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Sept 4 - 17 / Vol. 3, No. 18 / ErieReader.com

# ERIE READER

## Tall Ships Anchor in Erie:

*The Perry 200 Commemoration  
Concludes with Tall Ships Erie 2013,  
Marking the Celebration of Erie's Proud  
Past and Bright Future*

**FOLLOWING UP ON THE WEIGHT OF WAR**

**THE REPUBLICAN GAME OVER SYRIA**

**THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON 50 YEARS LATER**

**NO FRACKING WAY**

**ERIE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA KICKS OFF NEW SEASON**

**PREVIEWS OF THE ERIE PLAYHOUSE AND MIAC UPCOMING SEASONS**

**ARTS 'N DRAFTS**

**MUSIC, FASHION, TECH**

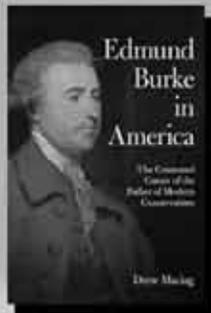
**FREE**



**Richard Beeman, Ph.D.**  
Celebrating the US Constitution (part 1):  
The Founding Fathers of 1787:  
Lessons in Political Leadership  
Tuesday, September 17/7:00-8:30 p.m.  
(Held on Constitution Day!)



**Richard Pious, Ph.D.**  
President John F. Kennedy's  
Decision - making Style in American  
Foreign Policy  
Thursday, October 10/7:00-8:30 p.m.  
(Honoring the 50th Anniversary  
of the Death of JFK)



**Drew Maciag, Ph.D.**  
Understanding Political Conservatism  
(part I): Edmund Burke in America:  
The Contested Career of the Father of  
American Conservatism  
Wednesday, October 23/7:00-8:30 p.m.

## TICKETS

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## Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education Lecture Series

**What is America For?**—Everyone has a different idea of where America came from and where it is going. Our ideas are much influenced by four Johns (Milton, Locke, Winthrop, Adams) and a Tom (Jefferson). Studying the purpose of America through the perspective of these five amazing men will expand our understanding of the purpose of America. William Garvey, Ph.D.

**Why Are We At War?**—In 1998, Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden put forth a Declaration of War. This war document is vital to understanding why we are currently at war in the Middle East. What case does Al Qaeda make? How might the United States proceed for in order to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East? Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D.

**An Eastern Promise for Healing?**—What are the similarities and differences between Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad in the realm of healing? Do Eastern and Western medicine have different concepts of human nature (i.e., the Sufi mystics on healing the mind)? Geoffrey Dunn, M.D., FACS & Asif Shakoor, M.D.

**Dishonorable Law and Order?**—The United States is the world's leading jailer. Currently, a large percentage of prisoners are jailed for non-violent offenses. Private prisons continue to grow from immigrant detentions. What is restorative justice? How prominent is modern slavery and/or human trafficking in the United States, and how extensive is it in Erie? Hon. Barry Grossman, J.D. & Sister Mary Claire Kennedy

**Who Runs the USA?**— Joseph Stiglitz said, "We have a government of the top 1%, by the top 1%, and for the top 1%." Consider the influence of lobbyists and how they are financed: is corporate America calling all the shots? Is Congress dysfunctional? Do we need a new Constitutional Convention? Hon. Kathy Dahlkemper, B.S.

**Whither Black Power?**—Even in the 21st century, race relations in America are still a source of tension and controversy. A discussion of Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali's conversion to Islam, and paralleling to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s emulating of Gandhi, will explore the deeper connotations behind race, religion, and the differences among fellow citizens. Bishop Dwane Brock

**The Contest Between Physics and Philosophy**—Were the Nazis right to claim Relativity as a 'Jewish science'? What parallels did J. Robert Oppenheimer see with the Bhagavad-Gita and John Donne's Batter My Heart and the use of the atomic bomb? What views does John Adams' opera "Dr. Atomic" pursue? Why was Oppenheimer accused of un-American activities? Jonathan Hall, M.A.

**\$10/lecture/person,**  
**or \$50 for all seven.**

Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education Lecture Series \*All lectures taught by Charles Brock, M.Div. and indicated speaker

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## From the Editors

Over two years ago on a bright, warm June morning, two of our editors — Adam Welsh and Ben Spегgen — joined a hundred and fifty or so people piled into a conference room at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel. At that time, the Reader was still in its infancy with just three months of publishing under its belt, and at that time, Adam and Ben were there to both hear about the storied history of Erie and to see how the future would be shaped in the next two coming years.

They were there for the first public meeting of the Perry 200 Commemoration.

Back then, pageants and fireworks were just a thing of talk. The Grand Patriotic Parade was just an idea, and Erie's docks sat unoccupied by any Tall Ships save for one — the Niagara.

We tell so much of our story around that ship. And much of our story draws inspiration from it. In that room, more than two years ago, County Executive Barry Grossman shared an account of how just witnessing the Niagara sail by in all her

glory seamlessly shifted a meeting of the minds from that of bemoaning to that of jubilation.

The Niagara, the ship that Oliver Hazard Perry climbed aboard after abandoning the Lawrence, wields that power over us, as our history often has the means to freeze us in a moment of time, because for if only a moment, we can reflect back to when the word "Erie" was on the tip of the nation's tongue.

Fast forward over two years from that meeting. The pageants and fireworks and parade have all come and gone, and the sun is setting on our two-year celebration. And throughout that time, the Reader has continued to champion Erie's success stories while also remaining critical of certain missteps taken along the way to moving our city forward.

So it's fitting and appropriate that we conclude our commemoration of Perry's victory over the British with a festival centered around the ship herself — a bold emblem and icon of our city's success. And it's fitting and appropriate to tell the story of that battle, the Battle

of Lake Erie, which propelled The Flagship City to the forefront of the nation's mind and to the forefront of the future of America.

In this issue, Jay Stevens offers a comprehensive feature of the battle, the ship, and what both mean to Erie and how they've shaped both our past and our present and how our appreciation and recognition of such will carry us through the future.

But what does lie ahead?

Dr. William Garvey, president of the Jefferson Educational Society and chairman of the Perry 200 Commemoration often labels this experience as Erie's "Brigadoon" moment — that moment when the people of our city emerge from the mist, join in grand celebration, and then slip back into time's fog, only to wait to surface again years later; in our case, another fifty.

So now that we've emerged from the haze of time and paid reverence to our past, it seems right that we'll slide back through the ether of the present and await the future. But we cannot recede into the plumes of the past and ignore the future, a destiny we are tasked with shaping. Our attention should now be focused on the remaining question: What will those who return fifty

years from now celebrate?

We then must ask ourselves: What will we have done in the next fifty years to cause a stir amongst future generations? What will we accomplish to warrant such exaltation five decades from now?

There's a Native American proverb that goes something like this: We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.

So let us enjoy this last celebration, this last moment before our time to revel in the past draws to a close. But let us not forget about our city's bright future, the future we must chart and leave for the next generation to commemorate in fifty years.

That future will be determined by the path we take from here, the steps we embark on after the sails are lowered this September and after the city returns to a forty-nine-year life without such deliberate purpose to celebrate. In these years, we will leave tracks, divots in the Earth that will undoubtedly be examined by those commemorating in 2063. We must now decide what type of tracks we wish to leave: one worthy of celebration or one our children might wish to erase, or perhaps worse yet, ones our children can't see at all.

By: Cory Vaillancourt

*PTSD continues nearly unabated. What is being done, and who is doing it?*

Almost exactly one year ago – Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012, to be exact – I introduced you to Phillip Azevedo, an Erie, Pa. native, combat veteran, and Bronze Star recipient who struggled to bear the weight of war.

Phillip suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, which subjected him to nightmarish visions, a general edginess, and disturbingly depressive feelings. Wounded in ways unseen and afraid to seek treatment because he feared his career as a Navy officer would be in jeopardy, he agonized in silence until one day, not long after a session of heavy drinking and run-in with the police, Phillip lost his battle with PTSD and took his own life.

He had a bright future ahead of him after being recognized by the Navy for his maturity, his competency, and his bravery. He had a close-knit family, a young son, a beautiful fiancé, scores of friends, and admiring classmates – all of whom missed his subtle, almost imperceptible cries for help due to ignorance about the signs and symptoms of PTSD that persist to this day.

Eighteen months after Phillip hanged himself, anguished and alone in the basement of his Mill-creek apartment, his death has left lingering pain. “The visions I have of him now are only from the knee down – his sneakers, the dark circle around his neck. I can’t get them out of my mind sometimes,” said Venus Azevedo-Laboda, Phillip’s sister. Although Venus still experiences that lingering pain, she said it also lessens, little by little, each day.

“I’ve learned a lot, that’s for sure,” she said. “I’ve learned a lot about grief, and about who I am as a person, and of course a lot about PTSD.” The pain is still there – and it always will be, she added – but it’s no longer overwhelming.

“I was able to let go enough to move on, but I’m constantly reminded.”

In the wake of her grief, Venus set out to learn as much as she could about PTSD as a way to heal; she threw herself wholeheartedly into advocacy, and in July formed Boots on Ground, which is currently in the process of acquiring non-profit certification.

“Right now, the mission is getting the word out – the signs, the red flags,” she said of the organization, named after a colloquialism denoting the physical presence of troops in a combat zone, with their feet on the terra, ready for action. “We try to help the wives, the parents, and the caregivers, and we try to let everyone know they’re not alone, and that there is help out there.”

But is there?

After the enormity of the loss Venus and her family suffered, no one would have faulted her for crawling under the nearest rock and staying there forever, trying to make sense of the senseless, or to forget the unforgettable. Instead, she discovered a continuing need for awareness about PTSD – a need unmet by the armed forces or



**Veterans are killing themselves at a rate of roughly one per hour.**

various agencies of the federal government – that spurred her into action.

Since Phillip’s death, an estimated 12,000 veterans like him have taken their own lives. That’s one almost every hour of every day; although treatment programs exist, the numbers say that enough isn’t being done.

And, sadly, our government has the terrible habit of trying to make difficult, inconvenient, and expensive problems go away by denying culpability.

During the 1960s, the United States military dumped more than 20 million gallons of Agent Orange – the infamous Monsanto-manufactured defoliant – on the jungles and farms of Vietnam. When health problems began popping up in the 1970s amongst Vietnamese civilians and American veterans of the war, the government denied, derided, and dismissed the claims, and it wasn’t until the early 1990s that the government began to acknowledge the existence of the more than 1 million people affected by this deadly poison.

Then, in the early 1990s, veterans began returning from the first Gulf War with unexplained complaints of phantom pain, rashes, confusion, nausea, and dizziness. Once again, the government denied, derided, and dismissed the claims, and it wasn’t until late 2008 that the government finally accepted responsibility for the 250,000 veterans significantly impaired due to their service.

Today, this alarming pattern – deny, deride, dismiss – seems once again to have manifested itself in the discussion of PTSD. A study recently published by Dr. Nancy Crum-Cianflone of the Naval Health Research Center posited that there was no link between combat and the suicide rates of troops. The study instead blames mental illness and substance abuse.

Nevermind that only 83 cases of suicide were included in the study. Nevermind that in almost 60 percent of those cases, the service member was not subject to a combat deployment. Nevermind

that the study was conducted by an agency with a vested interest in the result. Deny. Deride. Dismiss.

And, let’s all try to wrap our heads around this one: if mental illness and substance abuse cause military suicides, then either something that happens to combat soldiers causes these maladies, or the armed forces of the United States actively enlists mentally ill substance abusers.

We know that’s not true. What is true – and no damned studies are needed to confirm this – is that combat trauma causes PTSD in some people, and PTSD causes mental illness and/or substance abuse in some people, and mental illness and substance abuse cause some of those people to commit suicide.

It is shameful, irresponsible, and outrageous for our government to again begin a 20-year dance around an issue that is claiming lives at the rate of almost one each hour. Meanwhile, newborn non-profits like Boots on Ground – comprised of people who have been touched, firsthand, by the horrors of PTSD – are left to address the problem while still coping with their own losses, and with but a fraction of the resources available to federal agencies.

If Dr. Crum-Cianflone’s study is indeed the resurgence of deny, deride, and dismiss, roughly 160,000 more lives will have been lost before meaningful action comes from the organization that brought Phillip Azevedo home in one piece, physically, but left him practically unarmed for an even greater battle. ■

*Cory Vaillancourt is a brilliant writer/complete hack and can be complimented/heckled at [cVaillancourt@ErieReader.com](mailto:cVaillancourt@ErieReader.com). Find him on Twitter @VLNCRT. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/gga15>*



By: Chuck Shepherd

## QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

The conflicted double life of Israeli Orthodox Jew Shadar Hadar, 34, might be as formidable to manage as that of an international spy. Though deeply and defiantly religious, he typically around midnight "trades his knitted white yarmulke" for a "wavy blond wig and pink velvet dress" and takes the stage as a nascent drag queen, according to an August Associated Press dispatch from Jerusalem. His gayness has alienated his ex-wife (who bars him from seeing their daughter, now 11) and is only grudgingly accepted by his parents. As a bridge of sorts in his life, he has rejected the usual raunchy drag queen personas and adopted instead that of a female rabbinic adviser, musing from the stage on optimistic teachings of Breslov Hasidic ultra-Orthodox Judaism.

## GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

Philadelphia’s Veterans Stadium, whose construction was financed in 1964 by borrowing \$25 million (and untold more as part of a subway expansion to service the stadium), was demolished in 2004 and is but a memory to the city’s sports fans. However, nine years later, the city is still paying for it (though next year will retire the \$25 million bond and nine years from now, the city hopes, will retire the stadium/subway bond). The city’s deputy controller told PhillyMag.com in June, profoundly, "When issuing a bond to build a facility, the debt payment on that bond should not outlast the facility."

Inexplicable: The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety’s solution to its legendary long lines at driver’s license stations was to create "In Line Online" registration, which it introduced recently. Online registrants were beside themselves, however, when they arrived on time across the state, only to learn that In Line Online merely entitled them to a reserved place in the line for making future appointments to take their driver’s test. A spokesman acknowledged that In Line Online might have some kinks and thus would be closed temporarily. [KFOR-TV, 8-15-2013]

Toronto is facing such a crippling backlog of challenges to parking tickets, reported the Toronto Star in August, that more than 73,000 citations from last year were still unresolved and that many cases were proceeding even less hurriedly. Mahmood-Reza Arab, a computer programmer who was ticketed for parking too close to a hydrant in 2005 and who has dutifully met all deadlines for making a proper challenge, was recently scheduled (again) for trial before a judge – this month (September 2013). A spokesman said the "normal" wait time for a court date is "only" 18 months. [Toronto Star, 8-13-2013]

"Rules Are for the Benefit of Us All": Adhering to "federal regulations," the Denver

# Street Corner SOAPBOX

## The Republican Game with the Impending War in Syria

By: Jay Stevens

Syria is a mess. There's no clear side to support. The regime under Bashar al-Assad responded brutally to popular unrest. Syrian rebels split into factions and sects and encouraged jihadists to join them. The only thing that's certain is that civil war will rage in Syria for years.

As of right now, President Barack Obama is mulling a military strike on the Assad regime for using chemical weapons against its own people. Whether you support the strikes or not – and I don't – you have to acknowledge it's a weighty decision.

Too bad the American right has seen this only as an opportunity to exploit the situation for political gain.

Sarah Palin, for example, voiced her opposition

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Sarah Palin,  
voiced her  
opposition to a  
U.S. strike in Syria  
in a Facebook  
post titled, "Let  
Allah sort it out."

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to a U.S. strike in Syria in a Facebook post titled, "Let Allah sort it out."

"We have no clear mission in Syria," she wrote. "There's no explanation of what vital American interests are at stake there today amidst yet another centuries-old internal struggle between violent radical Islamists and a murderous dictatorial regime."

In 2008, in the heat of a presidential election, she had a slightly different message about the Republican-run Iraq War. "Pray for our military men and women who are striving to do what's right," she said in a video. "Also, for...our leaders...sending them out on a task from God." Palin's description of the Syrian conflict of course perfectly describes Iraq. The only real difference in the question of intervention is the political party of the person suggesting it. That, or Palin is confusing George W. Bush with God.

Others claim air strikes wouldn't go far enough, including Senators Lindsay Graham and John McCain. "Our policies are not working," said Graham recently on the Sunday morning talk show circuit. "We need to do more." Tellingly,

there are no suggestions on a possible solution. But then these men still think the invasion of Iraq was a good idea.

Still others, like New York Representative Peter King, are opposed to Obama bringing a Syria strike before Congress for a vote – despite 80 percent support for Congressional approval from the American people, according to recent polls – because "he doesn't need to." King supports the power that the Bush administration wielded in pushing the country to war with Iraq.

And according to recent reports, top Congressional Republicans think a vote on a Syria strike wouldn't pass a House of Representatives vote for lack of Republican support – a noted change in the philosophy of Congressional Republicans since the Iraq War.

And, yes, it all goes back to Iraq.

Then, when the country was faced with a very questionable invasion based on evidence manufactured by the Bush administration, no Republican stuttered or questioned or criticized. Instead, doubts about the President's Iraq policy were

equated with treason.

How the times have changed.

Now it feels as if Republican criticism has nothing at all to do with Syria, and everything to do with the president. At least in that they're consistent. Republicans, above all else, seem to view our nation's most critical issues through a partisan political lens. From the debt ceiling to the budget to climate change to jobs to war, instead of genuine policy debate or attempts to solve real problems, we have gridlock and endless partisan sniping. To Republicans, it's a game. And the object is to win the game, not make policy that benefits the country.

Or Syria. ■

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# THE WAY I SEE IT

The March on Washington and the Great Divide 50 Years Later

By: Rebecca Styn

On the 50th anniversary of the March On Washington and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, thousands of people descended upon the Lincoln Memorial Wednesday, August 28. I happened to be in Washington, D.C. that particular day, and although I didn't have the opportunity to attend the event, I was able to watch the activities from my hotel room. And I found the fact that I had a chance to see the speech Dr. King gave exactly 50 years to the day – at almost precisely the same moment it occurred – a priceless opportunity.

**"The arc of the universe may bend toward justice, but it doesn't bend on its own."**

During the events surrounding the day, the granite structure of the great emancipator loomed in the background. Several orators offered their respective tributes – Dr. King's family, former presidents, actors, and more, yet President Barack Obama's speech, while paying tribute to the nonpartisanship that underscored the March on Washington half a century earlier, also drove home the partisan essence of the event – even using Dr. King's own words, "The arc of the universe may bend toward justice, but it doesn't bend on its own," which was a targeted statement to Republicans.

Interestingly enough, during the speech 50 years ago, Republicans and Democrats stood collected – shoulder to shoulder – demanding equal rights for African Americans. However, during the activities of the past week, the two groups barely interacted with each other. Not a single

Republican elected official stood on the steps alongside previous presidents, activists, lawmakers, and actors. All were invited – but each one declined due to scheduling conflicts or ill health.

Each party organized its own events, delivering its own views of the dream. House Speaker John Boehner held an event to commemorate the march last month, and Republicans gathered on Capitol Hill to host a separate luncheon honoring the march. And while there was clear and repeated statements from both sides that this was not a partisan event, it's clear that many of the central issues that plague Americans today – voting rights laws, high unemployment rates, immigration reform – still push partisan buttons.

Today, both sides state that unification is needed to fully realize Dr. King's dream, yet, the way I see it, either show few signs of wavering – neither group showing compromise and both believing its way is the only way. This isn't a new issue – and it's something I've written about before.

And while our current president faces a Republican-controlled House of Representatives and a Senate, while more Democratic, barely more friendly, he has been largely unable to drive considerable legislation since he officially took office back in 2009.

There's no doubt that 50 years later, the U.S. has seen great progress; but the last several years have been marked with moments of great divide across both race lines and party lines. And at some point, we all need to stop doing what is in the best interest of ourselves and work collectively towards the greater good of all. If a half century ago, these two parties with differing philosophies and ideals could unite during one of the most divisive times our country's seen – to recognize a necessary unification to further the evolution of our country in the name of basic human equality – they certainly can unite now to resolve pressing issues, lest the good of the people be sacrificed for the pettiness of the few. ❏

*Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Email 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/xeg8v>*



# TECH WATCH

Google Chromecast

By: Dakota Hoffman, Epic WebStudios

I don't consider myself an early adopter of technology. I still prefer books on paper, and I don't feel the need to try out every device or app that comes on the market. Nevertheless, when Google came out with Chromecast – its adapter that lets you watch online media on your television – I decided I wanted one immediately, which still made me too late to get one before the first batch sold out. Luckily my significant other was quicker and got one, and I've been playing with it for a week now.

And I like it a lot. It was remarkably easy to set up, and I like the way I can control my TV from a tablet or a smartphone. I've always been a huge fan of web video despite its limited streaming, and Chromecast lets me watch video apps like Hulu and Netflix with ease.

But what really excites me is not what the Chromecast is, but what it's going to be and how that will change how I absorb media.

As ad executive Bob Hoffman points out on his Ad Contrarian blog, only 3 percent of video viewing occurs online. The other 97 percent happens right where it always has – on the bigger screen, our electronic hearth. This shouldn't be surprising; TVs are getting bigger and better. Why would anyone choose to watch video on a puny little screen?

Of course, it's been possible to stream web video onto big screens for a while using smart TVs or external devices, like Apple TV or gaming devices, but the experience has been unwieldy. You still have to navigate through a remote and that makes it hard to browse through and find what you want to watch.

With Chromecast, however, you can just beam whatever you want from your tablet or smartphone to your TV, making the experience much smoother and more natural. What's more, it's about the size of a large USB drive and only costs \$35. Compared to Apple TV, which is a bit bigger than a hockey puck and costs \$99, Chro-

meecast is probably less than a quarter of the size and about one third the price.

The trend of digital media adapters is clear. It's perfectly reasonable to expect that in the next few years we'll see similar devices that are a quarter the size and a third of the price of Chromecast. And, why do we need a separate device at all? At a half-inch long and \$10, a device could be included in a high-end TV without us even noticing it in either the design or the price.

Ten years ago, we were tied to our computers. Now, we're tied to our screens. But it's easy to see how ten years from now computing will completely disappear into the environment.

Much like the first generation of smart TVs, Chromecast and its services are not as smooth as they could be. After all, most of the products and services we use today weren't designed for a smart world, but for a dumb one. We can add smart chips to them that connect to the Internet, but that's not what they were designed for. Chromecast does its part to begin bridging that gap.

To be truly smart, products and services need to be designed with the Internet in mind, and we're already seeing this in Chromecast. Although web-video viewership is still miniscule compared to conventional TV, there is already an entire ecosystem devoted to producing content for the Web and other alternative platforms. It's just a matter of time before other industries catch on too.

While all of this may sound far off, things can change incredibly quickly. After all, just a few years ago electric cars seemed like a pipe dream. Now Tesla has emerged as a serious competitor, garnering 12 percent of the luxury sports car market in California.

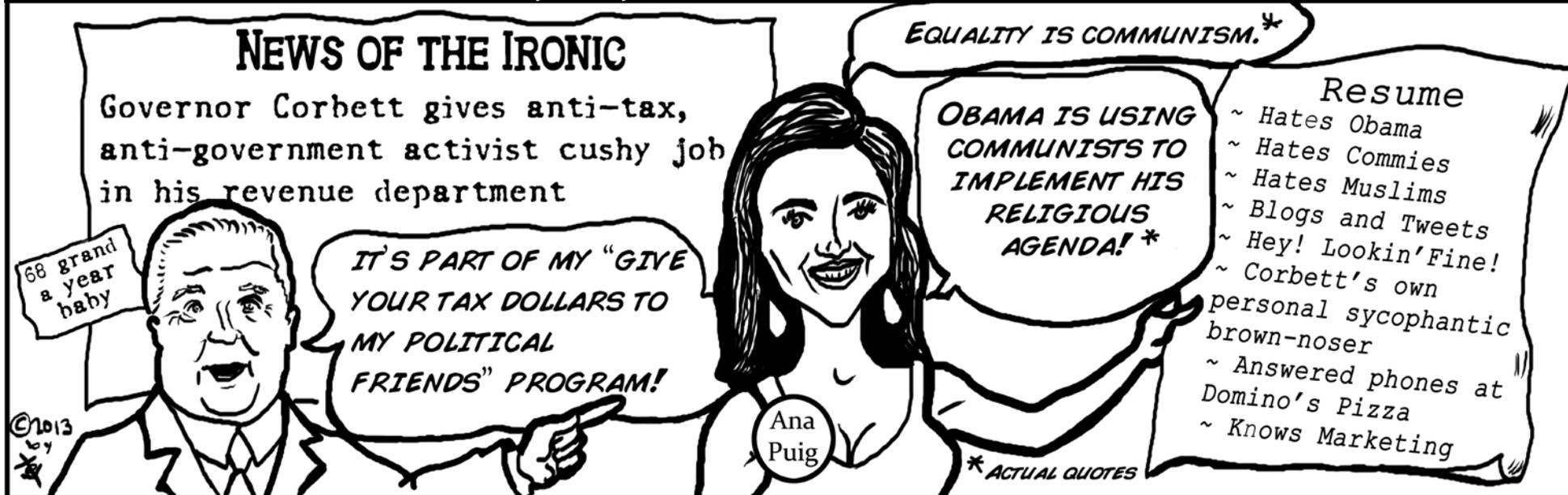
So, while I'm perfectly happy with my (adapted) Chromecast for now, what I'm really excited about is the future it promises. ❏

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



# JUST TOYIN' WITCHA

By: B. Toy



# No Fracking Way

America International Gathering at Nelson Ledges

By: Ryan Smith

Jaime Frederick's story goes like this. She didn't even know what fracking was when she first started getting seriously, dreadfully ill.

It wasn't long after moving into a back-country home in northeastern Ohio around four years ago, Frederick said, that the sickness – like "a never-ending intestinal flu" – showed up, and stayed, and got worse as time went on, causing chronic pain, vomiting, infection, and other problems.

Through it all, using her own common sense, she kept drinking plenty of water.

Some of the 20 or so doctors Frederick saw (all at a loss to correctly diagnose her problem) over the course of a couple years even told her she was likely just dehydrated and should drink even more water. So she did – up to two gallons of it a day, unfiltered, from taps fed by her home's well. But she sure didn't get better.

Frederick still didn't know why she was so sick, or much of anything about fracking and the controversial practices by which the work of extracting natural gas from deep within the earth is being done. But a few months before the start of 2012, when convoys of heavy trucks and drilling equipment started showing up not far from her front door, she said her understanding became more clear.

It turned out a non-local, neighboring property owner had leased dozens of acres for gas drilling before she had ever moved in and soon found that several wells had already been drilled nearby. So, Frederick had her well water tested. What was found, she said, was definitely enough to make her stop drinking it: A high-level slew of toxic contaminants – barium, strontium, toluene, and others – all of which have been found to be common pollutants in many areas where drilling is occurring.

She's since slowly begun showing signs of improvement. But the drilling – and the wellspring of problems Frederick and many others claim comes with it – has continued on.

"I was pretty pissed then. And I'm still pretty pissed," Frederick, voice quivering, told a crowd of like-minded people gathered at the first annual No Fracking Way America International Gathering at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park in Garrettsville, Ohio. "I can't afford to walk away. But even if I could, *why the f—* should I?!"

Frederick, who's been speaking out against fracking since her experience, shared her story in front of hundreds of activists and others attending the No Fracking Way gathering, which also featured speakers, live music, informational tents and tables, arts and crafts, and more, in the idyllic, pristine waters-flanked setting that is Nelson Ledges.

When I got there Saturday night, the main stage area's crowd was thinner, a hundred-plus or so, but their cheers for organizers/musicians Uncle Eddy & Robin – longtime activists from West Virginia – and others on stage was hearty, and the words shared by Frederick and others were more than heartfelt.

"This movement is gaining momentum," said another speaker, Doug Shields, the former Pittsburgh city councilman who in 2010 introduced legislation that's led to a still-active moratorium on natural gas drilling activity in the city.

"We took a long, hard look, and found this industry to be lacking in so many ways," Shields said. And "people there, like yourself, decided this is an important matter [that's] for the public to decide," he said. When it comes to the right to make informed decisions as drilling proceeds elsewhere throughout the region, "it is time for us to take back that which is ours," he said.

Increasingly, as demonstrated by an ever-deepening-and-widening discussion on the issue, "we're winning" back that right, said Shields. And, he added, "that scares the hell" out of those who'd perhaps prefer certain voices keep quiet under the din of the drills' progress. "I have friends on both sides" of the fracking debate, and, one way or the other, "these people are passionate" about their stances, said Kelley McGregor, a Butler resident attending the NLQP gathering.

"I'm just here to learn," McGregor said, to gain a fuller, rounded understanding of the issue.



The first No Fracking Way Gathering took place at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park in Garrettsville, Ohio.

And that's the kind of active, critical, common-sense thinking that movement-leaders like Ed and Robin Mahonen and Shields say needs to be tapped, as deeply as possible, in communities where fracking's already made its marks, and the places where the drills may be going next.

We hope we don't have to come back here next year to show where those against the industry and its practices are coming from, Robin Mahonen added, but we'll be happy to gather again

there – and elsewhere – as long as those voices still need to be heard.

Ryan Smith can be contacted at [rSmith@ErieReader.com](mailto:rSmith@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @RyanMSmith-Plens. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erindr.com/pnlax>





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# Tall Ships Anchor in Erie

***The Perry 200 Commemoration Concludes with Tall Ships Erie 2013, Marking the Celebration of Erie's Proud Past and Bright Future***



**In a daring move, Perry abandons the Lawrence to board the Niagara under heavy enemy fire.**

**By: Jay Stevens**

**S**tarting Sept 5, Erie will host its second tallships festival, Tall Ships Erie 2013. It kicks off with the Parade of Sail when nine large masted ships – including our own Niagara – will cruise into Presque Isle Bay under full sail, and the city will undergo four days of festivities, lectures, music, and, of course, tall ships. It's the culmination of a two-year long celebration of Erie's role in history. Or, more specifically, Erie's role in the War of 1812 and in a battle that took place on the lake, a battle that could not have been fought nor won without Erie – or more, a battle that *birthed* Erie.

“As individuals, we live on past triumphs, on high moments,” said Dr. William Garvey, president of the Jefferson Educational Society and a chair of the Perry 200 Commemoration, in a phone interview. “We need that as a nation, too.”

The Perry 200, of course, is the event series that brought you flag-raising ceremonies, picnics, music, history classes, pageantry, fireworks, and a very large parade, all in honor of Oliver Hazard Perry's stunning defeat of a British fleet on Lake Erie on Sept. 10, 1813. Tall Ships Erie is the final act.

Besides the Niagara, Erie's reconstruction of

the brig that won the battle, other tall ships will populate our harbor. There's the Friends Good Will, a reconstruction of the sloop that rushed off with Perry's famous victory message after the battle, a ship less than half the length of the Niagara. There are the two reproductions of War of 1812 privateers, the topsail schooners the Lynx and the Pride of Baltimore II, both fast-sailing ships with masts leaning rakishly aft. There's the converted Dutch fishing ship, the Unicorn, which now runs a sailing program for girls and women. There's the St. Lawrence II, a Canadian brigantine; the Peacemaker, a barquentine built in Brazil; and the Appledore IV, a two-masted schooner that usually sails in Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay. And there's the steel-hulled Sorlandet, the biggest ship in the festival, and, built in 1927, the world's oldest full-rigged ship still sailing regularly. With its three masts and six banks of sail, she can spread as much as 13,000 square feet of canvas.

And for the second time in three years, the ships together will create a skyline of masts that hasn't appeared regularly in our harbor in over a century.

This year, too, will be better than the last tall ships festival. Hosted in the Bayfront Convention Center, Tall Ships Erie 2013 will feature a video and lecture series sponsored by Mercyhurst

University on maritime and historical topics relating to the Battle of Lake Erie. There'll also be live music in the Labatt Blue Beer Garden at the convention center, mostly of maritime music from Captain Tom Kastle, the Hardtackers, Lee Murdock, and the Good for Nuthin String Band. And in the H.O. Hurt Auditorium in the Blasco Public Library, a collaboration between the Erie Playhouse, Gannon University, and the Flagship Niagara League brings Erie the play, “Fortunate Victory,” a dramatic adaptation of the events leading up to and including the battle.

“The first purpose,” said Garvey of Tall Ships Erie, “is to celebrate the fact that we have the Niagara. It's expensive to maintain, the state supports less than half of it. Having tallship festivals every two or three years generates a lot of cash. That will keep the ship sailing.”

That's the first and the most practical reason for hosting Tall Ships Erie. It's a fundraiser for our city's iconic ship. That's the practical reason. There are other reasons, too. Ones you can't count in ledger book, but reasons that have value nonetheless.

“It reminds people of the importance of the Niagara,” said Garvey, “and it does so dramatically. Without Perry's victory, we wouldn't be celebrating right now. Efforts do matter.

“The city's pride stems from past successes.

There's a quote from Winston Churchill about England that I always thought pertained to cities, too. He said, 'having once been great, we cannot endure being mediocre.'”

Erie was born in a singular and historic summer, one in which our city built a fleet of wooden ships and sent it off into danger. And, by doing so, won an important battle that helped shape the republic. This is our legacy. It's our identity. And the tall ships – with their dramatic silhouettes, their walls of wood, the canvas and rope that hold them together – these relics of bygone days should remind us what happened on here two hundred years ago and thus inspire us to carry on.

**S**ept. 10, 1813, found a small fleet of American vessels sailing in a light breeze in the western waters of Lake Erie. The ships were arrayed in single file with a pair of stately brigs at the center of the line, and were headed directly for another fleet – this one British, with six vessels – which was hove-to and waiting for the Americans. Battle seemed inevitable.

On the American flagship, the USS Lawrence, was the 28-year-old fleet commander, Oliver Hazard Perry. In paintings from the era, Perry is depicted with untidy, dark curls thrusting forward over a long nose, plump lips, and languid eyes – the epitome in looks of the era's handsome Romantic hero. Despite his portrait's calm, almost bored aspect, Perry's face this day no doubt barely concealed the anxiety he must have felt.

After all, the conditions for battle were far from perfect. His fleet was undermanned, some 200 men short of what his ships would ideally carry, and he was woefully short of experienced sailors – raw frontier militia formed too much of his crews. Worse still, a spate of fever and dysentery had swept the ranks and many were too sick to fight. Perry himself was still feeling the effects of illness. Perry's ships, too, were a collection of converted merchantmen and hastily-built vessels. The two biggest – the Niagara and the Lawrence, his flagship – were built of green wood of a mish-mash of varieties. Both, too, had shallow drafts and tended to scuttle to leeward in a strong wind. His inexperienced men had little time to train with either the sails or guns.

This morning, too, after spotting the British fleet to the north, his fleet had trouble exiting the harbor at Put-in-Bay, forced to beat directly into a southwesterly wind through the shoals and narrow channels of the islands off the north coast of Ohio. He would still be there now, with the British ships swooping down among his disorganized ships if the wind hadn't abruptly shifted to the southeast. That wind change allowed him to enter the open lake quickly and erased his enemy's tactical advantage instantly.

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Even so, the wind must have been too light for his liking. The British ships, especially the larger ships, the Detroit and the Queen Charlotte, had long twelves, long-barreled cannon that threw shot accurately over distance. The Niagara and Lawrence had the squat, short-barreled guns called carronades that fired 32-pound shot, but accurately only at very short distances. That meant Perry needed to close the gap to the British fleet quickly, or else the long twelves would rip his ships to pieces. On a calm day like this, there was a chance the wind would die altogether, leaving him stranded and helpless under the British guns.

As the Americans slowly approached the British, his men, too, must have shared their captain's anxiety. In such light wind, there would be hardly a rustle of canvas, and voices would carry far over the water. The ships were ready for battle. On the Lawrence, wet blankets would have been hung around the powder magazine, the guns' shot racks filled, the galley fire doused, and sand strewn on the decks to give sailors traction against slipping on the blood that would soon flow. No doubt the men stood at their stations in silence peering through their gun ports at the distant ships, wondering who among them would soon be dead.

Above them flew Perry's iconic battle flag, reading "Don't Give Up the Ship!" – the dying last words of his friend, James Lawrence, in the last moments of his USS Chesapeake's losing duel with the HMS Shannon a few months earlier. The exact colors aren't known – but it was probably yellow letters on a blue background.

Perry had plenty of time to ponder his actions at that time. What was on his

mind? Did he think of how he might measure up to his father, a renowned Revolutionary War privateer and frigate captain in the early U.S. Navy? Did he think of his own career, and how it went horribly awry when his first sizable command, the sloop USS Revenge, struck shoals off of Rhode Island and sank? A court martial hearing found pilot error to blame, but the incident stained an otherwise stellar career, and he found himself commanding shore defenses and gunboats, not a frigate on ocean cruises, like other captains of similar experience. It was probably desperation to regain his reputation that drove him to apply for a command on the Great Lakes. In 1813, Lake Erie was mostly wilderness and far removed from the high seas and glory he no doubt sought.

He might have been thinking of the army in Ohio under General William Henry Harrison, waiting for the outcome of the battle. Harrison, a Virginia-born and extremely ambitious politician, had assembled his army in the Indiana territory made up of frontiersman eager to end British influence with the Native Americans in the region. These were Kentucky men, Indiana

men, Ohio men, men who had already fought at Tippecanoe or a number of savage frontier brawls with the Shawnee, Ojibway, Chickam-anga. American soldiers had been slaughtered at the River Raisin by England's Indian allies, and these men were eager to wreak revenge on the British in Detroit – the raids on area villages had not quenched their bloodlust. Harrison had marched this army through hundreds of miles of untracked wilderness and had endured a bloody siege at Fort Meigs on Ohio's Maumee River, but was now bogged down in northern Ohio, unable to march to Detroit for fear of the British ships on Lake Erie cutting off his supply lines in his rear. He had sent a number of impatient letters to Perry. The men had met and liked each other, and Perry no doubt felt pressure to relieve Harrison of his worries. Was he now thinking of Harrison's position, his supply line, the men who wanted to take back Detroit?

Or maybe his dispute with his superior, Isaac Chancey, weighed heavily on him. Chauncey commanded all the naval forces on Lakes Ontario and Erie, and Perry felt he had neglected his command, failing to support him with men

and material. After reading imagined slights into his recent correspondence from Chauncey, Perry had submitted to the Secretary of the Navy a letter of resignation, which was even now making its way to Washington D.C. "I cannot serve longer under an officer who has been so regardless of my feelings," he had written. "I beg most respectfully and most earnestly that I may be immediately removed from this station." He probably regretted sending it. But a victory now would change everything.

---

This is our legacy. It's our identity. And the tall ships – with their dramatic silhouettes, their walls of wood, the canvas and rope that hold them together – these relics of bygone days should remind us what happened on here two hundred years ago and thus inspire us to carry on.

---

Or was he thinking of his second-in-command and captain of the Niagara, Jesse Duncan Elliott? Elliott shared the same rank, "Master and Commandant," but at 31 was the older of the two men and had more combat experience – including a dashing expedition in which he had wrested two enemy ships out from under British cannon on the Niagara River and for which he won Congressional commendation. Elliott, too, was a protégée of Chauncey, having served as his lieutenant on Lake Ontario. Only the luck of two months' seniority gave Perry command. Did any doubts assail Perry about Elliott? Did he feel pressure to excel under the watchful eyes of an older and more experienced man and one who no doubt felt he was more *deserving* of the post?

Across the water, a band aboard the HMS Detroit struck up "Rule Britannia." A shot was fired from the Detroit. It fell short, a splash in the water. Her second shot, however, found its target. There was a splintering of wood as the heavy ball smashed into the Lawrence and killed a man. Perry could not return fire; his guns were not in range.

Perry now faced a decision. His fleet was strung



**At just 28 years old, Perry led the fleet that fought for the future of the United States in the War of 1812.**

Contributed Photo

edgeable sailors on upper Great Lakes.

It was one customary trip that took Dobbins to Fort Mackinac in the Strait of Mackinac between Lakes Michigan and Huron in July 1812. On July 17, the fort was stormed by 300 British regulars and hundreds of Indian allies, and taken without a shot. War, the British troops informed the surprised Americans, had been declared between their two nations nearly a month earlier.

The War of 1812 was an odd conflict without clear cause or outcome. Started ostensibly over British interference with U.S. trade and the habit of British warships of impressing – or forcibly taking – American sailors into their naval service, the roots of the war go deeper than these few high-seas incidents.

For one, the British stood in the way of American expansion in the West. There was a lot of pressure for the new republic to push its boundaries westward. The government was cash-strapped, having borrowed prodigiously to fund its revolution, and unable to raise funds from a tax-averse citizenry. Land sales raised cash, and land grants allowed the U.S. to pay its obligations to many of its revolutionary war veterans. And there were plenty of buyers. Immigrants – notably Irish and French refugees – continued to pour into the country, eager to buy cheap land. Nutrient-poor eastern soil combined with primitive agricultural practices – fertilizer wouldn't be widely used until the 1850s – to drive easterners westward to virgin land.

The acquisition of the Ohio River Valley from the British after the Revolutionary War and Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase in 1804 gave the U.S. millions of acres of land to settle, but there was one major impediment to American expan-

sion: the people who lived there already. Native Americans.

A new confederacy of Indian nations was forming in opposition to the land-grabbing and unfair treaties imposed on their people by the federal government and the ambitious Indiana territory governor, William Henry Harrison. A charismatic Shawnee chieftain named Tecumseh and his brother the "Prophet" drew many followers with a mixture of revivalist religion and the dream of a confederated Indian nation east of the Mississippi.

Tecumseh needed the British, however, to realize his plans. Only England could supply the guns and powder the Indians would need to fight a war with the U.S. And England encouraged this hope – a buffer state on the Canadian border would protect it from the Americans – but stopped short of an outright alliance.

Westerners were not happy with this British influence. They were in near constant conflict with Indians on their frontier, and they felt the British were responsible. They wanted to smash Tecumseh's confederacy and end British influence in the West, permanently. In 1811, militia and U.S. regulars under governor Harrison broke up the confederacy's encampment on the Tippecanoe River, but the battle only drove Tecumseh into the arms of the British when war was declared in June 1812 and the confederacy's warriors were crucial to the British capture of Fort Mackinac.

There, Dobbins was captured and granted parole – an agreement not to fight in exchange for his release – and was ordered by the British to transport paroled Americans to Cleveland. He made it as far as the U.S. fort in [Cont. on 20]

out a little. The brigs were together, but his gunboats were lagging behind. He could pull away and consolidate his forces. After all, his fleet outnumbered the enemy nine to six, and threw a heavier broadside, too. Why not wait for more auspicious conditions? Ones that would push the odds more in his favor? But that might mean putting off a battle for a few more hours, or possibly a few more days or even weeks. Did he have the time?

Or he could turn the helm over now and head directly at the British fleet with what he had. It meant sailing bow-on at the enemy who would pound him mercilessly as he closed, his unable to return fire for some time. It would be risky – extremely risky. He would be playing into the hands of the British, allowing them to exploit the advantages of their long twelves. But he could fight *here* and decide the issue *now*.

He ordered the signal flags hoisted – *engage the enemy* – raised more sail and turned the Lawrence to starboard towards the six British ships. The Battle of Lake Erie had begun.

**A**t the outbreak of the War of 1812, Erie was a frontier settlement of a few dozen buildings and about 400 souls. It was first settled by Anglos in 1795, shortly after the federal government decided a land dispute between New York, Pennsylvania, and other states over the "Erie Triangle" – a triangular tract of land that fits roughly over present-day Erie county – in Pennsylvania's favor, giving that state its only port on the Great Lakes. Erie residents were mostly farmers, and merchants and sailors dabbling in salt, fur, and lumber trade.

In 1812, of course, there were no gas motors, no cars, airplanes, or railroads. Livingston and

Fulton had built the world's first commercial steamboat – which plied the Hudson from New York to Albany – only five years earlier. Travel was mostly powered by muscle – on foot or horseback – but boats allowed people to move large amounts of goods relatively easily, and rivers, lakes, and oceans were the early 19th-century highway system. But in 1812, the Great Lakes were relatively isolated from the oceans and, therefore, the rest of the world. Ground for the Erie Canal wouldn't be broken until 1817, the Welland and Lachine Canals not until the 1820s.

In order to reach Erie, a traveler in 1812 needed to go one of several circuitous and arduous routes. One route was along the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, and Niagara River to Lake Erie – but that required two separate portages, once near Montreal and again around Niagara Falls. Or up the Allegheny River and French Creek from Pittsburgh and over a 14-mile dirt track from Waterford. Or up the Hudson to Albany, up the Mohawk Valley to Lake Ontario. And so on. Winter drifted snow on the roads and froze otherwise navigable rivers and lakes, and a trip to Erie that might take days in good weather could last weeks in bad weather.

The isolation and rough frontier life appealed to adventurers and entrepreneurs, including Daniel Dobbins, who first saw Erie in 1795 as part of a surveying party. He must have seen the natural harbor formed by Presque Isle and imagined much potential, because he stayed in Erie permanently to work aboard ships that traded on Lake Erie. By 1803, he was captain of a merchant sloop, the Good Intent, which was one of only a dozen on the Lake. Several years later, in 1809, he would buy his own ship, the schooner Salina, and by then was one of the most knowl-

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# If We Were You...

## WEDNESDAY 9.04

### Drum and Sun

Percussion may very well have been humanity's first foray into making music thousands of years ago; if you're looking to get in touch with your primal self, get to Presque Isle State Park a few hours before sunset and surrender to the drum circle's pounding, animalistic rhythms. Better yet, bring a drum and share your primeval talent - for as Poor Richard says, "Hide not your Talents, they for Use were made: What's a Sun-Dial in the Shade?"

**When:** 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Beach 6  
**Contact:** Your inner neanderthal

## THURSDAY 9.05

### Scatter My Ashes at Bergdorf's

Mercyhurst University's fashion merchandising department presents - for one night only - a screening of this 2013 documentary about the iconic New York department store. Tickets are very limited as of press time and are available

only online, so be sure to get yours before heading on down to Cinemark Tinseltown USA.

**When:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** 1910 Rotunda Dr.  
**Contact:** [Tugg.com/events/4675](http://Tugg.com/events/4675)

## FRIDAY 9.06

### Stoned & Beautiful

It always helps when a good band takes an active interest in pleasing their crowd. Groovy Cleveland jammers Stoned & Beautiful certainly do, wanting to rock the faces off of every person (Not in the "Silence of the Lambs" Buffalo Bill sense, mind you). The trio will be travelling down to the crooked i for some fresh faces, so make sure to prepare yourself for a groovy sonic onslaught.

**When:** 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
**Where:** 1013 State St.  
**Contact:** [Facebook.com/thecrookedierie](https://www.facebook.com/thecrookedierie)

## SATURDAY 9.07

### Lavery Brewing Company Pub Grand Opening

When we first introduced you to Jason Lavery al-

most 30 months ago, his brewing enterprise was but a sapling, bending whiplike in the winds - but no longer. Since moving from the Brewerie and putting down roots at his own brewery (behind Hungry Howie's and next to CATV on West 12th Street) Lavery's beers have gained notoriety from here to the east coast for their quality, drinkability, and overall yumminess. And starting with today's grand opening of the pub, you can drink it in the very same building where it was made! Enjoy the intimate feel of this small, cozy, old-world style public house, grab an ox roast sandwich and some chips, and get to work - those beers aren't going to drink themselves.

**When:** 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
**Where:** 128 W. 12th St. #101  
**Contact:** [LaveryBrewing.com](http://LaveryBrewing.com)

### Earth's Eye: A Festival of Writing in and of the Natural World

Attention writers - aspiring or otherwise! Poet and essayist Lia Purpura, in conjunction with faculty from the BFA program at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College will conduct this writer's workshop en plein air at Presque Isle State Park. Your \$40 registration fee allows you to participate in fieldwork, writing exercises, panel discussions and a presentation by Purpura, who you may recognize from such fine publications as The New Yorker or The Paris Review.

**When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Where:** Pine Tree Shelter at Presque Isle State Park  
**Contact:** [behrend.psu.edu/festival](http://behrend.psu.edu/festival) or [kft1@psu.edu](mailto:kft1@psu.edu)

## SUNDAY 9.08

### "The Kings of Summer"

Parents? Who needs parents! Let's build a house in the woods, and live off the land all summer long! At least, that's what the three teenage protagonists of this movie - who have never apparently read "Lord of the Flies" - decided. Although this film, presumably, does not end with conch-taking and fatty-killing, it is a unique coming-of-age flick that screened to rave reviews at Sundance this year, and kicks off the Maria J. Langer Film Series at Mercyhurst University's Taylor Little Theater. And, most excitingly, the Erie Reader's very own version of James Lipton - Managing Editor Ben Speggen - will host a chat with the movie's co-producer, Mercyhurst alum Eric Hollenbeck.

**When:** 2 p.m.  
**Where:** 501 E. 38th St.  
**Contact:** [Facebook.com/MIAandC](https://www.facebook.com/MIAandC)

## TUESDAY 9.10

### Preserving the Harvest

Harvest approaches, and times can go from lean to fat in just a few days - but as Poor Richard said, "Waste not, want not." So join Judy Dauson from Peace by Piece Farm at the Whole Foods Coop as she shares some ideas for preserving your crop long into the winter, because as Poor

Richard also said, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Accordingly, this class is free.

**When:** 6 p.m.  
**Where:** 1341 W. 26th St.  
**Contact:** [wferie.coop](http://wferie.coop)

### Battle of Lake Erie Monument Commemoration

Designed by Sean Plunkett of Weber, Murphy, Fox under the direction of Geiger & Sons Memorials, this memorial will forever stand as a reminder of Erie's role as the city that built the fleet that built the future. Read Jay Stevens' cover story in this issue, then join local dignitaries from the Perry 200 Commemoration Commission to help dedicate this lasting lakefront legacy.

**When:** 5 p.m.  
**Where:** Dobbins Landing  
**Contact:** [Perry200.com](http://Perry200.com)

## WEDNESDAY 9.11

### Goodell Gardens Farmers Market

It's harvest time, and that means it's the perfect time to visit the farmers market at the beautiful Goodell Gardens and Homestead. The market features farmers from all over Erie and Crawford Counties selling produce, meat, cheese, eggs, honey, baked goods, maple products, and more.

**When:** 3 to 6 p.m.  
**Where:** 221 Waterford St., Edinboro  
**Contact:** [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org)

## THURSDAY 9.12

### The Art of Forgiveness with Shawnta Pulliam

See and hear Erie Reader 2013 40-under-40 alum Shawnta Pulliam do what she does best - nurture and inspire with her wisdom and her words. Her talk, presented by UPMC Hamot and held in Room 2 of the Lincoln Educational Center at the Hamot Women's Hospital, centers on the gift you give yourself - forgiveness. Register online at [upmc.com/classes](http://upmc.com/classes), because as Poor Richard says, "Doing an injury puts you below your enemy; revenging one makes you but even with him; forgiving it sets you above him."

**When:** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** 118 E. Second St.  
**Contact:** 877.6000

### Songs and Sonnets by Jim Morrison

Ride the snake to the ancient lake with the lizard king himself - Jim Morrison - at this original theatrical production directed by Dan Tingley that runs Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays for the rest of the month at PACA. Billed as a "multi-media performance art stunt" featuring "adult language and acts of random violence" befitting Mr. Mojo Risin' himself, you should probably leave the kids at home for this one.

**When:** Doors 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** 1505 State St.  
**Contact:** [PACA1505.com](http://PACA1505.com)



**For Our Upcoming Live Music Schedule, Go to [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace/events](https://www.facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace/events)**

## "Spamalot"

The Erie Playhouse will open their 97th season with this Eric Idle-penned musical based on the "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" film, so gallop on over to the theater to learn whether or not a strange woman lying in a pond distributing swords in a farcical aquatic ceremony is an appropriate basis for a system of government. Runs through September 29.

When: 7:30 p.m.  
Where: 13 W. Tenth St.  
Contact: 454.2852

## FRIDAY 9.13

### Bobby J's & Alex's 2 Act Birthday Blowout Extravaganza

When Basement Transmissions holds a birthday bonanza, there's sure to be a whole bunch of bands for the blowout affair. Well, Bobby J and Alex's 2 Act Birthday Blowout Extravaganza will live up to the hype, with two different shows and over 10 different acts throughout the night, with both shows costing just \$7 combined or \$5 for the second over-21 show.

When: First show 5:30 to 10:15 p.m.,  
second show 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Where: 1501 State St.  
Contact: basement-transmissions.webs.com

## SATURDAY 9.14

### Jargonauts with Johnny James & the Absolutes and The Couchriders

Think of the Jargonauts as a musical stew. You have plenty of fine bits and pieces left over, so

you decided to mix it all together until it became something completely different. Well, Jargonauts take a whole bunch of sonic ingredients — like hip-hop beats, echoing guitars, and hypnotic percussion — and blend them into something quite innovative. Add in dark rockers Johnny James & the Absolutes and The Couchriders, and you've got quite a musical meal waiting for you at the crooked i.

When: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Where: 1013 State St.  
Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

## SUNDAY 9.15

### Erie Irish Festival

Top o' the weekend to ya! If you enjoy participating in ridiculous stereotypes of a noble and ancient culture, get ready to don your fuzzy green top-hat and drink your face off (again, not in the "Silence of the Lambs" Buffalo Bill sense)! So bring your shillelagh and your lucky four-leaf clover, because you just might find a pot of gold somewhere in Waldameer's Rainbow Gardens. But be careful, for as Poor Richard says, "Drink does not drown care, but waters it, and makes it grow faster."

When: 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Where: 220 Peninsula Drive  
Contact: 454.8085 x101

### Poetry Park: An Afternoon of Readings, Music, and Refreshments

Help commemorate the dedication of a new "Little Free Library" with readings by visiting poets Sara Ries (Buffalo) and Don Wentworth (Pittsburgh), an open reading including children from the neighborhood hosted by Chuck

Joy, music by The Bangerzz, and refreshments courtesy of Gannon University and Erie Community Foundation.

When: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Where: 634 E. 22nd St.  
Contact: crjoy1@gmail.com

### Intersections of Equality Symposium

Although this symposium won't be held until early November, today is the last day to RSVP! For more information, visit GreaterErieAlliance.com, because as Poor Richard says, "Being ignorant is not so much a shame as being unwilling to learn."

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, November 2  
Where: Penn State Erie, the Behrend College  
Contact: geaeinfo@gmail.com

## TUESDAY 9.17

### Dramashop presents: "How I Learned to Drive" Staged Reading

Paula Vogel's "How I Learned to Drive," as Dramashop explains, is a "devastating and surprisingly humorous tale of survival, grounded in the recognizable milestones of growing up." Toss in a troubling relationship between a young girl and an older man explored through the lens of learning how to drive and you've got one awesome night of contemporary theater. Vogel's script won a Pulitzer Prize, and was a co-winner for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

When: 8 p.m.  
Where: Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St.  
Contact: Dramashop.org

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# the crooked i

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### STONED AND BEAUTIFUL

SEPTEMBER 6 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



### BURNING RIVER RAMBLERS

SEPTEMBER 7 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



### UNIVERSE SHARK

SEPTEMBER 12 // THURSDAY @ 10:00



### THE TRADESMEN

SEPTEMBER 13 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



### JARGONAUTS

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JOHNNY JAMES AND THE ABSOLUTES AND THE COUCHRIDERS

SEPTEMBER 14 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



### BUBBA SPARXXX

SEPTEMBER 19 // THURSDAY @ 8:00

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

# To-do List

By: Alex Bieler



The Erie Chamber Orchestra invites soloist David Kim to its first concert of the season.

## Erie Chamber Orchestra Opening Night Celebration

Given that school is back in session, it seems about right to administer the first ever To-do List Pop Quiz. Still your moans and groans and tell me, if you had an option between shilling out your hard-earned greenbacks to go experience a wonderful, locally-themed event and spending absolutely nothing to go experience a wonderful, locally-themed event, which would you be inclined to pick?

Well, if you chose the latter of the two options, then you have passed the To-do List Pop Quiz. See, it wasn't so hard now, was it? I guess it's time to reward all of you culture-loving fans of the free, so let me tell you about just an event that should make the grade.

The Erie Chamber Orchestra will be kicking off its 36th season of free music with the Opening Night Celebration Friday, Sept. 13 at McDowell Intermediate High School, bringing the moving sounds of accomplished players in one relaxed setting.

"It allows you to hear music the same caliber of almost any other major orchestra, but for zero cost," Erie Chamber Orchestra Executive Director Steve Weiser says. "We'll give you that more intimate experience where you'll be so much closer to the musicians and you'll get to meet the soloist afterwards."

That soloist he speaks of is David Kim, accomplished violinist and concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra, who will be dazzling the denizens of the Little Theater with his command of the strings. In addition to Kim, Shannon Wood, principal timpanist of the Grand Rapids Symphony, was commissioned to create an original work themed around the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie.

"Generally when I write, it always comes across as very symphonic in nature and then I layer the percussion or the solo instrument into what's going on, and there is a lot going on musically in the orchestra," Wood says. His efforts resulted in "The Battle of Put-in-Bay," an eight-section composition containing pieces such as "O.H. Perry" and "We have seen the enemy and they are ours."

"He uses certain sound effects within the strings and the percussion to give the allusion of waves, cannons in the distance, and the sounds of rolling thunder," Weiser says of Wood's original creation. "I'm fascinated when a composer can do that, to start from scratch and create something like this."

While creating elaborately constructed compositions may not all too easy for the average person – we'll leave that for Weiser, Wood, and the rest of the classically-gifted folks at the Chamber Orchestra – it doesn't take a mathematical genius to figure out that talented musicians, local themes, and zero cost make for one easy equation.

## Arts 'N Drafts

Seven years ago, Drew Kauffman decided to stop complaining and start doing. Disenchanted with the lack of events featuring local artists, he felt there was a need that he could help fill and soon Arts 'N Drafts Fest was created.

"My original thought behind this project was to create a minute period of time where we're all able to bring ourselves together whether we're talented artists, musicians, or the community in general," Kauffman says while sitting in the Brewerie at Union Station, the fixed location for the biannual three-day celebration, which is returning for the 12th time Sept. 12-14. "It's about demonstrating what talent we have in the area that people are oblivious to or just don't have the opportunity to experience. It's also a chance for artists and musicians who have never put themselves out there to put themselves out there."

Arts 'N Drafts won't be lacking in participants, with dozens of artists displaying their photography, acrylics, and assemblages for show and sale. Two stages will be set up – one in the tap room and the other outside by the tracks – for live music starting at 7 p.m. every night, with electro magician onewayness, folkheads Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution, and Erie's bearded ambassador of Americana Matt Texter leading the pack from Thursday to Saturday.

Of course, the artist displays and live music only covers the first half of Arts 'N Drafts, as the Brewerie's own craft beers will be readily available for those that wish to enjoy some local liquid libations as well.

"Throughout the course of the day you'll see the evolution of the patron," Brewerie owner Chris Sirianni says. "There are people who are here for dinner and a beer and then stay here and enjoy the art, so I think it's a perfect complement."

Whether you're at Arts 'N Drafts for the art, the music, the beer, or all three, you can be sure that you'll be enjoying the talents of Erie in one place, and even the biggest grumblers won't find too much to complain about. 🍻

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://er-irdr.com/xxxx>





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If you have any questions please contact  
The Erie County Historical Society at 454.1813 x24.



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Thursday, September 12th 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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# MUSIC REVIEWS

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## Diarrhea Planet

★★★★

*I'm Rich Beyond Your Wildest Dreams*  
Infinity Cat Recordings



By the time that this sentence has been read, there is a good chance that you might already be judging Diarrhea Planet due to the band's, um, interesting name. Yes, a name like

Diarrhea Planet is bound to earn a few chuckles here and some disapproving head shakes there, but where the moniker may be questionable, there's no disputing that "I'm Rich Beyond Your Wildest Dreams" rocks hard. The Nashville, Tenn. sextet employs four guitarists on their sophomore full-length album, and the string-work certainly doesn't disappoint, with plenty of anthemic solos peppering the 13 tracks. While songs like "Ugliest Son" go for the jugular, "I'm Rich Beyond Your Wildest Dreams" is at its best on the more wistful tunes, with "Kids" hitting a high when singer Jordan Smith belting "we're just kids" over a deluge of guitars. There's still room for the band to grow, but this album is rich with rewards. - Alex Bieler

## No Age

★★★

*An Object*  
Sub Pop



For those who haven't listened to No Age before, "An Object" marks a suitable introduction to Dean Spunt and Randy Randall's noisy dream-punk project. However, if you've been listening to the Southern California duo's work over the past half decade, something seems off. "An Object" seems tired compared to the prior releases, with trademark sonic blasts being pared down to the point of the album sounding fairly quiet and Spunt's vocals seeming tired at times. The all-out thrashing thrill ride of 2010's "Fever Dreaming" won't be found here. Single "C'mon, Stimmung" tries, but it never manages to be that go-to song for the noisy bliss that No Age can bring to the table. Of course, all of this doesn't mean "An Object" is a bad album by any means, just one that can't quite measure up to the rest of No Age's impressive catalog. - Alex Bieler

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## Franz Ferdinand

★★★★

*Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action*  
Domino



Sometimes it seems rather odd that Scottish dance-rock troupe Franz Ferdinand has been around for a decade, yet when your mind transports you back in time to the first time you heard "Take Me Out," suddenly the difference in time is all too real. With many of their early- to mid-2000s counterparts failing to live up to their early success, the Franz foursome still manage to make fun, danceable tunes in their fourth full-length album "Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action." Lead track "Right Action" feels right at home in the Franz Ferdinand catalog, with a catchy guitar hook bouncing along to a marching beat, one of many songs that will make you feel at home in a smoky club, regardless of any actual dancing ability. The 10 tracks are by no means groundbreaking or essential, but least Franz Ferdinand is still making fun music instead of flat-out clunkers. - Alex Bieler

## Nine Inch Nails

★★★★

*Hesitation Marks*  
Columbia



In some ways, 2013 has been: The Year of the Opposite. Daft Punk did an about-face, shifting from machine-based creations to focus on human-produced sounds, and Kanye

West opted for sparser beats with less production and fewer cameos – both resulting their most raw and potentially daring efforts yet. Trent Reznor continues that trend, adopting a minimalist approach to the production here. His relentless pursuit of sound construction results in a remarkably clean, tight album – a work that balances lushly thick swells with simple yet driving beats, all while providing ample room for Reznor to explore his trademark themes of disconnectedness. "All Time Low" captures Reznor's blending of catchy hooks and beats with his introspection, as he ponders, "Everything is not okay... we lost ourselves along the way," over one of the album's happier sounding songs. Reznor's creating – maybe with hesitation, maybe without; regardless, the end result is beautiful. – Ben Spегgen



# ★ Battle of Lake Erie ★

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# Street Fashionista

Garrett Skindell

By: Leslie McAllister



Leslie McAllister

What started as a basic men's undergarment launched into a daily staple. Like a timid wallflower, the T-shirt broke free and flung itself collar first onto the dance floor. During the '40s, WWII vets would pair the look with their uniform pants. In the '50s, the look went viral after Brando wore it in "A Streetcar Named Desire." Of course we saw Jimmy Dean take it to a whole other level in "Rebel Without a Cause." How could we forget the white tee and leather motorcycle jacket?

Honestly, any fashion trend that requires you to use one or both hands to hold your outfit together just to enable you to walk down the street is a blunder on so many levels.

Needless to say, the T-shirt took on its own identity becoming a mainstay in the male wardrobe (and female). Guys are obsessed with them like girls are obsessed with shoes. Concert tees, vintage tees, novelty tees, conversation tees – they can't get enough. Garrett Skindell told me of his extensive collection.

"My wife took all my beat up T-shirts, the ones with holes, and turned them into sun dresses for

our daughters. I got all broken up when I saw my girls in my old concert tees."

With the timeless basic you can transform it into a mini dress, a tunic, a sun dress, a muscle tank, a deep-v tank top, and a swimsuit cover-up – us girls have so many options. For guys, just continue to look handsome and dashing in the look. You make the ladies swoon a la James and Marlon.

**Describe your style.** I'm not sure I have a style per se. Beyond the 40-something rocker dad, I have an extensive T-shirt collection that spans the past 30 years, so I have that going in my favor. I have pretty simple tastes. I'm a pair of Chuck Taylors, T-shirt, and jeans kind of guy.

**If you could be a musical instrument which would you choose?** Obviously as a Theremin player, I'd have to pick the Theremin; it's science, history, art, and music – electricity creating magnetic fields. It's a rare and unique instrument.

**Pink or purple?** Purple.

**Why?** With three daughters, all under the age of 8, anything pink gets used up pretty quick around our home. Plus the girls like to paint my toenails; they picked out the purple for me – which reminds me, I need a fresh coat for back to school; I got to let them know they have work to do on these toes.

My mountain bike is purple. I'm a product of Prince's "Purple Reign" of the '80s. This past summer, I got my usual summer mohawk, and

the kids begged and begged me to dye it bright purple. To be honest, they didn't really have to beg me that much.

**Favorite outfit you nailed this summer?** Ooh, that's tough. Probably during Blues and Jazz Fest weekend. Missy found me a wonderful Cleopatra Jones ringer shirt. I love it – the color, the image, and the fit were all perfect, and perfect for jazzfest antics. I paired it with a khaki pair of cargo shorts and sandals.

**What do you bring away from teaching?** Wow, there's so much, I don't know where to start. Generally speaking, as an eighth-grade teacher, I get to see my students transition to being teenagers. They start thinking about their future goals and how they can reach them, how they can overcome obstacles as they prepare for the next phase of their lives and head off to high school. Watching them grow and mature from kids to young adults over the course of a school year and helping them decide the directions their lives will take is an incredibly rewarding thing to be a part of. I love the challenge they bring to the table. I know a lot of people that hate the drudgery of their jobs, in that sense; I guess I'm truly blessed.

**Worst reason you've been told in response to not having your assignment completed.** HA! I had a kid once tell me he didn't do his homework because he was up all night playing video games. So as a consequence, I made him write a report on why the video game was more important than the homework I assigned. He turned in a pretty lengthy and thorough report. He made a lot of very well thought out points about the problem solving logic and the various puzzles involved in advancing through to the next level. Little did he know, that later that night, I used the details

of his report to help me get Lara Croft safely through to the next level that I had been stuck on in "Tomb Raider 2" for a few days. Safe to say, it was a late night of 'grading' his paper for me too.

**Favorite thing about living in Millcreek.** There's a roller skating rink a block away, Waldameer is two blocks away, and Presque Isle is four blocks away. I have great neighbors, and the neighborhood is packed full of children that are my kids' age.

**Best place in Erie for pizza.** Steve-Os at the PI is currently at the top of my list.

**What is America's biggest fashion blunder and how can we fix it?** Biggest blunder? Hmm... Got to go with 'sagging,' with your pants around your knees, it's going to be difficult to walk. Honestly, any fashion trend that requires you to use one or both hands to hold your outfit together just to enable you to walk down the street is a blunder on so many levels.

How do we fix it? I wish I knew. Maybe we need high profile artists like Jay Z and Beyonce to go full on Steve Urkel. Maybe bring back suspenders? How about belts with big bling buckles as the hot new accessory for this bold new millennium? ■

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

Leslie McAllister can be contacted at [LMcAllister@ErieReader.com](mailto:LMcAllister@ErieReader.com), and you can follow her on Twitter @ShopJufus. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/hazq7>



Charlene Lichtinger '12 & '13  
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## MIAC Kicks off 2013-2014 Season

From marionettes to rising folk stars, Mercyhurst offers something for everyone



Contributed Photo

(Above) Compagnie Kafig comes to the MIAC Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014.

By: Rebecca Styn

When one hears or reads about an art form that encompasses “exceptional artistry, grace, and refinement of movement” — puppetry may not be the first thing that comes to mind.

However, in the case of the internationally-acclaimed Cashore Marionettes, one would find this to be a fitting discovery. And the show just happens to be kicking off the 2013-14 live season at the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture, which runs from September through April. The vignettes provide a sensitive, humorous, and entertaining revelation of what it is to be human through manipulation, music, and theatrical illusion.

“I’m very excited to be bringing the Cashore Marionettes to Erie,” says Jamie Grady, direc-

tor of MIAC. “In addition to what will be an astounding performance, we have partnered with the expERIENCE Children’s Museum, and there will be several activities happening before the event as well.”

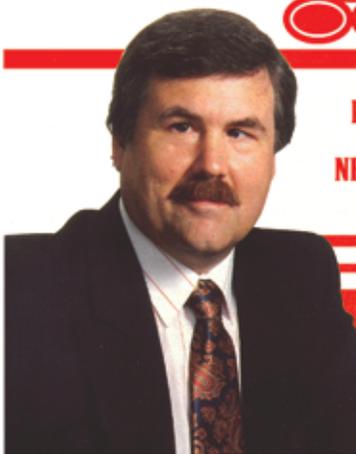
These activities Grady speaks of include movement workshops, face painting, an art show by Heather Cash, and music provided by Mercyhurst University’s jazz radio station, WMCE.

Such partnerships are new to the MIAC. This latest initiative pairs each live performance with a local organization in recognition of the impact they’ve made in the community. Some of the organizations that the group is partnering with include: the Erie Asian Pacific American Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Erie Art Museum, and more.

“People can really expect something different,” Grady adds. “Our community partners are help-



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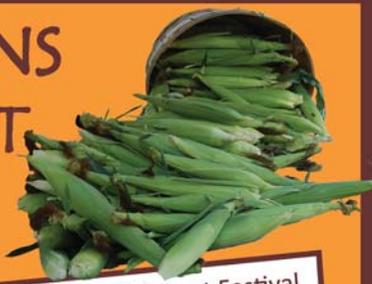
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ing us broaden our reach. Plus, it gives them an opportunity to showcase their organization, so our lobby will always be alive with activities prior to the events.”

These pre-show parties will include live local music, tastings, food and refreshments, art shows, and more – at no additional charge to the ticketholder.

“All of the time and energy we spent planning this season will show through the talented individuals and groups we were able to secure,” says Christine Olivier, assistant director at MIAC. “The pre-show events are an added bonus. Our main aim this season is to let everyone know that our gates are always open and there is something for everyone to enjoy.”

**“All of the time and energy we spent planning this season will show through the talented individuals and groups we were able to secure. The pre-show events are an added bonus.”**

While the Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center has previously been home to all mainstage performances, this year, the group has decided to expand its stage horizons. This coming October, Indie-folk duo The Bengsons, will perform at the Erie Art Museum, and in March, the hot, young jazz-fusion band Snarky Puppy will be performing at the crooked i.

“In addition to hosting this event at the Erie Art Museum, the group will stay in Erie to conduct a two-week residency of workshops leading into the final performance at the Museum,” Grady says, speaking of the Bengsons.

And no fear Yamato lovers, the popular musical group of Japanese Taiko drummers, will be back again in November, this time celebrating their 20th anniversary.

“We are trying to build a season that is more accessible to the greater Erie community. While we recognize performance groups like Yamato do so well here and we will continue to bring them back, we are also trying different art forms and entertainment to see what clicks. I’m very excited for this season – especially because it is officially the first one that I have had a direct hand in choosing,” says Grady, adding jokingly, “it has the Jamie Grady stamp of approval.”

In addition, the Institute will soon unveil its fall film schedule and will also continue to offer “The Met: Live in HD,” a series of live simulcasts from the Metropolitan Opera. 📺

For a complete listing of the upcoming season, or to purchase tickets, visit: [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu).

Rebecca Styn can be contacted at [rStyn@ErieReader.com](mailto:rStyn@ErieReader.com), and you can follow her on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/siz/vn>



## Killer Rabbits, Pigs Blood, and Old Owl Eyes Come to the Big Stage

A Discussion with Erie Playhouse Executive Director Sue Lechner on the Upcoming Season

By: Alex Bieler

As one chapter ends, another begins. And with “Legally Blonde: The Musical” soon coming to a close, so does the Erie Playhouse’s 2012-2013 season. But don’t be too sad, as this means that we are less than a month away from a brand new slate of musicals, plays, youth shows, and special events. Erie Playhouse Marketing & Special Events Director gave the Erie Reader a rundown of the 2013-2014 season, from killer rabbits to youth shows.

**“Spamalot”**  
Sept. 12-15, 18-22, 26-29

**Sue Lechner:** Monty Python’s “Spamalot” is the quintessential fun musical with killer rabbits and French people. Anybody that’s a true Monty Python fan is going to come and is going to expect to see Monty Python’s “Spamalot,” and they will see all of that and more. Even anybody that isn’t a Monty Python fan will be entertained beyond belief because it’s a fabulous cast. One of the things that’s nice when you get such a big-name show, like last year when we did “Les Mis,” people really want to do it, so you get the cream of the crop coming to try out, and “Spamalot” is no exception.

**“Carrie: The Musical”**  
Oct. 11, 12, 17-20, 23-27

**SL:** [It’s] Stephen King come to life on stage. The thing about “Carrie” is the music, the score... I was blown away, it’s so beautiful. I was just like, “Wow.” There are some teens in it because the director, Richard Davis, could have gone either way with an older or younger [cast], but the kids that are in that are just top drawer. You get the pig blood and everything, and it’s not super gory, but it is that time of year, and I think that anybody that is a Stephen King fan or knows “Carrie” the movie will engage with this and I think it’s going to play to our younger audiences.

**“Mary Poppins”**  
Dec. 5-8, 11-15, 19-22, 27-29, 31, 2013 and Jan. 3-5

**SL:** That is our holiday musical. We always try to pick something that is going to appeal to the entire family. Mary Poppins will be flying in with her umbrella. Bert will be tap dancing. We’re actually working with [magician] Bobby Borgia, who will be doing a show later on in the year, and he will be doing the magic tricks for the show. Usually over the holiday, we have a holiday show and then a New Year’s Eve concert, but with “Mary Poppins,” that’s going to be our New Year’s Eve show.

**“Once On This Island”**  
Feb. 7, 8, 13-16, 19-23

**SL:** It’s based on “The Little Mermaid.” It takes place on an island, and Ti Moune, who lives on the poor side of the island, rescues the rich boy as he’s drowning. The two fall in love, but the two

cultures clash, and they can’t come together. The music is by the couple, [Lynn] Ahrens and [Stephen] Flaherty, that wrote “Ragtime,” so the score, again, is beautiful. It’s a beautiful story. It’s been done a lot around here. A lot of schools have done it, but the Playhouse has not done it before, so we’re really looking forward to that.

**“The Great Gatsby”**  
March 7, 8, 13-16, 19-23

**SL:** It’s very timely, with the movie, and there are a lot of “Gatsby” fans. Actually, I will be directing that, so I’m really looking forward to it. With the book, the story’s there, the symbolism – all of that; so anybody that loves “The Great Gatsby,” I think they should forward to seeing it, because the play is very well-written, well-paced.

**“Jesus Christ Superstar”**  
June 5-8, 11-15, 19-22, 26-28

**SL:** It’s one of our most popular shows. This could be the third or fourth time we’ve done it. Again, it’s the quintessential rock musical, Jesus-Bible-Hallelujah [show] that people love. We’re really fortunate, because we were really able to secure some great shows this season.

**Mark Twain’s “Is He Dead?”**  
July 11, 12, 17-20, 23-27

**SL:** It’s a funny, funny show. This last month we had two guys dressed in drag [for “Leading Ladies], and in this show Jean-Francois Millet wants his paintings to be worth money, so he kills himself, supposedly, and he impersonates his sister so that his paintings will go up in value. It’s a farce, so everything just rolls from there. It’s a play that we read several times, because in the selection process, Richard Davis, our producing director, sees what titles are available and goes through plays and musicals, and we read and listen and discuss it together as a whole. “Is He Dead” was something that we talked about for years, but this year we said, “Yeah, let’s go for it,” and I think it’s going to be fun.

**Mel Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein”**  
Aug. 8, 9, 14-17, 20-24

**SL:** [Sings] “He was my boyfriend...” What’s to say about “Young Frankenstein?” The movie is brought to life on the stage. Everybody loves that, so come to see it and you will be entertained to no end. Naughty, racy, bad, whatever – we have it covered, and we hold nothing back.

**“Freckleface Strawberry” – Nov. 8-10, 15-17; Disney’s “Aladdin Jr.” – Jan. 17-19, 24-26; “A Little Princess” – May 9-11, 16-18.**

**SL:** This year the shows are geared for a young-



Monty Python's "Spamalot" ushers in the new season of hits at the Playhouse.

er group. “Freckleface Strawberry” is based on a book by Julianne Moore, the actress. She wrote the book and [it was] developed into a musical about a little girl who finds that she has freckles and feels that her freckles aren’t appropriate and has this message about how you can be who you are. Disney’s “Aladdin Jr.,” is a wonderful, delightful show for the little kids. [“A Little Princess”] is a beautiful piece and good for all of the little kids to see. Parents too.

**“Bobby Borgia: Lights...Camera...Magic!”**  
April 4-6, 11-13

**SL:** He performed for us two or three seasons ago. It was all sleight of hand. There were cameras, big screens... it was very popular, so he’ll be back to dazzle the audiences with his magic skills.

**“Chess in Concert” – April 25 and 26**

**SL:** It’s about this chess tournament, and there’s this love triangle. Instead of doing the whole show, we’ll just be doing the concert, so we’ll be presenting the songs and minimal dialogue. There will be a full orchestra on stage and singers will be there, but again, another very dynamic score.

There you have it, folks, eight mainstage shows, three youth theater productions, and two special events in one jam-packed season. If you like killer rabbits, flying nannies, and rolls in the hay, then this year will be a bigger blast than the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch. 📺

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/9kldi>



[Cont. from 11] Detroit, where his ship was commandeered as a transport vessel. That fort, too, was captured in mid-August, when Detroit's commander surrendered to a smaller British force out of fear of what reprisals their Indian allies might make if he resisted. Dobbins was captured again and was in danger of being executed for violating his parole, but he appealed to an old friend – John Nichol, a Scots-born Canadian trader who was now colonel of provincial militia – for a pass to Cleveland, which was promptly granted.

Dobbins brought the news of the capture of Fort Mackinac and Detroit to Erie, where he was urged to bring the news to Washington. In September, after a two-week trip, he spoke to President James Madison and his cabinet. There, the president asked him the best location to build a fleet on Lake Erie, and Dobbins, obviously, answered: Presque Isle.

Over the course of the next six months, the settlement on Presque Isle Bay bustled with activity. Its population nearly doubled with the sudden influx of militia, boat builders, and the workers needed to support them. Locals flocked to Erie to cut timber for the ships. Others fed the troops, transported the iron and other material needed for the ships. And many worked furiously to build six ships to challenge the British.

It started with \$2,000 in funds given to Dobbins by President Madison, and four gunboats being built at the mouth of Lee's run – near where the present-day Myrtle Street ends.

Later, the work would be expanded when the regional naval commander, Isaac Chauncey, visited Presque Isle and saw the work. He ordered two of the gunboats to be lengthened and hired the New York City shipwright Noah Brown to build two brigs at Erie. Brown hired some 200 workers, and the work on the brigs began at the mouth of Cascade Creek.

Oliver Hazard Perry arrived on March 26, 1813, to take control of the operation. Dobbins took charge of procurement – an awesome task, given the remoteness of Erie and the amount of supplies the brigs needed, the cannon, the shot, the iron fastenings for the ships, the lead for the ballast, as well as oil and paint and a myriad of other supplies – all of which had to be hauled in from Buffalo or Pittsburgh. Prices in the settlement started to skyrocket, with all the money brought to the area by the federal contracts and the workers, and Dobbins had to impose price controls and rationing.

But by the end of the summer of 1813, the ships were built, and together with some ships from Black Rock, near Buffalo, a small fleet was assembled and ready to enter the lake. But one major obstacle lied in their path: a sandbar sitting at the mouth of the harbor.

Normally only six feet under water, the sand bars were what made Presque Isle Bay a feasible location to build the fleet. The British ships' draft was too deep to enter the harbor; if they tried, they would be stuck on the sand in the harbor mouth and vulnerable to capture or destruction. But now the two brigs would have to cross that sand to engage the British. The Lawrence and the Niagara had been built with shallow drafts – only 8 feet – for the very purpose of being able to get them over the sandbars. But, now, at the beginning of August, thanks to wind pushing the Lake Erie water westward, there was only four and a half feet of water over the sand.

On the morning of Aug. 1, the Lawrence was the first to try to cross the sandbar. Two “camel”

scows – box-like barges – were placed alongside her, and filled with water. When the Lawrence struck the bar, the camels were drained of water so that they would float and lift the brig. Her guns and two smaller anchors were removed, and her anchor was dropped ahead of her and her crew at the capstans pulled the ship to the anchor, inch-by-inch. Twelve hours later, the Lawrence passed the first sandbar. The next day, the process was repeated for the second bar, and twenty-two hours later, on Aug. 3, the Lawrence had successfully passed it.

The next day, on Aug. 4, the British arrived. The Lawrence was still being refitted after her trip across the sand bars, and the Niagara was as good as a hundred miles away, just inside Presque Isle Bay. If the British fleet commander Robert Barclay had attacked then, he probably would have destroyed the American fleet. But from his vantage-point, it appeared as if both brigs were over the bars and ready for action, and Perry sent out his schooners, the Ariel and Scorpion, to fire on the British, confirming the impression that the Americans were ready for battle. Barclay left, fearful of the larger American fleet. Disaster was averted.

On Aug. 5, it was the Niagara's turn for the crossing. Perhaps having done it once already taught the men the best method in passing the sand bars, or perhaps the water level rose, but it took only one day for the Lawrence's sister ship to exit the harbor.

The Americans were on the lake.

**A**head of the Lawrence, the Scorpion and the Ariel closed with the enemy, too, as did the converted merchantmen brig, the Caledonia, immediately behind Perry's flagship. But the Niagara did not. Instead, she hung back out of the range of the British guns. As the Lawrence crept on, bow-on towards the British line, the Detroit and the Queen Charlotte concentrated their fire on Perry, raking his flagship as it closed.

One of the better accounts of a sea battle of the era comes from an English surgeon, Samuel Leech, who served on the HMS Macedonian during its losing battle with the USS United States in October 1812. His experience no doubt mirrored that of the crew of the Lawrence.

“A strange noise, such as I had never heard before, next arrested my attention,” wrote Leech, “it sounded like the tearing of sails, just over our heads. This I soon ascertained to be the wind of the enemy's shot....”

“The roaring of cannon could now be heard from all parts of our trembling ship, and, mingling as it did with that of our foes, it made a most hideous noise. By-and-by I heard the shot strike the sides of our ship; the whole scene grew indescribably confused and horrible; it was like some awfully tremendous thunder-storm, whose deafening roar is attended by incessant streaks of lightning, carrying death in every flash and strewing the ground with the victims of its wrath: only, in our case, the scene was rendered more horrible than that, by the presence of torrents of blood which dyed our decks....”

Perry was able to bring the British to within range of his carronades, and began to slug it out with the enemy at close range for nearly two hours.

The cost was high. Casualties mounted. By the end of the two hours of close fighting, 22 of the Lawrence's 103 crew were dead and 61 wounded.

Blood dripped between the seams of the deck onto the wounded in the wardroom below. The ship's lines were shot away, leaving the Lawrence unable to maneuver, its hull riddled with shot. Nearly every gun facing the enemy was disabled.

Still, the Niagara hung back. Why was later a matter of heated dispute. Those that defended Jessie Elliott, claimed both that there was not enough wind to bring the ship into action and that Perry's signal flags were impossible to read in the smoke of battle, leaving him unable to see his orders to close with the British. Certainly cowardice played no role in Elliott's decision to hang back; he had already proved himself in combat on the Niagara River and on Lake Ontario, even receiving commendation from Congress on his bravery.

What's likely is that Elliott saw an inexperienced commander make a rash decision to close bow-on to the enemy and opted not to follow in what he probably perceived as a mistake. Perhaps Elliott thought he could preserve at least one of the fleet's larger vessels for fighting another day. Or perhaps the ambitious officer saw in Perry's risky maneuver the chance that the Lawrence would be lost and his commander killed, and the fleet his.

Whatever the reason, the Niagara stood mostly unscathed just out of action while the Lawrence was battered to pieces.

“Finding she could no longer annoy the enemy,” wrote Perry later, “I left her in charge of Lt. Yarnall...[T]he wind springing up, Capt. Elliott was enabled to bring his vessel the Niagara, gallantly into close action. I immediately went on board of her.”

Perry turned over his flagship to his lieutenant and took his battle-flag and a few men to a cutter and rowed out to the Niagara – amidst shots from the British cannon targeting the American commander – which he promptly commandeered, sending Elliott to the lagging gunboats to bring them into action.

Within minutes, the battle would be over. The Niagara, taking advantage of the fresh breeze, pierced the British line. The Queen Charlotte had her officers killed or wounded in the engagement with the Lawrence and had her rigging shot away, and she collided with the Detroit, leaving both ships helpless. Two close-on broadsides from the Niagara compelled the ships to surrender, and the battle was over.

As the cleanup, repair work, and tending of the wounded carried on as usual in the aftermath of a battle, Perry found time to scrawl a hastily



**(Top) Erieite Daniel Dobbins secured Erie and Presque Isle as the building site for Perry's fleet. (Bottom) As Perry pushed onward to battle with the British, Jesse Elliot remained behind, keeping the Niagara nearly unscathed while the Lawrence drew the brunt of the blows from the British.**

written note on the back of an envelope. It was addressed to General William Henry Harrison, who was with his army in Ohio and anxiously awaiting news of the battle.

“We have met the enemy,” wrote Perry, “and they are ours.”

**T**he rest, as you might say, is history. With Perry controlling the lake, General Harrison was able to march on Detroit without fear of having his supply lines cut off behind him. He recaptured the town and its fort, and drove the British and their Indian allies eastward before catching up to them at the Thames River on the north shore of Lake Erie. Harrison won a short but decisive battle there, his forces killing the Indian leader, Tecumseh. Americans had control of Lake Erie,

the Northwest frontier, and ended the threat of an unfriendly Indian confederacy blocking settlement. The West was open for American expansion, and William Henry Harrison was elected President in 1840.

Perry was awarded a Congressional medal for his actions during the battle, and he was finally given command of his frigate, the USS Java, being refitted in Baltimore.

In his battle report, Perry would write that Jesse Elliott "behaved with his customary gallantry," but word got out from survivors about the Niagara's inaction during the hottest part of the fight. Elliott, never one to shy from a challenge to his reputation, demanded stronger praise from Perry, which never came – a non-reply that kicked off a years-long feud between the two men. At one time, Elliott even challenged Perry to a duel. Perry, for his part, later pressed the Navy for an official court martial of Elliott, but was mollified by the promotion to Commodore and the assignment of a diplomatic mission to South America. While there, he contracted yellow fever and died soon after. He was 34. Elliott went on to serve a long and distinguished career in the Navy, culminating in his 1845 promotion to commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

"If Perry had been hit and not made it to the Niagara," wrote Senior Captain of today's Niagara, Walter Rybka, in his book, *The Lake Erie Campaign of 1813*, of Perry's row across the lake under fire, "his name might be only a small, sad footnote about a rash and inexperienced young commander who died in futility after abandoning his men and fleeing his ship in defeat, while clutching a banner proclaiming, 'Don't Give Up the Ship!' In his place there would now be the name of Elliott on all of the statues, in Elliott Squares, in Elliotvilles and in Elliott counties all over Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York."

Daniel Dobbins stayed in the Navy until the mid-1820s. Later he'd direct area port improvements, run a steamboat company, and became a captain in the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service. No friend of slavery, Dobbins assisted the Underground Railroad by helping escaped slaves find passage to Canada across Lake Erie. He died at age 80 in 1856. Dobbins is buried with his wife in Erie Cemetery.

The Niagara and Lawrence were taken out of service after the war and sunk in Misery Bay. Later, the remains of what was believed to be the Lawrence were recovered and sent to Philadelphia for the nation's centennial celebrations in 1876, but were lost to fire. The remains of the Niagara were recovered for the 1913 Centennial, which were used as guidelines for the first reconstruction of the brig. That first reconstructed Niagara was towed to Great Lakes ports by the USS steamship Wolverine that summer for centennial celebrations of the Battle of Lake Erie. After its tour, it was berthed in Erie, and soon began to decay. Work on a second reconstruction began in the 1930s, whose hull was launched in 1943. In 1945, it was moved to dry land and remained there until 1988. It, too, decayed.

The third and current reconstruction began in the 1980s, envisioned this time as a sailing ship, and its hull was launched for the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie, on Sept. 10, 1988. By 1990, the brig was finished, and it made its maiden voyage in 1991 under the command of Walter Rybka.

And now the Niagara is again at the center of an anniversary celebration.

"Erie is Niagara's home," said Wesley Heerssen, captain of the Niagara. "I don't think Erie would be Erie without the Niagara.

And Niagara certainly wouldn't be the same ship without Erie."

Sunburnt, with a thick red beard and ponytail, Heerssen had just finished a cruise on the Lakes, and returned to Erie without his ship to help prepare for Tall Ships Erie 2013.

"For all these ships that we've sailed around with all summer long," he said, "they've seen the Niagara. Now to get to see our home port, to see our home facility, it makes me feel proud of what we've accomplished here, and what we have to show for all of our hard work here."

Heerssen referred to the Niagara's woodshop and rigging shop, both located in the basement of the Erie Maritime Museum. The museum itself is one of the finest of its kind in the nation, and housed as it is in a former power plant, its basement is large enough to contain not only all the spars and topmasts and sails during the off-season, there's enough room for the equipment and workspace to work on maintenance projects during the winter, when rigging needs replacing, block and tackle re-varnishing, lines seized and served. And rot removed and repaired.

"Wooden ships in freshwater last only so long," said Heerssen. "For the last 25 years, we've been able to maintain her in like-new condition. If a little bit of rot pops up, we cut it out, glue in a new piece of wood, replace it. The number of rot pockets we'll have to cut out and replace are going to start growing and increasing in number every year, and it'll require more staff and more resources to keep it in good shape."

"The day is going to come, without a doubt, when she is going to need a significant refit."

In that way, there's a little bit of danger in the celebrations this summer, too. "The bicentennial of the Battle of Lake Erie is deserving of commemoration – and we're going to do our best to do justice to that responsibility," said Heerssen, "but what happens in three or four years? When the gloss wears off?"

Heerssen lives, breathes, and sleeps Niagara every day of every week. He's focused on the ship's survival. And the survival of the ship's mission. "Tall ships inspire people," he said. "At the end of the day, a vessel is a tool. You're carrying something on it, whether it's cargo or passengers. Our cargo is inspiration. It's heritage preservation."

"As Walter [Rybka] likes to say, 'heritage preservation is attitude preservation.'"

In the end, though, Heerssen is not too concerned about the ship's future. He knows the passion of the people of Erie for the Niagara, because they tell him. And, yes, while Tall Ships Erie is the culmination – the end – of our bicentennial celebration, it should also serve as a kind of beginning of a renewed commitment to the ideals and actions of the men that first built the Lake Erie fleet, and then sailed it to battle. We have a chance at greatness, and it begins – and continues – with the Niagara. ■

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## Sudoku

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

6						3	2	
	4		2			6	8	5
	3	2			5	9		
7			5		3		4	
8		5		9				7
4	6			2		5		
				8				
				3				
		6	9					

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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆☆☆

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Baseball equipment
- 4 Turk. title
- 8 Bird
- 12 Shoshonean
- 13 Husband of Ruth
- 14 Hatred (Ital.)
- 15 Dog
- 16 Lot
- 18 Hindu god of love
- 20 Small pit
- 21 Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.)
- 23 String of mules
- 27 Both
- 32 Uttered
- 33 N.Z. woody vine
- 34 Relax (2 words)
- 36 Viper
- 37 Tip
- 39 Hive (2 words)
- 41 At the age of (Lat.)
- 43 Interstate Commerce

### Commission (abbr.)

- 44 Black tea
- 48 Mayan year
- 51 Soft
- 55 Inlet
- 56 Revelry cry
- 57 Letter
- 58 Legal proof
- 59 Lope
- 60 Growl
- 61 Ember

### DOWN

- 1 Cowboy's nickname
- 2 Polynesian god
- 3 Shrew
- 4 Camel hair cloth
- 5 Spoken alphabet letter
- 6 Circle of light
- 7 Black Sea arm
- 8 Vegetable
- 9 Dutch commune

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 10 Own (Scot.)
- 11 Allotment
- 17 Hyson
- 19 Presidential nickname
- 22 Atlantic (abbr.)
- 24 Monkey puzzle
- 25 Swiss card game
- 26 Gr. leather flask
- 27 Weaverbird
- 28 Migratory worker
- 29 Hebrew (abbr.)
- 30 Summer (Fr.)
- 31 Deplore
- 35 Greek letter
- 38 Pad
- 40 Scot. exclamation
- 42 Digit
- 45 Loom
- 46 Black
- 47 Alberta (abbr.)
- 49 Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (abbr.)
- 50 Hit
- 51 Large (pref.)
- 52 Polynesian drink
- 53 Law (Fr.)
- 54 Shak. contraction

### Answer to Sudoku

6	5	8	4	7	9	3	2	1
9	4	7	2	3	1	6	8	5
1	3	2	8	6	5	9	7	4
7	2	9	5	1	3	8	4	6
8	1	5	6	9	4	2	3	7
4	6	3	7	2	8	5	1	9
5	9	4	1	8	2	7	6	3
2	7	1	3	5	6	4	9	8
3	8	6	9	4	7	1	5	2

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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A41

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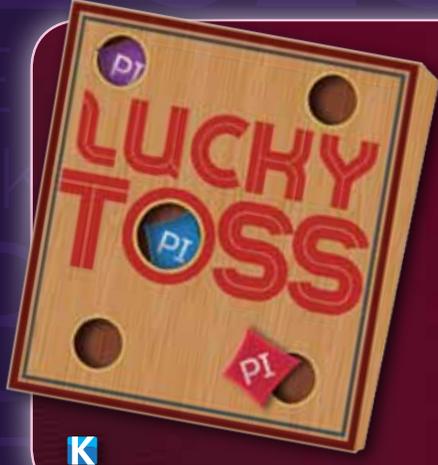
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