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Jan. 22 - Feb. 4 / Vol. 4, No. 2 / ErieReader.com

ERIE READER



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comes to MIAC**

Merry CRIZ-mas, Erie!

Bridgegate

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Big Leg Emma

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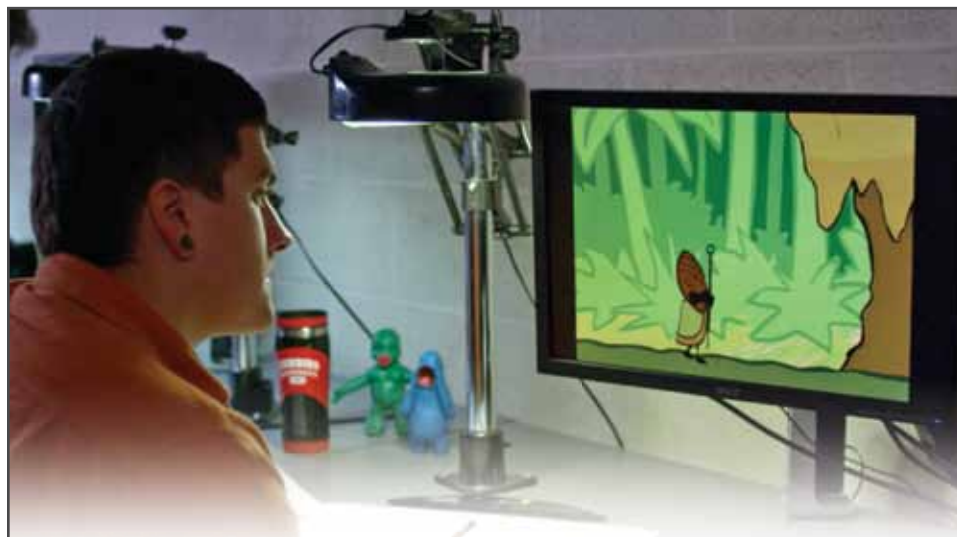
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2014 Winter Schedule

All classes are held weekly at times scheduled at the Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State Street.

Breakdown of Program Costs

(unless otherwise noted):
Courses: \$50/person; \$75 with a guest
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Distinguished Visiting Speaker Luncheon (prior registration required): \$20/person; \$25 with a guest

Act 48 hours for the Erie Catholic Diocese, Erie Day School, Erie School District, Corry, Fort LeBoeuf, Girard, Harborcreek, and Wattsburg teachers apply to ALL programs at no additional cost.

Day / Date /Time	Title	Instructor	Program Type
Mon./Feb. 3/7:00-8:30	Pope Francis: Taking the World by Storm	Monsignor Henry Kriegel	Lecture
Tues./Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, & Mar. 4/4:00-5:30	Great Books Discussion Group: Vital Ideas	Corrine Egan, B.A.	Course/Discussion Group
Wed./Feb.5/7:00-8:30	The Populist Influence in Erie Politics: Then and Now – Part I	William Garvey, Ph.D.	Free Lecture
Thurs./Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27/ 4:00-6:00	The Art of the Tale: Contemporary International Short Stories	Marjorie Podolsky, M.Ed.	Course/Discussion Group
Thurs./Feb. 6/7:00-8:30	Protecting Watersheds and Restoring Foodsheds, One Blade of Grass at a Time	Michael Wright, B.S.*	NWPAGE/Clean Air Council Free Lecture
Mon./Feb. 10/7:00-8:30	Looking at Art for More Than Beauty: A Broader Notion of Visual Literacy	Michael DeSanctis, Ph.D.	Lecture
Wed./Feb. 12/7:00-8:30	Remarkable American Women: Mary Todd Lincoln	Corrine Egan, B.A.	Free Lecture
Thurs./Feb. 13/7:00-8:30	The Populist Influence in Erie Politics: Then and Now – Part II	William Garvey, Ph.D.	Free Lecture
Tues./Feb. 18/7:00-8:30	The History of the Bicycle and Erie's Role in its Development during the 1890s	Jeff Kidder, AIA, NCARB	Free Lecture
Wed./Feb. 19/7:00-8:30	Harbor Place: An Exciting New Vision for Erie's Bayfront	Brian Weber, M.Arch., AIA, NCARB	Lecture
Thurs./Feb. 20/7:00-8:30	A Vision of a World Without Type One Diabetes	Carol Oxenreiter, B.A.*	Free Lecture
Mon./Feb. 24/7:00-8:30	The White City Without the Devil: The 1893 World's Fair	David Cope, M.Ed.	Lecture
Tues./Feb. 25/7:00-8:30	The Rhetorical Beauty of Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"	Robert Hass, Ph.D.	Lecture
Thurs./Feb. 27/11:30-1:30	China's Rise and What It Means for the United States	Jacques deLisle, Ph.D.*	Distinguished Visiting Speaker Luncheon**
Thurs./Feb. 27/7:00-8:30	Barnstormers and Cloud Busters: Early Aviation in the Erie Area	Sabina Freeman, B.A.	Lecture
Mon./Mar. 3/7:00-8:30	Election 2014: Politics, Policies, and Personalities	G. Terry Madonna, Ph.D.*	Distinguished Visiting Speaker Lecture
Tues./Mar. 4/7:00-8:30	Shakespearean Sonnets and Soliloquies	P. Barry McAndrew, D.L.	Lecture
Wed./Mar. 5/7:00-8:30	Elderlscence, Psychology, and the Imminent Retirement Question	David Frew, Ph.D.	Lecture
Thurs./Mar. 6/7:00-8:30	Readings from the World of Lenore Skomal	Lenore Skomal, M.A.	Free Lecture

*Denotes Visiting Lecturer from outside the Erie community
**Prior registration is required for luncheons

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From the Editors

Apparently Christmas can come late. At least for Erie, it did this year.

On Monday, Jan. 20, Erie received good news to the tune of \$1.8 million. Those hearing that tune? Thirteen nonprofits. Those singing it? The Erie Community Foundation and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

According to *Erie Times-News'* Gerry Weiss, the money is coming from grants and scholarships, and while the specifics and the breakdown of how the grants and scholarships work can be a little confusing (Weiss does a good job of explaining it), the bottom line is that it's the kind of news that's good to hear.

As the winter winds continue to blow through The Gem City, forcing many without shelter to seek refuge from the biting weather, the Community Shelter Services will now have more resources as its disposal to help fund its homeless shelters.

We continue to stress that to decrease Erie's poverty rate, the city needs to increase job opportunities and broaden the access to available education, the Erie County Technical School Foundation — the largest grant recipient — will receive \$225,000 for its "Career Street" project, which affords students more diverse career-exploration opportunities.

And as we strive to improve the liveability of

our city, the Erie Art Museum will benefit from this money to expand its Let's Move Outside bike-rack program, which encourages a healthier, greener lifestyle for all of us.

These are just three examples of how that \$1.8 will help Erie be a better Erie, a city more attractive to both those already living here as well as those considering making it their new home.

But our revitalization needs to extend beyond the nonprofit sector, because it's no secret that Erie's nonprofits are plentiful, successful, and always growing. They also provide no tax base, which is often a point of concern when it comes to the ever-popular *where are we going to get the money for that?* question.

So while Christmas can come late, the overwhelming question then becomes, can CRIZ-mas come late, too?

By now, you know that Erie missed out on the first round of CRIZ funds. CRIZ — City Revitalization and Improvement Zones — essentially, as Jay Stevens writes in his *Street Corner Soapbox* column, "allows a city to designate an area for redevelopment, and tax revenue from businesses in that zone can be funneled directly back to that zone for development."

While we missed out on our chance to receive those funds initially — congrats, Bethlehem and Lancaster! — we have another shot now, as Erie can enter another bid next year. The CRIZ

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funds matter, because despite Scott Enterprises' pledge to move forward with the proposed Harbor Place plan, having access to such resources means the plan, the development, the execution, and the follow through can all happen more quickly. Which, bottom line, means Erie has its shot at becoming an even better Erie.

It's time to face the real music: Erie finds itself at a crossroads. Times have changed and so has our city. For better or for worse, things aren't the way they used to be, and unless something new, something dynamic, something monumental happens, Erie will be a second-rate city and our struggle will be nothing more than continuing to manage our own decline at best.

We need revitalization. We need improvement. And we need CRIZ.

Rarely do we get second chances. And we're getting one. Rarely do we get to change so quickly the landscape of our city and our future. And with CRIZ, we're getting that opportunity. So now is not the time for partisan politics, finger pointing, complacency towards managing mediocrity. Now is the time to put politics aside, shelve personal agendas, and call upon our best, boldest, and brightest to ensure we make the most of our second chance. After all, we should all want a better Erie and CRIZ helps us better afford that; otherwise, what's the incentive for any of us to live, work, and play here?

Street Corner Soapbox

Merry CRIZ-mas!

By: Jay Stevens

Erie received quite a belated Christmas gift this year! Well, not quite a "gift." More like a lump of coal. Erie's application for a CRIZ program designation was denied shortly after the holiday. The state played the Grinch to our CRIZ-mas.

Okay. So maybe you don't know what a "CRIZ" is. Maybe you were busy when it went down. Maybe following closely the alphabet soup of government designations and programs and tax policy and agencies and...well, maybe that's not your thing. But this is kind of a big deal. Or it might not be. But regardless, it's interesting as hell.

extravaganza, the plan to turn the area next to the Erie Maritime Museum into a public area with park, skating rink, offices and apartments, stores, lighthouse, and... a floating entertainment barge.

(You might be able to tell, but I am charmed by the idea of a *floating entertainment barge*. A barge! That floats! And on which you're entertained! What could possibly go wrong with that?)

It's the Scott Enterprises plan, especially, that would benefit from the CRIZ program. We could take the tax money from the area businesses and use it to build the infrastructure that would give access to the Bayfront, that would draw people to the Bayfront, and that would make that Scott

Lloyd Smucker – is from Lancaster, one of the cities that won the CRIZ designation. (Which should hopefully prompt Erie's Sen. Sean Wiley to immediately start working on a bill establishing a state "GIMEE MUNY" development project plan.) So Lancaster's designation was probably in the works from the beginning.

And maybe Bethlehem got the second designation because, well, it hosted the *real* Christmas and everything, and the jolly ol' governor – full of good cheer and good will towards his fellow man – just wanted to get into the spirit of things.

Or maybe Bethlehem *deserved* it.

Okay, you can stop laughing. Let's be serious now.

Maybe Erie's CRIZ rejection had something to do with the hotel wars down on the Bayfront. Maybe Gov. Corbett – who, er, *graciously* gave one hotel project \$25 million, and not the hotel that would be helped the most by the CRIZ – maybe the Governor's taking sides among the forces marshaling on Erie's waterfront. Because, after all, there have been some questions about the need to use public money on a hotel, when a private company – Scott Enterprises – is more than willing to spend private capital on a similar project.

Because maybe, just *maybe*, if the CRIZ goes through and Scott Enterprises' plan gets cranking, and more private capital gets interested in the Bayfront, there won't be a need for a publicly-supported Convention Center hotel. There'll be no need for state grants and county bonds. And maybe, just *maybe*, some folks might just lose out on a sweetheart deal because of that. And maybe, just *maybe*, they're fishing pals or drinking buddies of the Governor.

But that would be reckless and irresponsible thinking. Right? I guess we'll see soon. Erie gets to bid on another CRIZ next year.

Jay Stevens can be contacted at Jay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ [Snevets_Yaj](https://twitter.com/Snevets_Yaj). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/3dsnx>



News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepherd

Higher Education

A veteran University of Colorado administrator is on forced leave after her sideline made news in December. Resa Cooper-Morning, 54, "cultural diversity coordinator" in the ethnic studies department at CU Denver, also ran a phone-sex business for which she took calls (\$1.49 a minute, "phone sex that will rock every part of your body," according to her website) during hours she worked for the university. Said her daughter-in-law: "I've been in her office, and she's said, 'Oh, let me be right back, I have a phone call.' She takes them very discreetly, shuts her door." A KCNC-TV investigation found that the phone-sex hours listed on the website had recently been cut back, from "7:30 a.m. until late at night" to "weekdays after 3 p.m." [KCNC-TV, 12-12-2013]

Government in Action

Florida's second-most populous county, Broward, announced in December it was removing the agricultural tax break for 127 properties because it appeared their "farming" work was a sham. Broward's property appraiser estimated the county had lost "hundreds of millions of dollars" over the years granting the bogus reductions — as landowners were blatantly housing just a few cows (in some cases, merely renting them) to graze and calling that "agricultural." The appraiser's office, after auditing only a few of the exemptions, found, for example, that land occupied by a government-contract prison was "agricultural" (with a rent-a-cow arrangement). [WPLG-TV (Miami), 12-17-2013]

The Ontario College of Trades ministry, finally implementing a long-ago reclassification of about 300,000 professionals, announced in November that barbers would immediately face fines if they had not acquired new licenses demonstrating proficiency with perms and highlighting and other aspects of women's hair-

It sounds a lot like they were looking for reasons to reject Erie. That is, people's minds were made up long before any paperwork was in.

So, "CRIZ" stands for "City Revitalization and Improvement Zones." Basically, a CRIZ allows a city to designate an area for redevelopment, and tax revenue from businesses in that zone can be funneled directly back to that zone for development. That is, that money wouldn't go to Harrisburg, it wouldn't go to prisons or as subsidies to Gov. Tom Corbett's oil and gas buddies. It could go directly back to that zone and help build – oh, I don't know – parks, sports stadiums, entertainment venues, streets, floating entertainment barges...

You see where I'm going with this. The idea was to designate the Bayfront as a CRIZ. After all, there's a frenzy of planning going on for the area. There's the GAF site, and the plan is to rework that empty lot next to the Bayfront Convention Center into... well, *something*. Maybe just a parking garage and sidewalk, or maybe something delicious and marvelous. There's a new hotel in the works next to the Convention Center itself, funded in part by a \$25-million state grant. And then there's the Scott Enterprises

Enterprises development the new entertainment and social focal point of the city.

Alas. Only two Pennsylvania cities each year in 2013 and 2014 can win a CRIZ designation. Eight applied. Bethlehem and Lancaster won.

So why did Erie lose out on the CRIZ? Here's where it gets fun. According to an *Erie Times-News* report, the city proposed using the Sewer Authority as the administrative agency over the CRIZ. The state claimed the Sewer Authority did not qualify for such a role. Why? The authority "did not amend its articles of incorporation to include administering the CRIZ programs," said a state spokesman in that same report.

Which is a lot like getting banned from driving because your birth certificate is in the wrong font.

In other words, it sounds a lot like they were looking for reasons to reject Erie. That is, people's minds were made up long before any paperwork was in.

Of course, it turns out the guy who wrote the CRIZ bill in the Pennsylvania Assembly – Sen.

It's back!

ERIE'S
40 under 40

Do you know someone under 40 who's shaping the future of Erie? Nominate them by sending an email to contact@ErieReader.com. Please include a brief description and contact information. All nominations must be received by February 28.

styling. Even barbers who had cut men's hair for decades and with no desire to accept female customers would probably need a costly study program for the upgrade, which one barber estimated at 2,000 hours and \$5,000 or more. Said one exasperated old-timer, "We're barbers, not neurosurgeons." [CBC News, 11-2-2013]

Suspicion Confirmed: A September report from the National Bureau of Economic Research revealed that almost 9 percent of all federal government spending occurred during the last week of the government's fiscal year, as agencies scrambled to buy things they previously had not needed but suddenly did — because the money would otherwise disappear. Further, the report found that contracts made during that perhaps-frenzied final week were from double to more than five times as likely to be poorly executed as contracts made earlier in the fiscal year. [Foreign Policy (December 2013) via Chicago Tribune, 12-18-2013; Social Science Research Network, 9-22-2013]

The Army Corps of Engineers said in December that it "continuously strives to implement lessons learned from its work in the extremely challenging Afghan environment" — apparently its primary response to an inspector general's report that it wasted \$5.4 million on trash incinerators for a forward operating base that were late, in disrepair, dysfunctional even if working properly, health hazards for troops, and ultimately abandoned on site, unused. The project was termed "a complete waste," but the corps pointed out that money was actually saved by not repairing expensive equipment that would not have worked anyway. [Fox News, 12-16-2013]

Great Art!

South Africa, still transitioning to freedom after apartheid, has been slow to embrace the "performance art" that is a staple of American and European popular culture, but artist Anthea Moys is creating her own space, according to a December Wall Street Journal dispatch from Johannesburg. Recently she played an exhibition soccer game — alone against an 11-player lineup. Her "team" quickly fell behind, but sympathetic spectators wandered onto the pitch to help her, and she managed to lose by only 12-0. Before that, she had entered a 60-mile bicycle race in Johannesburg and, dressed properly in helmet and Spandex, she mounted a stationary bike at the starting line and began pedaling furiously as the other cyclists took off. "I'm not very competitive," she said. "I'm interested in the joy of games and how people view them." [Wall Street Journal, 12-27-2013]

Australian performance artist Casey Jenkins admits that her signature engagement is "confining" and "slightly uncomfortable," but that "Casting Off My Womb" is nonetheless an important work. Jenkins spends 28-day cycles knitting cloth from wool that has been inserted into her vagina — symbolizing the creation of "life" emerging from the natural female cycle. The output, she said, records a female life in all its natural states. (Jenkins' work is perhaps borrowed from classic performance work by the artists Carolee Schneeman, in 1975's "Interior Scroll," and Yoko Ono, in 1965's "Cut Piece.") [The Independent (London), 12-17-2013]

The Way I See It

Bridgegate

By: Rebecca Styn

As a moderate Republican, I have long been a fan of Gov. Chris Christie. Given the number of right-wing conservatives that continue to make headlines on a day-to-day basis, Christie is one of the few politicians who have been able to stay popular in the headlines, taking a centrist ground on most issues while remaining steadily popular — for the most part — not only amongst his own party, but also amongst members of the Democratic caucus as well.

Recently, though, he is making headlines for a statewide scandal, flippantly termed: "bridgegate." For those of you that don't know exactly what happened, on Sept. 9, 2013 — the first day of school for millions of New Jersey children — the Port Authority shut down two of the three access lanes that connect Fort Lee, N.J. to the George Washington Bridge, claiming this was part of a "traffic study." As a result, hours-long commuter delays ensued.

It turns out that this "traffic study" probably didn't really exist and subpoenaed emails from Christie's staff and employees of the Port Authority would reveal what seemed to be political retribution against Fort Lee Democratic Mayor Mark Sokolich, who wouldn't endorse Christie's reelection bid.

Now, as much press as this "scandal" got, it barely touched the coverage of the Polar Vortex we were experiencing that week. Actually, as far as scandals go, it seems to be low on the totem pole of resulted penalties. According to a study last year by political scientist Scott Basinger, on average, corruption scandals (i.e., bribery or obstruction of justice) cost incumbents about 8 percentage points. Next, financial and sex scandals shave off 5 points. But political scandals (e.g., traffic jams on a bridge to punish a New Jersey political enemy)? They don't appear to matter at all.

Up until now Christie has been viewed as one of the GOP's best hopes for the 2016 presidential election. Some recent (albeit premature) Pew Polls have indicated that he's the only one who comes close in a hypothetical match-up with Hillary Clinton. And up until now, he's had a decent ride with the media. But the day the scandal unfolded, I watched a couple of different television news media outlets — and most of the left-leaning ones (the way I see it) pretty much make this out to be the next Watergate and just for good measure, the right-leaning ones somehow redirected this scandal to Obama every time it came up (read: this is actually true).

So, it seems that right now, this scandal is



Wikipedia

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and The Godfather's Luca Brasi — twins?

having little impact on the average voter even if the media is driving it into the ground. Christie insists he's "not a bully," and not only had no part of this, but that he had no knowledge of it either. However, time will tell if it means anything to the voter. I mean, the man literally looks exactly like *The Godfather's* Luca Brasi

(Google it), and he's also from New Jersey, folks — which is known as the attitude capital of the world. At least according to their residents.

So, really, when it comes down to it, none of this surprises me. However, if criminal or civil charges are brought against him, it would be hard to see how he recovers.

The way I see it, at least at this point, we've seen far worse scandals than this, and while nobody should strong arm anyone for anything (especially political endorsements), this situation doesn't take Christie out of the running for me. If I'm looking for somebody in my party that can bring together Democrats and Republicans without shifting extremely left or right, he is still our best bet. And we definitely need someone moderate enough to bring our government back to center.

However, time will tell, and as more of the story unfolds, the weight I give Christie (yes, heavy pun intended) can change. Nonetheless, if you really want to keep up with this story the right way, your best viewing options are Steven Colbert, Jon Stewart, and Jimmy Fallon. And if Chris Christie needs to avoid anyone right now, he should probably steer clear of Bruce Springsteen.

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 visit <http://eridr.com/lxcz>



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Outside Voices:

By: Matthew Flowers

Do you still support the Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation?

Erie is home to The Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization. Its goal is to spread awareness of an alternative form of treatment for cancer patients through the use of radio frequencies and physics. John Kanzius, the foundation's CEO, spent his early years in broadcast engineering, management, and ownership, and later in retirement devoted his life to advancing research on his patent for Therm Med until his early demise on Feb. 18, 2009 brought on by a rare form of B-cell leukemia. However, Kanzius still lives on through his innovations, his efforts, his family, and those who continue his research.

Steven A. Curly, M.D. and Dr. David A. Gellar, M.D. are at the forefront of this research, leading Therm Med towards fruition. Despite Dr. Curley's efforts for Kanzius, he hasn't been making as many head-

lines for research as his new found legal battles over the "unlawful interception of electronic communication" the *Houston Chronicle* spelled out. The researcher had been tracking his ex-wife through an installed computer program that allowed him to view and intercept her conversations. Though Curley is faced with felony for these allegations, his commitment to the Kanzius project hasn't diminished.

But the litigation shouldn't distract us from the bigger news. John Kanzius's cancer treatment device patent for Therm Med, is changing hands. AkesoGenX, a Colorado-based company, founded just last January, created by Curley and nanotechnology expert Robert Zavala, purchased the technology Tuesday, Jan. 14 for an undisclosed amount. Despite The Kanzius Foundation's Executive Director Mark Neidig's reassurance that the nonprofit's goal to raise money for the Therm Med research won't ever change, there is an innate worry when something Erie-born leaves the safety of our city and plants new roots in unknown soil.

Therm Med could flourish under AkesoGenX and become the leading treatment for cancer, making Kanzius's research and fundraising worthwhile; or under this new ownership, the invention could get lost in the jungle of red tape from the FDA, while a felonious researcher peters out after a slew of court cases.

Now it's time for the public to decide if you still support this Erie-based foundation after sorting through all the headlines. In this Outside Voices we ask you, "Do you still support the Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation after leading research Dr. Curley was charged with a felony and Therm Med's patent was sold to a super-green Colorado based company?"



Joe Cavaretta: I still support it, because even though people have personal issues, the fight against cancer rises above personal and hometown pride and is ultimately aimed at the greater good.



Tyler Lobdell: I support the Kanzius effort 100 percent, but what I'm afraid of is this new Colorado-based company taking Kanzius research out of Erie and not doing human testing, and rather than taking it before the FDA, selling it to the FDA, and the FDA is going to put it away like every other cancer research that's come before... Giving it to a Colorado company, it's going to go one of two ways: The research is either going to flourish because Colorado has been granted a lot of liberal rights... or the government is going to get a hold of it and hide it away.



Jill Letkiewicz: I still support it because my grandmother had cancer herself, so she went there for her treatments, and they did a pretty damn good job. So I support Kanzius whether the main researcher has a felony or not because it has nothing to do with the research itself. It is two different subjects.

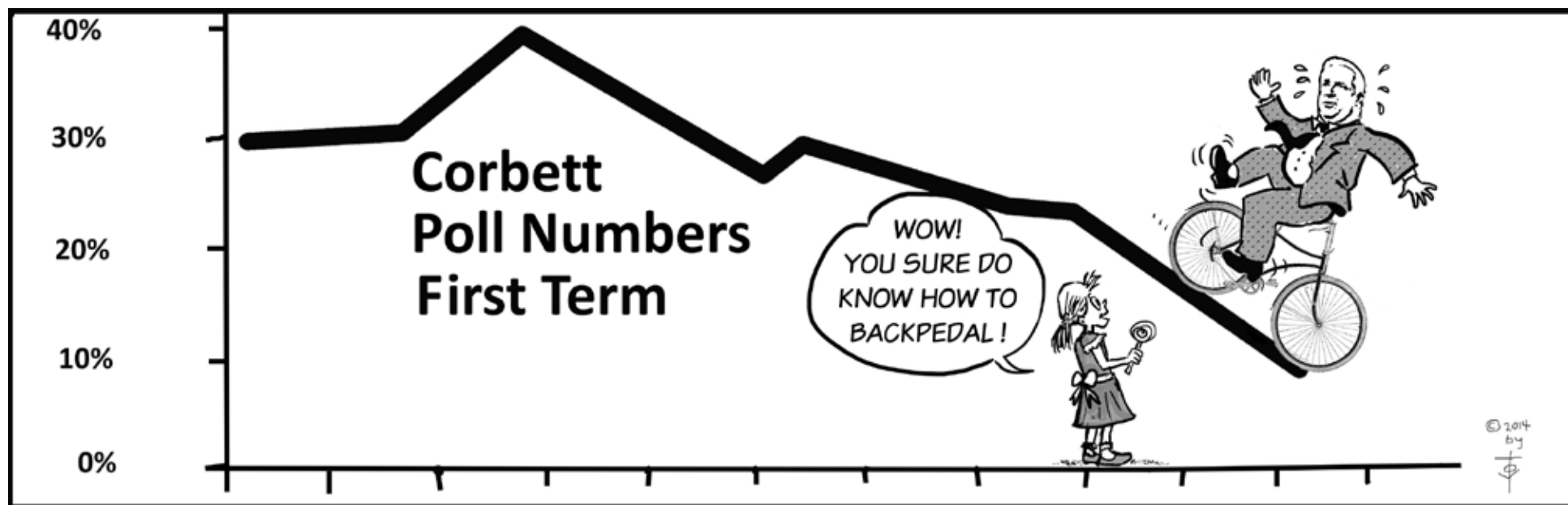


Britney Bower: Yeah, I would still support it, because if [Curly, M.D.] is a good researcher, then he should still be able to do the research regardless of his personal endeavors.

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



JUST TOYIN' WITCHA By: B. Toy





Contributed Photo

An Evening with Downton Abbey

Erie County Historical Society hosts a Cocktail and Trivia Party at the Watson-Curtze Mansion

By: Ben Speggen

If only for a brief moment, stories take us by the hand, offer us a moment of jailbreak from the routine of our lives as we escape into worlds unknown. They transport us, take us away from the familiar and plunge us into the strange, the alien, the other – all without drowning us in the fear of the foreign. And the greater the quality of the story – from the writing, to the characters and their development, to the execution of plot – the more likely we are to continue plunging back into the waves of fiction that carry us from the shore of reality.

“When you buy that lottery ticket – for, say, the PowerBall – you know that you’re not likely going to win that \$200 million,” says Tom New, the president and CEO of WQLN Public Media. “But you’re going to daydream about that. *Downton Abbey* offers viewers that same escape, that same chance to daydream.”

The British period drama currently airing Sunday nights on PBS is – and it’s no secret – a smash hit, appealing to everyone from the twenty-somethings to the eighty-somethings. And from *Golden Globes* to *Emmys* to *Guinness World Records*, the show that follows the lives of those residing at the Crawley family’s manor has achieved cult status, enrapturing and transporting millions of cross-generational viewers to post-Edwardian Yorkshire with its “outstand-

“The writing is excellent – just absolutely superb – and perhaps that’s where all the best TV shows come from: the attention to production, writing, and acting.”

ing production values,” as New puts it. “They’re excellent – movie theater production quality,” he explains of the show’s success. “The writing is excellent – just absolutely superb – and perhaps that’s where all the best TV shows come from: the attention to production, writing, and acting.”

New’s right: the serial drama is living big right now, as actors, writers, and directors alike are channeling their energy to find the next *Mad Men*, or *Breaking Bad*, or *Downton Abbey*.

And that buzz and current – the craving for good, quality storytelling to satiate our hunger and thirst for that escapability – is so strong that it’s pulsing beyond the glowing rectangles and flowing into the channels of real life. “People have been suggesting that we do something related to the show for the past year,” says Caleb Pifer, executive director of the Erie County Historical Society. “So we actually tried a white-tie dinner at the mansion last year – and it sold out in a week.”

While Pifer and the Society are offering the white-tie event again this year – Sunday, Feb. 23 (read: as of publication deadline only four spaces remain for the event) – they’re offering even more: A *Downton Abbey*-themed Cocktails & Trivia night at the historic Watson-Curtze Man-

sion from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31. From dressing up in period attire, to toasting champagne, to the trivia competition based on recent episodes of the series, attendees will have the chance to revel in all things *Downton Abbey*. “A lot of people follow the show and the characters so closely,” says Pifer. “So we thought that this would be a lot of fun and an unique event in Erie.”

And if you win the trivia competition? You and your teammates will receive a private reception at the Mansion courtesy of the Society, valued at \$500.

But if trivia isn’t your thing and you’d rather just enjoy the light hors d’oeuvres and the screenings of different parts of the show in the background, you’re welcome to do that. And you’re invited to explore all three floors of the Mansion to, as Pifer suggests, “simply enjoy the beauty of the Mansion.”

“The show itself has unbelievable characters and excellent writing and storyline,” adds Pifer, who says friends got him hooked on the show and now he hates to miss an episode. “As a society, we’re still fascinated by the class structure that existed in the Gilded Age... Pull away the variables, and you’re left with the idea that it’s a story about the class structure.”

“I think that when we watch the program,” New ponders, who came to the show late, but is now a fan, “we would like to be treated like the people in the Highclere Castle. But probably more than that, it’d be awesome to go down to breakfast and there’d be a meal there.”

And for at least one night, Erie residents can wine, dine, and live the high life of the Crawleys – all in the beautiful backdrop of the Watson-Curtze Mansion, as any of us can let the story of *Downton Abbey* envelop us and transport us to the Yorkshire realm without ever having to set foot outside the Gem City.

Tickets for Cocktails & Trivia at the Mansion are \$25, and reservations are required. Each ticket includes three complimentary glasses of champagne. For more information regarding the Erie County Historical Society’s event, please visit ErieCountyHistory.com, or call 454.1813.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at bSpeggen@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ER-BenSpeggen. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/dzhg6>



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Contributed Photo

From debating Ken Ham to his appearance on *Dancing with the Stars* to his work with the Mars Rover, Bill Nye has plenty of stories to share with Erie Wednesday, Jan. 29.

do it anymore. A dear friend of mine from high school lives in Cleveland, so I go to Cleveland often enough.

AB: Alright, I'm originally from Cleveland.

BN: He's lives in Shaker Heights, so you can imagine.

AB: I'm from the west side, but I know exactly where that is. Got some good delis out there.

BN: That's not the only reason he lives there, but it's certainly a factor.

AB: I was reading up on the event announcement for your upcoming show, and it says that you'll be talking about you career and some other topics. What kind of show would you say it will be like?

BN: Well, the word "show" is fine, but let's call it a talk or a lecture or an insightful hour-and-a-half that will change the course of human history. No wait... it's me talking about how the students of Penn State are going to, dare I say it, change the world. I mean, how hard could it be?

AB: Are you going to be going over your own career and tell them what they can do?

BN: No, I'm not going to talk much about my own career. I anticipate talking a little bit about Mars. I was briefly involved... well, I'm still involved... in the Mars team. I do a little bit of work with NASA that way.

AB: You were involved with the MarsDial, right?

BN: Yeah, the MarsDial was my thing. There are three of them up there now. Although the Spirit Rover is not operating, I'll bet you the sundial is still casting a shadow.

AB: So what are you going to be telling students to inspire them?

BN: I will point out that technology is advancing at an extraordinary rate. Climate change is a very serious, a very serious concern and this is going to be the generation to have to deal with it, so I want you guys to get out there and change the world.

AB: Given that there are people that doubt global warming and see science as an opinion, what do think of the status of science in America right now?

BN: It's extraordinary and very bad. In other words, there are some parts of our society that are doing extraordinary things like operating cars on another planet. There is no other space agency or administration in the world that can do that. But at the same time, I'm going to be debating a guy in Kentucky who apparently, as far as I can tell, really believes that the Earth is 6,000 years old. He's not kidding.

AB: Is that Ken Ham (President of Answers in Creationism and the Creation Museum)?

BN: Yeah, Ken Ham.

AB: That debate is actually happening less than a week after the Behrend talk.

BN: It's the 4th of February, yeah.

AB: I remember reading that there was a group [the Richard Dawkins Foundation] that was saying that you shouldn't even be debating him.

BN: Oh yeah, a lot people have said that.

AB: So why do you feel the need to debate him?

BN: Well, I was very critical of creationism in a thing that was posted by an organization called Big Think. Mr. Ham was very concerned about it, so he approached my office and wrote several letters, and I eventually said okay. Full disclosure: Ken Ham is *paying* me to come debate him.

AB: Really?

BN: Oh yeah. Furthermore, I plan to donate that money to causes that are pro-science. He knew this and this is his thing. It works both ways; he gets to raise a great deal of awareness for his position and the apparent beliefs about creationism. I look forward to the day when his views are completely discredited and no schoolchildren are subjected to them, except subjected to them only in historical context, but that could be a long way off. It's mano y mano, it's guy vs. guy here. So I'm calling it, and people love this, the Ken Ham Creation Model, the KHCM. The question I'm debating, and I emphasize this to people, is: is such a model viable in science or in human thought? Is it useful? Does it make predictions? Is it a reasonable accounting of the past? To me, no, no, no. But this makes his world go round.

AB: On a bit of a less serious note, I saw that before you were on PBS, you did a couple of shows up in Seattle and that you were known as the Speedwalker.

BN: Oh yeah, yeah. Speedwalker was a lot like me, I admit.

AB: Did you ever think that if the whole Science Guy thing didn't work out, that you could have been the Speedwalker instead.

BN: Well, Speedwalker... first of all, I'd like to emphasize to anybody not familiar with it, is that he's a fictional character. Also, he would be then, if someone would pursue that professionally, one would become a professional athlete, and your speed walking days, at least a t a competitive level, would be numbered. That aside, I think the more valuable assessment of Speedwalker was it was a comedy bit, one of the several of my repertoire as a performer [laughs].

AB: Yeah, you used to do stand-up comedy for a while, didn't you?

BN: Oh yeah. I dabbled. I middled for a little while. I don't know how much you know about stand-up comedy, but there's an emcee, a middle

The Evolution of Bill Nye

An Interview with "The Science Guy"

By: Alex Bieler

School can be a confusing time for many adolescents. While teachers spout out specific terminology, lessons, and why you must pay attention in class if you have any hopes of a bright future, some kids are thinking about everything outside of the classroom. They think about how nice it is outside, how the other gender has cooties, and, when they get a little older, the other gender and the sudden absence of said cooties.

It takes a special teacher to help guide a student and get them to learn, but what does that person look like? For some, it could be that cool English professor or that stern, yet kind principal. For many people that grew up in the '90s, however, they think of a thin man in a bow tie and blue lab coat.

You see, Bill Nye showed kids that science was, in fact, cool. The man lovingly known as "The Science Guy" taught a whole generation of pre-teens, teens, their parents, and other adults about a variety of topics on his multi-Emmy-winning program *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, with lessons ranging from flight in the first episode to motion in the last. It's been over 15 years since the final installment of *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, but that doesn't mean that his fans have stopped learning from him. Since the show ended in 1998, Nye has worked with

the Mars Exploration Rover, held the position of vice president of The Planetary Society, written several books, hosted the award-winning show *100 Greatest Discoveries* on The Science Channel, and has become a vocal opponent to creationism.

Still, there's more to Nye than just science, guys. Fans of ABC's popular *Dancing with the Stars* saw the former Boeing engineer's moves for three episodes before he was eliminated. Nye also used to perform stand-up comedy before he became a sensation on PBS. Now, he's continuing to per-

form, as he'll be in Erie to speak about the importance the current generation of students have on the future at the Junker Center at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29. I got a chance to chat with The Science Guy himself about the talk, his beef with creationism, and how an injury derailed his chance to be a dancing star.

Alex Bieler: Have you ever been to Erie before?

Bill Nye: Yeah, I was there many years ago. You guys used to have a city walk on New Year's Eve, but you don't

act, and a headliner. I was a middle act for a while, rightfully. I never headlined, I never made it to the bigs.

AB: It ended up working out okay. You had that little show on PBS for five years.

BN: That was a little more my thing, that little show.

AB: I was thinking about how it's been over 14 years since *Bill Nye the Science Guy* ended and people are still obsessed with it.

BN: I love those people. It's still shown in schools a great deal. When I go to the science teacher convention, the NSTA, the National Science Teachers Association, I'm this extraordinary individual, a little rock star-ish.

AB: How does it feel that these children that watched the show back then are now growing up to be some of the decision makers in society?

BN: I think it's fantastic. It's a life's dream. As I say all of the time, I think we need another decade, because people come up to me all of the time – and it's extraordinary, Alex, absolutely extraordinary – people come up to me and say, “the reason I became a physician” or “the reason I'm a chemical engineer is because I used to watch your show,” and that's very gratifying. But I'm still interested to see if somebody with this predisposition for science or this same love for science that I have comes up with a cure for cancer or comes up with a battery that changes the world and reduces carbon emissions and saves an enormous number of humans from miserable lives in climate change because he or she developed this new way to store electricity. Not to put any pressure on my fans, but... It's really something else, man. It's people of all ages. I live in Los Angeles and there are a lot of real

celebrities around, but people are sure nice to me. I'm a kids' show host and people have their picture taken with me all of the time. It's a real surprising thing.

AB: A couple of people in the past week have asked me what I was working on and every time I mentioned that I might be interviewing you, people's faces would just light up after hearing it. One person even said to me that you can't just say “Bill Nye,” you have to say “Bill Bye The Science Guy.”

BN: It's all one word, yeah.

AB: Do you ever get tired of “The Science Guy” title, or is it just an honor?

BN: It's great. You don't even have to hyphenate it anymore, it's all one word. It's a good problem to have.

AB: Do you know about the British actor Bill Nighy?

BN: Oh yeah. People think I'll have a new movie out and that I'm extraordinarily wealthy. It's great. He was in a couple of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies. Davy Jones. No, that hasn't been a big problem. It's charming that people think I have a new movie out. The other thing that's changed is that people think I'm dead because of *The Onion* article that was published several years ago.

AB: There were a couple of them. I think there was one called “Crack Nearly Killed Me.”

BN: Yeah, but there's no story. It's on page 40-something, but there's no such page. It's interesting to see that people even now have limited critical thinking skills even when it's in a satirical publication. But it's nice. I wrote *The Onion* to thank them for killing me.

AB: That's probably a letter you never expect to write.

BN: It's unusual, yeah.

AB: My girlfriend is a fan of *Dancing*

with the Stars, so she would be mad at me if I didn't ask about that.

BN: It was the coolest thing. It was just cool.

AB: Did they ask you to be on the show or did you contact them?

BN: Eventually they did, but my claim or belief is that I had asked my agents to ask them for quite awhile. It got to the point where I often wondered if my agent, my publicist was just telling me “oh yeah, I called them, I did that.” I thought they were so sick of me asking about it, but eventually they did contact me last July or so. Maybe it was August.

AB: You're a big swing dancer, from what I've read.

BN: Yeah, I go swing dancing quite a bit. It turns out, you know that expression “your strength is your weakness, your asset is your liability.” I didn't get to the point where it was especially useful. The injury [a torn quadriceps tendon suffered in the second episode] was really [bad]... In fact, the reason I spaced on calling you was I was just working out and my trainer had asked me to do another 10 minutes on the bike. I did, because he's very diligent about this. I'm doing big leg-strengthening exercises to get my left leg back and he noticed that I was getting stronger, so I did more and I forgot to call you, and I apologize.

AB: That's fine, it's understandable.

BN: So my leg is coming back. It's only been in the last week that, three-and-a-half months into this [injury], that I could run at all, let alone at any reasonable speed. It was a really serious injury.

AB: I know that you danced to “Get Lucky” by Daft Punk on the show. Did you pick that song or did producers pick it?

BN: They picked it. I love that song,

frankly.

AB: I was wondering if you were a big fan of theirs.

BN: I like it; yeah I really like that song. They picked it and there was a lot of encouragement, let's not take it all of the way to pressure, to do that sort of shtick, that science shtick, and I was anticipating letting the producers, if I may, get it out of their system, so that I could really compete and really try to be a better dancer than the other people, but I had injured myself so seriously that I couldn't do it. Have you ever got a knitting needle red hot and stuck it in your thigh?

AB: No, can't say that I have.

BN: I've never done that either, but I have a sense of what that would be like.

AB: Well, that sounds unpleasant. I was wondering about the music because on *Bill Nye the Science Guy* you would always do the music parodies, so I wasn't sure if you were just a buff or anything like that.

BN: Well, full disclosure, I listen to “20 on 20” on Sirius Radio, that's where I listen to contemporary music. I still listen to, we have a really popular radio station out here, AMP Radio, which you can listen to online, but I mostly listen to satellite radio now. Full disclosure, one of the guys on the board of The Planetary Society was one of the inventors of XM Radio.

AB: I remember when that came out. My dad had a subscription and we would drive around and listen to it.

BN: Oh yeah. Any modern car nowadays has it on board. So I'm speaking to you from the cabin, the cockpit of my Nissan LEAF all-electric vehicle.

AB: Oh really? You're coming over the phone nicely.

BN: Yeah, you see how quiet it is? If you have an electric car, you don't

want to go back.

AB: I never would have guessed that you were in the car.

BN: That's very nice. So many people say that. The car is well enough insulated acoustically, but it's so much quieter to start with. It's an electric motor running through just a couple of gears. It's not a big transmission. You don't have explosions going off right in front of you.

AB: Do you have anything you'd like to tell the people of Erie before your talk?

BN: I'm looking forward to it. I'm very much looking forward to seeing the Penn State crowd. Penn State overall should be very proud because Michael Mann's editorial about climate change was published in *The New York Times*.

AB: Excellent. Thank you very much, good sir.

BN: Thank you.

AB: I'll see you when you come to Erie.

BN: I'll see you in, what is it, just about two weeks?

AB: Let's see, that about nine days I think.

BN: Nine days, not even! My goodness, I gotta prepare, look out — I'm going to pull over. It's been really fun. I'm looking forward to it

AB: Thanks, you have a good day.

BN: Carry on, thank you.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q, where he posts things about music and the occasional fluffy, adorable animal. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erivd.com/p2xoi>



Events at Penn State Behrend

Speaker Series

BILL NYE

“The Science Guy”
Wednesday, January 29
7:30 p.m.
Junker Center

LAURA LING

Award-Winning Journalist
Wednesday, April 2
7:30 p.m.
Reed Union Building

Music at Noon: The Logan Series

DUOJALAL

World Percussion/Classical Viola Collaboration
Monday, January 27

JOEL HARRISON SEPTET

Chamber-Jazz
Wednesday, February 26

THIRD COAST PERCUSSION

Classical-Rock Fusion
Wednesday, March 26
Noon
Reed Union Building

Creative Writers Reading Series

LAURA VAN DEN BERG

Fiction
Thursday, March 27

DAVID SHUMATE

Poetry
Thursday, April 3

BRIAN DOYLE

Literary Nonfiction
Thursday, April 24
6:00 p.m.
Larry and Kathryn Smith Chapel

Open House Night in Astronomy

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Burke Center

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The dancers of Compagnie Kafig require 1,500 plastic cups for part of their urban and hip-hop-based performance that they'll bring to Erie Wednesday, Jan. 29.

you know if this group is performing for these two festivals, then they're doing something right," she adds.

Now the group is coming to Erie for the first time in between performances in Fayetteville, Ariz. and Pittsburgh, bringing the eleven members of the company – all in their teens and early twenties – who hail from Rio de Janeiro and have generally trained themselves, without all formal study, exploring their own individual art. Without being boxed into musical stereotypes, the group has managed to create a their own inimitable style that has not denied its origins of Latin dance but has found a way to win over audiences whose own background is as diverse – having performed for those from the South Bronx to Los Angeles and internationally – like the dancers themselves.

Diego Alves Dos Santos – a dancer currently with the company, and who explains that his English is “a little rough” – took the time during his travels to convey the energy and passion he had for his art, and explain how he first even got involved in dance.

“I was nine years old. Our school in Brazil had a dance center, and it interested me,” he says. “I asked my parents if I could get involved, and at first, my family didn't like it – my father specifically felt that dance was meant for women. But I insisted.”

I quickly learned part of his drive was to prove that dance should break down those barriers and that he wanted to assure others that men should be able to make a career out of it as well.

“Part of my desire was to prove others wrong who felt that women should only be involved,” he explains. “But I also loved it. I learned a variety of dance forms – from hip-hop to Latin to break-dancing.” Diego ultimately received training in urban dance at the school of Marcia Lacombe and earned a diploma from the UniverCidade in Rio de Janeiro.

Diego had been performing with a different company and working with several renowned dancers when he was introduced to Merzouki.

“In 2006, I went to France to perform, and I met him while on tour,” he says. “He liked our performance so much, he proposed to do one with us.” And so it began. Diego started to work with Merzouki in 2008 touring throughout Asia, Europe, the United States, and Japan.

“Before the tour, we would practice six to eight hours a day – and that was as a group. I would also spend two to three hours myself working on my own skills. Now, as we are currently on tour, we spend about three to four hours practicing a day.”

And he embraces the performance life.

“I love to travel. I only get back to Brazil every once in a while, but the world is so exciting,” he adds. “When I was young, I was able to see everything online and in books, but it's not the same. Today, I get the opportunity to meet famous directors and choreographers and explore other cities and countries. I love it.”

As for whether Diego hopes to continue performing over the years? “This is my career – I hope to dance until the last days of my life.”

Diego has been part of the group since its inception and helped to create the current performance that will be brought to the stage in Erie – a collective work titled “Corryeria Agwa.”

“Corryeria Agwa” are two words that set the tone of the division of the performance into two distinct parts. “Corryeria” means [Cont. on 21]

Compagnie Kafig

World-renowned Urban Dance Company Comes to MIAC

By: Rebecca Styn

Sensational acrobatics – upside-down spins, one-armed balance acts, and head pirouettes (yes, you read that right) – are what awaits the event-goer who dares to explore unconventional art and experience a majestic hybrid of street performance cavorting with formal dance – found in the internationally acclaimed dance troupe Compagnie Kafig.

The Compagnie Kafig company was first organized in 1996, and since then, it has taken the world by storm. Founded by French Choreographer Mourad Merzouki, this world dance fusion collective has toured extensively – throughout Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia.

Merzouki himself has a rags-to-riches tale to his life and career. He and seven siblings grew up in a working-class suburb of the southern city of Lyon, France. At the age of seven, he was practicing martial and circus arts, but it wasn't until eight years later that he discovered hip-hop for the first time – and through this, he discovered dance.

Deciding to develop this form of street art by way of hip-hop while exploring other choreographical styles, the young Merzouki went on to create relationships with other dancers, starting with his first company, Accrorap. But it wasn't until he decided that he needed to develop his own personal artistic style that Compagnie Kafig came to be – and through this, he developed a group of contemporary hip-hop-based dancers who have been described as having “animal energy,” “street-savvy instincts,” and “theatrical intelligence.”

But what's in a name anyway? Especially a name as distinct as *Compagnie Kafig*.

The word ‘kafig’ refers to a cage, and Merzouki used the word as the title of the first piece he made in 1996 – and in this case, ‘kafig’ equals liberation, as he wanted his art to flatten any barriers between spectator and performer. Thus, the “Company of Liberation” – or, “Compagnie

Kafig” – was born.

“Jamie [Grady, Director of the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture] saw them at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival,” explains Christine Olivier, assistant to the director at MIAC. “And he was overly impressed with the fusion of styles the group brought – combining modern movement, set to classical and world music.”

Jacob's Pillow is a dance center, school, and performance space located in Becket, Mass., in the Berkshires, and is known to be the oldest internationally acclaimed summer dance festival in the United States.

“We were really lucky to get them. They also performed at the Spoleto Festival [a festival held for 17 days and nights in Charleston, S.C.] – and

If We Were You...

THURSDAY 1.23

Space Junk

Don't get stuck doing nothing when you could get stuck in a trance. Buffalo trance rockers Space Junk are swinging by the crooked i to get the State Street crowd dancing with their house-influenced EDM stylings, combining heavy guitar solos and improvised beats for an electric affair.

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

Where: 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

The Butler at Penn State Behrend

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Lion Entertainment Board presents *The Butler*, featuring Forest Whitaker, Robin Williams, John Cusack, James Marsden, Oprah Winfrey and Cuba Gooding Jr. The film recounts the astonishing story of Eugene Allen (played by Whitaker), the White House butler who served eight administrations in the course of his three-decade-long service and witnessed first-hand accounts of life-altering decisions in the civil rights movement. Stop at the Reed Auditorium and enjoy this historic film free of charge.

When: 9 p.m.

Where: 4701 College Dr.

Contact: 814.898.7101

FRIDAY 1.24

Frank Singer w/ Jeff Gibbens

Frank Singer is back at Anchor In for Friday Night Jazz, and this time the Berklee-trained guitarist is bringing along talented Jeff Gibbens to play along with him. For over 30 years, Gibbens has been wowing people with his powerful playing style, sharing the stage with the likes of The Temptations and Huey Lewis and the News. Now you can check both Singer and Gibbens together for one night of killer music.

When: 6 to 9 p.m.

Where: 3122 West Lake Road

Contact: 833.1212

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When: 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.

Where: Urraro Gallery, 135 W. 14th St.

Contact: www.erieartcompany.com

SATURDAY 1.25

Dr. Nasty Comes to Erie - Variety Show

Pittsburgh rockers Dr Nasty & the Mountain Men are coming to PACA, but they won't be the only ones coming to entertain you. Everything from bluegrass to metal will be represented during this particular variety show, with 12 acts set



Contributed Photo

to play on the night. Who knew Dr. Nasty and company could be so nice?

When: 5:30 p.m.

Where: 1505 State St.

Contact: pacai505.com

Erie Philharmonic presents Mozart and Mahler The Erie Philharmonic Symphonic Concert presents beautiful renderings of pieces by Austrian composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Gustav Mahler. Captivating pianist Gabriela Montero, who played alongside Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, will play a unique rendition of Mozart's E-flat Major piano Concerto with the orchestra. Don't miss this chance to see Erie Philharmonic at its best! Buy tickets ASAP.

When: 8 p.m.

Where: 811 State St.

Contact: www.eriephil.org

SUNDAY 1.26

Langer Film Series presents A Hijacking

It's increasingly difficult to find a good thriller movie that actually, well, thrills. Thankfully we have the Langer Film Series to provide us with a movie to alleviate our cravings for adventure—and that movie is called *A Hijacking*. Written and directed by Tobias Lindholm, the film relates the hijacking of a Danish cargo ship by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean. Rife with drama, crises and life-or-death situations, *A Hijacking* is

Bill Nye The Science comes to Erie Wednesday, Jan. 29. See page 9 for the Erie Reader interview.

sure to keep you on your toes. Tickets are just \$6 at the Taylor Little Theatre.

When: 2 p.m.

Where: 501 East 38th St.

Contact: miac.mercyhurst.edu

TUESDAY 1.28

Evening Campfire

Okay, it's winter. And it's cold. But that makes sense, because this is Erie, and you know that, right? So why not get out and enjoy wintertime activities, like a campfire on the Isle? Meet at the Rotary Pavilion and then head to the Presque Isle Lighthouse to hear stories about its construction, history, and mystery. Hot beverages will be provided, but it's recommended that you bring a blanket. Registration is required, so be sure to sign up early to get a spot.

When: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Presque Isle Lighthouse

Contact: TRECPI.org

THURSDAY 1.30

Imperial Brown

You don't have to feel like a peon and stay in this Thursday when you can celebrate like a king

with Imperial Brown. The Buffalo-based funk-rockers are coming to the crooked i as a quintet after the addition of pianist Kurt Ebsary this year, and now they can provide you 25 percent more jam for your pre-weekend party needs.

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

Where: 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

Edinboro Film Series presents Mean Girls

Edinboro University's Film Series will kick off its spring 2014 season with *Mean Girls*, the story of 16-year-old Cady, a daughter of zoologist parents. Previously homeschooled and newly returned from Africa, Cady gets thrown to the wolves when she attends public school for the first time and is woefully unaware that a clique of teenage girls is far more dangerous than anything she had encountered in Africa.

When: 8:30 p.m.

Where: 219 Meadville St., Edinboro

Contact: 732.1048

FRIDAY 1.31

Downton Abbey Cocktails & Trivia

If you aren't aware, *Downton Abbey* is kind of a big deal. Like, record-breaking serial drama big deal. Want to check it all out, but can't afford the flight to England? Thankfully for you, the Erie County Historical Society is hosting a *Downton Abbey*-themed evening at the Watson-Curtze mansion, complete with champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and trivia. For more information, check out Ben Spегgen's writeup on page 7.

When: 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Where: 356 W. Sixth St.

Contact: 454.1813

SATURDAY 2.01

Eclipse Teen Night: Hear(t) Beats Edition

Life can be confusing during those developmental teen years, but PACA can help make the decision of what to do this Saturday night pretty easy with Eclipse Teen Night. PACA has DJ Proto, C. Brown, LA'Raine, and Random Union ready to jam for all the 15- to 19-year-olds out in Erie, a simple choice for the younger generation.

When: 8 p.m. to midnight

Where: 1505 State St.

Contact: pacai505.com

Failed to Study

Now, you may not actually have homework due, but when a band called Failed to Study, then Saturday night just isn't meant for hitting the books. The Ontario, Calif. rockers will make the trek east to Basement Transmissions for the second stop of their latest tour with metal group Absence of Despair. You can leave schoolwork for Sunday, because this Saturday is meant for Study.

When: 6 p.m.

Where: 1501 State St.

Contact: basementtrans@gmail.com



Contributed Photo

An Evening on the Titanic

On the evening of April 14, 1912 passengers on the Titanic dined on a sumptuous repast that for some was their last meal. Guests will enjoy a dinner through history where the meal served will be samples of the food that was served that night and will represent each of the classes. Each guest will select a passenger that traveled on the ship to learn about. Reservations are required.

When: 5:30 p.m.
Where: Woman's Club of Erie, 259 W Sixth St
Contact: 452.3844

Annual "Burns Supper"

Combat the winter blahs by enjoying an evening of Scottish food, music and dancing, The Robert Burns Scottish Club of Erie will host a colorful evening of delicious food (with a taste of Haggis), toasts, bagpipes, Scottish Country Dancing for all to participate in, and much more. Reservations are required.

When: 6 p.m.
Where: Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St.
Contact: 868.3534

SUNDAY 2.02

Classic Film Series presents Casablanca

Since its premiere in 1942, coinciding with the Allied invasion of North Africa and the capture of Casablanca, this film has become a significant staple in American film and quickly rocketed to the top of American film classics. Starring Hum-

Between stops in Arizona and Pittsburgh, Compagnie Kafig takes to the stage at MIAC Wednesday, Jan. 29. See page 11 for the full story.

phrey Bogart as a man torn between his love for the beautiful Ilsa Lund (played by Ingrid Bergman) and his sense of honor during wartime, Casablanca is like fine wine, only improving with age. Tickets are just \$1.

When: 2 p.m.
Where: 501 East 38th St.
Contact: miac.mercyhurst.edu

MONDAY 2.03

The JES Talks Pope Francis

You've heard the stories, you've seen the pictures. We all know it by now, this pope's got swag. Come on up to the Jefferson Educational Society tonight for Msgr. Henry Kriegel's lecture entitled "Pope Francis: Taking the World by Storm." He's the 266th pope, but we're pretty sure he's the first to be simultaneously named both *Time's* "Person of the Year" and *Esquire's* "Best Dressed Man of the Year." How has he been able to gain the love and adoration of not just Christians of all levels, but the world media as well? And will he be able to keep it up? What drives this man? Msgr. Kriegel is the man to give you the answers. Enjoy, and God bless.

When: 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.
Contact: jeserie.org

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JAN 30 // THURSDAY @ 10:00



GELATIN SKELETON

JAN 31 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



ADAM'S ALE

FEB 1 // SATURDAY @ 10:00

* FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION.



To-do List

By: Alex Bieler



Contributed Photo

Judah Friedlander

While we're still two years shy of the next presidential election, plenty of people are already looking ahead for potential candidates. Names like Clinton and Christie have been bandied about for consideration, but perhaps the answer lies elsewhere. This country needs a proven winner, so maybe it's time for The World Champion to take over.

The Champ, better known as Judah Friedlander, will be coming to Erie for four shows over the course of two nights, with performances at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1 at JR's Last Laugh Comedy Club. With ideas like moving Hawaii to Lake Michigan, he's certainly got some interesting plans, but his main goal on his platform is to make people laugh, which the veteran stand-up comedian does quite well.

"I try to make fun of our entire messed up political system," Friedlander says over the phone. "I think that's one area where Democrats and Republicans can agree – that nobody likes what's going on in government. I don't think anybody likes how our country is being run, no matter who is running it. We're still awesome,

The World Champ is coming to Erie. And he's bringing his groundbreaking ideas, like solar panels on the sun, with him Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1.

but things could be better."

Whether he's suggesting to end racism with karate or installing solar panels on the sun, Friedlander's got big ideas as the self-appointed World Champion, although he's had plenty of other roles. Friedlander has acted in numerous films, including an excellent job as Toby Radloff in *American Splendor*, but TV fans will recognize him as the trucker hat-wearing Frank Rossitano from *30 Rock*, although his on-stage shtick is not quite the same as his sarcastic NBC persona.

"The stuff I do in stand-up is more bold and dynamic and joke-driven compared to what I did on *30 Rock*. For my character on *30 Rock*, it was more pop-culture references and I don't really do that in my act," Friedlander explains. "My act [on stage] is, well, I'm basically a superhero. Superheroes don't just have to stand for justice; they can stand for fun, good times, and sex parties."

Soon, Friedlander will be bringing the fun, good times, and potential sex parties to Erie,



Contributed Photo

Experimental rock pianist Marco Benevento takes to the crooked i stage Friday, Jan. 24.

with some new material to share with the JR's crowd. He's planning on releasing both an album and a stand-up concert documentary sometime this year – something he didn't have time to do during his tenure on *30 Rock* – so you can get a chance to hear his latest jokes before they reach recorded status.

The World Champion is great at plenty of things – that's what makes you a World Champion, after all – and eliciting belly laughs is one of them. Not only could you get to see one funny man on stage, you could also be rooting for our next president.

Marco Benevento

Move over Billy Joel, there's a new piano man coming to Erie. Experimental rock pianist Marco Benevento will be coming to the crooked i Friday, Jan. 24, but don't expect your usual piano

my looper, so it's filled out." While his tunes are already fascinating little concoctions, Benevento said that he's planning on adding a new ingredient; his voice. While some past songs, most notably "Limbs of a Pine" and "This is How it Goes" off of his 2012 album *TigerFace*, featured guest vocals, Benevento typically stuck to instrumental compositions. However, the band has been working on tunes for a new album to be produced by Richard Swift, who's worked with Damien Jurado and Foxygen and is a current member of The Shins, and Benevento decided it was time to start singing. "At first, I was sort of shy about it, but I've always sang in my life in old bands when I was 15 and 16 and while I was growing up, it wasn't even an issue," he says. "But then getting into

"All of the drum machine sounds, all of the crazy piano sounds, all of the sounds you hear on the record replicated live. There are three of us in the band, but there's five or six or seven different sounds going on [in a song]. I trigger all of these things with my laptop and my looper, so it's filled out."

ballads while he's on stage. No, the 36-year-old musician is more interested in testing the sonic waters, mixing rock 'n' roll songwriting and some jazz improvisation with circuit bending, drum loops, and other electronic elements. Benevento won't be alone to help create his signature sounds, as former Ween bassist Dave Dreiwitz and Tom Waits and Norah Jones drummer Andy Borger will join him on stage to create Benevento's layered songs. "For the most part, it's a pretty dialed-in two-hour show," Benevento says over the phone during an evening chat while in New York City. "All of the drum machine sounds, all of the crazy piano sounds, all of the sounds you hear on the record are definitely replicated live. There are three of us in the band, but there's five or six or seven different sounds going on [in a song]. I trigger all of these things with my laptop and

jazz and instrumental music, I just didn't do it, and now opening the door again on it is really fun." Fortunately, Benevento won't be the only one having fun, as his electric piano tunes should get your feet a'dancin' while Benevento's fingers fly up and down the keys. The shindig starts at 10 p.m., so make sure to come down and catch one of the country's premier piano men and his band at the crooked i. Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q, where he posts things about music and the occasional fluffy, adorable animal. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erivdr.com/z7845>



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MUSIC REVIEWS

Spethz

Spethz [EP]
Independent

★★★★★



Spethz is not so much a band you casually listen to as much as you personally experience. On their self-titled EP, the local four-piece experimental rock group put together five twitchy, atmospheric jams, evolving pieces that twist and grow into intriguing songs. The EP kicks off with "Codename Missing," a strong, nearly six-minute opener featuring a toe-tappingly good beat akin to a later-era Radiohead rhythm. "Singularity" impresses with its crunchy bass lines and exciting guitar licks before leading into standout track "Tunnel Vision," a joyous five minutes highlighted by drummer Ian Maciak's propulsive drumming and Christopher Reuss' Ari Picker-meets-Brent Knopf vocals. From there, the EP turns to the dark trumpet-led "Procyon," which seems a bit out of place, but certainly satisfies when it comes to a brooding, experimental brass piece. Even though final track "Truth" comes off as a bit scatterbrained, the EP is an exciting listen into Spethz's potential. **Alex Bieler**

James Vincent McMorrow

Post Tropical
Vagrant

★★★★★



At first, the cover art and title of James Vincent McMorrow's latest album comes as a bit of a surprise, but after a few listens, *Post Tropical* starts to make sense. McMorrow earned his fair share of comparisons to Bon Iver's Justin Vernon for his soaring falsetto and wintry folk arrangements on his debut album, but like the sunny beach adorning the front of *Post Tropical*, there is a bit of warmth in the Irish singer/songwriter's latest songs. While there are certainly plenty of Vernon-esque moments on the new album, *Post Tropical* finds McMorrow swapping out the folk for R&B, as evidenced on standout lead track "Cavalier," the singer's falsetto soaring amid a building background of horns and backup singers. As expected, McMorrow's vocals are stunning, whether he's being supported by lush orchestrations or minor touches on the beautiful "Red Dust," making *Post Tropical* a fine sophomore effort from the Dublin native. **Alex Bieler**

Lanterns on the Lake

Until the Colours Run
Bella Union

★★★★



Influenced by the departure of two band members and economic issues in the United Kingdom, Lanterns on the Lake's latest album is certainly a darker affair, with singer Hazel Wilde leading off songs with lines like "When I started, I was living like an animal and I didn't have a hope in hell" on "The Buffalo Days." While the messages may be depressing at times, the music itself certainly isn't, as the symphonic quintet manages to create soaring soundscapes, akin to the cinematic songs of Explosions in the Sky, but with less bombast and Wilde's reverb-laden vocals. *Until the Colours Run* contains plenty of building arrangements and soaring guitars, but unfortunately, the climaxes don't hit as hard as they could, resulting in wandering tunes instead of songs that command a listener's attention. Still, when Wilde and company are on point, their music can soar. **Alex Bieler**

Warpaint

Warpaint
Rough Trade Us

★★★★★



Atmospheric, pulsing, and ethereal, *Warpaint* marks the much-anticipated return of the LA-based quartet by the same name. On their self-titled sophomore LP, the four women explore a post-punk, indie-pop ambience drenched in swells of siren-esque vocals and waves of hypnotic riffs to create twelve sprawling songs that work collectively as a single brooding yet cool composition. The band flows seamlessly from album-opener to "Intro" to "Keep It Healthy," invocative of M83, The xx, and alt-J, which signals early – and clearly – that *Warpaint* is a marked departure from the sound of the group's debut LP *The Fool*. Psychedelic "Biggy" is intoxicating with an enthralling looping melody bubbling atop shuffling then rippling drums that slowly build with layers of auxiliary percussion, revealing that Warpaint's new sonic soundscapes are more broadly painted with wide digital brushes, leaving the guitars to round out their artwork with fine, clean touches. Electrifyingly good, *Warpaint* is minimalistically gorgeous yet complexly rich. **Ben Speggen**

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Ryan Smith

Big Leg Emma took to the stage for the first time in 2014 at the crooked i with special guests Willie Waldman and Herman Green.

Big Leg Emma

Legendary Saxophonist and Trumpeter Join Local Americana Rockers for One Night of Musical Euphoria

By Ryan Smith

"My legend ... my mentor. I've known this guy since I was 18," Willie Waldman said, a wry smile turning his mouth up as he slow-waved his trumpet over toward the man at his side, Herman Green. "That's why I'm so bad."

Well damn, I thought at that, if Green's taught Waldman bad – musically or otherwise – in all those decades since they first took up their conversations (musical and otherwise), then he's sure as hell been teaching him wrong right. And I was happy to be part of the crowd that got to be in on their lesson – a long-held and continuing schooling in free-form communication, driven by brass – at the crooked i last Saturday night, when Waldman and Green opened for and joined New York-based jam mainstays Big Leg Emma in their first local show of 2014.

Waldman's and Green's playing is something really otherworldly, a beautiful, haunting, odd mix of joyful flair and haunted wear. That playful spirit of jazz dances wild in there, along with mischievous funk, but there's something more at play there, too, like a touch from the ghost whose world-wise whispers inform the sounds horns make in bands like Beirut, or Neutral Milk Hotel.

Or something sorta like that. It's hard to put down into words, like music that really carries into the air, that really touches you, that's really free in its form always is.

Whenever it touches me, I feel real music all over – literally. I get big goosebumps and hairs stand straight up. It's entirely involuntary, unthinking, a no-matter-where-or-when kind of thing, and I couldn't affect that with my moods or thoughts or opinions if I tried.

And that happened to me – big time, and more than a few times – on Saturday night, well before the full compliment of the evening's host

band took to the stage.

The feeling didn't let up once that happened, either. Like they always do, Big Leg Emma drove their jams, old vehicles and new, good and deep. Looking around at the crowd, I saw smiles: A small one crossing the face of a girl dancing alone, like she was on her own cloud; the giddy, wide grins of a group of friends getting down together; the knowing, satisfied looks of a middle-aged couple,

moving slowly and whispering in each others' ears.

Charity Nuse, one of Big Leg Emma's vocalists and multi-instrumentalists, told me during a short chat a day before the show that what the band does, if it had to be categorized, would likely be labeled as something like Americana-jam.

True enough – there's plenty of folk and old-time influence rooted in those sets of strings, as well as clear

nodes and leans toward the jam traditions that followed. But, like all collections of musicians who are doing something beyond the standard within that, Big Leg is walking somewhere else, somewhere new, with it.

With Waldman and Green onstage with them, Saturday's journey included color-filled meanderings into jam standards like "Deep Elem Blues" and "Knockin' on Heaven's Door," each laid out and interpreted in ways I'd

never heard them before.

Being staples of the region's live music scene, Big Leg performances always bring out longtime fans. One told me, just in passing on her way back to dancing, that she's been catching them on the regular for years now.

"They used to be more folksy, more bluegrassy," she said. "Now," and she stalled here, looking for words to describe what they've got going on, "well ... they've changed."

That's the going deep, the jumping down the rabbit hole and into all that's there, that she's hearing.

And I thank them all for that.

After all, "that's what free-form is all about. It's a conversation," Waldman had said earlier in the night.

It's the kind of conversation that, to me, is the most worthwhile – the kind that isn't had with rehearsed lines, but in open notes and pitches, bent into something new, something more, something to smile true at, and feel a little haunted by.

Ryan Smith can be contacted at rSmith@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @RyanSmithPlens. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/l07s4>.



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Family Affair – The Leszeks

Forward motion into 2014, our bodies are moving and our spirits are lifted. The thing about Erie is there are so many great places, in every season, to accomplish a great workout. Even better, share that runner's high with a partner!

I am a sucker for winter hiking. Something about getting all bundled up with my big boots on and walking. I love the duality of the brisk air on my face and the warmth beneath my layers of clothing. The skies are inspirational and the naked trees are like bodies of art. Crocheted hats, knitted scarves, furry boots, and bulky jackets, coupled with woolen socks and mittens – sigh.

I have always been a fall and winter dresser. I love the multitudes of options, from sweaters to boots to tights and leggings. Guys can nail this look too. A cute skullcap, a thick sweater and some jeans – not to mention a man and a scarf;

brilliant!

Who? The Leszeks: Cris, Shannon, and Tanek

Where? Scott Park

Why these guys? I can't think of a more active and outdoorsy family. From hiking, running, and biking to snowboarding, this family is constantly in motion – and with great style and big hearts!

Shannon:

Your Instagram (@LongLiveTheBunny) photos are amazing; you clearly spend a lot of time outdoors, connecting with nature. When are your favorite moments?

My favorite moments in nature are when

something catches my eye and I stop to capture it so I can share with the world what I see. I don't think there's an end to the beauty around us.

What are some of your favorite trails in Erie for a hike or a run – or just to take in the beauty?

My favorite trails are in Asbury Woods. I run there, hike the creek with Tanek in the summer, and when I need to unwind, I just stroll through the woods. I'm also fond of the trails at Wintergreen Gorge and run at Scott Park. If I want a challenge, I run on the sand at Presque Isle, which has a beauty all of its own. It's truly a treasure of Erie.

When you aren't running, jumping, and climbing, what is your go-to outfit?

My go to outfit is jeans that fit just right and

I can't think of a more active and outdoorsy family. From hiking, running, and biking to snowboarding, this family is constantly in motion – and with great style and big hearts!

vintage T-shirts. It's what I'm most comfortable in. I do like to get decked out in a dress and heels – who doesn't want to be gorgeous every now and then? – but by the end of the night, I'm dreaming about getting into one of those vintage T-shirts!

Cris:

It has been said that a family that plays together stays together. What are your favorite ways to stay active?

Cycling, snowboarding, and hiking seem to be our best binders.

Describe your favorite season and how you choose to enjoy it? My favorite season is winter.

Lake-effect powder days at the Peek and the perpetual rhythm of men's league hockey. I also love frozen bay hikes and the mood of the winter sky.

What's the best place in Erie for a brewski or to catch up with friends?

A great place to have a post winter-workout-beer is by the hearth at the Wilderness Lodge in Wattsburg.

Tanek:

What are some of your favorite things to do with your Mom and Dad?

Snowboarding.

Tell me what is your favorite season?

Summer

One last question for you all: If you could have a super power, which would you chose?

Shannon: I would like to be able to fly, and when I say fly, I mean superman fast, not Canadian goose fast.

Cris: I would probably go with being able to manipulate time and space – Dr. Who kind of stuff. Of course, Vulcan mind meld would be cool, too.

Tanek: Telepathic mind control

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 visit: <http://erirdr.com/e9jbd>



Gamezone

Tech Watch

Doritos is Crashing the Super Bowl

By: Abigail Withman, Epic WebStudios

Super Bowl XLVIII has become a hot topic for news outlets and social media users over the past few weeks. Just search "Super Bowl 2014" on Twitter and your page is consumed with post after post about teams, commercials, and the fact that it's the first year people will basically be frozen during the game since it will be played in New Jersey. Outdoors. In February.

But even more than the NFL teams themselves, everybody is talking about the expectations for the commercials this year.

The cost of these advertisements continues to climb year after year. Up \$200,000 from the last Super Bowl, it's now a record \$4 million for one 30-second spot. And having the game in New York has raised the bar for several top buyers.

According to *The New York Times*, the high-demand location of the sporting event has had a play in the fast sellout of these slots. But this year, the Winter Olympic Games begin days after the Super Bowl, which causes the Super Bowl to face some serious ad competition. Both parties are claiming that the events can co-exist, but as for advertisers, many of them had to choose one or the other.

One company that won't be straying from what it knows is Doritos. Doritos has advertised during the Super Bowl every year since 2007. The company's campaign, called "Crash the Super Bowl," allows fans to create their own Doritos ad in hopes of winning the \$1 million grand prize along with having their advertisement broadcasted during the game. They also get the chance to work with Marvel Studios on the new *Avengers: Age of Ultron* movie. After going through entry upon entry, Doritos has narrowed it down to the final five. Within these five, the Doritos marketing team will choose one winner, while the other winner coming from a fan vote.

Last year, Doritos ran "Crash the Super Bowl" through a poorly-made Facebook app, which was slightly annoying to fans because it required Facebook's open graph infrastructure to operate. But this year, the company is running the contest through an actual website – a great

improvement – and the competition isn't just for Americans any more, as forty-six countries are now participating in the race to crash the Super Bowl.

While not having the competition generated through Facebook this year may have brought down the visibility through social media for the competition, with coverage on shows such as *Good Morning America* and the *Today Show*, the views for the commercials are through the roof, as the leading video already has over 2 million views on YouTube. Needless to say, I've contributed to that 2 million more than a few times.

I see this whole campaign as a genius marketing technique. Doritos may have seen a hiccup in the results last year, but with all the positive changes they have made, I predict a pretty remarkable outcome, which is funny, because I don't even really like Doritos, yet they have me

While some may be watching the Super Bowl to see what Richard Sherman will say next, others will be watching solely for the commercials.

wondering who that winner will be, and I'm still watching the commercials again and again – but maybe that's the point, right? It is definitely an expensive investment for any company, but in the end, fans seem to be more invested in this commercial than any other one being broadcast. Free content for the Doritos marketing team, plus some honest humor for Super Bowl fans is a win-win for everyone.

Abigail Withman can be contacted at Epic@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/asqon>.



Her happiness is in the bag.

LesCrago

the shops at the colony
2602 west 8th street
(814) 833-5311

www.lescrago.com



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

American

PLYMOUTH TAVERN An Erie institution with great food and drink specials every night of the week.
1109 State St. // 453.6454

PUFFERBELLY Set in a decommissioned firehouse, the Pufferbelly is full of artifacts from Erie's fire fighting past.
414 French St. // 454.1557

CALAMARI'S Extra-long bar, with a large outdoor patio for those warm summer nights.
1317 State St. // 459.4276

Barbecue

THREE-B SALOON Beer, Bacon & Barbeque—the name says it all. Featuring slow-cooked brisket, ribs, and other down-home favorites. If you behave yourself, you may get a free slice of bacon with your beer.
732 W. 4th St. // 451.0007

Breakfast

SUMMER HOUSE CAFE Open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day of the week, the Summer House Cafe serves up some of Erie's more unique breakfast and lunch options. Their breakfast burrito is a must-try, but be sure to check in for fresh daily specials.
2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

JO'S BROOKLYN BAGELS A walk through the door says it all. Well, at least it's speaking to your 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 than 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

BREWERIE 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. Don't be fooled by the imitators.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) 868.2121

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 and friendly staff make this new pizzeria a popular choice for pizza, subs, and salads. Try the Oliver Perry's Hazard if you're feeling adventurous.
4115 W. Ridge Rd. // 838.8400

Suds and Grub

U PICK 6 TAP HOUSE Great beer meets great food at the corner of Fourth and State streets. From gourmet flatbreads to pizza muffins, there's plenty of great grub

to pair with the endless flow of over 20 microbrews on tap. And with helpful servers who know their beer, this is a great place to come to try the beers you've never had but have always wanted to.
333 State St. // 520.5419

SIX PACK HOUSE OF BEER With an ever-changing lineup of brews on tap and cooler wall of six-packs to go, Six Pack also serves up some cheap eats to boot.
847 Pitt. Ave. // 454.1989

U PICK 6 BEER STORE Off the downtown beaten path, U Pick 6 takes pride in its revolving draft beer lineup. With some quick eats and sandwiches sliced up right in front of you, U Pick 6 draws you in for the beer and keeps you for the conversation.
7520 Peach St. // 866.2337

Steakhouse

SENSORY 3 Next time you're at Presque Isle Downs & Casino, take a break from the table games and check out this bar and grille. If you're cashing in your chips for fine dining, we bet on being satisfied by a fine steak since Sensory 3 serves up some of the best cuts in the area.
8199 Perry Hwy // 866.8359

COLONY PUB & GRILLE - Multiple fireplaces and three intimate dining rooms make the Colony a popular spot for a romantic dinner.
2670 W. 8 St. // 838.2162

RICARDO'S Opened in 1943 by two brothers, Ricardo's serves up some of Erie's finest steaks. Chef Peter West and Cathy Merksi run one of Erie's choice restaurants that's known for its hand-cut, grain-fed western beef and delicious, mouth-watering ribs cooked outside year-round. Hearty Italian fare with casual feel of fine dining make Ricardo's a must.
2112 E. Lake Rd // 455.4947

VICTOR'S - Located inside the Bel-Aire hotel, Victor's offers fine steak and seafood with drink specials every night of the week.
2800 W. 8 St. // 833.1116

Thai

KHAO THAI The only full-time Thai restaurant in Erie. Luckily, it's fantastic! Try the drunken noodles for a spicy delight. Vegetarian friendly. BYOB
36 N. Park Row // 454.4069

Vegetarian

WHOLE FOODS CAFE Offering a wide variety of vegetarian staples, including wraps, sandwiches, soups, pizza, and seasonal specialties.
3842 Liberty St. // 864.8702

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

Wings

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

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

Interchange Road (Across from Millcreek Mall) 868.9464

ODIS 12 Award-winning wings and affordable sit-down dining. Odis 12 features over 100 different flavors, including the crowd-favorite "ugly cousin."
664 W. 26th St. // 452.6347

GREENGARDEN TAVERN Classic corner bar atmosphere, great prices, excellent wings. Honey-hot barbecue and crunch are standouts. Go Browns!
1543 W. 8th St. // 454.3367

PARK TAVERN - Known for its wings, the Park Tavern boasts a family-friendly smoke-free environment. Try some Herbies or crispy Cajuns. Buffalo Cajun is also recommended.
4205 E. Lake Road // 899.8661

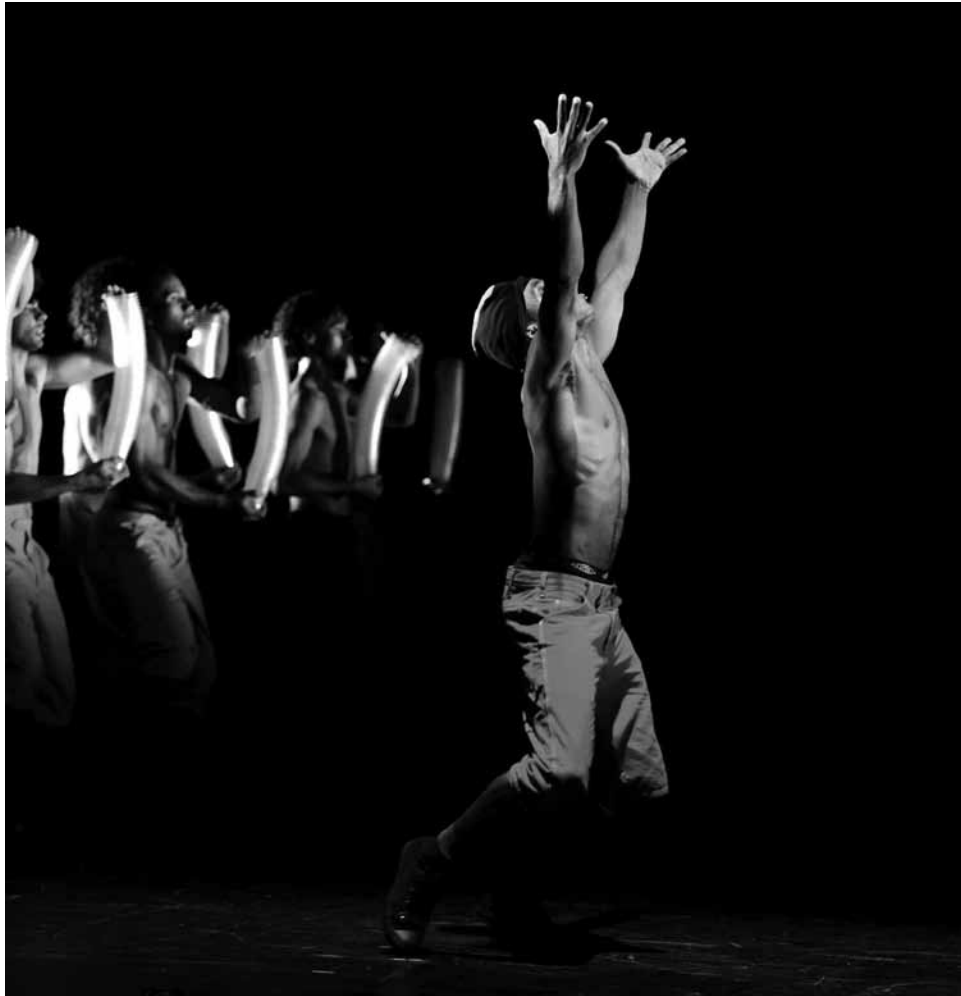
Sweet Treats

MIGHTY FINE DONUTS If you love donuts and are looking for something off the well-worn path to Dunkin' Donuts and Krispy Kreme, this local gem is your destination spot. Heralded by locals as the best donuts ever
2612 Parade St. // 455.6408

ROMOLO CHOCOLATES Tony Stefanelli apprenticed with his family in the chocolate business for nearly 20 years. Where'd that get him? He's one of only 26 master confectioners and he's right here in Erie. So for handmade pieces of chocolate, be sure to stop by Romolo's—then boast to your out-of-town friends about having a master confectioner in your city.
1525 W. 8th St. // 452.1933

PULAKOS George P. Pulakos opened his first chocolate shop at 926 State St. in 1903. Over a hundred years later, the fourth-generation-run chocolate shop is still one of Erie's favorite places for a wide selection of all things chocolate—and other delicious snacks too.
2530 Parade St.

DONUT CONNECTION - Just off the corner of Peach and Liberty streets sits a family-owned donut shop that's celebrating its Golden Anniversary this year. With the "best coffee" in town and a wide selection of delicious hand-cut donuts, this is a great place for a sweet treat.
3842 Liberty St. // 864.8702



[Cont. from 11] "running" in Portuguese and consists of jerky, hectic movements, while "agwa," meaning "water," focuses on dances that are more fluid. The piece incorporates water, a reminder of the vital natural resource that it is - and to showcase a symbol of renewal.

"Agwa requires us to provide 1,500 plastic cups," Christine explains of the upcoming performance. "Literally, it was part of the contract."

In my past life, I have had the opportunity to work with artists and their contracts, and some have made interesting demands - a \$1,000 dollar bottle of cognac, an additional piano to be used as a "back-up," and so on. Given my experience, while still interesting and perhaps unconventional, this request seems like a piece of cake.

To get a better sense of what Christine was explaining, though, I watched a video of the performance - which was, simply put, stunning. The cups are neatly placed in vertical strips across the stage, and are then manipulated in many ways; the dancers pour water from one cup to the next, and they join empty cups together to become one long plastic snake, while one dancer does back flips across the stage, never disturbing the cups. The piece marries dance, acrobatics, and props, creating a stunning trio that offers a combination of athletic samba, hip-hop, and capoeira dance styles.

The other piece, "Correria," attempts to capture the flow of daily life. The tone of the piece is loose and easy - not as scripted and defined as "Agwa," with all of those cups, as the men run from position to position, showing off their prowess as dancers in solos, duets, trios, and more. The piece is intended to portray the frenetic pace of life - something we are all too familiar with.

"They have really young energy, and we're

First organized in 1996 by French choreographer Mourad Merzouki, the world dance fusion that is Compagnie Kafig has been relentlessly touring globe ever since.

excited to bring them in. They bring diversity, youth, and power to the stage. It's going to be a great family show," Christine tells me in closing.

And event-goers will want to get there early.

"Normally the box office opens an hour before the performance. We wanted to set the tone for the event so we decided to showcase one of our own students - Alan Abremek, known as DJ ONYRC."

Abremek self-produces dubstep music, which he will perform in the Cummings Gallery (adjacent to the theater) for the hour leading up to the performance starting at 7 p.m.

All told, this company is equally at home on college campuses as it is at the prestigious Spoleto Festival. Compagnie Kafig's young Brazilians' virtuosity shines through their combination of

Answer to Sudoku

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

hip-hop, samba, electronic music, and bossanova performances and is sure to resonate and inspire any patron who has the opportunity to experience their raw energy.

The troupe will perform two highly entertaining pieces, *Agwa* and *Correria*, on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 8 p.m. in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$27 and \$30 for adults; \$24 and \$27 for seniors; and \$18 and \$21 for students. For tickets, call the box office at 814.824.3000 or visit miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Rebecca Styn can be contacted at rStyn@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erindr.com/3vtdc>



Sudoku

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

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

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Relative pronoun
- 4 Melville's captain
- 8 Open
- 12 Computer chip
- 13 Calif. wine country
- 14 City slicker
- 15 Presidential nickname
- 16 Mock
- 17 Verbal
- 18 Point
- 20 Endearment
- 22 Belch
- 25 Cymry
- 28 Port. lady
- 31 Hence
- 33 Honey-eater bird
- 34 Guido's note (2 words)
- 35 Grandfather of Saul
- 36 Dallas sch.
- 37 Month abbr.

- 38 Orient
- 39 Asterisk
- 40 Black (Sp.)
- 42 Apport
- 44 Sharpen
- 46 Covered by water
- 50 Night (Fr.)
- 52 Ivory (Lat.)
- 55 Certified Public Accountant (abbr.)
- 56 She (Sp.)
- 57 Oleaginous
- 58 Energy unit
- 59 Liang
- 60 Italian lake
- 61 Poem

DOWN

- 1 Cloak
- 2 Ryukyu islands viper
- 3 Foretoken
- 4 Fr. historical provinces
- 5 Have (Scot.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 6 Imitate
- 7 Pointed remark
- 8 Unburnt brick
- 9 Venire (2 words)
- 10 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
- 11 Electric reluctance unit

- 19 To be announced (abbr.)
- 21 Absent without leave (abbr.)
- 23 Midianite king
- 24 Light refractor
- 26 Muttonfish
- 27 Time period
- 28 University officer
- 29 Gr. leather flask
- 30 Water pipe
- 32 Jap. clogs
- 35 Time period
- 39 Mend
- 41 Of wheels
- 43 Kernel (pref.)
- 45 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (abbr.)
- 47 Pointed (pref.)
- 48 Nail with a hole
- 49 Geological vein angle
- 50 Ensnare
- 51 Diminutive (suf.)
- 53 Life (pref.)
- 54 City on the Danube

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	53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

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A51

ER Sports

By: James R. LeCorchick

Erie Pride strikes again!

In our last edition of *ER Sports*, we were talking about McDowell grad James Conner and how proud he made all of Erie when he led the University of Pittsburgh to a 30-27 Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl win over Bowling Green, with the ex-Trojan picking up MVP honors in the process while wowing the entire country with his performance.

Now it's Villa Maria Academy alum Kayla McBride carrying the Erie banner, as she is garnering national recognition while starting for the University of Notre Dame, the undefeated and No. 2-ranked team in the country.

McBride, an All-American candidate for the Fighting Irish, had a chance to perform in front of hundreds of local fans who made the short trek to Pittsburgh to witness the senior star when she sparked ND to an impressive 109-66 win over the University of Pittsburgh. The local product dominated for the winners from start to finish, the ex-Villa standout scoring the first basket of the game just seven seconds into the contest.

The VMA grad gave her many fans in attendance a real show as she scored 20 points, dished out four assists, and grabbed four rebounds. She did all this while sitting out the final 12 minutes in the rout of the Panthers.

A tribute to her popularity was the fact the ND coaching staff held up the team following the contest so the popular McBride could finish signing autographs for the hundreds of fans who waited to see her. And she stayed around and signed every last piece of paper.

For the season, McBride, who was just named to the Team USA Training Camp list – one of just 33 players in the whole country to be named to the prestigious list – is averaging over 16 points per game this season. By the way, being on the watch list means the Erie product is a possible Olympic team member.

For her career, the ND star has scored nearly 1,500 points and could end up as one the top-five scorers in Fighting Irish history.

Noted sports photographer Mike Gallagher, who witnessed the slaughter in the Steel City, said, "Kayla is not only one of the classiest athletes I have ever covered, she is one of the best female

hoopsters in the country." High praise coming from a journalist who has seen – and covered – the best in the world in his storied career.

One a personal note, I have to echo Gallagher's sentiments, since I have dealt with her many times as our radio station covered Villa Maria when she was busy leading them to a couple state champs. She always had time for us and did everything with class and dignity.

Thanks, Kayla!

A special Erie Reader congratulations to Nate Tewell, who represented the Erie area with a national championship performance, the Northwestern High School sophomore winning the NFL's Punt, Pass, and Kick competition held in Colorado. He captured top honors in the 14-15-year-old division

He finished more than 50 points better than the runner-up from Jamestown, North Dakota.

Tewell, who is currently playing hoops for the Wildcats, was one of the champs honored at the recent Broncos-Chargers playoff game Sunday, Jan. 12.

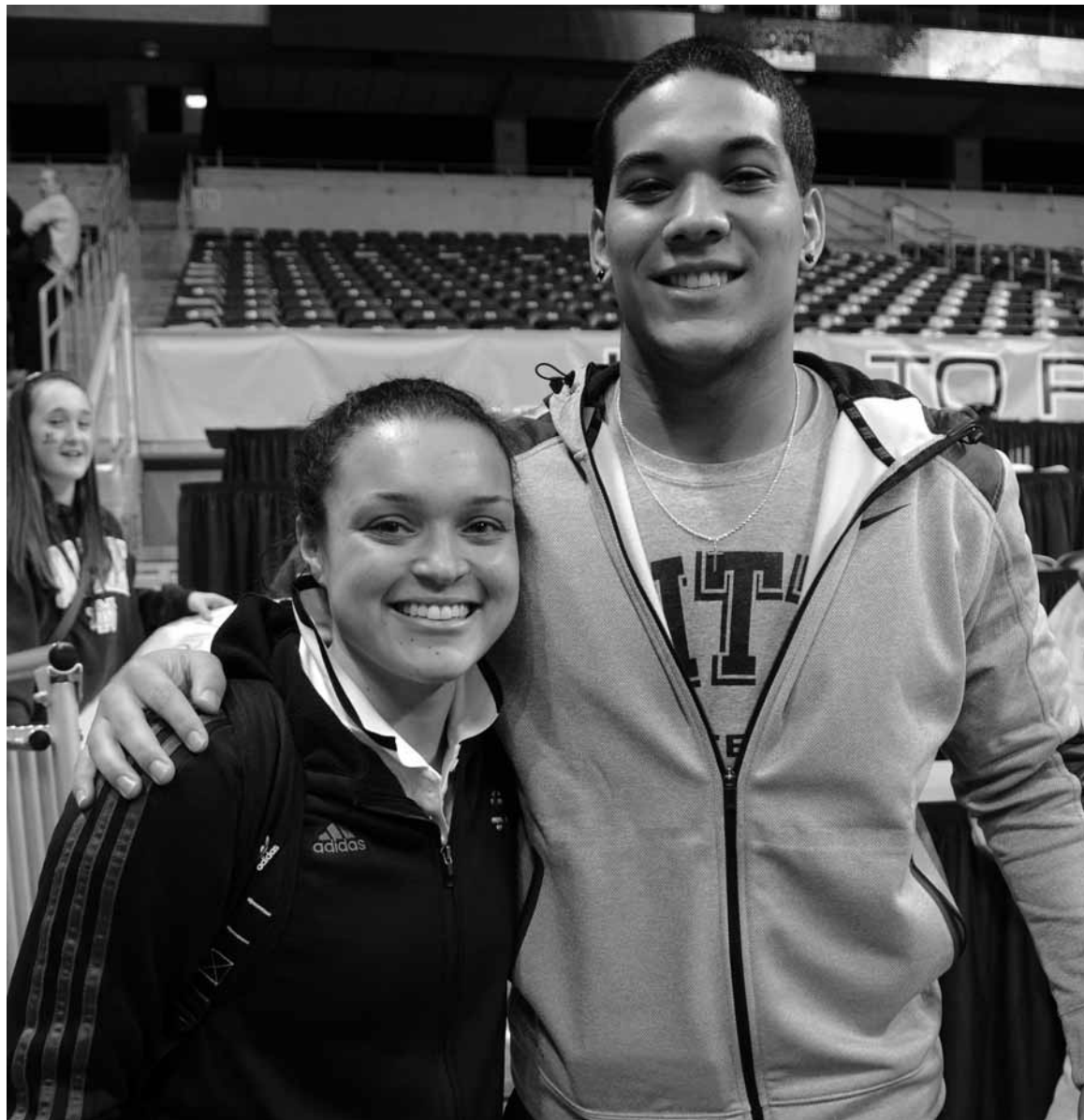
Reader Correspondence

Hello - I just wanted to drop you a quick line and thank you for your nice article about my son James in the Erie Reader...he, as am I, are truly humbled and appreciative of the overwhelming support from our home town! I listen to you on my drive in to work in the mornings and truly enjoy your show! Thanks again, Kelly Bibbs

You can email James LeCorchick at @JRLSportsReport@gmail.com, and you can follow him on Twitter [@JRLSports](https://twitter.com/JRLSports). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erindr.com/mgc3a>



(Top) Former Villa Maria standout Kayla McBride talks with former McDowell star James Conner following the ND-Pitt basketball game. (Bottom) Kayla McBride signed hundreds of autographs following the ND thrashing of Pitt in women's hoops.



12 NEWS



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