such as parties, according to a May BBC News report. One detector, shaped as a woman's kissable head, tests breath odor and responds (e.g., "smells like citrus"; "there's an emergency taking place"). The other, resembling a dog, checks a person's feet and can either cuddle up to the subject (no odor) or appear to pass out. [BBC News, 5-8-2013]

The local council in Brunete, Spain, near Madrid, has now seen a radical drop in unscooped dog droppings after employing volunteers to find the names of derelict dogs. They then matched the dog with the town's dog registrations to obtain the owners' addresses, then mailed them packages containing their dogs' business (terming it "lost property"). [Daily Telegraph (London), 6-4-2013]

# Street Corner SOAPBOX

## GE Union Negotiations Reach the End of the Line

By: Jay Stevens

GE's negotiations with its union workers are over. The company is moving ahead with its plans to lay off some 900 workers and transfer its production to a plant in Fort Worth, Texas. "We regret that our efforts to preserve as many jobs as possible during the decision bargaining process were not successful," said head of GE Transportation, Lorenzo Simonelli, in a statement, "but now we must make changes to protect the long-term health of our business."

This shouldn't come as a surprise to anybody. GE's long-term interests are not the same as Erie's, or as the nation's, or as its workers. In fact, it's likely GE will some day move all of its Erie operations out of state or out of the country.

That's how GE operates.

shut down, thousands of jobs were lost, and the city lost nearly 20 percent of its population. The only thing left by GE was massive PCB contamination.

Of course, it's easy to single out GE as the villain in all of this.

GE is a publicly traded company whose primary purpose is to generate profits for its shareholders. And GE is certainly not the only company to shutter plants, move jobs overseas, and work to undercut Americans' wages and work conditions. The U.S. tax code creates incentives for large corporations to move overseas. Wall Street financial practices drive companies to chase short-term profits and seek advantages wherever they find them -- even if means destroying communities, polluting, and creating poor work conditions to do so.

And I suspect GE executives aren't happy to uproot out of places like Erie. After all, they lived in the communities that their company practices hamstring. Their children went to the schools that will suffer when GE leaves. They likely

have friends and neighbors they'll leave behind. They're human.

It's the system. It's the free-trade agreements and the evolution of Wall Street. It's the unfettered advance of free market capitalism, the growth of huge multi-billion dollar international conglomerates. It's the corrupt play of money and politics. There's no one to get angry with, just a bunch of abstract concepts and the slow and corrupting evolution of an entire capitalist system.

For its part, Erie should accustom itself to the idea that GE won't be here much longer. And the city needs to plan for a long-term success that doesn't depend on a large corporation for its livelihood.

Jay Stevens can be contacted at [Jay@ErieReader.com](mailto:Jay@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @Snevets\_Yaj. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erindr.com/t3y9o>



While GE slashes several hundred jobs in Erie, constructing fantastic stories about harsh business environments, this April the company reported big gains in its yearly profits, up \$3.53 billion from \$3.03 billion last year.

Since Jeffrey Immelt took over GE in 2001, the company has lost some 37,000 American jobs and closed as many as 30 U.S. plants since 2008. Currently, GE employs twice as many workers overseas as in its domestic operations.

And while GE slashes several hundred jobs in Erie, constructing fantastic stories about harsh business environments, this April the company reported big gains in its yearly profits, up \$3.53 billion from \$3.03 billion last year. And, of course, there's the question of how much the company pays in taxes. According to a 2011 New York Times report, the company paid no federal corporate tax in 2010, despite making over \$5 billion in profits. A 2013 Citizens for Tax Justice report pegged GE's federal tax burden over the last decade at about 1.8 percent on over \$80 billion in profit -- much lower than the corporate tax rate of 35 percent.

Heck, my hometown of Pittsfield, Mass. once housed a large GE manufacturing operation. But by the end of the 1980s, all the factories were

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# THE WAY I SEE IT

Regional Center for Workforce Excellence Audits

By: Rebecca Styn

All in good time. This phrase comes to mind in light of the financial issues that have recently cropped up with the Regional Center for Workforce Excellence (RCWE). In 2009, the RCWE purchased a downtown Erie office building, the former Sumner E. Nichols Building situated at the corner of Eighth and Sassafras streets, in order to save rent for both themselves and the Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board (WIB), an organization whose finances RCWE handles.

However, the RCWE has come under fire for this decision as the Governor's Office of the Budget launched an audit, questioning its legality, in April 2012 of RCWE's operations, which is expected to be completed later this summer. While scrutinizing organizations and their spending isn't a bad idea, going after RCWE in this instance seems to be barking up the wrong tree, possibly deterring local potential and growth in the process.

According to its website, RCWE serves as the staff support and fiscal agent to the Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board (WIB). RCWE's mission is to connect people with jobs through collaborative workforce development efforts and partnerships with various sectors in the Northwest Pennsylvania region. The RCWE cooperates with state officials in providing regional employers with vital labor market data, delivery systems that address student and worker needs, and assistance in coordinating recruiting and training efforts.

The Northwest Pennsylvania WIB serves Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Venango, and Warren counties, and is comprised of members representing business, labor, education, social services, and government agencies throughout Northwest Pennsylvania. Erie County, accounting for nearly half of the six county region's total population, joined the Northwest Pennsylvania WIB in 1999.

When RCWE was located in their previous space, the Lovell Place complex, the organization paid rent upwards of \$375,784 annually – specifically, this was the annual rent for

the final year of the 10-year lease agreement RCWE had at Lovell Place.

According to Michele Zieziula, CEO of RCWE, "Back in 2007, we conducted an analysis on our organization and recognized we were losing money every year at the federal level. We developed a capacity plan that would help us become more self-sustaining. And the board adopted it."

As part of that plan, instead of renewing the lease, the group decided to purchase its own building in hopes of becoming more financially viable and ultimately once paid off would be able to put that rent towards workforce development programs – such as training programs for dislocated workers or providing more educational resources to employers and potential employees – instead. "We figured if we were paying that to ourselves, we would be saving quite a bit of money instead of paying an outside landlord."

Under allowable use of federal funding, the RCWE isn't permitted to purchase capital and must rent instead; therefore, they created their own holding company, which would purchase the building and to whom RCWE would pay rent. In the end, that rent would become \$0 once the building was paid off, and because RCWE owns the holding company, that money could then be put into resources instead of rent.

In addition, RCWE's current rent is \$375,000 annually – less than the final year of rent that was going to Lovell Place. And while Lovell would have offered a lower rent payment in agreement for a lease extension, it still makes more financial sense to me to put the money back into the holding company in order to provide better programs in the future.

Where the issues came in is when RCWE realized that some necessary renovations were going to cost more than had been budgeted and outlying counties started to become concerned at the possibility that funds allocated for programming may go to unforeseen renovations.

"I have rural counties that we serve who actually feel that I focus on Erie too much,"

Zieziula said. "They feel that they lost out on training. The NWPA Careerlink improves access to information such as job postings and resumes and provides an array of assessment, training and education services to jobseekers and youth. And Erie's is one of the largest in the Commonwealth, so it was very important to us to make sure that that one is functioning and ultimately successful."

But there have been many upsides during this process.

"Through this, we were able to consolidate to one contractor system across six counties where we share services, best practices, and staff," she added. "We were also able to become far more efficient. Individuals feel like they have a continual connection to our organization and they feel like they're going into a professional office setting instead of a government building."

In addition, RCWE's current statistics provided by Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS), their state system of record, show growth.

In terms of total workforce development services provided in Erie, the number for this fiscal year (2013) stands at 75,764. This number is up from 60,316 in 2012. Out of the 75,764 total services, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) staff accounted for 25,695 services. In addition, the WIA registrations jumped up in Erie from 309 in 2012 to 323 in 2013, and while this jump does not seem enormous, it does show that the move of consolidating contractors did not have a negative impact. Our overall WIA registrations jumped from 568 to 658, region-wide.

The airport expansion runway and the remodeling of the Civic Center both have yet to see a return on investment, but in regards to these projects, we understand that growth and development takes time. Perhaps then there shouldn't be so much backlash in regards to RCWE's plan either – and maybe we should look at the RCWE in the same light. After all, it's the true definition of an investment – something that may be profitable or useful...in the future.

*Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Contact me at [rStyn@ErieReader.com](mailto:rStyn@ErieReader.com), and follow me on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/8chmr>*



# TECH WATCH

Erie's Fiber Optic Upgrade

By: Dakota Hoffman, Epic WebStudios

Erie received a major tech update recently, indicating that a huge opportunity for the city could right be around the corner. On Wednesday, June 26, the State College-based Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER) announced that it had successfully connected the Pennsylvania Research and Education Network (PennREN) to WQLN via optical fiber networking. This connection of the network to Erie was funded by an American Recovery and Reinvestment grant to KINBER to deliver broadband networks to underserved areas in Pennsylvania.

In short, optical fiber networking uses paper-thin glass cables to beam data at the speed of light. It greatly increases the bandwidth – the amount of electronic information – and the speed of computing.

"Fiber optic service has the ability to let organizations expand and improve their global communications as well as control future costs," said Joel Deuterma, CEO of Velocity Network in the press release. Currently, Velocity Network is the Erie area's only locally headquartered provider of fiber optic and Internet services, but if this network continues to grow, we could see a lot more, and Erie's tech growth would surely become exponential.

This significant achievement is a breakthrough for Erie's technological growth. Currently hospitals, libraries, schools, and media organizations are forced to deal with broadband and cable networking when transferring data, so with an updated fiber optics network, the effectiveness of their organizations increases exponentially. Additionally, media organizations will no longer be forced to transfer large files via snail-mailed thumbdrives, interactive classroom lectures can happen at distances in real time, and hospitals would be able to facilitate the deployment of advanced medical technologies, and vastly improve patient care and physician communication.

This presents an enormous opportunity for Erie. The availability of PennREN fiber optic connections in Erie area means other local nonprofit organizations such as universities and hospitals can collaborate with facilities across the commonwealth and take advantage of the opportunities that fiber optic service brings to an organization.

We don't know what could be built, just like we couldn't predict what would happen when communities started to migrate from dial-up Internet to broadband. What we do know though is that people are increasingly using data-hungry technologies, like cloud computing, video chatting, and video streaming, and our current network is becoming outdated.

Without cutting-edge networking capability, Erie would fall behind a rapidly growing curve. Schools or universities could be overlooked in favor of much more technological advanced institutions elsewhere. Healthcare options could be passed over for facilities within larger cities. This isn't just about fast Internet, it's also about keeping Erie organizations at the front of their industries.

At this time it's unclear what organizations or users will be connected to the network through the services of the KINBER initiative, but this is a step in the right direction for Erie. It will provide the city with a better means of connectivity not only within Erie, but also with other major hubs throughout the state, and hopefully one day the world.

*Dakota Hoffman can be contacted at [Epic@ErieReader.com](mailto:Epic@ErieReader.com). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/duu53>*



# JUST TOYIN' WITCHA

By: B. Toy





# Pineapple Eddie's

Food with Soul

By: The Reader Eater

The words “soul” and “food” are intrinsically fused when any dining experience extends beyond devouring fast food in our cars or consuming leftovers over a kitchen sink. There’s something about the relationship, the beyond carnal connection we have with that which we consume, as if for a moment, we’re doing more than sating our simple stomach pangs and feeding more than mere hunger through some communion.

A good meal, then, can exhibit as much soul as does its eater. But Thomas Keller has said that a recipe bears

The food at Pineapple Eddie’s may not be Soul Food specifically, but chef Jean Paul’s food certainly has soul.

no soul – that the chef must infuse the dish with it. The chef, then, a god of sorts with creation, an art to be enjoyed.

The food at Pineapple Eddie’s may not be Soul Food specifically, but chef Jean Paul’s food certainly has soul.

Situated at the corner of 10th Street and Weschler Avenue sits the Southern American and Caribbean restaurant –

off the beaten path in a neighborhood with nary a surrounding restaurant. The ambiance of this Southern Bistro is simple yet both warm and welcoming – a deli counter displaying delectable desserts, a semi-exposed kitchen where the chef and his cooks can be seen creating, and tables arranged closely in the smallish space.

Currently, Pineapple Eddie’s is one of Erie’s BYOB gems, so my dining companion and I came prepared – as I’d recommend you do – with a bottle of wine for the evening’s courses. But be warned: This is about to change, as the restaurant has applied for a liquor license. While patrons will no longer be able to bring their own beverages of choice for the evening, there seems to be room for great potential, with a beautiful bar in the back room begging to have life breathed into it.

To get started, we appropriately perused the “Gettin’ Started” section of the menu, featuring a tempting cheese platter – a combination of four imported and domestic cheeses paired with peppered salami and bruschetta – as well as a basket of six fried, crispy wings, and several dips. We opted to begin with the fish fry though, a plate of crispy catfish fingers.

Easily enough to satisfy two, the catfish strips were lightly breaded with a slight crunch to each bite. The coating kept the fish from overwhelming the experience without being grease-laden, resulting in a nice introduction to our evening.

After our appetizer and before our entrees, we enjoyed the complimentary cornbread muffins. Although drizzled with a sweet concoction of honey and cinnamon, the muffins were drier than expected by looks and needed just a touch of butter to soften the grittier texture.

For entrees, one can either be “Sittin’



Creole Spiced Shrimp and Chicken n' Waffles

a Spell” or choose from the “Southern Favorites.” The former features more common plates, with steak, griyo, and several options for chicken, fish, burgers, and salads. The latter leaves diners deciding between a variety of n’s – shrimp n’ grits, fish n’ grits, chicken n’ waffles, pasta, or sautéed fresh vegetables.

While the griyo – seasoned and lightly fried cubed pork chunks – and anything n’ stone-ground yellow grits sounded good, we, with some help from our server, opted for creole spiced

shrimp and the chicken n’ waffles.

She cautioned us though: the spiced shrimp will be *really* spicy, like, *burn-your-mouth sizzling* spicy, and the chicken would be rich, like, *decadent dessert rich*.

She was right... about one of the dishes.

The shrimp, despite being neither spicy – we actually wondered if they forgot the spice entirely or should simply rename the dish – nor sizzling, was good. Well-rounded combinations of being plump, succulent, and flavorful,

the shrimp were plated with red peppers. The mashed potatoes – a special side dish for the night – made a strong case for being a consistent, regular side, since they held their own, needing no gravy.

The chicken n’ waffles were rich, *like, decadent dessert rich*. And they were delicious. And decadent. And full of soul.

A heaping pile of Belgian waffles stacked next to the golden fried chicken, the dish blended simple starchy sweetness with savory spice – a harmoniously rich chord of maple syrup-soaked waffles resolving with succulent, savory chicken. Like the fish before it, the chicken wasn’t grease-soaked, resulting in a clean appeal, leaving the meat unmasked by any unnecessary batter.

Stricken with a serious sweet tooth, we saw this as an opportune time to move to dessert: a piece of peanut butter pie. Topped with nuts and a chocolate drizzle with the whipped peanut butter atop the chocolate, this delicious dish best demonstrated that intricate communion between soul and food that Jean Paul and his kitchen crew strive to achieve.

As a chef, it can’t be easy ensuring that soul is injected into each dish made, let alone each dish made each night. But at Pineapple Eddie’s, you’ll find personality and passion in the sweet, savory, succulent notes of these soulful Southern American and Caribbean dishes, which definitely did more than simply sate simple stomach pangs – they satisfied our soul.

To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/13cjt>



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# The Gathering at Chaffee's

## The Story Behind Erie's Homegrown Music Festival

By: Matthew Flowers

Late July air is always thick with the lake's exhalations. Beneath a sheet of heat and a blanket of humidity, mirages ripple off Erie's hot pavement – adding a glossy clear coat to where these roads may lead – and a perspiratory sheen glazes over every face in this city. My car-turned-convection-oven has the windows down as wide as the sky, releasing the boiling air that gathered inside from the early morning sun.

In the trunk, I have my tent, chairs, an air mattress and pump (for which I've forgotten the batteries), a cooler filled with ice, cold beer, and snacks (you can hear cans swishing in the frigid water when I make my turn on to 26th Street), an assortment of pillows and blankets (that I've deemed shitty enough to use for camping), and a case of water (most importantly). In the back seat of my car, I have friends squashed in the tiny second row, their respective backpacks riding each of their laps. In the rearview mirror, I see them smiling with excitement while their anxious eyes stare up at an imaginary checklist, worriedly marking off the items in their bags, seemingly certain they've left something essential at home (phone charger, laptop, headphones?).

Leave it behind.

It might seem impossible to detach from our circuit board extremities, but the weekend will be more enjoyable without the prosthetic parts.

As we continue across West Ridge Road, the buildings disappear for a while and long stretches of farmland take their place. I've made the journey here before and I can assure you it's better to not be taking calls in the middle of the woods for two days.

At the entrance to our weekend home, there is a small line of campers, cars, and trucks; each vehicle sprouting poker-straight arms from each window – they look like tooth picks in a potato – holding a ticket or a few bills to be exchanged for a paper wrist band. Somewhere around here, you'll find Doug Chaffee, the man who organized this festival. He's got a burly exterior, toughened from decades of landscaping and outdoor work. Despite his façade, he's a family man and a business owner, and he knows how to throw one hell of a party.

While I drive along the fallow thoroughfare I see girls in their bright sundresses, bathed in a summer glow, walking barefoot along the path; I see guys, bearded and shirtless, blowing life into their campfires, stirring embers with a poking stick; I see children riding their bikes fervently through the trails, ice cream from the food ven-



Big Leg Emma play a late set at the last year's Gathering at Chaffee's.

dors still smudged across their dirty faces. Strangers smile at me; some lift a solo cup towards the sun as if to say, "Welcome," and some simply keep dancing along the trail towards the stage. The air smells like campfire, greasy food, and a rich concoction of incense.

The place is alive.

With the car safely parked, I set out across tic-tac-toe board of cross-thatched field grass that crunches under my step until the shadowy threshold of the woods transforms the ground into hard packed dirt. The trees sing with the echoes of fireside chatter, the smoke filtering through the leaves, the sun's heavy stare beaming through the plumes.

When the campsite has been claimed, tents, groceries, backpacks, and folding chairs drop like anvils from our hands. While the men quarrel over which fiberglass pole goes in which section of the tent, debate how to properly attach the rain cover, and delegate who hunts for firewood, the girls pull back the tabs on a few cold ones, laugh while the men flex their primal sides, and

they watch our weekend neighbors arrive. When they arrive, we'll meet some of the other people who helped make this festival flourish this year; they'll be hanging out backstage. While we're there, we'll see who is about to play, and have quick chat with the band.

As the sun climbs high over head, the field and the woods get polka-dotted with small slipshod colonies composed of festival goers establishing their poly-cotton homes, trying to make the surrounding woods a simplification of where they came from. Hammocks get hung, tapestries drape over folding tables, trees and chairs act as acoustic guitar stands, and car stereos become speaker systems.

But none of this preparation is done in haste. There is nowhere to be (except for maybe the stage), and the people you're with are the people you need to see. As others congregate in the wood, circles of tents overlap like Venn diagrams, and what you have in the middle is what you have in common: You're all here at The Gathering at Chaffee's.

From the moment fireworks blast off, the streams of sparks lead our eyes towards the stars until the last ember burns out. And this is what Doug Chaffee first began using to gather people together. They are a sign of celebration, commemoration, and culture, all of which involve a gathering. In 1980, Doug lit the fuse on a tradition that was conceived around these colorful, crackling, combustible cartridges, and 33 years later it's still burning. "It revolved around fireworks and a party that started back in the '80s," Doug says, pinpointing the festival's birth.

At that time, Doug was living in Fairview; his backyard was adjacent to the 4th hole of the Kawkwa Club and coincidentally the club's Fourth of July launching pad. Around the time of Doug's high-school graduation, he was working as a groundskeeper there, where he would help set up the firework display while friends gathered at his house to watch the rockets spray colors into the sky.

For a decade Doug threw these annual Inde-





# 8 GREAT TUESDAYS

**TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2013 [6:30PM]**

**HEADLINER:** Rick Magee & The Roadhouse Rockers

**OPENING ACT:** Drunk in Memphis

**TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2013 [6:30PM]**

**HEADLINER:** Big Sam's Funky Nation

**OPENING ACT:** Ron Yarosz & The Vehicle



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pendence Day parties that revolved around close friends, cold beer, and some colorful explosions. Each year these gatherings grew in attendance in a gradual incline until the '90s when a transition from pyrotechnic entertainment to live musical entertainment occurred – along with a change to its present day location at 8296 Mill St. in Girard. And most importantly, the party went from private to public.

Unknowingly, Doug was feeding the flames for a festival that would later be named, "The Gathering at Chaffee's."

"For the first three years [in the '90s], we had one band for one night," he says. "[But] I continually lost my shirt on the thing because it was evolving from a private backyard party to an upper-scale starting-to-hire-bands-festival."

1994 was a milestone that distinguished the event as more than a party and more a local phenomenon. Word spread that summer, as more than 400 people turned up to the event. After replacing an unsteady stage built of bricks and pallets, Doug booked God Street Wine and Jake's Blues. In the '90s, God Street Wine was playing with Dave Matthews Band, Hootie and the Blowfish, and G. Love & Special Sauce, and Doug managed to book them for his stage. That year, for 10 bucks, you could see a local favorite in Jake's Blues and a huge national touring act, and you'd never have to see your cup run dry.

For the next three years the pace would be set. "We were going through 58 to 60 kegs of beer; Erie Beer said we set a record," he laughs. But while these gatherings were gaining momentum, Doug was still fueling the tank with money out of his own wallet.

1997 marked the first two-day gathering, but to patch the hole Doug had burned in his pocket, he changed the policy to a BYOB event, lest he be forced to discontinue not only his Fourth of July tradition, but also the highlight of hundreds of people's summers. But there were more than just financial troubles with the festival. Charging for The Gathering and eliminating its weaker elements could compensate for any loss in past years, but the emotional tolls on the horizon were more taxing. Between the land taking a beating with litter and vandalism, teenagers and tightwads sneaking in, fights occurring, and one

devastatingly irresponsible parent who attended the festival, Doug had had enough.

But the summer of 1998 started strong. It was the year Chaffee's gathering became, "The Gathering at Chaffee's" dubbed this by a set of T-shirts designed by Dave Nieratko, owner of Grasshopper, sporting the more music-oriented title. But it was also the year Doug came to a fork in the road.

During the 18th year of "The Gathering at Chaffee's" an 18-month-old child was taken to the festival – not an uncommon occurrence, as Chaffee's is kid friendly – but the toddler had been abandoned. Doug was alerted of the situation and brought the neglected child into safety while others scouted the grounds for the mother. Hours went by with Doug and his family caring for the child while the mother was forgetfully taking to the land's festivities.

While Doug had always encouraged people to have a good time at his festivals, he had no issue getting the police involved when a person's safety was in danger. He phoned the State Police, and Child Protective Services followed suit. When the mother was finally found, she was too inebriated to take care of herself, let alone her child.

"I said, 'I can't do this anymore,'" Doug says, ready to let the tradition go. "I got parents who can't take care of

As others congregate in the wood, circles of tents overlap like Venn diagrams, and what you have in the middle is what you have in common: You're all here at The Gathering at Chaffee's.

their kids."

Devastated by the irresponsible mother, he was forced to make a decision: Stop the festival and this family-oriented tradition or let things proceed without changing this local legacy. When neither direction seemed like it could lead to a better place, Doug took it upon himself to pave his own path.

"The only way I could go on the next year is if we try to make money for some kind of child abuse organization," Doug said. The following summer of 1999, Doug starting raising money for the Children's Advocacy Center of Erie County, in order to continue these back-to-nature celebrations. Thinking a step beyond this singular problem and finding a solution to the greater issue put "The Gathering at Chaffee's" back on trail. But Doug wasn't out of the woods yet.

In 2000, his daughter Emma was diagnosed



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with Juvenile Diabetes. However, Doug has an incredible gift for parlaying tragedy into charity. "I didn't want to take away Child advocacy, so I just added to it," he says, as if there was no choice.

So in 2000 he started using The Gathering at Chaffee's to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation as well. "It was never a venture to make money until the charities came about and then we started to say, 'Hey, let's do our best to try to make money for these [causes].'"

Since he started raising money for Children's Advocacy and JDRE, he's been able to donate over \$10,000.

Aside from a mere three instances – one where police had to stop by the festival for kids sneaking in, another in which a drunkard got stuck in a swamp, and that neglectful mother – the last 32 years of Chaffee's has always been a good ride. Its intimate setting mixed with good people and a homey vibe has kept it running smoothly. Through the years, The Gathering at Chaffee's has shifted its weekend in July as to not overlap with other festivals such as Blue Heron or downtown Erie's Roar on the Shore. For the past three years it's occupied the last weekend in July. But now Doug and a few new co-pilots are changing directions.

"I always took a back seat to promoting because it was never in my mind to make money on this until we started with the charities."

Last summer, the crooked i – one of Erie's premiere downtown music venues – took a turn steering the promotional wheel of the festival, helping



Doug Chaffee and his daughter Emma take the stage at the 2012 Gathering at Chaffee's

Michelle Chylnski

Doug reach a record breaking turnout, playing host to over a 1,000 people.

This year, Tracy Evans, general manager at the crooked i and booking agent for Rubber Tramp Live, and co-Rubber Tramp Live booking agent Ryan Bartosek have been working with Doug to take Chaffee's to a new level. "Ryan and I were like, 'Let's see if we can take this in a whole other direction and make it even better,'" Tracy says.

By handling the promotional end of the festival and taking on some of the booking responsibilities, Tracy and Ryan have given Doug some reprieve from the stress of organizing entertainment and promoting so that he can focus on getting the land ready for its 33rd year. Moreover, this year's online ticket sales have increased twofold. "To have them help me out has been a huge relief in the last two years," Doug says thankfully.

"This year," Tracy says, "I think we're going to see a big difference, just by online sales alone. It's pretty insane... I've seen ticket sales from Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and towns I don't even know where the heck they are."

The family environment Doug has cultivated in his festival seems to be contagious, spreading beyond our lakeside county. Not only are people coming in from neighboring cities to enjoy the party, but their lending a hand too.

"We are very fortunate to have friends in the entertainment industry that just want to help because they just want to," Tracy says. Grey Area Productions in Pittsburgh and Buffalo's Appalachian Jamwich Magazine has spread the word to the surrounding cities that Chaffee's should be on everyone's to-do list. "They never knew about Chaffee's, but they will," Tracy predicts. Between the old-school method of fliers and today's promotional standbys of Facebook and Twitter, the message has boundless reach.

This word of mouth is not only important for the charities but also for Erie. "I don't think there is enough in this area for people [in their 20s and 30s] to do besides just going to a bar on Friday and Saturday night," Tracy says openly, sitting in a small beam of light shining through the Rust Belt Lounge's windows at the crooked i. It could be argued that there are plenty of events in this city such as Block Parties, Celebrate Erie, and 8 Great Tuesdays, but the issue is not about quantity, it is about quality. "People don't want to go downtown and see Sha Na Na, in my opinion," she says, referring to the pompadour-donning, ducktail-hairedo sporting '50s rock 'n' roll act and one of this year's Celebrate Erie's headliners.

Whether you know the bands [Cont. on 21]

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# If We Were You...

## WEDNESDAY 7.10

### Spread the World Tour

PACA - the Performing Artists Collective Alliance - is really starting to come into its own as a legitimate venue for serious performers. Diverse musicians from all geographies and genres have performed here, and it seems like Mark Tanenbaum is hell-bent on bringing us even more, including this all-ages hip-hop show featuring some of Erie's finest MCs - Deuce Ellis, Whodat Peez, Doc Proto, and 2012 Erie Reader 40-under-40 alum C.Brown. Show PACA that you support what they do for our community - give them \$5 and enjoy the show!

**When:** 5 p.m.  
**Where:** 1505 State St.  
**Contact:** Facebook.com/paca1505

### FILM at the Erie Art Museum - Cloud Atlas

This 2012 flick starring Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Hugo Weaving, and Hugh Grant was one of the most expensive independent movies ever produced; according to its official synopsis, Cloud

Atlas is an "...exploration of how the actions of individual lives impact one another in the past, present and future, as one soul is shaped from a killer into a hero, and an act of kindness ripples across centuries to inspire a revolution." Sounds awesome/terrible, right? Right - it's been called both the best and worst film of all time, so head on over to the Erie Art Museum, bring \$5, and judge for yourself.

**When:** 6 p.m.  
**Where:** 10 East Fifth St.  
**Contact:** Facebook.com/FILMErieArtMuseum

## THURSDAY 7.11

### Chasing Moira

It's already halfway through 2013, so we're hoping that you've already had the chance to see local sextet Chasing Moira since they released their second album "Far Away As Yesterday" at the beginning of this year. If not, make sure to catch the jazzy alt-rock band when they return to Sherlock's.

**When:** 10 p.m.  
**Where:** 508 State St.  
**Contact:** 453.7760

## FRIDAY 7.12

### There are No Goodbyes

A free outdoor screening of Erie-native John C. Lyons' locally-shot independent film will take place at Penn State Behrend on the lawn next to the Reed Union Building. Lyons himself will be there to showcase his film that will also be available on DVD and digital download at There-Are-NoGoodbyes.com.

**When:** 9 p.m.  
**Where:** 4701 College Dr.  
**Contact:** 746.8264

## SATURDAY 7.13

### Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series

As the Romolo Chocolates 2013 Summer Music Series continues, local favorites Dollar Bill and the Spare Change are back by popular demand. Tony Steffanelli, owner of Romolo Chocolates, calls them "the most requested band we've had play our music series over the last three years."

**When:** 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Where:** 1525 West 8th St.  
**Contact:** 452.1933

### Falling Hollywood

After nabbing a spot on the Erie Reader's Top 10 Albums of 2012 with the wonderful "Set the Table," local foursome Falling Hollywood have been pulling out some new material this year, imbuing songs with a rougher, bluesier edge that sounds killer in a live setting. Check the band out at the crooked i, where they're sure to melt your ears off with new tracks as well as some off "Set the Table."

**When:** 10 p.m.  
**Where:** 1013 State St.  
**Contact:** Facebook.com/thecrookedierie

## SUNDAY 7.14

### Creating Healthy Yards with Native Plants

A lush lawn full of green grass may look natural, but an unending field of shortly-trimmed grass isn't a natural ecosystem anywhere in the world, much less in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Luckily, Judy Acker from the Audubon Society will be at Goodell Gardens where she'll fill you in on how to revamp your ecosystem to more accurately reflect the beauty of our region by creating a healthy backyard using native plants. You dig?

**When:** 3 p.m.  
**Where:** 221 Waterford St., Edinboro  
**Contact:** GoodellGardens.org

### S.O.S. Canoe & Kayak Race on Conneaut Lake

Helping the environment by getting out and enjoying it is almost like having your cake, and eating it too! So have, and eat, as the Crawford

Area Residents for the Environment and the Erie Peace & Justice Center host this 5-mile race on Conneaut Lake. Registration is \$25, and proceeds go towards appealing the air quality permit issued to that damn tire incinerator plant/cancer factory/pollution-producer.

**When:** 8 a.m.  
**Where:** 12324 Lake St., Conneaut Lake  
**Contact:** StopBurningTires.com/race

## MONDAY 7.15

### The Offseason

Playoffs? The Offseason is where it's at, at least in terms of fast-paced pop-punk groups. Named one of Alternative Press' 100 Bands You Need to Know in 2013, Boston-based band The Offseason will bring it's brand of quick and catchy tunes to Basement Transmissions as part of their summer tour.

**When:** 6 to 11 p.m.  
**Where:** 1501 State St.  
**Contact:** Basement-Transmissions.webs.com

## TUESDAY 7.16

### 8 Great Tuesdays

You may want to prepare yourself: This one's about to get loud, as 8 Great Tuesdays joins in the nine-day bike fest fun as Rick Magee & The Roadhouse Rockers take to the Burger King Amphitheater at Liberty Park. So for an evening of rockin' blues and revving riders, head to Erie's bayfront.

**When:** 6 to 10 p.m.  
**Where:** 726 W. Bayfront Pkwy.  
**Contact:** 455.7557

## WEDNESDAY 7.17

### Mid-Day Art Break

What's for lunch today? Rawk, that's what. Everybody's favorite Erie rockers Eric Brewer & Friends perform at this free, popular summer staple, so if you're downtown, stick it to the man by sneaking out for lunch a little early and visiting the patio at the Erie Art Museum. Hell, just take the rest of the day off. Tell your boss we said it's okay.

**When:** high noon  
**Where:** 10 East 5th St.  
**Contact:** ErieArtMuseum.org

## THURSDAY 7.18

### Drips & Beats: Roar on the Shore Edition

While bikers continue to rev their rides on a warm summer night, the crooked i crew will be chilling inside to the smooth flows of the latest batch of MCs brought in to town for Drips & Beats. This month's special Roar on the Shore edition of Drips & Beats brings N.Y.C. rappers

**Thu. July 11** Chasing Moira

**Fri. July 12** Hammersmith / Bike Night

**Sat. July 13** I-90s

**Thu. July 18** Leaders of Men, Drunk in Memphis

**Fri. July 19** Hammerd / Roar on the Shore

**Sat. July 20** Hammerd / Roar on the Shore

**Thu. July 25** Summer Block Party with I-90s and Geek Army

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MH the Verb and Kuf Knotz to the stage in addition to a smattering of local vocal talent.

**When: 10 p.m.**

**Where: 1013 State St.**

**Contact: Facebook.com/thecrookederie**

## FRIDAY 7.19

### Gallery Night

Come catch more than a glimpse of several works of art at this free gallery event, wherein anyone visiting five or more galleries will be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate to participating venues. For the less artsy of your party, food, drinks, and entertainment are also on the house.

**When: 7 to 10 p.m.**

**Where: 20 E. Fifth St.**

**Contact: 459.5477**

## SATURDAY 7.20

### Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series

After spending 14 years on Alaskan construction sites, Giacomo Gates decided to give his hands a break and put his vocal chords to work. The career change worked, as the jazz vocalist has

earned rave reviews for his silky-smooth singing. Now Gates brings his craft to the Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series, an appropriate venue for his sweet interpretations of songs.

**When: 6 to 9 p.m.**

**Where: 1525 W. Eighth St.**

**Contact: 452.1933**

### Sauce Boss

When it comes to the idea of dinner and a show, Bill "Sauce Boss" Wharton takes the concept to a new level. Sauce Boss doles out a combination of swampy Florida blues and gumbo - that's right, the delicious Southern dinner table staple - all in one night, preparing his signature dish while he rocks his newfound kitchen stage at the crooked i, leaving the crowd entertained and full.

**When: 10 p.m.**

**Where: 1013 State St.**

**Contact: Facebook.com/thecrookederie**

## SUNDAY 7.21

### Gem City Rock and Mineral Show

What better place to hold a rock and mineral show than the Gem City? If you've never been, you'll learn enough about petrology at this event to become a certified rockhound! Plus, this cool

event at the JMC Ice Arena - sponsored by the aptly-named Gem City Rock and Mineral Society - costs just \$3 for adults and \$2 for children over 12, which is like buying aurum for the price of pyrite.

**When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Where: 423 W. 38th St.**

**Contact: 454.6770**

### Michelle Michaels presents FACE

It's the third Sunday of the month, and you know what that means - time to get yo' drag on! Join Michelle Michaels and the rest of the Erie drag scene for drinks, dancing, and entertainment at the Zone Dance Club.

**When: 11 p.m.**

**Where: 133 W. 18th St.**

**Contact: 452.0125 or TheZoneDanceClub.com**

## MONDAY 7.22

### Erie SeaWolves vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels

That's right, there is a minor-league baseball team called "The Flying Squirrels." Doesn't sound very terrifying, does it? It doesn't - until you consider that one of those sharp-toothed

little rodents could totally drop from an unseen tree limb, sail down on a trajectory towards your jugular, gnaw it open, and send you to your bloody, eternal rest. But this is just baseball, so there's little chance of that happening. Right? Find out at the Uht for just a buck.

**When: 7:05 p.m.**

**Where: 809 French St.**

**Contact: 456.1300 or Seawolves.com**

## TUESDAY 7.23

### 8 Great Tuesdays

Last time we checked, New Orleans was nearly 1,150 miles away from Erie, and you'd have to travel through six states to get there. Lucky for Erieites though, the sound of New Orleans can be heard much, much closer - in the Burger King Amphitheater at Liberty Park - as Big Sam's Funky Nation comes to Erie to churn out New Orleans-style party tunes all Tuesday evening. And to make the show even better, local bluesmasters Ron Yarosz and The Vehicle are the evening's openers.

**When: 6 to 10 p.m.**

**Where: 726 West Bayfront Pkwy.**

**Contact: 455.7557**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



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### THE WHISKEY DAREDEVILS

JULY 12 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



### FALLING HOLLYWOOD

JULY 13 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



### JAKES BLUES

JULY 19 // WEDNESDAY @ 10:00



### THE SAUCE BOSS

JULY 20 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



### FUNKTAPUSS

JULY 25 // THURSDAY @ 10:00

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

# To-do List

By: Alex Bieler

## Roar on the Shore

When it comes to motorcyclists, a lot of people envision Peter Fonda, Jack Nicholson, and Dennis Hopper cruising along a barren highway on their bikes, manly men travelling throughout the country. Not quite as many think of white-collar workers holed up in their cubicles until 5 p.m. hits, but that's where they'd be wrong, because sometimes that mousy officemate transforms into a Harley fiend once the workday is done, unbuttoning his Oxford and letting his Stafford tie flap behind him, another welcomed part of the biker crowd.

"There's a camaraderie between motorcycle riders," says Greg Rubino, who's been a bike enthusiast since he was a kid. "We come in all shapes and sizes and a growing number of women are in the ranks now. My own wife rides a Harley – she has two of them – and she's a real fan, as am I."

Rubino, the chairman for this year's Roar on the Shore, has been working to have the bike rally grow since its inception in 2007, and it has, pulling in over 80,000 people last year and expected to approach 100,000 during this year's event, which runs from Thursday, July 18 to Saturday, July 20. In addition to the multitude of bikers coming to our fine town, Roar on the Shore welcomes guests like Grand Marshall Kyle Petty of NASCAR fame and expert Danny "The Count" Koker of "Pawn Stars" and "Counting Cars" fame.

With the sounds of thousands of bikes revving throughout the night, Roar on the Shore needed some people to provide the proper soundtrack for the three-day rally, so heavy rockers Queensryche, Jackyl, and FireHouse will play, something Rubino is excited about.

"I think it was a real coup," he says. "We have moved the music around to different flavors over the years, but the biggest response we always get is from that harder rock 'n' roll."

The rock may be hard, but the decision to head downtown for Roar on the Shore should be easy, whether you're wearing leather chaps or a cute sundress.

## Jazz & Blues Walk

Every so often, a warm summer night calls for a nice late-hour walk. As some of you Harry Potter-heads might remember, a certain Auror said, "Nothing like a nighttime stroll to give you ideas." JazzErie had the inspiration long ago to add some magic to your typical downtown walk.

The Jazz & Blues Walk returns Saturday, July 13 to help fill downtown with a plethora of performers all within a short distance of each other. Walking distance, in fact, as a \$10 button can grant you admission to shows in nine different locations spread across 13 blocks.

"It's an opportunity for people to hear a lot of local bands that they would not normally get to hear in the same evening," JazzErie President Allen Zurcher says. "[There are] a lot of different styles of jazz, for instance. There are groups that play sections from the great American songbook, like Frank Sinatra used to sing. There are groups that are doing more modern jazz, more in-your-

face. There are blues bands, like Ron Yarosz and the Vehicle at Docksider."

The night starts off with a 7 p.m. reception at the Erie Art Museum, featuring the soothing sounds of The Heliotropes as well as free hors d'oeuvres, beer, soft drinks, and more. From there, jazz enthusiasts can amble to shows beginning at 8 p.m. and going until 11 at Pufferbelly Restaurant, Under the Clock, Docksider Tavern, and Urraro Gallery, or they can head to 9 p.m. to midnight performances at the Brewerrie at Union Station, 1201 Kitchen, Erie Ale House, and Scotty's Jazz & Cigars. With venues featuring different artists ranging from trombonist Chris Dempsey and his quartet to local bass master Steve Trohoske and Bass Universe, jazz walkers can come and go throughout the evening, hearing as many acts as they'd like.

"On any given weekend in Erie, you can hear one or two groups depending on where you're willing to go," Zurcher says. "This is the one weekend of the year where we have nine different groups performing."

For a full list of performers at their designated Jazz & Blues Walk destinations, visit [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com) to start planning your route. And if you don't feel like walking, that's okay; a pair of trolleys will be making rounds, picking up and dropping off people from 8 p.m. to midnight. Also, if you aren't a member of JazzErie quite yet, you can sign up before the walk for \$25 and get a free button to Jazz & Blues Walk for a fresh take on your nighttime stroll.

## Erie Summer Festival of the Arts

For over 40 years, the Erie Summer Festival of Arts has provided the Erie area with an event allowing everyone a chance to appreciate arts and music in a group setting since Alex Clemente and Pat Ferrito founded it in 1968. This year, the tradition returns Friday, July 12 and continues through July 14, and all for the reasonable price of nothing.

"We focus on the underserved in Erie and to expose them to arts and music for free to enhance their quality of life and feed their soul," says S. Vince Palermo, president of the event, also known as Erie Arts Fest, which will be held in memory of local music supporter Keith Veshecco.

Of course, donations will be accepted at the event, which go a long way to help bring in all of the musical guests (this year calls for uber-talented bassist Tony Grey, cover band M-80s, and Erie jazz queen Mary Alice Brown), theater, art, dance performances, and art lectures that go on over the free three-day fest. This year's celebration will be held down at the Bayfront Convention Center as part of the Perry 200's sponsored events, another local twist on an Erie tradition.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at [aBieler@ErieReader.com](mailto: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://eridr.com/1nv5q>





# Shakey Graves

*Up-and-coming 'unclassifiably original' and 'frighteningly good' musician plays a free concert in Meadville*

By Ryan Smith

**A**draining rain started coming down not too long after Shakey Graves arrived, set himself up, and started playing inside downtown Meadville's Diamond Park gazebo.

But I didn't see anyone who'd come to see what was happening there get up to leave. Seemed like more people were arriving, if anything.

"Keep going!" a lady on the lawn yelled up to the Austin singer/songwriter/one-man band amidst the rain.

"Will do," he said in polite reply. And then did.

When the rain began pouring down even harder, Graves took another pause. He then cordially invited everyone there to crowd into the park's

**When the rain began pouring down even harder, Graves took another pause. He then cordially invited everyone there to crowd into the park's gazebo with him, and after most everyone did, he turned himself, his guitar, and his kickdrum around and played on.**

gazebo with him, and after most everyone did, he turned himself, his guitar, and his kickdrum around and played on.

Tucked right in with that intimate crowd, it seemed Graves' energy was naturally built-up, blasting out to appreciative ears, and, by the end, leaving him righteously exhausted-looking, almost punch-drunken from what he does and how he does it.

And what this Shakey Graves does, well, it's tough to label; the folks at NPR Music used words like "unclassifiably original" – and "frighteningly good" – to describe his sound and vibe.

It's most definitely something to behold – this wiry young Texan laying raw, world-wise-and-weary narratives out over contrasted sparse-and-

explosive flatpick guitar work, at the same time stomping out driving rhythms on a kickdrum he's fashioned from an old pale-yellow suitcase.

"My music is ... uh ... It's just a loud songwriting delivery system – I think," the 25-year-old Alejandro Rose-Garcia told his hometown's Austin Monthly earlier this year.

So who/what, then, is 'Shakey'?

In one YouTube-posted video – a 2012 throw-together performance of his tune "Late July," taped at the bottom of an East Austin storm basin – Rose-Garcia talked about how the name came about on one eventful night at a Texas music festival:

"This guy came to [Rose-Garcia and his friends'] campsite, and I guess he was tripping on acid or something. He was just ranting," he said, explaining how the man was trying to make everyone around as convinced as he was that the big, warm, old beer he was slurping away at was actually a very-fine, smooth-as-silk whiskey to be enjoyed and appreciated by all.

And, quite cryptically, "the last thing we heard him say," before rambling off on his weird way, said Rose-Garcia, "was 'Spooky Wagons.'"

Right after that step into (or step onto from) the deeply cerebral, Rose-Garcia said, he and his buddies started assigning each other spirit-guide names along those lines – and, after he pulled out his guitar, it turned out 'Shakey Graves' was there to stay.

It was that night, he said, that he "played for the first time in a long time" in front of people listening, and, "It was great. It was a musical explosion."

And when people came up to say, "What's yer name, man?" and/or just started calling him Shakey, he "decided to stick with it," he said.

And Rose-Garcia – who's also a professional actor (he had a recurring role on the Texas-based hit "Friday Night Lights") – wrote in a December 2012 tumblr.com journal entry that the musical experiment that's become Shakey Graves had, up until the last few years, basically been "a weird pile of burned CDs in some treasure drawer covered in drawings and full of hissy bizarre home recordings...in various states and of different qualities that (had) gone unheard."



**Austin, Texas-based Shakey Graves played through rain to kick off the Meadville Downtown Summer Concert Series**

These days, though, those words and music are getting out – through dogged cross-country touring (that includes major festivals like the Montreal Jazz Festival and opening slots for big names like Robert Plant and Old Crow Medicine Show), album and EP releases, fan-anticipated (and fan-making) online postings of live and rare performances, and plenty of critical acclaim – and people are paying attention.

To my ears, Shakey Graves' sound and presence brings to mind a slew of elements, something sort of like a low-polish (in a good way) musical lovechild of early, "Another Side Of"-era Bob Dylan and country-vibed Jack White, born and raised and sharpened around some hip, bluesy Lone Star State honky-tonk (and maybe spending some lazy days hanging out and talking universal strife with a young Phil Ochs). But that description only tells a bit of what you hear coming out of that "loud songwriting delivery system." There are more and deeper roots – the stuff of earliest American blues and folk – coming down and out through Graves.

"See his show," critics at Folk Hive wrote. "Travel to Austin if you must."

Those who took the opportunity to check Shakey Graves out when he played that cozy free show in Meadville on Thursday, June 27 – the kickoff for the ongoing Meadville Downtown Summer Concert Series – won't be needing to do that.

But, if that were the only option, it's very likely some may want just to see him again. And for those around here who didn't make it out to Meadville that night, we'd suggest listening if and when you can.

Once you do, seeing him for yourself just might be worth making a considerably longer trip.

Ryan Smith can be contacted at [rSmith@ErieReader.com](mailto:rSmith@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @ [RyanMSmithPlens](https://twitter.com/RyanMSmithPlens). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/hqurc>



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# MUSIC REVIEWS

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## Larry And His Flask

By The Lamplight  
Silver Sprocket

★★★★★



"By The Lamplight" opens with the harmonious a cappella crooning of the word "pandemonium," the title of the track that opens Larry And His Flask's latest LP. After such brief sweetness, musical pandemonium rips the album open as a sonorous cacophony of brilliant anti-folk punk-bluegrass erupts in powerful delight. "Lamplight" retains the signature LAHF sound found on previous efforts (think of what might result if Johnny Cash, Queens of the Stone Age, and Dropkick Murphys met Mumford & Sons in a dive bar, bought the lads a few rounds of whiskey, and taught them how to fight and *really* be angry). But the album's highest points are found in more demure songs, like "Gone From You" and "All That We've Seen," which show the band's capable of more than kerosene-soaked ankle-breaking bootstomper. But both of those tracks are followed by ratcheted-up toe-tappers, proving LAHF has both balls and heart with no signs of slowing down. — Ben Spегgen

## Owen

L'Ami du Peuple  
Polyvinyl

★★★★★



Like the Owen albums that preceded it, "L'Ami du Peuple" sure makes you feel for Mike Kinsella. The Chicago multi-instrumentalist has been performing under the moniker Owen for over a decade now, releasing another album's worth of confessionals, trading in the mesh screen and priest for a guitar and a microphone. However, "L'Ami du Peuple" does mark a bit of a shift in Owen's sound, turning up the volume and introducing more electric guitars than before, most notably on the track "Bad Blood." Fans of older Owen material needn't worry though, as the new release as Kinsella still packs the album full of his exquisitely picked acoustic guitar and heartbreaking vocal delivery, dealing out lines like, "I'm a dad and my dad's dead" amid musings on married life and familial relations. "L'Ami du Peuple" showcases Kinsella's talents, plus adds a little something new to keep things interesting. — Alex Bieler

## Smith Westerns

Soft Will  
Mom & Pop

★★★★



As many bands do, Smith Westerns take a spin back to the '60s for parts of the Chicago indie-pop group's latest album. In fact, the young band travels across time throughout the album, starting with the Beatles-inspired opener "3am Spiritual," a 4-plus minute piece that greets listeners with warm synths and chiming guitars, including a solo that wouldn't have been out of place on "Abbey Road." From there, we get touches of '80s keyboards and a Pink Floyd-esque instrumental track in "XXIII." It's all certainly quite pretty and wonderfully produced (you can thank producer Chris Coady, who's worked with Beach House and Grizzly Bear), and Cullen Omori's vocals certainly feel at home in the throwback feel despite being in his early 20s. "Soft Will" tends to lag halfway through due to its insistence on mellow, echoing songs, but there are some lovely tracks here. — Alex Bieler

## Bass Drum of Death

Bass Drum of Death  
Innovative Leisure

★★★★



With a name like Bass Drum of Death, native Mississippian John Barret's band certainly sounds like band that would be at home in a garage. It's apt then that the eponymous second release for the Barret's group specializes in fuzzed-out guitar riffs and crashing drums. While not as fast-paced as 2011's full-length debut "GB City," "Bass Drum of Death" is another lo-fi affair into down-and-dirty garage rock with some blues-rock tinges here and there. Lead track "I Wanna Be Forgotten" starts off on a good note, introducing listeners to Barret's catchy string-work and muddled vocals, which can't always be understood. There are some quibbles in terms of mixing, such as a bass line that could have been potted up in the aforementioned track and the constant reverb on Barret's voice, but songs like "Crawling After You" and "Shattered Me" are solid tracks despite such faults. — Alex Bieler

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# Street Fashionista

Joe Northup

By: Leslie McAllister

Father's Day has passed, and I hope all of you honored your pa in the best of ways. There is no better relationship than the one with dad. We learn much from those that blaze those trails, so setting a good example is undeniably a father's path.

Our generation is moving into that age where we are seeing Dave Grohl be a father along with members of Rancid and Black Flag and countless other rockin' cool pops. Dads who once rebelled against their parents are now stepping into that role, and it's pretty dang sweet! These guys don't have to retire their studs and safety pins or hang up their flannels – they just have to tuck the shirts in now sometimes.

It's a tailored, a-hem, punk-rock look that's really a lifestyle not an accessory. Unarguably there is a style and here's what it dictates: Fred Perry, Ben Sherman, Doc Martens, Element, RVCA, Vans, Thrasher. You wear khakis and jeans, have bitchin', colorful tattoos, maybe some rad leather bracelets, high-top Chuck Taylors, long, shaggy hair or super short and clean. You probably have a chain wallet filled with ice cream money for your tinies, a smartphone filled with pictures of your kid doing silly stuff, and if you are super bold and punk-rock, you may also have a bank account.



Leslie McAllister

Dads who once rebelled against their parents are now stepping into that role, and it's pretty dang sweet! These guys don't have to retire their studs and safety pins or hang up their flannels – they just have to tuck the shirts in now sometimes.

But what sets you apart fashionably is that you have a voice, a purpose and a reason to wake up every day – to teach your child to stand up, speak up and be real. To the dads!

**Who?** Joe Northup

**Where?** Gaudenzia Erie, Inc. (a nonprofit comprised of three treatment facilities: Crossroads, Dr. Snow Halfway House for Men, and Community House for Women and Children, which provides a complete continuum of care, including detox, residential, dual diagnosis, out-patient, and halfway house services), West Fifth Street, Joe's awesome office with clowns and Ice

Cube lyrics on the wall.

**Why Joe?** He has that preppy but not-so-preppy punk-rock dad kind-of-thing going – and I like it! I remember Joe from back in the day, and he almost always had his Fred Perry polo, Docs, flight jacket, chain wallet, and jeans on, always looking put together.

He says his best accessory is his wife Dawna (a past Street Fashionista!) and I agree. But I must also add, those tattoos are pretty stinking cool. His freshest ink is on his fingers and it represents Pac Man's point levels.

Joe is doing really admirable work in the community with Gaudenzia, and I think that is the most fashionable thing about him – mentoring and helping others. What a great example to set for his beautiful and silly boys – dad of the year award!

**What We Want to Know:**

**Tell me about your style.** Somewhere along the way things got twisted up and I found myself in one of those "professional careers" so I can no longer get away with wearing a Clash shirt or Integrity tank top to work. I do get to sport a variety of Fred Perry polos or Ben Sherman button-downs. I also manage to find a good number of shirts that fit in with my work but still have some subtle skulls or other little touches that allow me to cling to my punk-rock/working-class roots. 1992 me would probably kick my ass.

**Favorite item of clothing?** My Docs. Dr. Martens on my feet have always given me that warm fuzzy feeling. Every pair used to tell a story. Still making stories, they're just more focused on kids

dropping crap on my shoes or stepping in gum.

**Most awkward fashion moment?** That would be this article.

**What would you wear to the opera?** Ear plugs.

**If you could be a state in the USA, which state would you be and why?** The state of relaxation. I have four young boys and 16 addicts I care for daily; I need some relaxation.

**What is your favorite man accessory? Hat, sunglasses, cuff links, tie tac? You get it.** My wife! (Dawna...Studio Hue...Get your hair did!)

**Tell me about your job and its most rewarding moments.** I have worked for Gaudenzia, which is the largest inpatient addiction treatment agency in Erie, for the last nine years. I have been running our men's halfway house for the last couple years. When I first started at Gaudenzia, I was taught not to take the credit when one of my client's turns things around and not to take the blame when they don't.

Overcoming a drug or alcohol addiction is not easy, more people fail than succeed. I have been fortunate to see many of the guys who have gone through our program succeed. Six of our former halfway house clients now work for Gaudenzia.

Many past clients have entered college, built amazing families, and found really good jobs (making more money than I do...human service work, it's not about the money). It's these people who inspire me. I love going to work. Every member of my staff is invested in our clients. I realize how lucky I am.

I hold tight to the triumphs. That is the only way to get past the moments when you find yourself at a guy's bedside, waiting for the nurse to pull the plug on his life. Watching him die alone because his family was so disgusted by the way

his addiction had taken him over they did not want to comfort him in his last hours.

**Why do you love Erie?** Born and raised here. One day the winter may drive me away, but I will always cherish the people I have met here. Beautiful summers, a good sense of community – especially amongst us old punk rockers and arty folk.

**Favorite thing to do here in the summer - going to the beach is a dead giveaway, anything else?** My family enjoys going for walks, visiting Asbury Woods, Frontier Park, hitting up playgrounds, checking out the fine automobiles on Mondays at the Bayfront, going to flea markets, and listening to bands – not cover bands or Sha Na Na.

**If you were the mayor and you could change one thing about this town to make it cooler, what would you choose?** Mayor Sinnott seems to be doing a decent job. However, if I could change one thing...I guess I would go with mandatory "We Love Erie" tattoos for all residents. It wouldn't have to be a large neckpiece, à la your baby's momma or daddy's name, just something small and dignified.

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

Leslie McAllister can be contacted at [IMcAllister@ErieReader.com](mailto:IMcAllister@ErieReader.com), and you can follow her on Twitter @ShopJus. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/0sej3>



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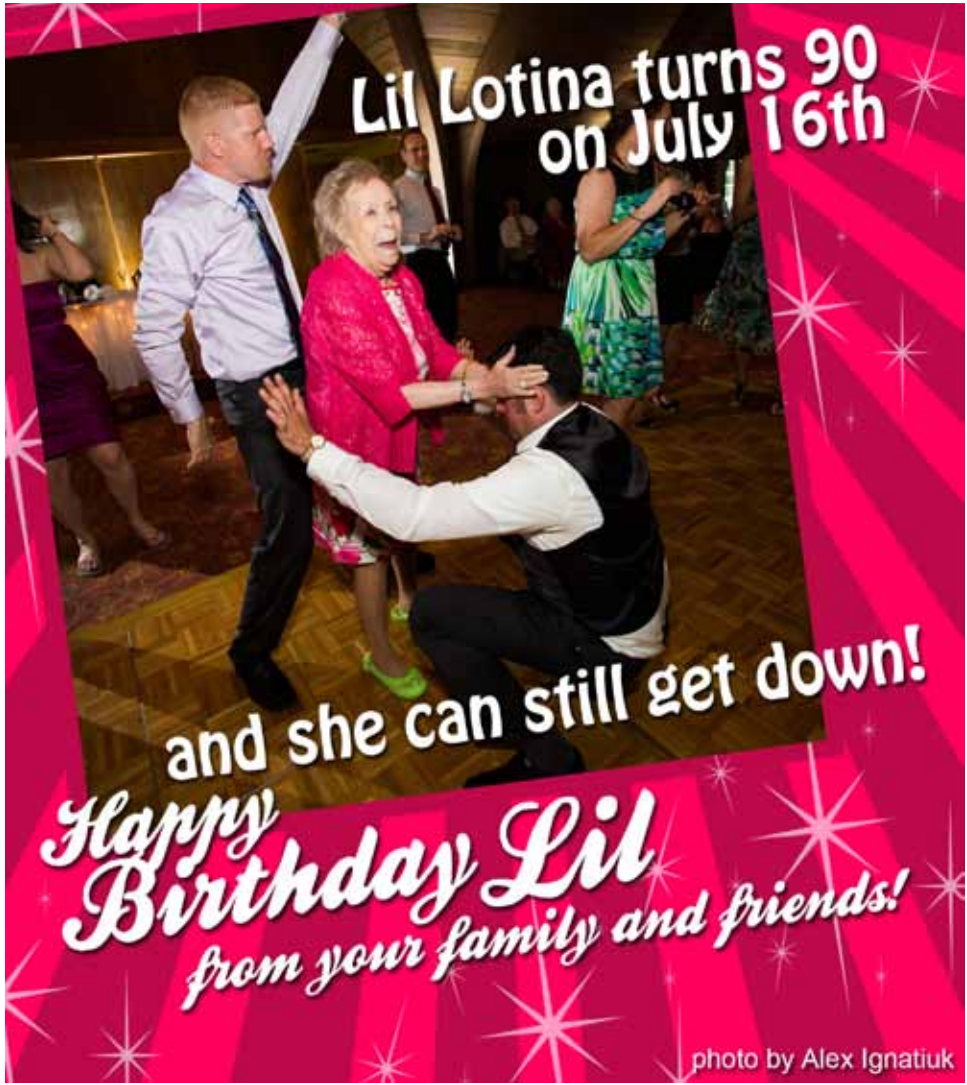
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Lil Lotina turns 90 on July 16th

and she can still get down!

Happy Birthday Lil from your family and friends!

photo by Alex Ignatiuk

# "The Bad Haircut: A Disconnected Comedy"

A New Original Play By Richard Boler

By: Ben Spегgen

It starts with a haircut – a simple task of basic grooming most humans engage in every two to four weeks. But this isn't a typical haircut. It's a bad haircut. A really, really, really bad haircut. One so bad, the experience causes a guy to lose his sense of self.

Such begins Richard Boler's original new play, "The Bad Haircut: A Disconnected Comedy," which debuts at the Renaissance Theatre Friday, July 12.

So if Delilah can steal away Samson's strength by cutting his beard, it makes sense, in a Kafkaesque way, that in today's world someone can easily lose himself after a lowering of the ears. But what inspired the idea of the loss of identity by way of a haircut?

"The idea I came up with is that we're suffering under a disconnection," says Boler, a smallish but spry 60-something guy with a salt-and-pepper crop, digging into the philosophical earth of his new comedy.

"The heart of the play is modern life and disconnectedness," Boler says, over coffee on a Friday afternoon. "Every scene that I wrote started with me asking myself: 'What's the disconnection in this scene? Is a person disconnected from himself, are these people disconnected from each other, are these people disconnected from physical reality?' I wanted to know that there's some sort of disconnect so that it wasn't just a bunch

of comedy sketches."

Boler, a mental-health professional by day, writer by night, isn't a newcomer to writing, with columns appearing in local newspapers – including this one – and has seen his prose published in literary magazines. Although his work for the stage comes along at a more staggered, decades-long pace.

"Apparently I write a play every 20 years," he says, bright-eyed and laughing, "starting at age 40."

Boler's last play, "Spooks: The Haunting of the Skowronski Sisters," found success at the Roadhouse Theatre in 1991 when Boler first debuted his more traditional approach to comedy. The play drew a fan base throughout the '90s and even saw a run in Knoxville, Tenn.

While "Haircut," like "Spooks," unfolds in two acts, the similarity ends there. "Haircut," after all, features the quest of a nameless protagonist and narrator attempting to find himself – on a non-linear path, a series of "interconnected sketches," Boler says.

And this play explores the notion that something is very, very wrong in the world.

"Because his identity is lost, he doesn't have a name," Boler says. "I like the idea of narration; I think theater is the telling of a story that comes alive. What started this story was the line of thinking: Something is wrong. Something is wrong with life. Something has happened. And

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we don't know what it is, but everybody kind of feels it on some kind of level. That was the impetus for me.

"That's the way I've felt for maybe the last 20 years – certainly the last 15 years," Boler elaborates on "Haircut"'s genesis. "I thought it was just me – I thought I had just fallen off my horse and didn't know how to get back on. But then I started asking other people, 'Do you feel like something's wrong? Do you feel like there's just something off with life?' and I was stunned by how many people said the same thing."

Boler adds that "Haircut" is also about inertia, about being stuck in our disconnectedness, which first might strike one as odd, foolish even, since our small phones, our tablets, our computers, our search-engine-infused glasses, our TVs that we can wave at to change the channels have connected us now more than ever.

"The inertia part is that I feel that people are stuck, and I see that in almost everything – I think technology fosters stuckedness," he says, laughing at the absurdity of our stuckedness. "I don't worry so much – there's this thought, that computers might become human – I don't worry so much about that as I worry about the fact that humans are starting to think like computers, a linear-process-driven creativity."

But this isn't an attack on technology specifically.

"I don't want it to come up that this is totally anti-technology because it's not... Technology accelerates this kind of disconnectedness, but I think it started before that."

And the notion of being disconnected, be it from ourselves, our peers, the world around us, the notion of becoming stuck in time, space, the very fabric of the universe has been one writers have grappled with before.

"Haircut" is very much an 'Alice in Wonderland' story," Boler says, reveling in the company of the disconnected, the ones who've fallen down the rabbit hole before. "What I'm hoping is the Wonderland the narrator finds himself in is actually our reality."

"That's what I hope people will see, 'Oh yeah, we are f----- nuts,'" he says, chuckling, because after all, this is comedy — even if the topic matter is heavy. "These are crazy times, these are the ways we're living. I hope that people who feel that way can connect with this and people that don't can come to understand it..."

"What I want this to be is an alive and transformative experience for the audience."

*Local actor and musician Justin Moyar is playing the role of Boler's nameless protagonist-narrator. Scott Frisina, Camille Jones, Karen Schelinski, John Stockhausen, and Leslie Ford – who's also the play's director – round out the six-person cast.*

*The play opens the weekend of Friday July 12 at the Renaissance Theatre, located at 1001 State St., and continues its run the next following two weekends, closing July 28. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30. General admissions tickets are \$12.*

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# Great Blue Heron Festival Soars

## In its 22nd year, the Sherman, New York festival is going stonger than ever

By Ryan Smith

"**Y**ou okay, brother?" I hear a woman's voice – calm, light – ask from somewhere nearby. I crouch down, hurriedly combing around on the ground for all the important crap I'd just let tumble out of my open camera bag.

"You are stopped in a \*weird spot," I hear the voice say, closer this time.

Sounds like someone must be a little outta sorts somewhere close by, I think to myself. Well, that woman sounds nice and matronly – she'll take good care of 'em.

And then, before that thought even ended, I realize... she's probably talking to me.

I take a quick glance down at the isolated patch of goopy mud my feet are planted in (yep, it is a weird spot to stop) then get a quick mental image of me as I may be appearing to others at this moment: Confused-looking guy, all by himself, huddled atop a lonely mud pile, scouring and picking like some kind of monkey over the hay-covered ground for who-knows-what.

"Aw, yeah, I'm fine," I say as I look up and see the woman, who's probably in about her late-50s, pretty and white-haired, with kind eyes, a big, floppy sunhat and a long, flowing skirt.

I get up, and she eyes me up. She gives me a friendly smile, puts a hand on my shoulder.

"I'm just a mom," she says, walking on her way back down toward the stage to check out the rest of Big Leg Emma's closing-day set. "Once a mom, always a mom."

I'd only been at the Great Blue Heron Music Festival for about 10 minutes, but I was already feeling like everyone who makes their way there – myself included now (and from now on) – is part of a really big little family.

And, having just concluded its 22nd year (with over 30 bands and somewhere around 5,000-plus attendees on the grounds from July 5 to 7), it seems that's just the way everyone at the Great Blue Heron has always wanted it, and just the way they want it to stay on those cozy, wooded, friendly festival grounds/farmlands in Sherman, N.Y.

"This isn't a crowd – it's a community," said Renee Semrau, an Erie resident and Edinboro shop owner who's been a part of the Heron most years in the last decade or so, either as vendor, volunteer, or regular ticket-holder. "Sometimes I



**Headliners Donna the Buffalo (pictured on stage) closed out this year's 22nd annual Great Blue Heron Music Festival with an extended Sunday night set featuring guest appearances by many members of the event's extended family of performers. Held July 5, 6, and 7 in Sherman, N.Y., this year's Great Blue Heron included performances by more than 30 bands and was attended by an estimated 5,000-plus. To find out more about the Great Blue Heron Music Festival, visit [greatblueheron.com](http://greatblueheron.com).**

think, 'We've hit every realm of this place possible' – until we come next year, and it's a totally different experience."

And "each of those experiences changes you," she said. "That's why people keep coming back to this... (and) everyone just gets closer."

Charity Nuse of Big Leg Emma – from nearby Jamestown, N.Y. and among the longtime members of the Heron's immediate family of performers – said much the same thing.

"I started coming here (as a volunteer) when I was a teenager," Nuse said, during a chat following Big Leg's high-energy, deep-grooving set on Sunday. "It's a community. And it's all about family and positive energy – and music."

For the day I spent there, that was plainly evident, palpable all around in the sounds and good vibes carried through the air, the trees, the trails, the waters, and everything – and most everyone – else there.

"Here," Semrau said – and she means right there, right then – "people are beautiful. There's just that essence in this land."


"It really is my favorite festival – and we've been

all over the place," said Nuse. "We have some of our best shows here," and it's because everyone is drawing from and giving to the shared energy unique to that space.

"It's an amazing experience," said Nuse.

The kind of experience that keeps people like Nuse and Semrau – and thousands of others from points near and far, all walks, all ages – coming back, like a pilgrimage, to the Heron each year.

"I've been right here for the last 20 years," an all-smiles guy named Bob Johnson told me, showing off his wife, his daughter, and his grandchild as they relaxed and jammed out in the same spot on the hill he always (really – for the last 20 years) sets up at.

"Just look out there," he said. "It's beautiful." 

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# You Ought to Know: Jeremy Galante

By: Leslie McAllister

I mean, sure, we get to see the finished product of silly cartoons and wonderfully created animation, but what's going on behind all the vibrant color and liveliness? Early sequential art and the illusion of movement can be dated back to hieroglyphics and even the pottery of ancient Greece. Some may contest that it's magic and wizardry. Well, it is, in a sense. Swipe the wand out for a mouse pointer and "Click!" – your masterpiece is before you. Sadly, it's not that easy. If it were, we would all be animators in one way or another. This art takes time and patience. The painstaking task of moving an object just a little, capturing just 1/24 of a second each time, and then making it lifelike calls for the patience of Job.

Enter Jeremy Galante.

A native of Chagrin Falls, Ohio – home to acclaimed cartoonist Bill Watterson, creator of "Calvin and Hobbes," and Pixar's Lee Unkrich, director of "Toy Story 3" – Galante received his degree from Miami University (the one in Ohio – not the one in, well, Miami). As a studio arts major, he became intrigued by the development of his paintings, playing with time lapse photography, and thus, considered animation.

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**"Teaching animation while producing it is the perfect combination. Educating is my primary focus. I get to meet aspiring animators and then watch them succeed in the industry."**

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He later enrolled in Rochester Institute of Technology to earn his MFA in film and animation. Through a friend at RIT, he was introduced to David Cowles, whose art you may recognize from publications like Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly, Newsweek, TIME, and countless others. He would do caricatures of rock and pop stars, dignitaries, and celebs in Picasso-esque, boldly colored abstracts.

Galante recalls his first meeting with Cowles. "I recognized his work from reading these magazines over the years," he says. "We had a pretty immediate connection."

Cowles had a working relationship with the quirky alternative band They Might Be Giants and quickly pulled Galante in on two videos for

the Grammy-nominated "Here Comes Science" children's album.

"David and I would brainstorm ideas; he would sketch out the storyboards and designs, and then I would begin on the animation," he tells me over coffee at the local Starbucks.

After graduating from RIT, Galante took a job back in Cleveland with American Greetings, where he designed and animated e-cards. "I was searching for the next step. Then I saw the opening at Edinboro University and jumped at the opportunity to teach at a school with such a comprehensive and renowned art program."

The partnership with Cowles continued to grow. "David and I share the desire to keep creating, even when we're not making any money on a short film. It's just in us. Doing the TMBG work was new and fun. We usually have about 2 to 3 months for every project."

For their collaged video, "Icky," on the latest album, "Nanobots," they built a picture library of places and people, two of whom happen to be my guy and me.

"They were photos of friends, random street props, and we even snuck in things like my parents' cottage on Chautauqua Lake. I animated it in Flash and After Effects, simulating a puppet look, which is what we do for a lot of their videos," Galante tells me on animating TMBG's videos. "The Internet's a great tool. We get immediate feedback and an instant audience."

Another feather in his cap is "Sniffles," a personal favorite about a comic dog that loses his nose. The dog chases after it, hoping to be reunited with it, as the viewer gets to go along for the journey with Sniffles and rejoice in the anticipated union of dog and said nose.

"Sniffles" was definitely a new style for us. During production, we jokingly asked my friend's 5-year-old daughter what the dog's name was. She instantly came up with "Sniffles," Galante laughs, remembering fondly.

Cowles' talented daughter, Alison, wrote the score for the animation. "Their whole family is gifted as you can imagine. It's great to get so many people involved," he says to me on a bustling Saturday, basking in the sun. Then came along America's adored "Sesame Street," a favorable break for Cowles and Galante.

"They emailed me out of the blue. I guess they were looking for new directors and animators to pitch ideas. I immediately contacted David and we got to work," he shares about the project. We are all familiar with learning the alphabet through the trusty animations of our beloved "Sesame Street," now Galante and Cowles had a chance to bring that charm to the letter "U."

"We pitched some ideas, and they liked our take on the letter," Galante states. "A few months later, we were asked to pitch a few more, and wound up making four total. One was on in March, and I think the rest should be airing this fall. Looking back on everything, I could probably attribute most of my freelance success to working with



**From working on "Sesame Street" to doing animation for They Might Be Giants, Jeremy Galante is someone You Ought to Know.**

David," he warmly expresses as he leans back in his chair.

With all the abundant exposure to excellent projects and animating adventures, Galante's main gig is still teaching animation at Edinboro. "Teaching animation while producing it is the perfect combination. Educating is my primary focus. I get to meet aspiring animators and then watch them succeed in the industry. It also expands my professional network and helps to keep me in the loop. I get to be on the inside, watching and nurturing all of the emerging talent."

We also discussed his new business, Sandpiper Animation. "Terry Smith, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, spearheaded the 'StARTup Incubator,' which helps students and local artists create a business. This benefits students by creating internships, while also bettering the local economy," Galante informs, citing DigiGuin, Basement Transmissions, and Sandpiper Animation as recipients of such service.

So what's the palette over the next five years for this fearless animator?

"I'll be on a tropical island somewhere," he laughs. "No, seriously, I want to stay active. I have a very busy summer coming up, which I'm looking forward to."

"After spending so much time on the computer, I need to improve skills that have atrophied, like drawing and painting. I also want to advance my design sensibility," he modestly proclaims, pulling out his computer to share some cool new shorts in the works. "I want to continue gaining momentum, not stopping, staying busy, creating new projects and ventures, working with friends," Galante articulates, adding that he has a fear of stagnation.

It's evident that Galante won't be stopping anytime soon – this gentleman is constantly in motion. Be sure to keep your eyes out for Galante's upcoming shorts on "Sesame Street," as well as an animated commercial for the campaign Truth – helping to see the "ick" in cigarettes.

For more information and to watch the animated shorts go to [www.sandpiperanimation.com](http://www.sandpiperanimation.com) and find Sandpiper Animation on Facebook.

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[Cont. from 11] at The Gathering at Chaffee's or they're news to you, Doug, Tracy, and Ryan have worked hard to pick bands that match the festivals upbeat vibe and please even the harshest music critics.

"There is always a great line up, whether it's all known acts or acts you've never heard, it's always good," Ryan says.

Although the geographical distance between downtown Erie and Girard is only 16 miles, the atmosphere of a Block Party and Chaffee's are worlds apart. "You're still close to the city but you feel like you're in the middle of nowhere," Tracy points out. The forest has a bright pure smell rather than the dark exhaust of downtown traffic, there is room to spread out on Doug's land instead of being restrained by the width of a street, and there is an inexplicable element of beauty that blossoms during almost all independent music festivals that can't seem to flower in the city.

Leaving the city for a weekend means pulling away from the distraction of cell phones, the numbing banter of television, or the fatigue of desk work - if you're willing to leave it behind. What also separates the crowd of a downtown event and a festival in the country is the proximity to everyday disruption. At The Gathering there are no sports games being broadcasted from big screen TVs on bar side walls - the night sky is thick with stars; there are no Touch Tunes pop hits piping through tinny speakers - live bands from day to night fill the airwaves; there are no open Wi-Fi networks to Google, Facebook, or Snapchat - just real face-to-face interaction in a real gathering of people - young and old - that are embracing what is beyond their glowing rectangles.

The Gathering at Chaffee's has a come along way with its performers. To date, a lengthy list of local talent and national touring acts have played the Chaffee's stage such as Broccoli Samurai, Hot Buttered Rum, Ekoostik Hookah, and God Street Wine - just to name a few; and, they consider it an accomplishment and a milestone in the festival circuit. "Playing Chaffee's is a big deal. Getting that gig is definitely an honor," Ryan says, "It's one of the biggest events that happen around here so you get a lot of exposure."

This year's lineup fits the festival's spirit, pulling from Erie's finest as well as some national touring acts. Headlining this year are the jam rockers Cope, and the well-seasoned Buffalo band Aqueous, coming back for their third year at Chaffee's.

Cope churns out a smooth rock 'n' roll sound that mixes in with their jams, resulting in something that feels good on the ears and puts listeners in a good mood. Aqueous, on the other hand, has a tighter, darker appeal, bridging a sound between festival monsters Moe. and the intensity of Rage Against the Machine that often results in a dancing frenzy.

Mike Gantzar, guitarist and vocalist for Aqueous feels right at home at The Gathering, noting Doug's hospitality and support. "I think the best part about [The Gathering at Chaffee's] is it seems like a family," he says. From frequenting the crooked i's stage and playing Chaffee's the last two years, Aqueous has gained a substantial fan base in the area, along with some close friends "We've only been involved for a few years but there is a core group of people that are just so happy to see you, and we're so happy to see them that it almost feels like a homecoming."

The stage is always a magical platform whether it's inside or outside, big or small, in Erie or Gi-

rad. But the audience and the musicians have a much different view from where they're standing. When the crowd watches the band playing on stage and they're listening to the music, it comes to them in its entirety, like a finished painting, whereas the musicians, while performing, each hold a brush with a different color, with each hit of the drum, thump of the bass, and strum of the guitar representing a brush stroke. From a musician's perspective, there is nothing worse than walking off stage not knowing what you've painted. But at Chaffee's, no matter what side of the stage you're on, it's a good time. All performing bands can give their best shows because Doug has built a stage that can handle a weekend of almost non-stop music and has assembled a formidable crew to ensure things go off without a hitch.

"It's run really well, it's organized, everything is taken care of, there is nothing sketchy about it, they hire good sound guys, they accommodate you, and make you feel comfortable," Mike says about performance time and the overall weekend experience. "It's so organic and you can tell there is just no other intent than just to have a good time."

It seems every decade that The Gathering at Chaffee's persists, it also evolves from fireworks to music, from backyard party to a two-day festival. Now in its 33rd year, another transformation could be on the horizon. The land's capacity is 2,000 people, a number that Doug, Tracy, and Ryan would all like reach, and a number that could generate enough revenue to provide substantial funds to each charity, and take The Gathering at Chaffee's to a whole new place. "If we hit that 2,000 I can see changing the venue so we could still do it." Doug continues, "I would look forward to seeing that happen."

The intimate atmosphere of the festival is alluring, and can even be a selling point of The Gathering, but intimate doesn't necessarily mean small. "If it got bigger, and say [Doug] had to relocate, that's fine," Ryan says. "I still think because the 'Gathering' has existed for [over] 30 years, the intimate vibe is always going to be there."

Tracy adds to this communal vision: "I want to get it to where there are two or three stages going on, and grass as far as the eye can see."

In an area like Erie County, where the weather changes with the hours, and every outdoor event is a game of roulette, The Gathering at Chaffee's has built that into its appeal. "A lot of the people that have been coming over the years say, 'You can't have a gathering at Chaffee's without rain,'" Doug laughs. As the place gets muddier, the people get louder, the music carries on, and the dancing just gets dirtier.

The Gathering at Chaffee's begins July 26 and runs through July 27, and ticket prices and further information can be found at [TheGatheringatChaffees.com](http://TheGatheringatChaffees.com). You can still get your "Not so Early Bird" tickets online or buy them when you arrive.

There are no buttons to push to turn the music on or off, no city lights to dull out the stars or the moon, and for a few days we can unplug. But this warm July weekend is also in support of something greater than a care free couple days; a portion of the proceeds goes to Children's Advocacy Center of Erie County and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

I watch people drift in and out of the forest and field, as if a gentle current directs them while the

fire glows softly at our feet. Our circle gets bigger as passersby stop to say hello and invite us to the stage. The impulse to check the time has finally faded with the day, and a longing for time to stop all together has replaced it. And it may very well be through the haze of seasons past - a full year since I camped out on Doug's land - but I recall as I neared the stage, a crowd of people, everyone gathered in front of the music - shoulder to shoulder, seemingly close enough to be a family.

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## Sudoku

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

					5	4		
			2		3		5	6
		8	7	4				
	5							
						7	8	1
	2				7	3		
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		4		2		6		3
			1			2		7

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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆☆☆

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Silver (Sp.)
- 6 List-ending abbreviation
- 9 Health resort
- 12 King of Judea
- 13 Rhine tributary
- 14 Stripling
- 15 P.I. ancestral spirit
- 16 Compass direction
- 17 Diminutive (suf.)
- 18 Lead ore
- 20 Bombastic
- 22 Foist
- 24 Dutch commune
- 27 You (Ger.)
- 28 Proverb
- 32 Numerous (pref.)
- 34 Mountain peak
- 36 Two-man fight
- 37 Music sign
- 39 Evil (Fr.)
- 41 As written in

### music

- 42 Gr. author
- 44 Nearsightedness
- 47 Land of King Arthur
- 52 Narrower than AA
- 53 Naut. rope
- 55 Fallacies
- 56 Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (abbr.)
- 57 Son of Apollo
- 58 Opposite of zenith
- 59 Encountered
- 60 Snow (Scot.)
- 61 Yellow

### DOWN

- 1 Destroying (pref.)
- 2 Fugard heroine
- 3 Seed coat

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 4 Carry
- 5 Youth loved by Venus
- 6 Belonging to (suf.)
- 7 So much: music
- 8 Second wife of Jason
- 9 Small drink
- 10 Buddhist liturgical language
- 11 Irish exclamation
- 19 Mudfish
- 21 Spawning ground
- 23 Sole
- 24 Prussian spa site
- 25 Change color
- 26 Unit of work
- 29 Out (Ger.)
- 30 Gain
- 31 Guido's note (2 words)
- 33 Inspector (abbr.)
- 35 Para-aminobenzoic acid
- 38 Ear inflammation
- 40 Fond
- 43 Fabric
- 44 Lady's title
- 45 Rockies peak
- 46 Kiln
- 48 Jewish month
- 49 Mineral deposit
- 50 Few (pref.)
- 51 Son of Loki
- 54 Last Queen of Spain

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A37



# 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

**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 & Barbeque—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 upfront, 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 Brewerie is on a mission to, "Revitalize Downtown Erie One Pint at a Time."

123 W. 14th St. // 454.2200

## Caribbean

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

1402 W. 10th St. // 454.0700

## Chinese

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

3202 Pitt. Ave. // 836.9657

## Delicatessens

**TERESA'S ITALIAN DELI**

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

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

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

2060 Interchange Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) // 866.1183

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

17 W. 4th St. // 455.5718

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

2620 W. 8th St. // 836.8702

## French

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

18 N. Park Row // 871.6477

## Gastropubs

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

8 E. 10th St. // 456.0072

## Irish

**MOLLY BRANNIGANS** - Got a hankering for bangers and mash? Have no idea what the heck bangers and mash is? Head to this authentic Irish gastropub where you can get your fill of Irish-fare 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** Joninging 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 challenge, give the ol' Double-Triple Bypass, which packs on three all-beef patties, ham, salami, pepperoni, capicola, provolone, and American cheese all on one hoagie roll, a try.

24 N. Park Row // 455.1072

## Suds and Grub

**U PICK 6 TAP HOUSE** Great beer meets great food at the corner of Fourth and State streets. From gourmet flatbreads to pizza muffins, there's plenty of great grub to pair with the endless flow of over 20 microbrews on tap. And with helpful servers who know their beer, this is a great place to come to try the beers you've never had but have always wanted to.

333 State St. // 520.5419

**SIX PACK HOUSE OF BEER** With an ever-changing lineup of brews on tap and cooler wall of six-packs to go, Six Pack also serves up some cheap eats to boot.

847 Pitt. Ave. // 454.1989

**U PICK 6 BEER STORE** Off the downtown beaten path, U Pick 6 takes pride in its revolving draft beer lineup. With some quick eats and sandwiches sliced up right in front of you, U Pick 6 draws you in for the beer and keeps you for the conversation.

7520 Peach St. // 866.2337

## 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 Merksi 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

## 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

## Sweet Treats

**MIGHTY FINE DONUTS** If you love donuts and are looking for something off the well-worn path to Dunkin' Donuts and Krispy Kreme, this local gem is your destination spot. Heralded by locals as the best donuts ever

2612 Parade St. // 455.6408

**ROMOLO CHOCOLATES**

Tony Stefanelli apprenticed with his family in the chocolate business for nearly 20 years. Where'd that get him? He's one of only 26 master confectioners and he's right here in Erie. So for handmade pieces of chocolate, be sure to stop by Romolo—then boast to your out-of-town friends about having a master confectioner in your city.

1525 W. 8th St. // 452.1933

**PULAKOS** George P. Pulakos opened his first chocolate shop at 926 State St. in 1903. Over a hundred years later, the fourth-generation-run chocolate shop is still one of Erie's favorite places for a wide selection of all things chocolate—and other delicious snacks too.

2530 Parade St.

**DONUT CONNECTION** - Just off the corner of Peach and Liberty streets sits a family-owned donut shop that's celebrating its Golden Anniversary this year. With the "best coffee" in town and a wide selection of delicious hand-cut donuts, this is a great place for a for a sweet treat.

3842 Liberty St. // 864.8702



# 12 NEWS



ERIE'S MORNING NEWS TEAM

TODAY  
IN HD

GET YOUR  
**MORNING**  
STARTED WITH US



KARA COLEMAN

MARK SOLIDAY

**WEEKDAYS**  
**5:00 - 7:00** AM



# GET IN YOUR GAME!

**GO HOG WILD THIS SUMMER!**



**Grand Prize Drawing  
Sunday, July 21 at 2pm  
Win a 2013 Harley-Davidson FXDWG!**

**Win from \$100 Free Play to \$1,000 Cash  
EVERY Friday, now - July 19 • 3pm - 10pm!**



**DAVID CASSIDY  
IN CONCERT  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9  
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**HOTEL CALIFORNIA  
"A SALUTE TO THE EAGLES"  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 23  
Tickets • \$5 • \$10**

**CHUBBY CHECKER  
& THE WILDCATS  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13  
Tickets • \$10 • \$15 • \$20**



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