

THE READER

THE TRUTH ABOUT TONY GREY

World-renowned Bassist and Berklee Grad
Talks Erie, the NYC Music Scene,
and the Accident That Forever Changed His Life

Upfront on Gun Laws

Teaching Creationism in PA

The Affordable Care Act

**Social Media and the
Terrorist Attack in Kenya**

Erie and the Strickland Model

Q&A with Cloud Nothings

**Howard Fishman &
The Bengsons come
to Mercyhurst**

**Martha Redbone
Plays Edinboro**

**Otters' Season Opener
Celebrated with Epic Tailgate**

Music and Fashion

FREE



SUNDAY FOOTBALL GAME DAY SPECIALS

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THE
GAMES
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Clubs

Knights of St. John
 East Erie Moose
 Sportsmen A.C.
 Nuova Aurora
 Elks Club #67
 Sunflower Club
 Zukor Club
 American Legion Northeast
 Fairview Legion
 Siebenburger Club
 Moniuszko Club
 Polish Sharp Shooters
 St. Mary's Club
 Wesleyville Legion Post #571
 Wesleyville Athletic Club
 Sacred Heart Ushers Club
 Star Club
 Lawrence Park AC Club
 Moose Club Albion
 Cascade Club
 American Legion Peach
 Holy Trinity
 CYS
 St. Joes (Northeast)
 Polish Falcons 3rd st.
 North East Athletic Club
 Millcreek Legion
 St. Boniface Club
 Polish Foresters

Clubs

American Legion 3rd st.
 Pulaski Club
 Fulton Club
 Falcons Club 19th st.
 South Erie Turners
 VFW #470 w.26th
 VFW #740 Edinboro

East

Uptown Browns
 Red Fox Inn
 Jimmy Z's
 Calamari's
 Pete's Pub
 Doc Holidays
 Irish Cousins
 Metroplex
 Scooters on Parade

South

Fat Willies
 Waterford Hotel
 Lake Side Tavern
 Empty Keg
 Edinboro Hotel
 Crossroads Dinor
 McKean Tavern
 Kim's Town House, Union City
 VFW, Union City
 Lowville Cafe, Wattsburg
 Eagles Club, Wattsburg

East

Park Tavern
 3 Chances
 Bull Shooters
 Clancy's
 Scooters on Ash
 The Cornerstone
 Kramer's on the Avenue
 Fiddle Inn
 T.J.'s Traffic Jam
 JJ's Pub
 On Deck
 Bootleggers
 Wagner's
 Marty's
 Dan's Rt 7 Boardwalk
 TK's Tavern
 Bay Front Lounge
 Alibi Bar
 Nunzi's
 Chipper's
 Townline Tavern
 Rockee's
 Jammin' Vine
 Plymouth
 Sluggers
 Arena Sports Bar
 Eastland Bowling

West

3B's Saloon
 RoadRunners
 That Place
 Coach's
 Sandbar
 Colony Bar & Grill
 Road Runners
 Ugly Tuna
 Bay County
 Odis 12
 Lefty's Tavern
 Last Shot
 Rack N Roll
 Eduardo's
 The Cab
 Lombardo's
 Greengarden
 Avonia Tavern
 Chestnut St. Pub
 Bacardi Joes
 Hunter Jacks
 Travelers Inn
 Kelly Downs
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 Boston's Restaurant & Sports Bar
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From the Editors

In our Sept. 18 issue, we championed the stories of two companies that epitomize the notion that yes, businesses and people *can* be successful and *are* willing to invest here: Lavery Brewing Company and Sprague Farm & Brew Works.

Yes, we like beer and we like talking about it — homegrown craft beer, mind you — but what's more is that we like featuring success stories, because these serve as examples of the greatness Erieites are capable of. And according to you, our Reader readers, you like reading these stories. Based on the conversations that continued for two weeks about the Laverys and the Spragues, and the amount of praise doled out in the comment sections on our website and our social media platforms, these stories struck a chord with you and mattered to you.

But these are not only stories about good, successful Erie people; they're stories that signal to us that this city indeed does have that bright future ahead of it *if* people are willing to stop bickering, bitching, and blaming and get down to the art of actually working towards such a future rather than just sitting around talking about it.

And we like featuring these success stories because they actively serve as reminders that that bright future isn't something we should only think about once or twice every 50 years. These stories are emblems of what's possible *if* we all embrace and then cultivate the opportunity we have at hand here.

What is not an emblem of that bright future in need of embracing and cultivating is a new taxpayer-funded hotel on Erie's Bayfront.

And if comments and continuing conversation serve as any indicator, this issue also matters to you, Reader readers.

Rebecca Styn wrote about this topic, saying that in some ways, another hotel on the Bayfront makes sense. And it does — *if* convention goes

need additional lodging because the Sheraton's too often booked to capacity.

Rebecca also wrote that in some ways, this project — the newly proposed hotel that comes to us via a \$25 million grant from the state that just *happened* to show up at a time when we're cutting food stamps and continuing to gouge our education system — makes little sense. And it does make little sense — *if* private developers are interested in the land.

And they are.

Scott Enterprises — you know, the company that's continually cultivating new businesses on Upper Peach Street and recently purchased Peek'n Peak Resort and Spa — has publicly expressed an interest in developing a hotel at the Bayfront. And those plans are going forward. Which means a privately-owned hotel *is* in our future — one that taxpayers won't need to fund and one for which taxpayers won't need to assume the risk.

Sure, a county-subsidized hotel will create jobs — a projected 300. And in an area where jobs are sparse, that should be great news.

But if we examine the long-term price tag — the one that suggests a \$30 million bond to cover the remaining expenses *after* that grant — this reeks of poor investment for the county, the city, and the people living here, especially when private investors are willing to absorb the risk associated with an investment depending on those *ifs*.

So will this taxpayer-funded hotel happen? Yes, but only *if* those of us who recognize this for what it is — a poor investment at a time when every cent matters in a city that can't afford to bankroll something that has a substantial chance of blackening the bright future — and do nothing.

Should this hotel happen? Not when we have bigger things with which we, the public, ought to be concerning ourselves.

In our last issue, Cory Vaillancourt wrote what

Ben Speggen openly referred to as his best Upfront to date. And as of this issue, that's 90 of them.

It was critical about Erie's penchant for misdirected hatred, often towards itself. Cory argued that we instead need to aim that hatred at more appropriate, more pressing things — you know, 17 percent of the county and 30 percent of the city living below the poverty line, and 40 percent of city residents needing to rely on food stamps.

And the numbers go on. So do the city's general complaints.

We complain about the weather. Or that there's no culture here. Or that Erie's just plain ugly. The mistake on the lake. Dreary Erie.

"We're at a critical juncture in Erie's history — right this very moment," Cory wrote in light of the uncertain future that lies between the Perry 200 Commemoration and the P250 in 2062. Yet we're at a critical juncture right now with our complacency for bad ideas, our acceptance — no, welcoming — of the mediocre in exchange for quick riches for only a select few.

Seventeen. Thirty. Forty. Those aren't the select few.

For all of us, now is not the time to be sitting around simply talking, simply bitching, and bemoaning bad ideas. Now is the time to voice concerns, direct our hatred toward bad ideas so that they don't become bad investments and bad realities that we're left to live out.

If we don't — *if* we're willing to settle — those people with success stories will become harder to find, harder to highlight, and harder to look toward for lights of inspiration. And they may go chase and cultivate success somewhere else, somewhere where citizens care enough to take command of their city's bright future and work to ensure the lights are never turned on for bad ideas.

On Guns: Arriving at a Logical Conclusion on a Contentious Issue

By: Cory Vaillancourt

[Author's note: It's totally hilarious (read: totally not hilarious) that I wrote this column in the wake of the Newtown, Conn. school shooting last Christmastime and kept it lying around for 75 percent of a year. And it's hilarious (read: totally not hilarious) that as the DC Navy Yard shootings unfolded a few weeks ago, this particular piece again gained relevance. In short, each time a tragedy – such as the ones I just referenced – unfolds, we think it's the last time it will ever happen, because we, in our outrage and grief, have tied proverbial ribbons around our Facebook statuses denouncing violence, and saying "Enough is enough!" But it keeps happening. And it will keep happening, until serious measures are taken.]

It's been said that if you're not a Democrat at the age 19, you have no heart; it's also been said that if you're not a Republican at the age of 40, you have no brain.

Seeing as how I just celebrated yet another birthday, 40 is creeping up on me like a simile at the National Grammar Rodeo in Canada. But every time Republicans try to woo me with some good old American Honey, they leave me feeling like Ray Bolger doing a fireball shot with Ogre from "Revenge of the Nerds."

All that having been said, I've told you all before that I am a still a Democrat, albeit far from liberal; in fact, I've even gone so far as to say that I'd already be a Republican – a few years early, too! – if it weren't for a few termite-ridden planks in their increasingly rotten platform, including their virulent attitude towards any sort of responsible gun legislation at all.

Over the years I've arrived at a very complex, but very logical conclusion on this issue.

You see, guns are inanimate objects; they are no more or less evil than any other inanimate objects, like a hammers. However, guns do indeed enable humans to engage in a particular type of mischief not usually attributable to most hammers – instantaneously fatal ranged assault.

This type of mischief is obviously bad; it must be eliminated from our society, but the only way to eliminate this particular type of mischief is to eliminate the source of that mischief. And since eliminating all of the people in the world would be supervillainous... That's right...

The only way to eliminate gun violence in the United States is to eliminate all of the guns *in the world*.

In an ideal world, there are no guns. Not "a bunch." Not "several." Not "a few." And certainly not "a couple." None. Not even one. If there is even one, well, the owner of that gun would have a tremendous and tyrannical advantage over everyone else, wouldn't they? So there can be no guns in an ideal world.

As you may have noticed, we do not live in an ideal world.

According to the Small Arms Survey – "the principal international source of public information on all aspects of small arms and armed violence," – there are an estimated 875 million firearms in existence. Can you imagine the prac-

ticality of rendering inoperable every single one of them to achieve this ideal world? As of press time there were 196 countries in the world, give or take. Even if each country could locate, seize, document, destroy, and dispose of 100 guns an hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, it would take more than five years of house-to-house warfare and blood flowing like Mill Creek on August 3, 1915 to eradicate them all.

And what of those gweedy gubba-ment gun-grabbers? They'll need gubba-ment guns to come and grab *your* guns with, right? What happens when the gubbament is finished grabbing all the guns?

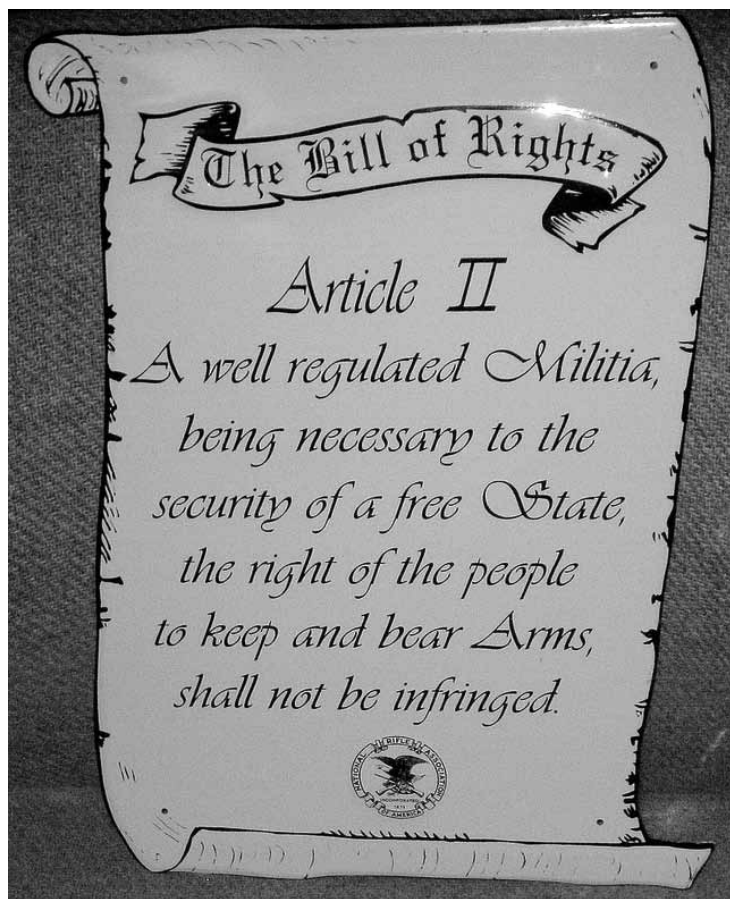
They'll freely turn their gubba-ment guns in, too (see "no guns in an ideal world," above)!

This will be a remarkable day, as it will be the first day in recorded history upon which a power-

I think gun-owning adults of sound mind and sound body should be trained, licensed, and insured – just like drivers.

ful group willingly relinquished power to a less powerful group.

Simply put, it's not going to happen, because this is not a black and white world – it's like, grey and orange or something. So all you Republicans who cry like Chicken Little every time even the slightest bit of common-sense gun legislation becomes but a palpitation in some liberal's bleed-



Article 2 of the Constitution of the United States

ing heart – stop it. It makes you look crazy, like Ted Nugent-crazy. Eradication all of the guns in the world is about as conceivable as a Republican mayor in Erie.

Besides, Republicans, if you're like me – and I think you are – we're on the same team here. Much like many of you, I think gun-owning adults of sound mind and sound body should be trained, licensed, and insured – just like drivers.

How did I arrive at this conclusion after stating earlier that an ideal world contains no guns? It's simple, really. It's not an ideal world, and it never will be. Eliminating the existence of all guns is pure fantasy, just as the current system of piecemeal restriction is pure fallacy. The only alternative is for *everyone* to own one. I know this saying might be trite, but it is true – only a good guy (or gal) with a gun can stop a bad guy (or gal) with a gun.

So until we live in that ideal world (read: never gonna happen) let's get more guns into the hands of trained, licensed, and insured good guys (and gals). Republicans, here's your chance to show us all that you have both a brain and a heart. So c'mon, Republicans, woo me.

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



By: Chuck Shepherd

Home Sweet Home

"With its neatly cut lawns and luscious tropical vegetation," wrote a BBC News reporter in July, Miracle Village, Fla., is an "idyllic rural community" of 200 residents — about half of whom are registered sex offenders, attracted to the settlement near Lake Okeechobee because laws and ordinances elsewhere in Florida harshly restrict where they can live (e.g., not within a half-mile of a school or park). Incumbent residents might have been apprehensive in 2009 when a pastor started the local rehabilitation ministry (one even called it a "nightmare on Elm Street"), but since then, no one could recall a single impropriety involving an offender, and lately, 10 to 20 more applications arrive each week (screened to keep out diagnosed pedophiles and those with a history of drugs or violence). [BBC News, 7-30-2013]

Can't Possibly Be True

Dana Carter's debut as principal of Calimesa Elementary School in California's San Bernardino County was quite inauspicious, as parents quickly objected to his August policy of requiring kids to drop to one knee when addressing him. One parent said her daughter was forced to kneel while awaiting his attention and then to rise only when he lifted his arms. Carter said he would discontinue the policy and insisted he had instituted it for "safety" and not because he imagined himself as royalty. [KCBS-TV (Los Angeles), 8-20-2013]

Many consumers already distrust food imports from China, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture nonetheless announced recently (and "quietly," according to NPR) that it would exempt four Chinese companies altogether from USDA inspections of their processed chicken exports. The changes are part of the department's money-saving streamlining that also cuts back domestic regulation — proposals that have already drawn criticism from the Government Accountability Office because they would replace many on-site USDA inspectors with employees of the food-processing plants themselves. [NPR, 9-5-2013]

It was a tough sell for performance artists Doug Melnyk and Ian Mozdzen to defend their controversial show at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival in July. (Wrote one reviewer: "What I saw (on the stage) were not one, not two, but three mayonnaise enemas. (I) do not need to see any more mayonnaise enemas for the rest of my lifetime.") Explained Melnyk, to a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. reporter in July, if all you're trying to do is "figure out what people want and you make it for them, that's not art. ... (Y)ou're just a shoemaker." [Canadian Broadcasting Corp., 7-20-2013]

In August, the Mother Nature Network website showcased an array of camping gear seemingly designed for the daintiest of those ostensibly "roughing" it. The Blofield outdoor couch inflates in minutes to produce a facsimile of a Las Vegas lounge sofa. The Rolla Roaster's 42-inch-long steel fork assures elegance (and evenness) in marshmallow-roasting. For fashion-conscious backwoods women, Teva makes high-heeled hiking sandals (\$330). The mother of all Swiss army knives, by Wenga, has so many gadgets that it suggests a parody of a Swiss army knife. To be a camper is to sleep in a tent, though, and why not the trailer-mounted Opera tent, including hardwood floors and a wine cooler? [Mother Nature Network, 8-9-2013]

July direct-mail campaign by Canada's Conservative Party, intended to show concern for the disabled population, might have fallen short, according to a Toronto Star report. The first wave of brochures, "Supporting Jobs for All Canadians" (meaning the disabled as well), featured the well-known wheelchair symbol and a message in a series of Braille dots. However, the brochure was useless to blind recipients, who could neither see the dots nor read them, as the dots were printed on a flat surface. [Toronto Star, 7-26-2013]

By her own admission, Joan Hoyt, 61, of St. Louis, has difficulty writing, is easily distracted, needs frequent breaks, and "reads about 2 1/2 times slower than her peers" — yet wants to be a lawyer. She filed a lawsuit recently against the Law School Admission Council for special accommodations to take the standardized admissions test after the council offered to grant her "only" 156 extra minutes for the exam. She also demanded a room by herself with a "white noise" machine and the ability to bring a computer and food and drinks to the exam. (States have made similar accommodations for bar exams — but those applicants have already successfully endured the intellectual rigors of law school.) [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 9-5-2013]

Inexplicable

Is oral sex permitted in Orthodox Judaism? If so, must any lubricant used be kosher (or is kosher required only for substances ingested into the body)? These questions were not answered by California's Trigg Laboratories, which decided recently to vie for a kosher label for eight lines of Ecstasy lubricant under its Wet label — and, following an inspection by the Rabbinical Council of California, was granted it. Many authorities believe that nonkosher products can be used if, like lipstick, they are "applied" but not ingested. [The Guardian (London), 7-17-2013]

Because We Can, That's Why: Two onetime roommates at the University of Michigan announced in August that they have developed a smartphone app to accommodate the questionable number of people who seek an easy way to share leftover food on restaurant plates (to save it from wasteful discarding). Using smartphones' location service, one diner could offer to clean another's plate or have a stranger rush to his own table for scraps. "We're not gonna make millions," one of the developers told NPR in July. [NPR, 7-29-2013]

Street Corner SOAPBOX

Teaching Creationism in Schools

By: Jay Stevens

In a recent guest editorial for the Erie Times-News, member of the Louisiana Coalition for Science, Barbara Forrest, warned that religious conservatives were working to bring creationism back to Pennsylvania schools.

"With intelligent design exposed as creationism in court," she wrote, speaking of a landmark decision in which intelligent design — the belief that an intelligent creator best explains the composition of the universe — was found to be a form of religious indoctrination, not science, "the Discovery Institute now conceals its true aims behind the sanitized code language of 'academic freedom' legislation, seeking to undermine the

These are the beneficiaries of Bloom's "academic freedom," not Pennsylvania students or science. Bloom's bill would enable these teachers to wander off the Pennsylvania science curriculum and teach their beliefs, which are bad science.

And that's the important thing in this debate. Evolution, climate change, and other "controversial" scientific theories are created in the intellectual lab of the scientific method — the idea that understanding should derive from measurable, empirical evidence. That practice is the central goal of science education. Those theories labeled "controversial" are so only if you view them through the lens of political ideology or fundamentalist religious belief — not science.

"A politically-motivated, decades-long war on expertise has eroded the popular consensus on a wide variety of scientifically validated topics," wrote PopularScience.com's online content director, Suzanne LaBarre, on her site's decision to remove comments sections from all future articles. "Everything from evolution to the origins of climate change is mistakenly up for grabs again. Scientific certainty is just another

thing for two people to 'debate' on television."

The idea that science should be subjected to a kind of "fairness" — which is essentially what Representative Bloom's "academic freedom" bill is asking — is dead wrong. You can't balance scientific consensus with popular opinion, scientific theory with religious belief, fact with fiction.

Teaching creationism, questioning scientific theories with questionable rhetorical fallacies, promoting pseudo-scientific "theories," promoting belief over science — that's not science. That's political and religious indoctrination, and has no place in our schools' science classrooms.

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



Bloom's bill would enable these teachers to wander off the Pennsylvania science curriculum and teach their beliefs, which are bad science.

teaching of evolution under the guise of 'critical thinking.'"

Forrest refers specifically to a bill sponsored by state House Representative Stephen Bloom of North Middleton Township, the text of which sounds innocuous enough. The state, says the bill, will be obligated to help teachers present a curriculum around "scientific controversies," and allow teachers to "help students understand, analyze, critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories."

In an interview with Harrisburg's paper, The Patriot-News, Bloom defended his bill from critics. "Teachers are intimidated to the point where they can't even bring up criticisms in the classroom," he said. "To me, that's not good science."

But, of course, the bill is anything but innocuous, and does not in any way promote "good science."

Start with this fact: A considerable percentage of Pennsylvania high-school teachers are creationists. A national survey found that 13 percent of 900 polled science teachers believe the Earth is less than 10,000 years old, and a recent Pittsburgh Post-Gazette survey found that nearly 20 percent of polled Pennsylvania science teachers believe in creationism.



Join us at the Erie Art Museum!

The Bengsons
Friday, Oct. 11, 2013, 8 p.m.

Opening Act:
The Zack Orr Band

Sponsor: WICU



THE WAY I SEE IT

The Ted Cruz Filibuster Fiasco and Obamacare

By: Rebecca Styn

Recently, a filibuster led by GOP Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas was initiated in an effort to defund the Affordable Care Act. For 21 hours and 19 minutes, Cruz stood on the Senate floor and recited passages from Ayn Rand, did a Darth Vader impression, read from "Green Eggs and Ham," talked about Toby Keith and Ashton Kutcher, and ranted on about "Obamacare" – ultimately citing that those who didn't agree to shut it down were like, "Neville Chamberlain, who told the British people, 'accept the Nazis.'"

But even with Cruz' "faux" filibuster – as his entire speech didn't really block anything – nothing has really changed. The law will continue regardless of a government shutdown, and the health insurance exchanges established by the Affordable Care Act will be open for business.

I have never been a proponent of Obamacare, but what is more maddening is not once have Republicans offered a viable alternative. Instead, after it passed, they voted to repeal the law not once, not twice, not 10 times, but, wait for it... 41 times. Do Republicans know what the definition of insanity is? Just to clarify: it's doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

Which brings me to Ted Cruz. Let's face it: this plan is going into effect whether we like it or not. Yet the sadder thing is that most Americans don't even know it's a law or what options it will soon bring to them.

Recently, the Washington Post published an article about Obamacare, which notes the following: Fewer than six in 10 Americans know that the Obamacare law is still on the books; 7 percent think the Supreme Court struck it down; and 12 percent say Congress repealed Obamacare. The Post also cited that the majority of uninsured, low-income families don't know even know how the law will impact them.

While Cruz's efforts are an extreme reaction, many others are also investing time and energy rallying against it. Instead, we should be preparing and educating others so that we can take the right steps to both ensure and insure our own coverage.

Millions of uninsured Americans will be able to

enroll in health plans before the law takes effect January 1, 2014. Its requirements – everything from forcing insurance companies to cover anyone who wants insurance to forcing Americans to carry health insurance or pay a fine – is going forward. While there is a small chance the healthcare exchange may be delayed [the Senate votes on this during the time this article goes to print], one way or another, it will move forward.

So, here are some of the basics to get you started: If you currently receive insurance from the government or your employer, chances are Obamacare isn't going to affect you. However, if you have your own insurance plan there may be some requirements of the law you may still need to meet. And if you have no insurance at all – well, then Obamacare is for you. You're either going to have to enroll in Medicaid or buy health insurance from a private company on an "exchange" organized by either your state government or the federal government. As for how much it's going to cost you? Well, that depends on how much you make.

As for what happens if you don't want to buy insurance? Well, you can opt out. You'll have to pay a fine of between \$95 for every adult in your house or 1 percent of your income after \$10,000 – whichever is larger. But, then again, you can opt in at any time as well, because whether you have a "pre-existing" condition or not, all's fair in Obamacare.

The end result is this: You still have options when it comes to the Affordable Care Act. To some, they may not be the most popular, but to others, the idea of even having options is better than having none at all. Instead of continuing to make this a partisan issue, our time will be better utilized in education and explanation, so at the very end, at least citizens can make the choice that best suits them.

We all know we don't have control over everything in this world, but we do have control over our reactions. And reading "Green Eggs and Ham" in our best Vader voice or incessantly bickering about something we cannot at this point change will only set us back rather than move us forward as a country.

Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Email me at rStyn@ErieReader.com, and follow me on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/b1nb8>



TECH WATCH

Social Media and The Terror Attack in Kenya

By: Dakota Hoffman, Epic WebStudios

While social media has played an integral role in many prominent international events, there is a clear drawback to the technology, which the world witnessed in the horrific events in the recent brutal terrorist attack in Kenya.

The shooting at the Westgate Premier Shopping Mall in Nairobi, which began Sept. 21 and lasted until Sept. 24 and resulted in 72 deaths, appears to be a highly sophisticated undertaking, and social media was a significant component with Al-Shabaab, a Somali-based Islamist group, claiming responsibility for the attack in Kenya.

As the attack began, and during the three days in which the gunmen held hostages in the shopping mall, there were regular Twitter dispatches from the terrorists. What's more, the terrorists exploited Twitter in an attempt to explain the rationale for the attacks.

In fact, Al-Shabaab has had a series of Twitter accounts over the years and each of them has been suspended under a clause in the terms of service that bars direct threats of violence. Still, the terrorist group simply – as is quite easily done – creates new Twitter accounts as Twitter continually deactivates previously used handles.

The use of social media as a means of perpetuating and promoting terror is certainly not the vision of the role of Twitter, let alone any social media, but as the means of establishing accounts remains simple, easy, and accessible to virtually anyone, we will continue to see such uses of social media as a vehicle to spread terror.

According to the DailyMail, within the mall, the attackers separated civilians into two distinct groups: Muslims and those who are not Muslims, saying they "only wanted to kill non-Muslims." It became clear as events unfolded that their objectives included more than targeting the non-Muslims within Westgate Mall: while Twitter accounts were being created, taken down, and created again, Al-Shabaab was

achieving their secondary objective: visibility.

As terrorist groups seek to reach broad global audiences, their meddling with social networks has remained a challenge for the likes of Twitter and Facebook. While governments want social networks to clamp down on terrorist groups and their use of such media, Internet activists are calling for greater transparency into social-media companies' rules and regulations.

Aaron Zelin, a researcher at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy who published a report on the use of social media by jihadist groups, told The Atlantic, "It creates a situation where it's like 'whack-a-mole,' where something will go offline but then it will create a new account and it will stay online for a little while, and then will be taken offline again and so it's this cat-and-mouse-type game."

That's exactly what happened in December in Pakistan when Facebook suspended the account of the Pakistani Taliban's media branch: Umar Media. Facebook took the page down because it violated its rules. Two weeks later, a new Umar Media account was created on Facebook, although it remains unclear if it belongs to the same group.

As private companies, social networks allow essentially anyone to utilize their platforms; and because of their vast number of global users, Internet theorists have likened them to public spaces – a global town square for the digital age.

Yet, this is an imperfect world where anything and everything can be – and is – used for purposes both virtuous and sinister, and social media outlets are no exception. Like most technological developments along the course of history, this is a bell that cannot be un-rung. While Facebook and Twitter are being pulled back and forth between the two policies, we may see social media make grim news like this again.

Dakota Hoffman can be contacted at Epic@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @DakotaScottErie. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/cy8mu>



JUST TOYIN' WITCHA

By: B. Toy



A Man with a Plan

Bill Strickland Bets Big on Poor Kids

By: Alex Bieler

Over 40 years ago, Bill Strickland took over the Bidwell Training Center, a run-down building without any windows located in an impoverished section of Pittsburgh. While others sat around taking bets on how long Strickland would last at the center, the Pittsburgh native set about to changing the culture at Bidwell with a fresh perspective and a few coats of paint.

It would be an understatement to say that he succeeded. Strickland has earned numerous accolades, including being named a MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipient in 1996. As the CEO and President



Bill Strickland spoke to a crowd at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center Tuesday, Sept. 24

of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation, the parent company of Bidwell and Manchester Craftsman's Guild, Strickland has provided arts education to at-risk youth in his hometown through the Guild and job training for adults at Bidwell, a model so successful that it has been replicated in cities like San Francisco and Cleveland.

In fact, he thinks that it can work here in Erie, too.

"Why not? The need is certainly here," Strickland said, before he spoke at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University Tuesday, Sept. 24 as part of Destination Erie's Educational Public Lecture Series. "The children are struggling in many of these inner-city communities. We now have seven of these centers operating in the U.S. that are as old as 12 years, and they work. Erie's a lot closer than San Francisco, and we'd be able to help in a more active way."

A captivated audience listened to Strickland as he told the story of how one art teacher, Frank Ross, helped him on his path through an appreciation of the arts, with Strickland going from a pottery-obsessed high schooler that made it into the University of Pittsburgh on probation to ultimately graduating with honors and later becoming a trustee of the school.

"Don't give up on the poor kids – they might be a commencement speaker," Strickland quipped on stage as he went through the slideshow of his own life and work.

"I was a public-school kid and my art teacher saved my life," Strickland said before his lecture. "I've been living out that story for the past 40 years, working with kids from very similar backgrounds and very similar circumstances, so I want to keep going."

Over the decades, Strickland learned how to help children and adults respond through trial and error, discovering that in order to help people

renew their spirit, he had to give them a setting to renew their spirits.

"Environment drives behavior," Strickland declared to his audience. "Beautiful neighborhoods create beautiful people. Prisons create prisoners."

With this in mind, Strickland had a new center built in Pittsburgh with fountains, black-tie lunches, and artwork adorning the walls of his complex. Students eat gourmet meals prepared by Bidwell's culinary trainees. And the Center even houses MCG Jazz, a music hall that has hosted the likes of Herbie Hancock and Dizzy Gillespie, with the attached studio winning five Grammy Awards for albums recorded there.

And now, Strickland wants to provide children in Erie with the same treatment.

"I hope we can get a conversation going about building a center here," Strickland said near the end of his presentation, as part of his goal to build 200 centers around the world.

By the end of the year, two more centers will open up, with one to be ready just two hours away in Buffalo. Strickland said that while he could help bring a center to Erie, ultimately it would be up to the people of The Flagship City if they want to be part of his vision.

It would be a lot of time and work, but if we're serious about helping our city grow, it might be worth discussing if our city could use a fresh perspective and a few coats of paint to follow in the footsteps of Strickland.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/92cnj>



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10/31/13	Successful Email Marketing	9:00 – Noon
11/14/13	Intro to Adobe Photoshop for Print or Web	9:00 – Noon
11/21/13	HTML Basics	9:00 – 11:00
12/5/13	Beginner Blogging	8:00 – 10:00
12/5/13	DIY WordPress Blog Workshop	10:00 – Noon

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The Truth About Tony Grey

World-renowned Bassist and Berklee Grad Talks Erie, the NYC Music Scene, and the Accident That Forever Changed His Life

By: Cory Vaillancourt

Locked away in a dorm room, the reluctant student toiled. He was scared, alone, and more than a little intimidated; he was a stranger in a strange land who had first picked up a bass guitar just a few months earlier, and here he was, surrounded by some of the world's most promising and proficient students of music at one of the world's most prestigious and paramount institutions of musical instruction. What's more, his enrollment there was the result of guidance given him by his uncle – one of the most important musical figures of our time.

Newcastle, England native Tony Grey remained hidden away, woodshedding in his dorm room, trying desperately to play catch up; he must've been a marked man at the Berklee College of Music once it became known that his immediate family included a legendary guitarist, composer, and bandleader. Tony's fellow students must've thought he was a prodigy, coddled from birth by the renowned musician and brought up in the family business as the privileged protégé of a performer positioned to promote his progress.

They must've thought a lot of things about that bright English kid practicing 12 hours a day in that dark room; but there are three things that cannot long remain hidden – the sun, the moon, and the truth.

“It's kind of a working-class town,” said Grey of his birthplace. Although it was a warmish, sun-shiny early fall day, we sequestered ourselves in a tiny black room with pasty-white egg cartons scattered about the walls on the second floor of a non-descript building in Erie. “The closest I can compare it to is probably Pittsburgh. Steel, shipbuilding, coal – all that.”

Photographer Ryan Smith flitted about that tiny black room – a photography studio equipped with a desk, a few chairs, no windows, blazing lights, a moonlike white backdrop, and no ventilation – clicking furiously. “My mother's a piano player – not professionally – and my grandmother's a piano teacher, so there was a lot of music in the family,” Grey said.

Shooting Grey from near, far, high, and low – above his head, below his knees, and beside his face – Smith orbited the tallish, slim, greying Grey. I stood in the back, out of the way, and slung questions at the soft-spoken 38-year old. Grey had just gotten over the flu and looked rather serene, perched on that small stool under the soft yet hot glowing rectangles. But that's how he always looks. He is the commander of calm. Contemplative. Composed. Cool.

“Where I'm from, it's all about football,” he said, not talking about the brain-bashing bulky brutes of American football, but rather the ce-



Tony Grey, 38, calls Erie home, both playing local gigs and traveling outside of the city to New York, Japan, and beyond.

rebral cardiovascular kickers of the soccer ball. “It's the religion of the town and community, so everything's based around that – who you support, the games, playing in the street. That's your life, basically. There's no music scene. Not at all.”

Accordingly, Grey didn't really focus on music while growing up, but like nearly everyone else in the world in the mid-1980s, he admits to being “obsessed” with Michael Jackson; his first job was going door-to-door washing cars to earn money for MJ paraphernalia.

But it wouldn't be long before Grey found his way into performing. “I was never really thinking [about attending] college,” said Grey. “And I got into DJing, because that was really popular – the nightclubs and the rave scene in England. If you're not going to be a soccer player, the next best thing to do is try to be a DJ. So I got into that, and I started getting a lot of gigs in nightclubs from a very young age. It was kind of a wild scene.

“And you know all the pitfalls that come with that scene – I don't want to get too deep into it,”

he said, sheepishly, of the up-all-night, sleep-all-day lifestyle. “But I kind of got led astray a little bit, and it was that point where I was really not sure where my life was going, so what I wanted to do first of all is clean myself up and get healthy, so I decided to enlist.”

Seemingly seeking structure, Grey sought to straighten up by joining the highly-respected Corps of Royal Engineers, a component of the British Army with almost a millennium of allegiance to the Crown.

“I had just finished my basic training, and I went away for a little holiday. And on the way to that holiday,” Grey said, staring at the snakepit of cords and cables strewn about the floor, “that's when I broke my back.”

The heat from the lights began to radiate from the walls of the tiny black room as Smith and I listened to Grey tell us how cruelly his quest for self-improvement was slapped aside by the uncaring hand of fate. On a rainy, windy day, Grey had just stepped off a train

and into his girlfriend's car, which, after failing to negotiate a curve, flipped and rolled down a 30-foot embankment.

Grey and his companion ended up in the hospital for months. “I had to learn how to walk again and get a big plate put in my back. And then I was at home, in body plaster, like an American footballer,” he says, gesturing to his upper body, elbows askance, almost robotic. “And I was just laying around the house, pretty depressed. Didn't want to see any friends, didn't want to do anything except just lie in my pity.”

One miserable day, Grey's stepfather brought him a bass guitar.

“I never asked for it – I didn't show any interest in it, and he just said, ‘There you go, stop being miserable, here's something for you to do,’ kind of a harsh northerner from England, you know, like, ‘There you go, keep yourself busy,’ and the door closed.”

However, Grey was reluctant to pick up the unexpected instrument at first, much in the way that someone in agony refuses aid because it implies weakness. Eventually, the former DJ surrendered, and began using those hands that once fingered vinyl for plucking the Yamaha's thick metal strings. It became, as he put it, an escape from reality.

“I was like a freak, where I would literally buy every bass instructional book I could find and plow my way through them.

“The more I got into it, my dad had mentioned that my uncle was a famous jazz guitarist, but I didn't really... I knew he was a guitarist, but I didn't really know anything about jazz or his career,” said Grey, above the constant clicking of Smith's Canon Rebel. “So I gave him a call, and he said, ‘Why don't you come on one of my tours, and you can sit on the bus and chat with me, and talk about music?’ So I went up to Scotland to hang with him, then went down to London, and realized that he was a world-famous player.”

Smith stopped shooting, stared at Grey, and put his camera down.

“What's his name?” I asked.

“John McLaughlin?” Grey said, almost posing it as a question, as in “Ever heard of John McLaughlin?”

“John McLaughlin is your uncle?!” I nearly shouted at him, as he gave us both a well-practiced *oboyherewegoagain* look that he must've given to countless others by now.

John McLaughlin is an influential English-born jazz fusion guitarist active for more than 50 years. His playing is intense to the point of highly spiritualized violence despite the prevalence of free-form non-western themes, and procedural to the point of deeply hypnotic entrancement despite the frequent flurries of staccato hammer-ons and pull-offs. With heavy Indian influence inherent, McLaughlin's distinctive sensibilities led him from Tony Williams' pioneering fusion

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trio Lifetime to working with Miles Davis' band on such delicious brilliance as "In a Silent Way" and "Bitches Brew." Not content to merely channel his spiritual essence into some of the most significant manifestations of human emotion ever preserved for posterity, McLaughlin took his double-necked Gibson – with eight more strings than he has fingers, of which he has 10 – and with it helmed the Mahavishnu Orchestra, while still finding time to birth a mind-blowing 1973 collaboration with Carlos Santana, aptly titled "Love, Devotion, Surrender." Since then, John McLaughlin's been busy, well, being John McLaughlin.

"I had no idea," Grey said, of his uncle's standing in the jazz community. "I was intimidated, because when I saw him play, I said, 'This is serious. He's not messing around.' And I thought he was just some relative who was just going to give me some tips on what to practice, but he's, like, the best in the world, you know? So I went down to Monte Carlo to live with him and study with him for a few weeks, and really got inside of what he was doing. I went to one of his recording sessions in Milan, just watching and observing, and he suggested that if I really wanted to do this seriously, I should come and live in America.

"I'd never been to America and I didn't know anything about American culture, but he suggested I go to Berklee, so I did an audition on a cassette, and then they invited me to an in-person audition, and then they offered me a scholarship, and literally within six or seven months of living in this situation, I moved to Boston."

Smith and I stood, stupefied, in that tiny black room.

Which brings us back to that lonely Boston dorm room. Tony Grey's heretofore moonlight night had only just begun to acquiesce to the unstoppable sol, and here he was, cranking away at something he wasn't even sure he wanted to do, just six months after the first time he'd ever begrudgingly done it.

Grey said that it was hard for him to accept his new life, especially because of his famous uncle. "It was a very difficult time, psychologically, because from being in the army to music school in America, it was quite a life change."

Everyone wanted to hang out with him, Grey said of his unexpected popularity at Berklee, "because they thought I must've been amazing if I was sent by [McLaughlin], and the truth was that I was actually just a beginner."

Grey admits to being the type whose unoccupied hands quickly become the devils workshop, which also means that he's highly productive when he has something to accomplish. John McLaughlin didn't get Tony Grey into Berklee; Tony Grey's ravenous appetite for books and lessons and practice and knowledge and desire to escape reality got Tony Grey into Berklee. But to Grey, his new reality was as unsettling as the old.

"I had a lot of pressure from myself and from other people, and it was really...I really didn't enjoy it for the first year, and I was doubting why I was here, what I was doing. Did I even want to be a musician? Did I even have a choice to be a musician?"

It sounds like a dream come true, he added, but being related to McLaughlin probably hurt as much as it helped initially. "And he's a hard guy, you know? He's like, 'I'm not going to help. Music's music; you are as good as you are right

now, and you suck.' There was no, 'Hey, you've just begun, it's going to get better.' It was like 'You're shit. Practice. Sort it out.'

"I got quite sick with that, to be fair," he admonished. "So what I did was just lock myself in a room. I didn't even go to class half the time. I just practiced 12 hours a day for months and months and months."

Yet he continued to struggle with the idea of it all. "I still didn't – I still don't – feel like it was a choice," he revealed. "I don't know if it's divine or whatever – I just never felt like I was in control of my journey, but I felt like, 'That's what you're going to do – there's no turning back now. I can't go back in the army. I don't really have the qualifications to do anything else. I don't have a desire to do anything else, so this is it, you know?'"

Smith, having shot sufficient stills, excused himself from the tiny black room. I switched off the bright glowing rectangles, while Grey's mood lightened considerably as he began to tell me about when things finally came together at Berklee.

"I teamed up with a Scottish guy [fellow student Alan Brown], a great drummer, and he dragged me along to an audition for a pop band," he said. "I did it not expecting to get the gig, but because we were buddies and I knew he could shine if he was around a familiar player. We ended up both getting the gig. I had to drop out of school, move up to New York, then Philadelphia, and we got signed by this big label [Tigerstar] that was run by [co-founder of Chrysalis Records] Terry Ellis. He did Billy Idol, Blondie, Jethro Tull, Huey Lewis, Pat Benatar. He's from that era. He kind of got quiet, but then got back into the business, and decided he wanted a new 'boy band' kind of thing, the difference being they could play music."

That band was called Bliss. Grey dropped out of Berklee, recorded with them, shot some videos with them, and even moved to Asia with them.

"It was so surreal," Grey said, almost laughing. "Being associated with John McLaughlin and him being my mentor and my reference point, I was into all the chops and playing fast and technique stuff and all the jazz theory and harmony, but I never actually learned to play *bass* bass. I never really knew the function of the instrument. So this pop band was interesting because it taught me how to be a bass player."

But Grey was not long for Bliss, so he returned to Berklee at the urging of uncle John, who wanted to see Grey challenge himself above and beyond his boy-band successes.

"And that's when I met [Japanese pianist] Hiromi [Uehara]. She was a prodigy from a young age; Yamaha picked her up when she was like 6, and she was playing in the Czech Philharmonic when she was 9. So they were just waiting for her to graduate and explode her into the scene." Grey and Hiromi clicked in class, and began practicing with each other, leading to a 7-year professional collaboration.

"And she became a superstar, immediately. We pretty much toured all over the world."

The world is big. But it's also small. "My wife [June Kim] is from here [the Erie area]. She was living in Pittsburgh, and she was visiting a friend who was in school in Boston. I met her at gig, and it kind of went from there."

Where it went from there was New York



Tony Grey (far left) sits with his Bliss bandmates at a signing after leaving Berklee College of Music.

City – until the addition of a young son to Tony and June's world confirmed their next destination would, in fact, be Erie.

"I was touring so much at the time, and she really didn't enjoy being in New York, looking after a kid while I was gone for a few months at a time," said Grey. "Her family's all from here, so she wanted to be closer to them."

It's well-known that Erie is a great place to raise a family. Also, it was – and still is, to a certain extent – a place of steel, and shipbuilding, and coal like the Newcastle of Grey's youth; however, it was never – and still isn't – one of the world's cultural capitals, like New York City.

"I thought it would destroy my career," Grey said, of moving to Erie. "But in many regards it's enhanced it. It's given me an understanding of what America's all about, because your audience is middle America. It's not New York City and a lot of New York City musicians get stuck in a New York City mentality, where you're literally hustling for every gig. There's a good music scene here in Erie, but New York is like, times a thousand – there's world-class musicians on every block. You get caught up in the hustle of these \$100 gigs, and you basically spend your life just surviving."

Grey's revealing comments about Erie – es-

pecially coming from an English cat who is as at home in Montreux or Milan or Monte Carlo as he is in Erie – exploded beyond the ceiling of that tiny black room, leaving a hole through which streaked the sun. Erie, Grey told me, became a place where he could escape the hustle, clear his head, and see the bigger picture while still supporting his family.

"At first when I moved away [from New York City], I lost a couple of local gigs. Why call somebody who you've got to spend \$300 gas money for, and put them up in your living room when you could just call the guy next door?" he chuckled. "But for the bigger gigs, [Cont. on 21]"

Events at Penn State Behrend

Speaker Series

SHAWN JOHNSON

Olympic Gymnast
Thursday, October 3

MIKE LANGE

Voice of the Pittsburgh Penguins
Wednesday, October 23
7:30 p.m.
Reed Union Building

Music at Noon: The Logan Series

JULIE FOWLIS

Scottish Gaelic Vocalist
Wednesday, October 23

VOICE

A cappella Trio
Tuesday, November 12
Noon
Reed Union Building

Creative Writers Reading Series

CAITLIN HORROCKS

Fiction
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Thursday, December 5
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If We Were You...

WEDNESDAY 10.02

FILM Kick-off Party: "The Bling Ring"

FILM returns to the Erie Art Museum with its fall line-up focusing on women in movies. This week's selection is "The Bling Ring." Inspired by true events, the film by Sophia Coppola is about a group of teenagers that rob celebrity mansions for excitement. Show up early and mingle, eat dinner, and enjoy an adult beverage.

When: 6 p.m.

Where: 20 E. Fifth St.

Contact: facebook.com/FILMErieArtMuseum

THURSDAY 10.03

Crooked Bass

When it comes to checking out DJs in town, even upstanding citizens would admit that it doesn't hurt to get a little crooked. Crooked

Bass is back at the crooked i, with NatasK and Etch collaborating to become Medium Deal for the show. Add in Executive Order, Ghost Alive, and Matter, and the crooked i will be shaking all night long.

When: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Where: 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

FRIDAY 10.04

The Heliotropes

While horticulturalists may be more interested in the heliotrope flower, local music fans know that the band is where it's at. The Heliotropes will be pairing their stimulating lyrics with some fine adult beverages at The Brewerrie, providing quite the opportunity for dinner and a show without that whole annoying process of moving to another building.

When: 9 p.m. to midnight

Where: 123 W. 14th St.

Contact: 454.2200, brewerrie.com

SATURDAY 10.05

Otters Home Opener Party

Do you like hockey? How about seeing great bands, like Erie's own Falling Hollywood, on an outdoor stage? Does the sound of free beer and soda intrigue you? Well, if any of these apply to you, then make your way to the Otters Home Opener Party hosted by Epic Web Studios to get autographs from members of the Erie Otters and celebrate the team's return to Erie Insurance Arena for their home opener.

When: 4 p.m.

Where: The corner of Ninth and French streets

Contact: info@epicwebstudios.com

Pumpkin D'Light Walking Tour

A crisp fall Saturday evening is the perfect time to bask in the warm glow of hundreds of glowing jack-o'-lanterns dotting the wooded trails of Headwaters Park at the Erie County Conservation District! Bring the kids, flashlights, warm clothes, and \$2.

When: 5 to 10 p.m.

Where: 1927 Wager Road

Contact: 825.0900

SUNDAY 10.6

Erie Art Museum Songwriter Workshop with the Bengsons

The Bengsons didn't come and perform in Erie just to bring us a fish; they also came to teach us to fish. So if you're a local fisherm...err...songwriter, join them at this workshop in the Erie Art Museum for tips, tricks, and theories on what makes good music, well, good.

When: 3 to 5 p.m.

Where: 20 E. Fifth St.

Contact: 459.5477

14th Annual Buddy Walk

October is National Down Syndrome Month, so it's time to do some good and help raise funds and awareness for a great cause. Donate whatever you can, walk with some friends — new and old — and learn interesting ways to stop using the damned "R" word, which perpetuates the ridiculous notion that somehow some people are less human than others. Proceeds will benefit the National Downs Syndrome Society through the Down Syndrome Group of Erie County, but your investment of money or time benefits the whole wide world.

When: noon

Where: The Junker Center at Penn

State Behrend, 4701 College Drive

Contact: 323.1842 or 833.2143

MONDAY 10.07

"Yeah! Yeah! Yeah": The Evolving Artistry of The Beatles

Ever heard of a little band called The Beatles? Prolific entertainment writer Kenneth Womack will be giving a free lecture in the Jack Burch Research and Economic Development Center at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College about the beloved Brits' career.

When: 5 p.m.

Where: 4701 College Drive

Contact: 898.6158

TUESDAY 10.08

Perry's Landing to GAF: A History of Erie's Bayfront Development

A new hotel? Condos? Mansionettes? Mixed-use residential units? With all of the proposed ideas for Erie's development, Erie looks to cash in and make the right decision for the final parcel of land located on our Bayfront. Head to the JES to hear a discussion of the area's transformation, lessons learned, and lessons to be learned as we move forward led by Herm Weber, who has professional involvement in crucial Bayfront projects from the early '80s to today.

When: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: 3207 State St.

Contact: 459.8000

WEDNESDAY 10.09

FILM: Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer

FILM returns to the Erie Art Museum with its fall line-up focusing on women in movies. This week's selection is "Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer," a documentary highlighting the plight of the all female Russian punk band who ran into trouble for criticizing the government. Show up early and mingle, eat dinner, and enjoy an adult beverage.

When: 6 p.m.

Where: 20 E. Fifth St.

Contact: facebook.com/FILMErieArtMuseum

THURSDAY 10.10

President Kennedy's Decision-making Style in Foreign Policy

As the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death approaches, the Jefferson Educational Society's Featured Speaker lecture series will present Dr. Richard Pious' discussion of one of the factors that may have led to his death - his ponderings and policies towards Vietnam.

When: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: 3207 State St.

Contact: 459.8000

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Go to facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace/events

508 State Street 18-20 North Park Row 814-453-7760

The Mallett Brothers Band

The Mallett Brothers Band just doesn't know how to quit you, O wonderful Erieites. The Portland, Maine-based rockers, described as a "six-piece living inferno" by Dispatch Magazine, returns to the crooked i tonight to put on a rollicking show of good ol' alt-country that will make you forget that you might have to return to the tyranny of the work week the following day.

When: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Where: 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

FRIDAY 10.11

The Bengsons

Thanks to the Mercyhurst Institute of Arts & Culture, married electroacoustic duo The Bengsons came to Erie for a two-week residency to put on workshops for the community. While Shaun and Abigail Bengson have to leave us eventually, they'll close out their stay with a show at the Erie Art Museum. Check out our Q&A with the couple on page 19 and then head down to the show to give them a fond farewell to our new friends.

When: 8 p.m.

Where: 20 E. Fifth St.

Contact: miac.mercyhurst.edu/events

SATURDAY 10.12

Daniel Ellsworth & The Great Lakes w/ Lazlo Hollyfeld

It's rather appropriate that a band called Daniel Ellsworth & The Great Lakes is rather fond of coming to the town of Erie. Ellsworth and his team of indie

rockers are coming back to the crooked i to whip out wonderfully catchy tracks like "Shoe Fits" from their critically lauded 2011 album "Civilized Man."

When: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Where: 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

SUNDAY 10.13

Bail Easy, Absence of Despair, Royal/Revise, and With All My Strength

Keep the magnets away from Basement Transmissions this night, because the State Street venue is going to have a whole bunch of metal in the house. Local rockers Bail Easy are teaming up Clarion's Royal/Revise, Pittsburgh's With All My Strength and Providence, R.I.'s Absence of Despair, and some potential bands to be added later for one big Sunday night of hard riffs and head banging.

When: 5 to 11 p.m.

Where: 1501 State St.

Contact: basement-transmissions.webs.com

TUESDAY 10.15

NAACP Candidates Forum

Wonder what candidates vying for the offices of Erie County Executive, Erie County Council, and Erie City Council have to say about their vision for the future? Wonder why they want your votes? Then check out this forum, as WJET-TV reporters Mike Holden and Danielle Woods will serve as the evening's moderators.

When: 6:30 p.m.

Where: The Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 W. 38th St.

Contact: 459.8000

ERIE READER

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OCTOBER 4 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



ADAMS ALE

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS SHOTGUN JUBILEE

OCTOBER 5 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



EKOOSTIK HOOKAH

OCTOBER 11 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



DANIEL ELLSWORTH AND THE GREAT LAKES

WITH SPECIAL GUEST LAZLO HOLLYFELD

OCTOBER 12 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



SIRSY

OCTOBER 18 // FRIDAY @ 10:00

* FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION.



To-do List

By: Alex Bieler



Critically-acclaimed musician Howard Fishman will bring The Basement Tapes Project to the Taylor Little Theater at Mercyhurst University this month.

Howard Fishman

Every so often, you run into one of those albums that you just keep on repeat, a set of tracks that commands your full attention. These are the albums that stay ingrained in your mind, evoking memories of past times and places and inspiring you long after you hit pause. For Howard Fishman, the full “The Basement Tapes” collection by Bob Dylan and The Band is one of his inspirations.

“The five-CD version has always been a desert-island disc for me,” says Fishman, a critically acclaimed singer, guitarist, and composer. “I just love all of the stuff that hasn’t officially seen the light of day, so I pitched the idea to the public theater here in New York about doing a three-night marathon concert of the complete basement tapes.”

And so The Basement Tapes Project was born. The success of the three-night show, in which he performed all of the tracks from the five-CD set, allowed Fishman to bring his beloved Basement Tapes to more venues, and soon, he’ll be adding the Taylor Little Theater at Mercyhurst University to the list when he performs there at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3.

However, just because he’ll be performing Bob Dylan and The Band’s underground recordings doesn’t mean that this will be a cover show. Instead, think of it as going to the theater, where every night can provide a new experience instead of being subjected to the same exact film over and over.

“When my band performs, we’re always aiming for that kind of spontaneity and looseness because when I’m doing my music, the show changes night to night quite a bit in terms of the arrangements of the songs and the ways we play them and the ways that the audience responds.”

It’s appropriate that they call it *live* music, because the right performer can breathe new life into an old song. Classic albums are tremendous for the right reasons, but The Basement Tapes Project can provide brand new memories.



Martha Redbone gives the poems of William Blake an Appalachian twist on her latest album.

Martha Redbone

When it comes to teaching children about their heritage, some parents comb through old photos to show their little ones their relatives. Others check out websites detailing their family tree. Martha Redbone, meanwhile, put her family’s history to music to help her young son understand his roots.

Her efforts resulted in “The Garden of Love:



The Erie Otters will play their home opener Saturday, Oct. 5 at the newly renovated Erie Insurance Arena.

Contributed Photo

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Songs of William Blake” a collection of poems by the English poet set to the music of Appalachia, the sounds of her hometown in Harlan County Kentucky.

“We had lost a lot of elders in our community and in our family, so I thought being a musician, I wanted to do something to honor them and acknowledge them,” says the Independent Music Award-winning musician. “Part of the culture is the music and the sounds of the area you grew up with, because he’ll be too young to remember them as people other than in photos, but the music really gives you a connection to home.”

Erie residents can hear these songs and dance along when the Martha Redbone Roots Project comes to the Louis C. Cole Auditorium at Edinboro University Wednesday, Oct. 9. While Redbone’s source material dates back hundreds of years, Redbone found that Blake’s poetry complemented her Appalachian tracks quite well.

“We had already collected about seven or eight songs and then my husband found the book on the shelf and opened it to ‘A Poison Tree’ and looked at it and we thought that it could be a really cool mountain song,” Redbone says. “We ended up looking through about 150 different poems and I thought that it was too good to just stop at ‘A Poison Tree.’”

Now, Erieites will be able to sample the fruits of “The Garden of Love” and more from her personal catalog, all while Redbone settles back into her roots.

Otters Home Opener Party

Forget the Penguins - it’ll be hockey night in Erie Oct. 5.

Well, you don’t have to completely abandon Pittsburgh’s beloved NHL franchise, but your local Ontario Hockey League team could use your support when the Erie Otters return to Erie In-

urance Arena to face the North Bay Battalion in their home opener at 7 p.m.

Of course, an occasion like this calls for a celebration. Luckily for all you hockey fanatics out there, Epic Web Studios is hosting the Fourth Annual Otters Home Opener Party on the corner of Ninth and French streets starting at 4 p.m. the day of the game. Since the folks are such big Otters fans, they figured it would be appropriate to kick off the season with a free event filled with live music, free beer and soda, and a red carpet ceremony where fans can get autographs from players.

“I’m always excited for the Otters Home Opener Party itself because it kicks off the new season and every year the fans are in a great mood and the atmosphere is always great,” Epic Web Studios Lead Developer and Partner Shaun Rajewski said. “It’s very promising going into a new season and have something put together where everyone can be together and celebrate.”

More than just hockey fans should be pleased, as local alt-rockers Falling Hollywood are set to entertain partygoers as they chow down on delectable edibles up for purchase from the Mercyhurst University Food Truck, all while members of The Erie Clowns and magicians perform for the crowd before ticket-holders go and see the Otters play.

A promising Erie Otters season needs a proper kickoff, so head down and make the Otters Home Opener Party a proper hockey night celebration in our town.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erierdr.com/jg614>



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MUSIC REVIEWS

MGMT
MGMT
Columbia

★★



After the surprise success of MGMT's debut "Oracular Spectacular" in 2008, the duo of Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser become indie superstars. However, the two of them have been distancing themselves from their first album ever since. After confusing fans with their sophomore release, MGMT's self-titled album pushes them even farther away from hit tracks like "Time to Pretend" and into what sounds like an angry, paranoid version of themselves. Perhaps tracks like the sluggish "Cool Song No. 2" and the languid "An Orphan Of Fortune" are closer to what MGMT truly was meant to be like, but in the end, "MGMT" sounds like VanWyngarden and Goldwasser are trying to be weird to rub it in the faces of those that loved "Oracular Spectacular." The two can still write a catchy track, like the dreamy "A Good Sadness," but "MGMT" sounds like a band trying to pretend the past hasn't happened. - Alex Bieler

Chvrches

The Bones of What You Believe
Glassnote

★★★★



So far, the members have Chvrches (pronounced like a place of worship, for those thrown by the "v") have made the right moves to earn themselves some positive Internet buzz, from the success of early single "The Mother We Share" to covering the "Game of Thrones" theme. Now all of the positive online whispers have led to the release of the Scottish synthpop trio's debut album, and "The Bones of What You Believe" delivers on the hype. Like fellow synth-happy bands M83 and The Knife, Chvrches serves up hook-laden pieces of electronic goodness, with singer Lauren Mayberry's emotive vocals leading the way. However, Chvrches don't quite reach for the heights that the aforementioned bands do, keeping the tracks more emotionally direct while Mayberry's vocals soar on tracks like "Recover" and "Tether," allowing "The Bones of What You Believe" to stay intimate in the realm of the electronic. - Alex Bieler

Bill Callahan
Dream River
Drag City

★★★★★



Over the past 25 years, Bill Callahan has quietly proven himself to be one of the finest storytellers of his generation. His fourth album under his own name is no exception, and Callahan seems in no hurry on his latest release. "Dream River" manages to sound meticulously crafted all while words effortlessly part from Callahan's lips, his deep baritone adding heft to the simplest of lines. He's no stick in the mud, either, dealing out lines like "The only words I've said today are 'beer' and 'thank you'" on opener "The Sing." The painting that adorns the cover of "Dream River" seems appropriate, given how Callahan crafts his songs, deftly adding strokes like the uneasy flutes and flaring guitars in the standout track "Summer Painter," all while allowing the empty spaces in the music to provide depth when he tells a new tale that's no less hypnotic than the last. - Alex Bieler

Kings of Leon
Mechanical Bull
RCA

★★★★



Boozing, carousing, roughhousing – all the hallmarks of KOL's past work – are present here. But the Kings are more weathered and experienced now. Ten years ago, the young bucks broke onto the scene, billed as the "Southern Strokes." After two kick-you-in-the-face-and-makeout-with-your-girlfriend-and-give-you-something-to-dance-about records, the band began evolving ("Because of the Times"). The intensity remained and carried through to 2008's global smash "Only By The Night," which exposed the band to commercial success and fame. "Come Around Sundown" (2010) hinted at fatigue, frustration, and imminent failure, as the band struggled to meld their punk-rock-country-grunge roots with their anthem-esque pop-rock branches. A rawer effort than "Sundown," "Mechanical Bull" harnesses the band's early energy while proving they've learned some tricks along the way, which is to say that when grunge and pop sit down for a whiskey or seven together, it's a damn good time. - Ben Speggen



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Otters Home Opener Party
October 5th at 4pm - 9th and French

Music from **Falling Hollywood**
Free Beer and Soda
Mercyhurst University Food Truck
Red Carpet Ceremony with the **Erie Otters**

Hosted by **EpicWebStudios**

Puck drops at 7pm at Erie Insurance Arena

October 2, 2013

Street Fashionista

Isabella Cardina

By: Leslie McAllister



Leslie McAllister

Stu-di-ous [stoo-dee-uh s] adjective 1. disposed or given to diligent study: a studious girl; 2. a term used to describe geek chic style: *She looked so studious in her glasses and buttoned up blouse.*

I have been known to be obsessed with the secretary / librarian look. There is something all tied up about it that delights me. The geeky glasses, the topknot, buttoned-up blouse, and pencil skirt – really classy.

Fall fashion always lends itself to this scholarly style with warmer fabrics options a la corduroy trousers, silk blouses, wool sweaters, cotton tights, and pointelle pencil skirts. Autumn is the literary lovely's dream – be it museum-hopping or just cuddling up with a book and cupping a hot mug of tea, these darling are sure to do it in style.

Guys, you can achieve this look too, and when you do, we swoon. Skinny cords with a white tee, a wool cardigan sweater, brown chukka boots, and just slightly mussed hair. Trust me you won't be able to free up your schedule with all the tutoring you will be doing.

Need some geeky inspiration? Check out www.chicgeekblog.com or just fall in love with Jenna Lyons, creative director of J. Crew, and those cute Weezer boys.

Who? Isabella Cardina

Where? Mercyhurst University

Why Isabella? She's artsy-fartsy and super cute. Those Chanel glasses give her an edge to the but-

toned-up jumper while the platform shoes anchor her coolness. I love the eclectic jewels adorning her fingers and wrists – a girl always needs to be on time and with a watch like that, promptness is assured.

Describe your style. My style cannot be described in one formal category. I would say I'm pretty much eclectic, which consists of classic, feminine, and vintage pieces. I love playing with patterns and prints; I think that is something that separates me from others. You will always find me in my rings and watch as well. I'm big fan of Peter Pan collars, patterned pants, and classic button-down shirts. I would ultimately compare my style to a combination of Audrey Hepburn and Rachel Zoe – my two favorite fashion icons.

What are some trends that are exciting you this fall? The best trends right now, in my opinion, are pleather or leather shift dresses and tops. I think they are the perfect statement piece for the fall. Trends obviously come and go, and for the most part I follow them, but you will find me putting my spin on the interpretation. Another trend I am loving are different types of coats. There are so many options for people to choose from.

Best out-of-the-way place to find that score. I think the most out of the way place to score some awesome piece of fashion would be in Cleveland at a little vintage shop in Ohio City, called Deering Vintage. It's the perfect little shop for finding inspiring pieces ranging from fun fake furs to cos-

time jewelry. Their clothes remind me of something Elizabeth Taylor and Julie Christie would wear in the 1960s and 1970s.

Any inspiring street fashion recently? Some street fashion that I have seen recently wasn't on the streets of Erie but on the streets of New York City. Every fashion week millions of people come to the city to see various designers' shows and I always loved researching the street fashion to see what people are wearing. Some of the things that stood out to me were modern pieces with twists of vintage. I don't think that you have to wear designer clothing in order to be fashionable, so I love seeing people bring together signature outfits during fashion week.

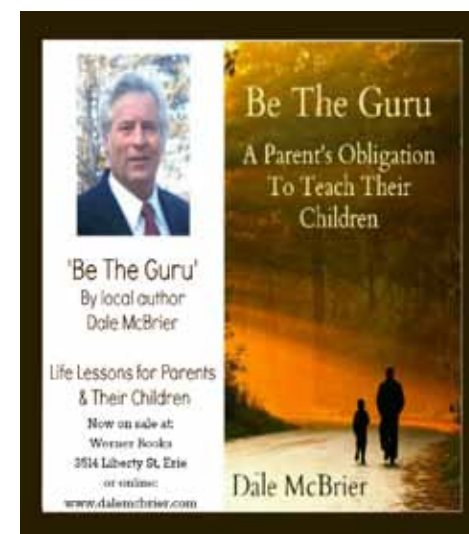
Why Mercyhurst? The fashion program has been my life for the last four years. I've spent countless hours in the sewing and computer lab working on various projects, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. The student-teacher relationship here is one of the best things at Mercyhurst; my professors are always there for me. Whether barging into their offices talking about schoolwork or asking for their advice on personal issues, they always have time for us students. The program really forces you to become an individual and teaches you to work with others. You are not looked at as merely as a number, you're looked at as a person, and I really think that's something that sets us apart from other schools.

After having so many classes with the same people in the program everyone becomes friends, and it's truly our own separate community on the third floor of Mercyhurst's Old Main; everyone knows each other, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Favorite class. The best class that I have taken in fashion is History of Dress. We covered almost

every piece of clothing and accessory since the beginning of time. The projects in that are class were my favorite. I got to interview my favorite person in the world – my grandma – and examine her outfit from an old photograph of her in the early 1930s. History of Dress was also a great class because we got to watch films that had very extravagant fashion such as Marie Antoinette.

Find me out on the town and challenge yourself to get noticed by the Erie Reader! Leslie McAllister can be contacted at LMcAllister@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @ShopJuJu. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erirdr.com/2ytgd>



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WOMEN IN FILM
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Oct 2 | Kick-off Event: The Bling Ring

(2013) Crime/Drama. 90 min. Rated R.

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Oct 09 | Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer (2013)

Oct 16 | In A World... (2013)

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Oct 23 | Zero Dark Thirty (2013)

Oct 30 | The Descent (2006)

Nov 06 | Sun Don't Shine (2013)

When We Lived in Miami (2013)

Sponsored by Whole Foods Co-op.

Nov 13 | Fish Tank (2010)

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Nov 20 | We Live In Public (2009)

Nov 27 | Middle of Nowhere (2012)

Sponsored by OB/GYN Associates of Erie.

Dec 04 | The Secret Life of Words (2005)

Sponsored by Whole Foods Co-op.

Dec 11 | After the Wedding (2006)

Dec 18 | To Be Announced



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FILM at the Erie Art Museum is sponsored by:



Q&A With The Bengsons

New York City Musicians Prepare for a Two-week Residency in Erie



Contributed Photo

Married musicians The Bengsons will take the stage at the Erie Art Museum Friday, Oct. 11, closing out a two-week residency with the Mercyhurst Institute of Arts & Culture.

By: Alex Bieler

Thanks to the Mercyhurst Institute of Arts & Culture, we'll be welcoming a new couple to our neighborhood. Married Americana-influenced rock duo The Bengsons began a residency Monday, Sept. 30 at MIAC, where for two weeks, they'll bring their experience teaching internationally to The Flagship city in a series of workshops, ending their stay with a capstone performance Friday, Oct. 11 at the Erie Art Museum. I had a chance to chat with Shaun and Abigail over the phone, with the couple taking turns answering questions about teaching, inspiration, and how excited they are to join the neighborhood.

Alex Bieler: Did you two start playing music together before or after you were married?

Shaun Bengson: It happened at the exact same minute, basically. We met in New York City playing in another band and we decided that we wanted to form our own band. At that rehearsal after the rest of the band members went home, it turned out that that was the first moment that Abigail and I had ever been alone. About three weeks later, we got married. It was right away, like sparks flying and an explosion – that kind of thing. Our first rehearsal ended up being our first date, and here we are six years later.

Alex: So you'd say that rehearsals are a pretty good way for people to meet?

Shaun: [Laughs] Yeah, absolutely. I'd highly recommend it.

Alex: How did you two get started teaching internationally?

Shaun: It's what we've loved to do our whole lives. When we met, as well as doing music, we were also teaching. I was a New York City

teaching fellow at a special education school and Abigail was doing some preschool music classes as well as musical theater. When we got together, we discovered we enjoyed teaching together as well.

Alex: What are you going to be teaching during your residency in Erie?

Shaun: We're going to be teaching a variety of subjects. We're going to be doing a bunch of workshops for kids, which will be tailored to the age groups. They'll be working on learning music and instrument skills, a couple of them will be learning songwriting. We're working with a couple of theater groups. I guess it's a little bit hokey, but we really believe in social change through art. Art is an incredible bridge, and we like to teach skills to use art as a connection between communities, so when we're in Mexico, we often go with a group of English speakers to teach skills for people to interact through music.

Alex: Are you the type of artist that actively seeks out new music or do you not pay much attention to what's out there?

Shaun: We love listening [to new stuff]. I'd love to hear as much as I can while we're in Erie. We're excited that we're going to play with Zack Orr, who I can't wait to hear. I'm looking forward to hearing Howard Fishman when he comes through.

Alex: Are you currently working on new material?

Shaun: We are! Right at this minute we've got a whole batch of new songs in the works and we're in the first steps of recording a new album. We're hoping to premier a number of them in Erie. They're just coming together now, so I'm excited to try them.

Alex: Excellent. Would Abigail like to answer

a few questions? I'd feel bad to completely shut her out of this.

Shaun: Absolutely! Here she is. [Passes the phone over to Abigail]

Abigail Benson: Hello?

Alex: Well, hello there. How are you doing?

Abigail: Good, how about you?

Alex: I can't complain much. I just wanted ask you a couple of questions so that this Q&A wasn't too Shaun-heavy.

Abigail: I like it when it's Shaun-heavy. [Laughs] Shaun's great!

Alex: He is pretty cool. So, when you two are playing live, what's the atmosphere of the show like?

Abigail: It depends on where we're playing, but people often dance at our shows and sing along. Our music is really emotional, and we really work hard to create an atmosphere of inclusion. We want it to feel like a party and a good time and that everybody's invited and that they can be their weird selves – whatever that is.

Alex: When you write your music, where do you draw your inspiration from?

Abigail: Shaun and I pretty much always collaborate on music, and the process can happen in a lot of different ways. It depends on the song itself. This may sound cheesy, but it feels

like when you meet a new friend you can't have too many expectations about what the first few conversations are going to be like and see how things unfold. The question we always ask ourselves whenever we're writing is: "How does it feel?"

Alex: How excited are you about coming to Erie for the residency?

Abigail: I'm really excited. I think Jaime Grady is amazing. Shaun and I are artists and actors, and we go all over the world, so we're definitely a different kind of group to bring to Erie. I'm humbled and honored that he's chosen us. There are a lot of incredible groups playing really beautiful work already in Erie and it's exciting.

For more information on The Bengson's residency and how to purchase tickets for their Oct. 11 show, visit mica.mercyhurst.edu or call the box office at 824.3000.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://erireader.com/kjf6b>



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Cloud Nothings' Dylan Baldi

The Cleveland Native Talks About his New Album, Moving to Paris, and Having a Lot of Luck with January

By: Alex Bieler

Having grown up in Cleveland, I still root for up-and-comers coming from Erie's fellow Lake Erie city. So when I happened upon a band called Cloud Nothings a few years ago, I started paying attention.

Led by fellow Clevelander Dylan Baldi, the group impressed me with their snotty pop-punk, still rough around the edges but plenty of promise shining through the energetic tracks. Then, in January 2012, Baldi surprised Cloud Nothings fans with "Attack on Memory," a dark, primal album that left behind the sugary sweetness of past tracks. It wasn't long before the indie music world caught on, and by the end of the year, "Attack on Memory" landed on several Top-10 lists, including ours.

I happened to meet Baldi at his most recent show in Cleveland, and after a few missed calls, we were able to chat about his upcoming album and how the biggest critic he needed to impress was himself.

Alex Bieler: Before we really get into this interview, I have to ask: Is that you howling on your voice mail?

Dylan Baldi: Um... yeah, probably. I think one day I just screamed into it. It's been a long time.

AB: When I called, it definitely took me a little bit by surprise.

DB: Yeah, maybe I should make it a little more professional.

AB: Nah, you don't need to do that. It's more fun than a normal one. So, are you currently touring? I heard you were recording a new album soon.

DB: Yeah, we're recording in October. We're not touring at the moment; I'm actually just driving home now.

AB: I find it crazy that you live in the same town near Cleveland [Middleburg Heights] where I lived for nine years of my life and where my parents still live.

DB: I live there now, but I'm actually moving in a couple of days to Paris.

AB: Paris? What prompted that switch?

DB: It seemed like a good idea. I have more friends there than I do here at the moment.

AB: What about Paris really struck you as your kind of place?

DB: It's just a nice place to be. It's relaxing no matter what part of the city you're in.

AB: Do you speak French?

DB: A tiny, tiny bit. I'm learning at the moment.

AB: Are you recording your next album over there or will you come back to the States for that?

DB: It's going to be in New Jersey.

AB: Your last album "Attack on Memory" was a major shift in Cloud Nothings' sound. Should people expect another change with this next album?

DB: I think it's definitely a change. It's not as big of a change as going from the self-titled record to "Attack on Memory," but there's a difference, for sure. It's a little less angsty, a little more



Dylan Baldi (second from right) and his Cloud Nothings bandmates plan to release their follow-up to their critically-acclaimed 2012 album "Attack on Memory" early next year.

grown up.

AB: Were there any musicians you were really drawing from, or is this a natural evolution?

DB: It's nothing I was really listening to; I've just slowly become more confident as a songwriter and comfortable making a song that sounds like something that I would like. That's what I'm really doing at this point, just making songs that I like, and since I like them and I hope other people would like them too, because I'm confident in my tastes.

AB: So how old are you now?

DB: I just turned 22.

AB: You started Cloud Nothings when you were 18. Now at 22 you were already on several publication's top-10 lists, so is it something where you've realized that it doesn't matter what age you are to do this?

DB: It's not really so much the age as that I was uncomfortable personally with the way I was writing songs and thinking I could always do better. Being put on people's year-end lists is great, but it didn't make me feel like I knew what I was doing. I had to keep writing and practicing until I thought in my head, "Yeah, this is good." I'm more confident in myself not because what other

people have said but just because I've slowly gotten better at these things.

AB: Would you say you're more confident on stage as well?

DB: I guess so. I still don't talk much between the songs, but we're a better band than we were a couple of years ago.

AB: When I last saw you play at the Beachland Ballroom, you didn't play anything that came out before "Attack on Memory." Do you feel like you've outgrown those songs, or is it just a matter of them not fitting in with the new material?

DB: Even hearing "Attack on Memory" is a little awkward for me, just because I don't like listening to myself. The reason we don't play them is that it really wouldn't make any sense within the set that we're doing now.

AB: With your new style of singing, do you ever get afraid your voice won't hold up?

DB: You mean yelling? [Laughs] I honestly don't know how I can do it. When we first started touring ["Attack on Memory"] I was really nervous that my voice would just stop working one day, so I was drinking a lot of tea every day, but then one day, I realized that it just happens, and I can just do it without having to worry about los-

ing my voice. Let's hope it stays that way.

AB: Being from Cleveland, did you ever travel to Erie?

DB: I've actually been to Erie once. My cousin lived there for a while and worked at GE. I came up to visit her. I don't remember it too much.

AB: Well, with your move to Paris and everything else, do you have any big plans for the future?

DB: We're just going to take it one record at a time. Making big plans for the future has never really been my thing, so I tend to see what happens and where everything goes.

AB: Do you have an expected release date for the new album?

DB: Yeah, hopefully the end of January.

AB: You've had a lot of luck with January.

DB: It's a good month; it's a fresh start.

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[Cont. from 11] that really didn't change for me. If I'm needed in New York, I go to New York. If I'm needed in Japan, I go to Japan. I've been working with Bill Evans, the sax player who played with Miles; he called me for a tour and he was kind of irritated that I wasn't in New York, but he realized that I was up for the drive. If he wanted to rehearse, I would just drive to New York, take care of myself, didn't charge him for expenses; I was just there when he said be there. I made a conscious effort to not be a diva about it. It was my choice to move, so if I want to keep doing this, I've got to just carry on as normal."

Carrying on as normal probably left Grey wishing for a bullet train from Erie to New York. He spent, and continues to spend, countless hours – highly productive hours, he admits – driving back and forth, alone with his thoughts and his music. Thinking. Listening. Driving. Striving towards that rising sun, blasting out a few sets with jazz royalty in some legendary venue, then turning right around, returning to his thoughts

Grey's unique take on the bass manifests itself in all four of his solo albums. His sound is rich, textured, and emanates from the soul.

and his music, and his home, guided by the lonely moonlight.

Erie life sure beats New York City life. I know, that's not something one hears often, but Tony Grey's career path suggests that New Yorkers may want to pay us a visit, stay in one of our Bayfront hotels, and make an appointment with a realtor. Erie is, after all, the clear-headed alternative, and we are, after all, connected by cable with New York, regular old York, and all points in between, making it easy to focus one's passions into a fibrous web and dispatch them across the very face of the Earth.

"I'm passionate about practicing because I always felt the pressure of having to catch up," said Grey. "I'm very meticulous about it, very analytical – like in a diary. And I was actually showing some of my students one of my workbooks one day, and they said, 'Hey, you should write a book,' so I did – I wrote a book, and it got published by Yamaha. Then I wrote another book that just got published by [instructional music publishing company] Hal Leonard, and I was doing Skype lessons. But when I was on tour, I was finding a lot of my students would actually be reaching out to study with me before and after the gig. I was doing that all over the world, and I realized it was very time-consuming and when I'm on the road, the last thing I want is three students hanging outside my hotel room. And if you teach per hour, there's a ceiling on how many students you can teach per day, a ceiling on how much money you can make a day. So I'm like, 'Okay, let's find a way.'"

Grey spent nearly a year in Erie creating and

producing instructional videos, an effort that became the Tony Grey Bass Academy – his way of overcoming the limitations of time and space. "I would have never in a million years been able to realize that living in New York," Grey said, referring to the time it took to plan and execute the 300-something lessons available to students on the Internet for just a few dollars a month.

The virtual success of Grey's teaching business has allowed him more time to concentrate on writing, producing, and recording his own music. Although he's been known mostly as a sideman or a session performer – most recently with rapper/actor Ice-T – Grey's released four albums of his own, including 2004's "Moving," 2008's "Chasing Shadows," 2010's "Unknown Angels," and the Sept. 2013 release "Elevation," which features contributions by his old pal Hiromi, Herbie Hancock, Zakir Hussain, Steve Lukather, Branford Marsalis, Wayne Shorter, Mike Stern and, yes, uncle John.

Grey's unique take on the bass manifests itself in all four of his solo albums. His sound is rich, textured, and emanates from the soul. I can only equate it to a plate of orange Jell-O – it's flexible, almost quivering in its vibration and it easily takes the shape of the container into which it is poured, yet it is more than solid enough to hold up on its own and support layer upon layer of crunchy celery bits and little colored marshmallows. It's bright and clear and you can see those layers, but it also projects enough warm color and cool flavor to please the senses of young and old alike.

And, as the old saying goes, there's always room for Jell-O.

As we wrapped up the hectic hour in which Grey was prodded, poked, and photographed, it became clear that fate can be just as much of a cruel bitch-mistress as it can be a wholesome, loving mother figure. Grey's unlikely – and at times unwelcome – journey from the dark days of his accident and his self-doubt in that Berklee dorm room to the sunny Spanish tours and speedy trans-pacific flights took him places he'd never been and places he'd never wanted to be, but places he'd better for being, both physically and spiritually.

We closed the door to the tiny black room with the moonlike white backdrop and the pasty-white egg carton walls and stepped back out into the brilliant fall sunshine. Grey was on his way to a gig in Orlando, Fla. Because of a combination of determination, effort, and the cruel loving bitch mother fate, Grey's now positioned as one of the rising stars in the jazz world, even as he still won-

Answer to Sudoku

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

ders whether he has any choice in the matter. He's been searching for that answer for years now, like there's some sort of eternal arbiter of what is true and what is not, of what is wrong and what is right, what is black and what is white, and what is simply Grey. But today, for Tony Grey – and the students who learn from him, and the players who share the stage with him, and the global audiences who hear his soaring melodies – the truth is no longer hidden.

Cory Vaillancourt can be contacted at cVaillancourt@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @VLNCR. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or go to <http://eridr.com/ul2ej>



Sudoku

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

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

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Man's name: abbr.
- 4 Wings
- 8 Indian lady
- 12 Dance company (abbr.)
- 13 Celtic
- 14 Black
- 15 Bureau of Indian Affairs (abbr.)
- 16 Small (2 words)
- 18 Rom. ruler
- 20 Sayings (suf.)
- 21 Cash
- 23 Crafty
- 25 Frenzied
- 26 Jap. pit viper
- 27 Ram
- 30 New (Ger.)
- 31 Eagle's nest
- 32 Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)
- 33 Office holders
- 34 Norse tale

- 35 Tantalize
- 36 Highest (pref.)
- 37 Chomp
- 38 Fat (pref.)
- 40 College entrance exams
- 41 Debt
- 44 Sheep's cry
- 47 Egypt. skink
- 48 Idea (pref.)
- 49 Adjective-forming (suf.)
- 50 Cape
- 51 Young salmon
- 52 Flap

DOWN

- 1 Poke
- 2 Fetish
- 3 Containing tin
- 4 Pantry
- 5 New sugarcane shoot
- 6 S.A. herb
- 7 Devon river

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 8 Hold fast: naut. cry
- 9 Dayak people
- 10 Beerlike Arab drink
- 11 Immigration and Naturalization Service (abbr.)
- 17 Medieval fiddle
- 19 Mouse-spotter's
- 21 Peanut
- 22 Presage
- 23 Load
- 24 Son of Samuel
- 26 Heed
- 27 Send
- 28 N. Caucasian language
- 29 Way
- 31 Amer. Standard Code for Information Interchange (abbr.)
- 35 Alone
- 36 Uncle of Mohammed
- 37 Urban office holder
- 38 Take part
- 39 Mississippi bridge
- 40 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 41 Swed. county
- 42 Flaring edge
- 43 Mountain on Crete
- 45 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 46 Albania (abbr.)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13					14				
15				16					17				
		18	19						20				
21	22					23	24						
25					26					27	28	29	
30					31					32			
33					34					35			
					36					37			
		38	39					40					
41						42	43				44	45	46
47						48					49		
50						51					52		

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A43

ERIE'S EATS

American Fusion

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

1662 W. 8th St. // 456.3096

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

2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

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

1201 State St. // 464.8989

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

101 Boston Store Place // 454.4700

American

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

1109 State St. // 453.6454

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

414 French St. // 454.1557

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

1317 State St. // 459.4276

Barbecue

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

732 W. 4th St. // 451.0007

Breakfast

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

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

2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

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

833 W. 38th St. // 520.6246

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

3512 Liberty St. // 866.3216

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

2340 E. 38th St. // 825.2727

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

1504 W. 38th St. // 866.0517

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

26 N. Park Row // 455.0002

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

2614 Glenwood Park Avenue // 455.0860

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

123 E. 12th St. // 456.6891

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

928 W. Erie Plaza // 456.0102

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

103 Meadville St. Edinboro // 734.3400

Brewpub

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

123 W. 14th St. // 454.2200

Caribbean

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

1402 W. 10th St. // 454.0700

Chinese

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

3202 Pitt. Ave. // 836.9657

Delicatessens

TERESA'S ITALIAN DELI

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

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

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

2060 Interchange Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 866.1183

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

17 W. 4th St. // 455.5718

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

2620 W. 8th St. // 836.8702

French

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

18 N. Park Row // 871.6477

Gastropubs

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

8 E. 10th St. // 456.0072

Indian

RAJ MAHAL - Offering a wide variety of Indian cuisine, both vegetarian and carnivore friendly, with an ever-popular lunch buffet. BYOB

5618 Peach St. // 838.1055

Irish

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

506 State St. // 453.7800

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

1624 W. 38th St. // 866.0552

Italian

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

3531 W. Lake Road // 835.3900

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

2826 Plum St. // 866.9621

MI SCUZI Southern Italian cuisine with fresh, homemade pasta.

2641 Myrtle St. // 454.4533

AMICI RISTORANTE With dinner hours from 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and a takeout menu available Monday through Saturday, Amici Ristorante dishes out fresh food at affordable prices. From wings to pizza

to fresh perch sandwiches and more, the menu has something for everyone. Call ahead one hour for takeout since food is prepared fresh per order.

1518 Walnut St. // 455.0041

Japanese

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

1014 State St. // 455.0596

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

970 Millcreek Mall // 868.7999

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

3000 W. 12th St. // 838.2495

Mediterranean

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

3602 W. Lake Road // 838.7197

Mexican

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

333 State St. // 454.5626

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

1315 Parade St. // 452.1966

EL CANELO With three locations to serve the greater-Erie area, you're never

more than a 15 minute drive from all the chips and salsa you can handle served up with sizzling fajitas, hand-wrapped enchiladas and burritos, and a whole lot more. The Super Crab Quesadilla is a must-try that won't break the bank but will definitely stretch your belt.

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

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

2052 Edinboro Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 459.2121

Middle Eastern

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

2174 W. 8th St. // 452.4544

PALM MARKET AND DELI

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

2702 Parade St.

Pizza

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

3826 W. Ridge Rd. // 835.3360

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

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

PENINSULA PIZZERIA

Fresh, quality ingredients

Vegetarian

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

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

Wings

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1543 W. 8th St. // 454.3367

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

4205 E. Lake Road // 899.8661

Steakhouse

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

8199 Perry Hwy // 866.8359

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

2670 W. 8 St. // 838.2162

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

2112 E. Lake Rd // 455.4947

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

2800 W. 8 St. // 833.1116

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