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Feb. 19 - Mar. 4 / Vol. 4, No. 3 / ErieReader.com

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News & Notes

- 4 Street Corner Soapbox**
Let There Be Hotel
- 5 The Way I See It**
Raising the Debt Ceiling Hand-in-Hand
- 6 UN Art Ambassador Speaks at Bloom**
Award-winning Nigerian Artist Returns to Erie
- 17 Tech Watch**
Sochi Problems Go Viral
- 19 Outside Voices**
What was your Favorite FILM night of the Past Year?
- 21 Smart Food**
Quinoa, Agave, and Honey
- 23 ER Sports**
Local Sports with James R. LeCorchick

From the Editors

It couldn't have been easy. The decision had all but been made final with the tap of the ceremonial mallet against the wooden sounding block. But the meeting had just started, a throng of people were waiting to speak, yell, and plead, yet at that point, it was all just a formality, the playing out of roles and processes in proper order.

But still, in a room crowded with ardent and fervent supporters, upward he walked to the loneliest point in the room, the podium where he'd deliver a hard speech to give: The acknowledgment of defeat before the end of the battle.

Representing Scott Enterprises, Nick Scott, Sr. spoke his mind and voiced his concern one last time. And then, quietly, he walked away from the microphone to a choppy applause and took his seat.

Onward went the speeches, and onward went the meeting. And then, the decision was made final: Erie County Council voted 4-2, winners were declared, and losers were left with the bitter taste of defeat.

You know the story: The Erie County Convention Center Authority lobbied fast and hard for the County to issue a bond guarantee for the construction of a hotel connected to the Bayfront Convention Center. That bond guarantee would help cover what a grant from the state — \$25 million spread out over five years — wouldn't.

But taxpayers wouldn't really be put on the hook unless the Authority was forced to default on its loan. And if the past is an indication of the future, there's a good chance taxpayers won't have to shell out a nickel for the 191-room hotel.

First, the Sheraton on the Bayfront was erected under the same conditions. And Erie County taxpayers haven't had to front any bills for fresh towels or a turndown service yet. Second, studies provided by the Authority indicate a need for a second hotel to accommodate overflow from conventions. And that study suggests a third hotel — like the one that Scott Enterprises had proposed in their Harbor Place project — could survive and thrive.

But those are just projections, some may argue. It's still frightening to think that taxpayers will be on the hook for any sum of money used for de-

Culture

- 7 Street Fashioista**
Joey Mancuso
- 8 Bobcat Goldthwait's Second Act**
A Q&A with famed actor, comedian, and director
- 11 Art Review**
An Art Review for Friends
- 12 If We Were You**
Here's What We Would Do
- 16 Music Reviews**
- 17 Tegan and Sara**
Sisters rock Allegheny College

velopment that a private entity stressed repeatedly it could satisfy.

Yes, those are projects, and yes, a risk is involved. And Jay Stevens handles the topic quite well in this issue with his *Street Corner Soapbox* column "Let There Be Hotel!"

But what about the winners and losers in the Battle Over the Bayfront?

Perhaps that's best answered with another question: What if this is still — as Rebecca Styn wrote in our last issue — *A Tale of Two Hotels*? Let's suppose this never really was a this-or-that argument — and that really, there aren't any losers here.

As we wrote right here in our last issue, decisions will soon be made that will affect Erie for generations to come. We still believe that this story can be one of two visions for Erie, working in tandem, being realized at the same time. That's what this city needs, but above all else, *something* has to happen to get the ball rolling.

That something right now is the shovel-ready ECCCA project moving forward to bring more visitors to Erie by way of more and larger conventions, and paving the way for a robust development of the vacant GAF property. For now though, providing more attractive accommodations for convention goers (not having to walk outside or drive down from Upper Peach to get to a convention hall sounds like a pretty good deal — especially in the dead of winter) results in a win for the city. In the future, perhaps these folks could spend their money at an ice rink or restaurant just a stone's throw away. Or on a floating barge to see a concert on the other side of the Bicentennial Tower.

So this is the start of *something*, and this decision can end up being a small part of a very big future if all citizens remain as committed to the Bayfront development in the future as they have been in the recent past. As we said in our last issue: If ever Erie deserved more than a puncher's chance at putting the "gem" clearly and boldly in "Gem City," it's now, the very moment that change and growth seem to be more than whispers in the air — they seem palpable. The energy for change, for growth, for development is abuzz in Erie.

Street Corner Soapbox

Let there be Hotel!

By: Jay Stevens

The Hotel Wars rage on. And you know what? What better time for this to be going on, right? I mean, it's freezing out. It won't stop snowing. There's no sign of spring. One cold, dark, snowy day follows the next. It's like we've been caught in some kind of weird space-time continuum, where time, too, is frozen. And the Super Bowl was a big snoozer.

So what better way to distract us from winter than to think about land swaps, loan guarantees, and credit enhancements? Right? If that doesn't put the sizzle into your day, what will?

In case you missed it, here's where we stand: the Erie County Convention Center Authority, which received a \$25-million state grant towards building a new hotel next to the present-day Bayfront Convention Center, needed Erie County to guarantee the additional loans needed to complete the project – some \$35 million or so.

That is, if the Convention Center Authority defaulted on its payments, the county would be liable for the money.

This isn't as bad as it sounds. First of all, that's not likely to happen. Secondly, it's really about linking the loan to the county's credit rating – which is much better than the Convention Center Authority's, for a variety of reasons. That, in turn, means the interest rates for the authority's loan will be much lower. In short, by having the county guarantee the Convention Center Authority's loan, it'll save money. And that's a good thing.

But what it also means is that without that debt guarantee, there'd be no loan. Without the loan, there's no hotel project.

For some, that'd be a good thing. Specifically, Scott Enterprises, which recently proposed a sprawling, ambitious, and wild development project complete with its own hotel and a floating entertainment barge next door to the Convention Center. They maintain that the state - and authority-funded hotel threatens the viability of their own project. Who needs taxpayer money to build a hotel? they asked,

when we'll do it with our own money?

Not that the Scotts don't want to use taxpayer money. The city is applying for a \$12-million state grant for their project, and its recent CRIZ application – for a program that would allow local tax money to go directly to the Bayfront instead of the state – was also about the Scott's proposal. But that money would be for infrastructure improvements, the streets, sidewalks, parks, and walkways for the site. Not for a hotel.

So Erie County Council had the opportunity to kill the Convention Center Authority's hotel.

But they didn't.

New councilmember and Soapbox heartthrob, Jay Breneman, instead brokered a deal. He said he would vote for the debt guarantee in exchange for yearly payments of \$65,000 from the Convention Center Authority to the county – a kind of replacement for the tax revenue lost on the property because of its tax-exempt status. That's your "credit enhancement."

After approximately 0.002 seconds' deliberation, the Convention Center Authority agreed to Breneman's terms. That's because over the course of the loan lifetime, they'd pay the county some \$2 million – just a fraction of the savings on interest rates they'd enjoy using the county's credit rating to back their loan. And *voila!* The County Council voted to back the Convention Center Authority's hotel scheme.

Forget here for a moment the improbability of a rookie councilmember engineering a nuanced credit enhancement deal on his own – might have some more experienced administrators handed him the keys to the shiny new deal? – and consider for a moment why the



On Tuesday, Feb. 11, Erie City Council guaranteed a multi-million-dollar bond to the Erie County Convention Center Authority

Brian Graham

Council never for a moment seriously considered downing the hotel.

Twenty-five million.

That's the amount of the state grant that'd simply be tossed back into the state's coffers if the deal went afoul. Erie wouldn't see a penny of it.

Or, as Convention Center Authority board member Roger Richards was quoted saying in last issue's Rebecca Styn feature: "There wasn't another place in the state that got a \$25 million grant except for the city of Philadelphia. If this money has to go back, other communities are going to gobble it up, and it's going to be difficult get future grant money in Erie if we can't take advantage of this opportunity."

No one on the Council wants to be the one who fouled up the Convention Center hotel deal. And it was so: there was hotel.

Jay Stevens can be contacted at Iav@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Snevets_Yaj. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/to1zq>.



News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepherd

Lead Story

The semi-obscure Florida Statute 790.15 took center stage in January following a Miami Herald report of a resident of the town of Big Pine Key who routinely target-shoots his handgun in his yard, with impunity, to the consternation of neighbors. The statute permits open firing on private property (except shooting over a public right of way or an occupied dwelling), and several cities have tried, unsuccessfully, to restrict that right, citing "public safety" in residential neighborhoods. (A 2011 lobbying campaign by the National Rifle Association, and a state supreme court decision, nixed any change in the law.) "Negligent" shooting is illegal, but only a misdemeanor. Thus, even skillful shooting next door to a day care center or in a small yard that abuts a high-trafficked pedestrian street is likely perfectly legal. One Florida legislator who was originally from Alaska noted that even in Anchorage people cannot fire at will in their yards. [Miami Herald, 1-26-2014]

Cultural Diversity

South Korea is a well-known hub for cosmetic beautification surgery, with a higher rate per capita than the U.S., but the procedures can be expensive, inspiring many young women recently to resort to do-it-yourself procedures for their professional and romantic upgrades. A December Global Post dispatch noted that some might try to force their eyes to stay open without blinking (using a novel \$20 pair of glasses for hours on end) as a substitute for costly "double-eyelid" surgery. Also in use: a \$6 jaw-squeezing roller device for the face to push the jaw line into a fashionable "oval" form. One teen told the reporter she applies an imaginative contraption to her face for hours a day to pressure her nose into more of a point, which is considered a desirable Western look. [Global Post (Boston) via Denver Post, 12-19-2013]

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.

The Way I See It

Raising the Debt Ceiling Hand-in-Hand

By: Rebecca Styn

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an increase in the debt ceiling. After some conversation about attaching additional conditions to the legislation, House Speaker John Boehner and many in his leadership team were among the 28 Republicans who joined with Democrats to pass an extension of the debt ceiling until March 15, 2015 – meaning, a full election year free of budget battles.

The bill passed by a vote of 221 to 201. One-hundred-and-ninety-three Democrats and 28 Republicans voted for the bill, while 199 Republicans and 2 Democrats voted against it.

Interesting to note, though, is that three Pennsylvania Republicans – Reps. Charlie Dent, Mike Fitzpatrick, and Pat Meehan – supported the bill out of the 28 total GOP yeas. Of those three, Dent and Meehan will face no challenger this year's upcoming election, while Fitzpatrick lacks a primary opponent. This suggests that those Republicans who voted in support did it because they felt it was the right thing to do – not because they wanted to win an election.

Keep in mind that the last time Congress passed a “clean” debt ceiling increase was in 2009 – when Democrats held the House.

For those of you who may not be aware, this is a big deal. Remember when the government shutdown back in October – for oh, over two weeks? That was due much in part to our Republican counterparts not compromising – at least according to the polls. While blame can be placed on both groups for that debacle, the Republicans' divisions on spending provoked the ultimate shutdown. Aside from shutting down the government, which was sad and pathetic all on its own, the divide also weakened House Speaker John Boehner's negotiating position with President Barack Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who stuck to their refusal to consider conditions for raising the debt limit.

In an effort to reposition Republications in a positive light, Boehner promised enough votes to get it to pass. While the majority of the Republicans didn't want to see this happen, time was of the essence, and had they not accomplished this, it may have led to yet another critical failure of government. This choice definitely doesn't please the Tea Party conservatives who oppose any kind of increase in federal borrowing, but it may have been a necessary evil in order to move forward.

And if you're questioning how successful Boehner has been at achieving his stated goal of reducing the deficit and controlling spending, here's a little perspective: In 2010, the year before Boehner was Speaker, the government had a \$1.3 trillion deficit with a budget of \$3.4 trillion (25 percent of the gross domestic product). Last year, during his third year as Speaker, while the budget was still \$3.4 trillion, this represented only 21 percent of the GDP – and the budget

deficit has been cut in half to \$680 billion. While this is still high on both accounts, if his term was to end in 2014, those are pretty significant achievements for a Republican Speaker working with an opposing Democrat in the White House.

The day after the House passed the bill, the Democratic-controlled Senate then gave final approval by a 55-43 margin. So, the long and short of it is that it almost seems as if the two groups might be, well... working together. While not a favorable move for many Republicans, it was a smart move – in the public eye at the very least. This decision staves off what would have been another inevitable shutdown, possibly helps to shrink what's been a great divide between the parties, and gives the constituents small hope that the two parties can work together – ultimately providing a healthier outlook for us as a nation.

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://erirdr.com/5kpm9>.



How Your Pennsylvania Representatives Voted:

Yeas:

All five Democratic members of the House from Pennsylvania (Brady, Cartwright, Doyle, Fattah, and Schwartz) voted for the bill. Additionally, three PA Republicans as previously mentioned: Reps. Charlie Dent, Mike Fitzpatrick, and Pat Meehan.

Nays:

Of the ten other Republican members that voted against, among those ten only one, Rep. Bill Shuster, is currently facing a primary challenger. Another three, Reps. Tom Marino, Tim Murphy and Keith Rothfus, have Democratic opponents. Five incumbent Congressmen (Reps. Lou Barletta, Mike Kelly, Scott Perry, Joseph Pitts and Glenn Thompson) are running completely unopposed. Finally, Rep. Jim Gerlach is retiring at the end of the year.

Acquired Tastes: (1) In December, thieves in Wicklow, Ireland, raided a convent's field at the Dominican Farm and Ecology Center, stripping it of its entire crop of Brussels sprouts. A nun at the farm said the sisters were devastated to miss out on the lucrative market for high-end Christmas dinners. (2) In January, Wal-Mart in China recalled its "Five Spice" donkey meat sold in some locations because the popular snack was found to be tainted — with fox meat. [Irish Independent, 12-5-2013] [Reuters, 1-2-2014]

Labor's Influence in France: The French social security agency URSSAF initiated an enforcement action in December against the Mamm-Kounifl music bar in the town of Locmiquel for underpaying employee contributions — in that the tavern encourages customers to bus their own tables and thus reduces its need to hire more servers. The owner denied he was trying to save money. "It's (just) our trademark. We want the customer to feel comfortable, a bit like he's at home." [The Local (Paris), 12-18-2013]

Questionable Judgments

Interesting Life Ahead: From the birth register of Elkhart (Ind.) General Hospital, reported by The Elkhart Truth, Jan. 19, 2014: "Tamekia Burks, Elkhart, daughter (named La'Soulja Major La'Pimp Burks, 6 lbs., 8 oz.), 3:20 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014." [Elkhart Truth, 1-19-2014]

The makers of a product called Poo-Pourri garnered a "coveted" advertising award from USA Today in December as one of the five worst ads of the year. Toilet users concerned about smell are encouraged to spray Poo-Pourri on the commode, pre-use, and in the television ad, a British-accented female sits on the throne, extolling the product. Opening line: "You would not believe the mother lode I just dropped." (Nonetheless, USA Today still found two other ads that upset its editors more.) [USA Today, 12-24-2013]

The Continuing Crisis

The Power of Prayer: Nelson Thabo Modupe threatened a lawsuit in January against South Africa's Eskom electric utility unless the company paid him the equivalent of about \$22.3 million for "saving" the firm that amount during the weeks of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Modupe reasoned that he had joined the Zion Christian Church just before the event and had prayed ("successfully") to God to spare the utility from blackouts and power reductions during that period (which would have cost Eskom millions more). Modupe, open to negotiation, said he would accept a partnership in the company as a compromise. [Independent Online (Cape Town), 1-24-2014]

World's Laziest Dog Sitter: Tyler Smith, 23, was charged in December with violating the city animal care ordinance in Greenville, S.C., after a photograph was posted on Facebook of his father's dog being lowered by rope from the second-story balcony of an apartment. According to the posting, it was time for the dog to make a call of nature, but it was raining, and Smith preferred not to go downstairs with him. [Associated Press via Post and Courier (Charleston, S.C.), 12-17-2013]

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And that was before Steadman and the others took him further inside, up the stairs to see the public studio space where BLOOM – through mediums that transcend barriers of culture, language and class – grows arts in, of and for Erie, and invites everyone to participate.

"What's this?" Alao, always smiling in that wide-open space, asked of everything he came across – paintings, drawings, and mixed-media projects in various stages of completion, awaiting the next session with their makers.

"I see...That's beautiful," he remarked repeatedly. Alao even saw something ("What's this?" he asked with interest) in a paint-covered scrap, apparently having been placed only to prevent a mess during some previous project.

That he saw something there – art there – is telling of the artist, of his intent, of his vision. And also of his reasons for thinking Erie, its arts, and its artists (especially those from the community-at-large) were worth a special trip from New York City.

Through a routine, open schedule offering an array of low-cost, easy-access classes and workshops, BLOOM (formerly Center City Arts) "uses art as a healing tool, a wellness tool, a way to bring people together," Steadman told me.

Among other things and in direct keeping with its mission, BLOOM is now also the home of the Bhutanese Cultural Center for Erie, the city that houses more Bhutanese refugees than any other city in the state of Pennsylvania.

Steadman said similarly, but on an international scale, Alao "uses art to break down barriers in culture and language."

And that works, Steadman said, because art and the act of creating it – in all of its color, all of its language, all of its wonder – is truly universal.

"That's true whether you're from Erie or Nigeria," said Steadman.

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UN Art Ambassador Speaks at BLOOM

Award-winning Nigerian Artist Returns to Erie

By: Ryan Smith

In Ibiyinka Alao's world, art – and color, its nonverbal, universal language – is everywhere. It's in every thing. It is everything. "I draw, paint, and write about whatever I'm able to find, feel, and sometimes understand," Alao, the award-winning Nigerian artist, who serves as Arts Ambassador to the United Nations, says of his work — bold, bright, organic pieces that speak of – and to, and through – themes of hope, peace, and love. Big, lofty ideas and ideals, larger than himself. Larger than any one of us, as big as all of us, as all of everything.

"I feel it is healthier to look out at the world through a window than through a mirror," Alao says. "Otherwise, all you see is yourself."

When I first looked at Alao's smile-lined face, his gladness-filled, bright-sparked eyes, I could sense he really lives what he speaks. Gracious and immediately honestly friendly, without any hint of

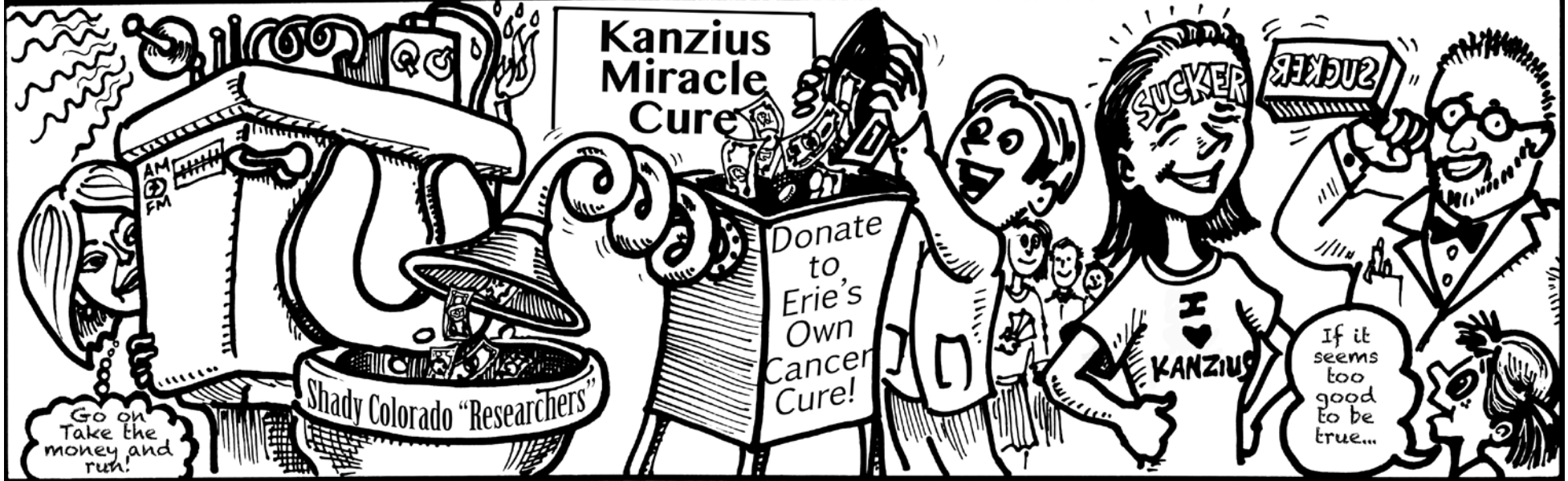
fakeness, he carried a palpable sense of wonder, of warmth, right with him when he walked into the BLOOM Collaborative's front doors during a two-day visit to Erie a couple of weeks ago.

"You're here, my friend. It seems like you've been on the road for days! Come on in," BLOOM Director and Erie-area artist Lee Steadman, who invit-

ed Alao to revisit the Gem City, said as the ambassador arrived following a cold, snowy, hours-long drive on that recent Thursday afternoon.

"It's beautiful," Alao said, looking around the East 26th Street arts center's lobby after he was greeted by the other creative minds that make up the rest of BLOOM's staff.

JUST TOYIN' WITCHA By: B. Toy





Leslie McAllister

Street Fashionista

Joey Mancuso

By: Leslie McAllister

Fashion is a fantasy world – I don't care how you spin it. We wake up every day and we become someone different. That someone is however we interpret what we are feeling at that moment. The shy sovereign, the empowering empress, the chic Sheik – whichever hat we choose to put on, that is who we become.

Isn't that what makes dressing up so fun? The challenge is to not take it too seriously yet truly embrace it.

For the ladies: try that boho-goddess headpiece with the amulet that hangs at your third eye. Girls, there is no reason to be afraid of sequins. Get sparkling; they can be for day or night. Those fairytale dresses aren't just for seven-year olds anymore; are you really going to let that three-foot, five-year old out-dress you? Adorn yourself in flowing chiffon frocks of pale orchids, petals and mint. Join the princess party; embrace your inner Jasmine, Ariel, and Cinderella. Besides, they are all very fantastic women with very special stories that make them unforgettable.

Oh, and gents? Just provide the velvet pillow with the crystal shoes, the horse drawn carriage and the palace far, far away.

Where? The future site of Blow, Erie's first blow-dry bar. For those unfamiliar with a blow-dry bar, this is a salon that shampoos and styles hair – no cuts or colors, just blow-drying and styling. Maybe the client is looking for a blow-out with a round brush or an updo for a classy event. Joey Mancuso will also be doing makeup and eyelash extensions – fake lashes added to yours for a longer and fuller lash look. In short, Blow will be helping you to look your best for your next formal event.

Who? Joey Mancuso
Why Joey? She is the consummate princess, like Snow White incarnate. Not to mention this kid is the full package – beauty, brains, talent, style,

and personality. She is one to watch...
What We Want to Know:
Describe your style. Unique, edgy, and honest; I wear my emotions. Peo-

ple say "you always look so different," and that is true in part due to the fact that my outfits for the day are generally based on exactly how I am feeling.
Craziest item in your closet? If it

looks like something your grandmother might own or something Edward Scissorhands might wear, then it's probably in my closet.

Earliest memory of dressing up and putting on makeup? My mom has owned her own salon for 27 years, so throughout my entire life, the shop was my second home. I remember watching my mom do her makeup every morning as a little girl and begging her to let me play with it. My dad was always shocked at how well I could do my own makeup, even as a little child.

Who is your style guru? Lady Gaga inspires me so much. I think she is completely ahead of her time, and I love her fearlessness. If ever I have a big project approaching, I will watch a couple of her music videos and gain this extra boost of creative energy. I also pull a lot of makeup ideas from Tim Burton movies, starting with *Pee Wee's Big Adventure* all the way to *Nightmare Before Christmas*; there are so many wonderful things happening that get my brain ready to compose.

Favorite decade? '70s. Anyone who knows me knows that I love my hippie headbands. I just love the whole '70s flower child vibe and the flowy, carefree approach to that style.

Most awkward fashion moment in your life? There was definitely a time

when my eyeliner and lip liner were the same thing and my silver lipstick matched my mouth full of braces. I also had a brief encounter with painting my eyelids with nail polish! It would burn so bad but ended up looking really cool that I would just remind myself 'beauty is pain.' Luckily I grew out of that!

Tell us about your journey into styling. I feel like I was born with it. I remember in fourth grade, I cut my best friend's hair from the middle of her back up to her chin with construction paper scissors and her mom

I want to bring that big-city feeling to Erie. I want to offer a place where my clients can come and feel like celebrities.

didn't get mad because it looked so cute! I went to school for as long as I could, I took every course available, and I still attend classes to this day. In this business, if you're not constantly learning what's new, you will fail. I work really hard, but I live for this stuff and I love making people look and feel beautiful.

If you could be one beauty product, which would you choose? Mascara, because who doesn't love mascara?!

Blow is your new endeavor, and Erie's anticipated blow-dry bar.

What are your plans? Blow-dry bars are huge in big cities, and I want to bring that big-city feeling to Erie. I want to offer a place where my clients can come and feel like celebrities. My friends and I always say, "I wish there was a place we could go and just have someone get us ready," and that's exactly what I'm doing. I feel as though teaming up with Pointe Four, Erie's newest vintage clothing boutique, is essentially what this town needs. We are definitely raising the bar for Erie and I couldn't be more excited to show everyone what we have in store for the future.

Follow Joey and her style diary on Instagram @jmancuso22. Blow is on target to open in March, sharing space with Pointe Four Vintage Boutique 1804 W. Eighth St.

Find me out on the town and challenge yourself to get noticed by the Erie Reader! Leslie McAllister can be contacted at LMcAllister@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @ShopJuJu. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erivdr.com/ue2y1>.





Contributed Photo

Bobcat Goldthwait's Second Act

A Q&A with famed actor, comedian, and director about Snickers, Directing in Alaska, and His Upcoming Show at Jr's Last Laugh

By: Alex Bieler

It's not uncommon to come across a celebrity who has reinvented himself or herself over the course of a career, but for Bobcat Goldthwait, his transformation from absurdist comedian and screechy-voiced actor to indie film director wasn't as much of a transformation as it was a life choice. In a recent Snickers commercial, the 51-year-old can be seen with his friend Robin Williams, donning a scraggly wig and whipping out his trademark panicked shriek, a persona that sticks with many Bobcat fans. However, if Goldthwait were to eat the proverbial Snickers bar ("Eat a Snickers, you're not yourself when you're hungry"), you would find out he's not the angry young man with the vocal chord-destroying screech. Instead, he's a relaxed director and screenwriter who has decided to work on his own terms.

What's interesting about Bobcat's career is that the two halves don't seem to come into contact much. Fans of his early stand-up and acting work in movies like the *Police Academy* series, *Scrooged*, and *Hot to Trot* don't often seem to converse about Goldthwait's career with those that view him more as an edgy, accomplished writer and auteur, whose credits include *World's Greatest Dad* and *God Bless America*, as well as directorial turns for TV shows like *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and *Chappelle's Show*, something that Goldthwait himself has acknowl-

edged. Still, it's hard to appreciate Bobcat without looking at his entire career, especially now that he's recently returned to stand-up comedy in a much more subdued form than his erratic, early-career shtick, including an upcoming three-night, five show stint from Thursday, Feb. 20 through Saturday, Feb. 22 at Jr's Last Laugh. I managed to catch up with Bobcat over the phone after he returned from Alaska, where he's been working on his latest film *Willow Creek*, to chat about his diverse career and how do-

ing what makes you happy is the best choice you can make.
Alex Bieler: Hey Bob, how are you doing?
Bobcat Goldthwait: Okeydoke, how about you?
AB: Eh, can't complain, it's not too snowy.
BG: Yeah, it's not Alabama.
AB: Where are you at right now?
BG: I'm in Los Angeles, but I was in Anchorage and Fairbanks [Alaska] this weekend.
AB: How was it up there?
BG: Well, it's really pretty, but it

Bobcat Goldthwait returns to Erie to perform at Jr's Last Laugh Feb. 20-22.

seems like I met a lot of the people who voted for Sarah Palin. [Laughs]
AB: Yeah, it's actually pretty nice here, but it seems like a lot of the people in Erie are wintered out.
BG: Oh yeah. I'm from Syracuse, so it's really similar.
AB: I didn't know you were originally from Syracuse.
BG: Yeah, yeah.
AB: That's cool. I know you made your mark in Boston.
BG: When I was a kid in Syracuse, I did stand-up when I was 15 or 16 years old with Tom Kenny, but then I moved to Boston when I was 18 and did it full-time when I was there.
AB: It was just a couple of years ago that you started to get back into stand-up, right?
BG: Yeah, I stopped doing stand-up when I was directing the Kimmel show, so I hadn't done it for years, and now I spend my time directing my own movies or working for other people, and at the same time I do stand-up. It keeps me off of reality shows is what I say.
AB: You mentioned Tom Kenny, and I remember a quote of his about how you lost interest in stand-up because

you used to thrive on making people feel awkward and they started to expect it from you.
BG: You know what, the thing right now is to go on stage and be myself after so many years of being a character.
AB: What's that been like? How have people been reacting to that?
BG: There's an expectation, a little bit of nostalgia, but now I'm just there. I hope folks enjoy the show despite some expectations, but the cool thing about being around long enough is that a lot of the people that come to the shows weren't even born when I was relevant, so it's a fresh audience.
AB: It's interesting, because it seems like you get the two camps of people that know you: those that know your early work, like *Police Academy* and *Hercules*, and then the others that know you from your directorial duties.
BG: It's weird – they don't intermingle too much. People at festivals will say, "Do you still do stand-up?" and the people at the comedy festivals say "You make movies?" It is strange.
AB: Whenever I bring up your name, it seems like it's a 50-50 split, where they recognize your character from the Snickers commercial, and others know you from your directorial duties.
BG: The Snickers commercial definitely didn't help with people thinking that I am that guy. Robin [Williams] was concerned; he was like "You know they're going to ask you to do the voice." I was like, for the money they're paying me, I will f— a Snickers bar on camera. [Laughs]
AB: It was probably pretty nice to be able to do that with Robin.
BG: He's a good pal, so it was really nice.
AB: I remember reading this one quote from a speech that you gave at a college about how you said that success is for creeps and that you need to do what makes you happy and be nice to people. What I really like is that you're making all of these movies and it seems like you're doing what you love.
BG: That's the whole thing. It took me a long time to realize what I really wanted to do and enjoyed doing, and I'm pretty lucky, because a lot of people don't have a second act. They spend the rest of their career being a nostalgia act or something. But I've got a lot of friends who have a similar path. I work on Marc Maron's TV show directing for him, and Marc, with the podcast and his show, he ended up finding out what he really likes doing and ended up pursuing it.
AB: You do a fair bit of work with different comedians. You've got Marc Maron, Demitri Martin, and I saw that you directed a recent special for Patton Oswalt.

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BG: I like working with comics because I speak the shorthand and it's just who I am and where I came from.

AB: Do they seek you out, or how does that work?

BG: Some of them are just friends. It's mostly done that way and not the traditional way. I think it makes sense though, with me being behind the camera for something like that. I've been in front of the camera during specials, so I kinda know what the guy is looking for.

AB: Yeah, I figured it would be nice that these comedians hold you in that regard. I was talking to Louie Anderson a week or so ago and we were talking about who else was going to come to Jr's Last Laugh and I brought up your name and he said you were a "wonderful human being."

BG: [Laughs] I know, I try to crush it out of him. I think he's pretty awesome too, so it's a mutual admiration kind of thing.

AB: Yeah, it's kind of cool, because it goes back to that speech you made – "do what makes you happy and be nice" – and it seems like you're hitting on both of those.

BG: Well, unfortunately I'm sure that there are people who say "I know him and he's kind of an A-hole," but it took me years of being an angry young man to realize that I didn't want to be an angry, middle-aged man or even older. It's cute when you're young and it's cute when you're old, but when you're in the middle and you're angry, it's not cute. You're just a jerk [Laughs.]

AB: Was there a specific time of when you noticed a change, where you just needed to stop this stuff?

BG: It was just about 15 years ago or so, and I was like "none of this stuff is making me happy, I need to change

and figure out what would make me happy."

AB: It's like you had to find your own voice by getting away from your trademark voice, in a way.

BG: Yeah, exactly.
AB: I was talking to Derek [J. Rudy of Personal Publicity] about how you've been working on your new movie *Willow Creek*. I know it's been showing around at some different festivals, but it hasn't been released yet?

BG: Yeah, it'll be released at the beginning of summer. It'll have the same kind of release as my other movies, where it'll be in some theaters.

AB: What's interesting about *Willow Creek* is that with a lot of your movies, I usually don't know what to expect, but I never would have expected a movie about Bigfoot, which is kind of perfect, in a way.

BG: That's the thing: I just chase after things that interest me and then the byproduct is that folks just aren't sure what I'm going to do, which is funny. I'm about to start

a [documentary] on a friend of mine, which just interests me. It is about as far away from a horror-suspense movie as you can get, but these are the things that I just keep pursuing.

AB: What got you first interested in Bigfoot? Was it something that's been going through your whole life?

BG: Oh yeah, ever since I was a little kid, I was totally obsessed with Bigfoot and any cryptozoology. As a little boy, I was really into it, so part of it

was that I just wanted to go and visit there, so it gave me a chance to go up there.

AB: Yeah, when I heard you were up there I was thinking "Yeah, that's not a place I expect people to be."

BG: [Laughs] Yeah, I like to go everywhere.

AB: You mentioned the documentary, but is there anything else that you've been working on that's inter-

esting you?
BG: I've finished a few more screenplays, so I always try to go out and get those going. The doc will keep me busy, but then I'll hopefully start making another movie more along the lines of *World's Greatest Dad*.

AB: I know you're friends with Robin Williams, so do you typically write roles for certain people, or does that start to come later.

BG: No, I usually do it the other

way. I write it and later on I go "Oh, it would be great if such and such will do it." I didn't even know [Robin] was going to do [*World's Greatest Dad*], because I had written it with somebody else kind of in mind.

AB: Alrighty. Have you been to Erie before?
BG: Yeah, I've played Jr's before.

AB: I thought so. I think I remember talking to [Dave Litz, Jr.] that you had been there about 15 years ago or something like that.

BG: Maybe I've played it between that, but that was around the first time I had been there, so I've played it at least twice before.

AB: What do you remember from your time at Jr's?
BG: I remember it was packed and I remember I was freezing in the room where they stored beer. I also feel like Billy Blanks is from there, am I right?

AB: Yeah, Billy Blanks, Pat Monahan from Train, I know Trent Reznor from Nine Inch Nails is from somewhere south of here.

BG: Wow.
AB: Yeah, typically it's a lot of people that are from here and then they don't talk about it too much.

BG: [Laughs] Well, I proudly own my central New York heritage.

AB: So, what made you want to come back to Erie?

BG: I like doing stand-up, and it's a good club, so that's all it takes.

AB: Simple enough. One thing I didn't realize about you until I started

prepping for this interview was that you directed *Jimmy Kimmel Live* for 267 episodes.

BG: Actually, it's more than that. It's like 300-some or something like that, but IMDB is always a little screwy.

AB: So IMDB is a lying bastard?

BG: [Laughs] It's a dirty, dirty, lying bastard, yeah.

AB: Have you ever been approached by other hosts to do that?

BG: Yeah, I shot a pilot for Chris Hardwick that was more of a talk show. I do think that if I were to get more into that kind of stuff, that's a full-time grind, so it would limit the amount of movies I could make.

AB: That's true. That's why you originally left Kimmel.

BG: Yeah, as much as I loved the job, it was just time for me to make more stuff of my own. I just keep doing stuff that interests me and just keep having fun.

AB: Excellent, well we look forward to having you.

BG: Thanks, man. Hopefully by then it won't be so cold, but I think [Laughs] it's going to be about as cold as Anchorage was.

AB: We'll see. It's not even the cold so much as when the city doesn't even plow. So it goes.

BG: Well, I look forward to it. I'll see you then.

AB: Alright. Hopefully, I won't get stuck along the way.

BG: [Laughs] Alright, thanks a lot.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erivrd.com/55no8>.



Events at Penn State Behrend

Speaker Series

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

Music at Noon: The Logan Series

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

Studio Theatre

"PSYCHO BEACH PARTY"
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Applied Images runs through Feb. 25 at Glass Growers Gallery.

write discriminating, raw, and soul-crushing reviews more often...

Not today though! Here, I picked a show I knew I would like because I am intimately familiar with the work of one of the artists. So unfortunately for you, you will just have to wait for an angry rant about how cynical and corporatized the art world has become for another day. Today, you get to read good things about good people. If this is not your cup of tea, stop reading now and go peruse the elegant discourse in the comments section of your favorite YouTube video. There, you will surely find some entertaining feedback more to your tastes.

In the spirit of honest journalistic disclosure, you should be aware that I knew I would like Mary Rosiak's show at Glass Grower's Gallery because she's my former high school art teacher. She's also been a good friend and mentor to me since those days. I've been following her career for thirty years, so I knew what to expect before I walked in the door. In fact, I was present during the creation of one of her pieces, a three-dimensional shadow-box collage featuring bold photographs of flowers called *Run for the Roses* that she started at a demonstration on collage techniques she was giving one evening.

A lot of the gallery at Glass Growers is filled with similar images: Behind the glass (but often in front of the mats) are meticulously cut out and placed iconography, arranged with depth in mind. The arrangement of elements within the enclosing frame is always structured to lead you into and back through the space. After teaching the principles of design to thousands of students, Mary has become a master of composition. She uses this to great effect to call the viewer's attention to the important objects she has photographed to be the centerpieces of each composition.

The subjects we see in these constructions are symbols that Mary

Contributed Photo

holds dear, which we as viewers should see and know more intimately. Flowers and fish have long been staples of her symbolism, but her recent travels with her sister have opened up new avenues of expression. Arizona's deserts and ancient adobe churches have given her new devices to feature in her work. She fell in love with The White Dove of The Desert Church near Tucson, where the power of the icons for the parishioners had a profound effect on her. One large photomontage, *By Your Cross and Resurrection*, features that Church's crucifix. You can see where the paint has worn away on Christ's legs where thousands upon thousands of hands have touched this sacred relic.

One of Mary's motivations for showing us the beauty of sacred objects in a new light is to bring us deeper into a personal understanding of those objects. She also includes as her subject matter old rusty trucks, rag dolls, and other trappings of life that have a history and probably meant the world to the people who owned them for however long that interconnection lasted.

It's refreshing to see Mary creating on a regular basis again. For years her teaching took up most of her studio time. The art she was making during her long career centered on techniques she would be bringing to the students in her classroom. It is difficult to create a unified body of work when you are teaching everything from high school ceramics to college printmaking. During the past 25 years, her work has shown up as individual pastel drawings or photomontages regularly in group shows, but rarely has a collection of her art been consolidated in one place.

The rest of the rotating show space at Glass Growers is dedicated to the photography of Fran Rosiak, Mary's sister and best friend. Fran has also been a teacher all her adult life, but in the realm of science rather than art. She is fairly new to the creative process, but inexperience does not appear to have hampered her vision. Her photographs are well-composed and original. She has used several

graphics programs to manipulate them in intriguing ways. She has made these photographs fresh and innovative, a difficult feat to accomplish in the overcrowded field of art photography.

Fran is also presenting us with subjects that hold meaning: Church buildings, statuary, stained glass windows, but somehow the deeper symbolism has been stripped away in favor of a more pure design aesthetic. Sacred objects presented more as architecture or swaths of color. It's interesting to compare the way the two sisters present similar themes. Despite the similar bright colors and subjects (many of these photographs are from the same locations), the vision presented to us as viewers from the two artists seem far removed from one another. Perhaps it is the digital manipulation that strips some of the intimacy from Fran's photographs. But perhaps instead it is her uncluttered composition and strong contrast. These images can be perceived and understood at a glance.

If you feel that this review really didn't take the artists to task, or was too "nice," take heart! I shall try with all dispatch to find a train-wreck of a show to pan for my next review!

In the meantime, a couple of fine visionaries are deserving of your time. Personally, (and yes, it is personal) I can't wait to see what the Rosiak sisters have in store now that they are both retired from education and can devote even more time to their art.

Mary J. & Frances R. Rosiak - Applied Images is currently on display at Glass Growers Gallery, which is located at 10 E. Fifth St., from Jan. 10 to Feb. 25. Hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday noon until 4 p.m.

Pen Ealain can be contacted at PenEalain@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/odv1b>.



An Art Review for Friends

By: Pen Ealain

Since taking over as the art critic of the Reader, I've gotten many comments and suggestions on my writing. Critiquing the critic is a time-honored tradition. One thing I've noticed from all the feedback: people love a review that doesn't pull any punches. They want me to tell it like it is, even if that means shredding the egos of an artist or two. The people who read The Reader want their journalism to be brutally honest. They are tired of the puff pieces from reviewers that spout nothing but happy banal marketing platitudes. I'm cool with that. Far be it from me to critique the critics of my criticism. I was never good at marketing anyway – just ask the guys at the ad agency I used to work for.

But being derogatory is generally not my nature. There have been shows in Erie that I have avoided reviewing because I don't want to seem caustic. I'd rather recommend that you go see a show than not go see a show. But you, my readers, deserve to get what you want sometimes, so I pledge to

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wed 2.19

JES Presents Harbor Place: An Exciting New Vision for Erie's Bayfront

We are all familiar with Harbor Place — refer to our last issue — but in case you're not, Harbor Place is a \$150 million development proposal that, if approved, will change the face of our Bayfront as we know it. The Jefferson Educational Society will bring in project designer Brian Weber to present the pros and cons of the plan as well as a look at what could be our new bayfront. Tickets are just \$10 per person.

When: 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: 3207 State St.
Contact: 459.8000

thurs 2.20

Fuddle with Gnosis

Two forces of musical fusion team up for a night of genre-bending music this Thursday at Sherlock's. Erie's Fudd and Edinboro's Gnosis feature a group of people ready to experiment with their instruments for new and exciting tunes, all while throwing a rocking dance party, a prime way to celebrate before the weekend.

When: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Where: 508 State St.
Contact: 453.7760

Concealed | Revealed

A one woman art show by Jodi Staniunas Hopper. The exhibition will feature a number of Luchadora Masks and their respective imagery, altered wedding wear, and carnival style show posters relating to the many roles of women. Artist talk will be held at 6 p.m. in Zurn 114 (down the hall from the Gallery).

When: 6 to 9 p.m.
Where: Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St.
Contact: 824.2092

fri 2.21

Eric Brewer & Friends: Eric and Ralphie Birthday Bash

While plenty of people would be expecting to receive something on their birthday, Eric Brewer and Ralph Reiting III will be in more of a giving mood. The two will putting on a show with the rest of local jamsters Eric Brewer & Friends for a birthday bash at the crooked i, so treat yourself to a musical present from the boys.

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

Wintertime at the Maritime

It's time to embrace Erie's long winter — so join the Flagship Niagara for a unique outdoor experience. Guests will enjoy a vodka bar, hot toddies, hors d'oeuvres, live music, raffles, curling competition, funky winter hat contest and much more. Be sure to bundle up and get ready

Erie Chamber Orchestra Presents: Bach to Bloch Friday, Feb. 7

The violin is a deep-rooted, storied instrument, with over 500 years of history behind its strings. Since its origin, hundreds of composers and musicians have used the violin to contribute to a grand musical tradition, and even today, pieces of music that predate the birth of our nation are still played, sometimes on violins that are also older than our country.

Still, even the oldest institutions need new generations to carry on their legacy, vessels to turn the notes on a sheet into an audible experience for audiences as older performers retire from the art. Luckily for us, the current state of the violin is in capable hands with Rachel Barton Pine and Ade Williams.

Both Pine and Williams will join the Erie Chamber Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant for *Bach to Bloch*, a musical journey featuring the works of Handel, Bach, Schnittke, and Bloch. Pine, at just 39, has earned high praise throughout her career since she debuted with the Chicago String Ensemble at the age of 7. Now it's Williams who is busting through the musical ranks, a past winner of the Sphinx Competition for young Black and Latino string players in 2012 and an up-and-coming violin sensation at the age of 16.

"It's exciting to see a talented young violinist blossoming and continuing our grand tradition," Pine says of Williams. "There's something really special about her. She just moves people in a way that you can't teach, where they just have it or they don't, and she has it in spades."

The two virtuosos will share the stage, performing together for the first time with an orchestra, treating the crowd to concerti by Bach and Schnittke, with the latter composer's piece a more modern work that Pine described as "off the wall" but still accessible and creative. While they'll be playing a couple of school assemblies before the Friday concert, Pine said that she'd like to see some younger people in the crowd for their performance with the Chamber Orchestra.

"I hope that there will also be kids in the audience, because there's nothing more inspiring to a young person than seeing a slightly-older young person doing such a great job, because then they can feel like they can do it too," Pine says.

It doesn't matter what age you are, because anyone can enjoy *Bach to Bloch*. Plus, you never know who else will be inspired to help carry on a musical legacy on a night where an old tradition is celebrated by a younger generation. — Alex Bieler



to sip warm beverages by the cozy fire pits or stay warm in our heated tents. Attendees must be 21 years of age or older. Tickets are \$60 per person/ \$100 per couple (includes 3 free drink tickets)

When: 6 to 9 p.m.
Where: Erie Maritime Museum Outdoor Plaza, 150 E. Front St.
Contact: 452.2744

sat 2.22

Triage Unit

Where a lot of bands have set lists, Triage Unit deals with starting points. The experimental musical collective continues its ongoing experiment at The Beer Mug, where the band will be providing an improvisa-

tional experience for a one-of-a-kind show, so don't miss your chance to see this unique event.

When: 9:30 p.m.
Where: 1108 Liberty St.
Contact: 454.4753

sun 2.23

Mercyhurst Classic Film Series Presents *Rear Window*

Rear Window is a 1954 movie that is considered by many critics to be one of Alfred Hitchcock's best works. Starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly, this thriller tells the story of a man who, after breaking his leg, spends his time recuperating by spying on his neighbor, unintentionally unraveling a sinister mystery. Tickets are just \$1

at the Taylor Little Theatre.

When: 2 p.m.
Where: 501 E. 38th St.
Contact: 824.3000

mon 2.24

State Champs come to Edinboro

Up and coming Albany, NY pop-punk band State Champs are in town tonight, and you're invited. After releasing *The Finer Things* last October, they've been touring extensively and making quite a name for themselves. Also on the bill are NYC's Candy Hearts and Edinboro's own Mal-lory Run. It's going to be a night of pure punk enjoyment, don't miss out. Doors open at 5:00, music starts at 6:00, advance tickets are \$12.

When: 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Where: Edinboro Events Center
Contact: 814.434.0687

tues 2.25

Black Mask, Old Fears, Starve, The Teeth, and Spud Dog

If you're looking for an excuse to go bang your head to some thundering riffs, then Basement Transmissions is your place. The State Street venue is hosting a night of hardcore, with Punx-sutawney metal-punk outfit Black Mask leading the way. Add in Blue Pike Award winners Starve and nominee Spud Dog, and you're in for a thunderous night.

When: 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Where: 1501 State St.
Contact: basementtrans@gmail.com

wed 2.26

Make Up Something Networking presents: Speed Networking

Have a great idea for a business you'd like to launch? Already have a business and want to take it to the next level? Like donating to charity? Like craft beer? If you answered yes to any of those questions — and we think you did — then Speed Networking is for you. Featuring internationally-renowned speaker Lisa Kelley, this event is aimed to help you grow your business through the power of networking. With a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, and music — all in the history Brewerie at Union Station — this is a Wednesday night that can be a game-changer for you and your big idea.

When: Doors open at 5 p.m.; presentation begins at 5:30 p.m.
Where: 123 W. 14th St.
Contact: MakeUpSomething.com

thurs 2.27

Edinboro Film Series presents *The House I Live In*

Once upon a time, President Nixon declared a war on drugs, claiming they are public enemy



**16th Annual Barstool Open
Saturday, Feb 22**

As part from investing in a bunch of neon-colored balls and converting a snowmobile into a cart, Erieites don't get too many good chances to get a round of golf in during the winter. Excuses to consume liquid libations, however, are acceptable all year round – and the 16th Annual Barstool Open gives you a chance to combine both golf and grog.

The sporting tradition returns to Erie Saturday, Feb. 22, with 18 holes of mini golf goodness scattered across several State Street locations. Compete alone or team up with three fun-loving friends to show off your putting prowess. Even if your golf game isn't so hot, there are still prizes to be won, as special gifts will be given out as part of a costume contest for the most cleverly coiffed competitors.

The Barstool Open kicks off at 10 a.m., so make sure to pick up your scorecard between 7 and 10 a.m. to be properly prepped for a day of putt-putt and partying. Call 454.9113 ext. 226 to reserve your spot in one of Erie's favorite February events. – Alex Bieler



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No. 1. Forty years, 45 million arrests, and \$1 trillion later, our nation's longest war is still raging. *The House I Live In* documents life-changing stories of drug victims from more than 20 states, from the abuser to the dealer and all connections in between. Admission is \$5.

When: 8:30 p.m.
Where: 217 Meadville St., Edinboro
Contact: events.edinboro.edu

Darius Rucker, Eli Young Band & David Nail "True Believers" Tour

Arguably one of the most applauded singles of the year, "Wagon Wheel" has helped this platinum-selling entertainer earn multiple nominations from the CMA and ACA Awards. Fans of his third chart-topping country album, *True Believers*, can now catch Rucker, featuring the Eli Young Band with special guest David Nail.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St.
Contact: 452.4857

Mister F

Who is Mister F? Is it a British secret agent? A mysterious mole? Someone who's last name starts with the letter F? No, Mister F is actually four stellar musicians that teamed together to make high energy tunes that will keep you dancing all night. Luckily for Erie, their next mission is to entertain the crowd at the crooked i, so head down to State Street to greet the guys with a cheer.

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

fri 2.28

**MIAC presents Happiness
Beyond Words III**

The Mercyhurst Ballet Theatre with SoMar Dance Works performs *Beyond Words III* to benefit SafeNet. This preview performance is just \$15.50 and features choreography by Mark and Solveig Santillano, Lesley Bories-Scalise, James Clouser, Michael Gleason, and Tauna Hunter. Visit the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center to support SafeNet and experience the talent of Mercyhurst dance students.

When: 4:30 p.m.
Where: 501 E. 38th St.
Contact: 824.3000

**Agatha Christie's A
Murder Is Announced**

An announcement in the local paper states the time and place when a murder is to occur in Miss Blacklock's Victorian house. The victim is not one of the house's several occupants, but an unexpected and unknown visitor. What follows is a classic Christie puzzle of mixed motives, concealed identities, and a second death.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: All An Act Theatre at Columbus Square, 652 W. 17th St.
Contact: www.allanact.net

**Junius with guests A Storm
of Light and Starve**

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One Night in Hollywood – Sunday, March 2

Movies have a magical ability to transport you to different places and times, destinations displayed over glowing rectangles as big as a wall or as small as a note pad. In 2013, some of the best films took us to very different locations, from *Her's* lonely Los Angeles to the frightening depths of outer space in *Gravity*.

Soon the Academy Awards will honor some of the best movies of the past year, and The Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania is hoping to transport you from Erie to Hollywood for Oscar night without ever leaving The Gem City.

One Night in Hollywood brings the excitement of the Academy Awards to the Erie Art Museum starting at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 2, with formally dressed guests treated to hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, potential prizes, and, of course, the Oscars ceremony shown on a giant projection screen. Purchasing VIP tickets treats you to even more Academy rewards, with early entrance allowed at 6 p.m., preferred seating, a VIP-only lounge with DJ NatasK, and five free drinks.

Whether the Academy Awards are all about Steve McQueen and his film *12 Years a Slave* or someone experiences a *Dallas Buyer's* snub, make sure you do it in style at One Night in Hollywood.

Tickets for One Night in Hollywood can be purchased at brownpapertickets.cpm/event/553410 for \$45 a piece or \$85 for two. VIP passes are available for \$100. – Alex Bieler

“beauty” are used to describe the same band, but after you listen to Junius, it starts to make sense. The atmospheric metal band from Boston will be bringing the beautiful brutality to the crooked i, sweeping the crowd away with shoegaze-influenced hard rock.

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

Where: 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

sat 3.1

Edinboro Laugh/Riot presents *The Bacchae*

This ancient Greek mythological tragedy written by Athenian playwright Euripides tells the tale of King Pentheus of Thebes and his mother, who are both punished by god of the grape harvest and ecstasy, Dionysus — Pentheus' cousin — for their refusal to show reverence to him. Tickets are just \$10.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: 217 Meadville St., Edinboro

Contact: 732.2518

American Idiot

This two-time Tony Award winning hit musical

tells the story of three lifelong friends, forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia. Their quest for true meaning in a post 9/11 world leads them on the most exhilarating theatrical journey of the season. Based on Green Day's Grammy Award-winning multi-platinum album, *American Idiot*, boldly takes the American musical where it's never gone before.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Warner Theatre, 811 State St.

Contact: 452.4857

sun 3.2

Langer Film Series presents *We Steal Secrets*

This documentary revolves around the marvel that is WikiLeaks, a nonprofit media organization launched in 2007 that publishes classified information, often concerning government and military procedures, by anonymous sources. Of course, this met with both praise and outcry: praise for inventiveness of the site and outcry for putting lives at risk. *We Steal Secrets* tells an inside-story of WikiLeaks and how it came to be. Tickets are just \$6.

When: 2 p.m.

Where: 501 E. 38th St.

Contact: 824.3000

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the crooked i

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MUSIC REVIEWS

Sun Kil Moon

Benji

Caldo Verde Records

★★★★☆



It seems that Mark Kozelek is beginning to accept that he's a pretty melancholy guy. "For 46 years now, I cannot break the spell / I'll carry it throughout my life and probably carry it to hell" he sings on his latest album *Benji*, his trademark baritone sounding as wounded as ever. There are plenty of reasons to be sad, as Kozelek reflects on the deaths of people close to him and of those far away over the course of 11 gut-wrenching, beautifully picked tracks, but instead of somber stories on fictitious characters, his tales feature stream-of-consciousness musings of real events. Still, while Kozelek is beginning to ponder his own mortality as well as those close to him, there's a lightness behind the dark, a eulogy to those he loved on tracks like the stunning "Micheline." *Benji* may be an album obsessed with death, but it's a beautiful ode to life and the people you experience it with. - Alex Bieler

Lost in the Trees

Past Life

Anti-

★★★★☆



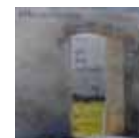
Back in 2012, Ari Picker impressed critics with *A Church that Fits Our Needs*, a gorgeous and personal album dealing with the suicide of the Lost in the Trees frontman's mother. Two years later, the North Carolina band has changed, trimming down from a sextet to a four piece and trading in the swells of strings and more orchestral fare for electric guitars and synths, but the grandiosity that Picker and company became known for is still a major part of *Past Life*, Lost in the Trees' latest album. While the arrangements are stripped down compared to past tracks, songs like "Daunting Friend" and "Excors" maintain a cinematic feel, buoyed by Picker's golden tenor, an emotive beacon that floats along with each note. The shift to a more electric influence may be a bit of a shock to Lost in the Trees fans, but the band pulls it off on *Past Life*. - Alex Bieler

The Heliotropes

On the Outside

Independent

★★★★☆



While The Heliotropes may have titled the local band's latest album *On the Outside*, it may be fairer to say that the new 12-track set is more of an invitation inside the mind of Katie Christ and Sheldon Peterson. The duo, along with bassist David Blaetz and violinist Abby Badach, excel at creating introspective, jazz-tinged folk songs anchored by Christ's emotive vocals, especially on the gentle "Easy Not to Notice." Peterson's excellent picking skills are on display throughout the album, notably during the extended intro of "Eagle, Seagull, Pigeon," which kicks off an impressive four-track stretch to close *On the Outside*. At times, the album starts to drag, as all but two tracks top the five-minute mark, causing songs like "Orion" and the title track to lose some luster toward the end of their runtimes. Still, fans of The Heliotropes will be pleased to hear the quartet's latest efforts. - Alex Bieler

Barlow/onewayness

Barlow/onewayness Split 7"

Independent

★★★★☆



On the split record between Barlow and onewayness, shoegaze shakes hands with experimental electronica and it's anything but an awkward exchange. "Sun" – one of Barlow's longer songs, nearing the five-minute mark – features a surge of sound with fuzzed-out guitars and slamming drums upfront, leaving Ethan Oliva's vocals hanging out in the background, even when he's screaming behind a torrent of distorted layers. The hook – a slinky guitar riff – remains intoxicatingly present, creating a spacious yet full feeling. Master of spacious sounds – Adam Holquist, aka onewayness – layers spoken words from a CB radio – blips included – with ambient electronic swells and a haunting yet simple melody that becomes distressed as "Ghost Repeater" progresses. The stacking of sound upon sound creates a pleasant tension and anxiety that never really resolves but instead fades out. Both songs and sounds celebrate the spaciousness of a musical canvas so maybe it's more of a musical high-five here than a humble handshake. - Ben Spегgen



Tegan and Sara

Sisters rock Allegheny College for the second spot of their latest tour.

By Ryan Smith

By all accounts (their own, too) Tegan and Sara – long-known and loved amongst loads of hipsters and other cool cats for their close-to-the-bone, intimately-conversational brand of indie rock – have been floating their boat up and down distinctly more mainstream channels these days.

Erie Reader contributor and music wiseman Alex Bieler put it right when he put it like this in his review of their seventh album, *Heartthrob*, early last year: The twin sisters out of Canada, he said, have certainly veered into that "feared territory" that is radio- and dance-club-ready pop – and sure, maybe that scares some of their older fans – but, hey, they "shouldn't be scorned for the fun and accessible" music they've been making.

It's a new sound that happens, Bieler said, when Tegan and Sara "meld their already-catchy indie-pop style with a fair bit of '80s keyboards ... tracks that are more polished, but still true to [their] aesthetics. [It's a] natural evolution of the duo."

It felt that way, and sounded it, too, when Tegan and Sara played one of their first concerts of the year – a big, bright mix of all their indie-rock-power-pop-synth-wave sound – at Meadville's Allegheny College on Feb. 8. And that night, most everyone inside the Allegheny Campus Center's auditorium – a packed, veritable sea of true-blue fans with fresh-off-the-merch-table T-shirts – seemed right where they wanted to be.

Before making the snowy trek out to the show, I came across an article on their album, *Sainthood*, in which Spin magazine wrote: "Tegan and Sara's music may no longer be stuff of teens, but its strength remains in how much it feels like two people talking."

Now, I agree that Tegan and Sara's music does feel indeed like two people talking, and there's some strength in that, to be sure. Beyond that, they still, and always, converse a lot – signaturely warm, engaging little in-between chats.

And man, that crowd at Allegheny was hanging tight onto every word.

"We're very excited to be here," one of the sisters said between one of their hyper-driven, mass-cheers-invoking opening numbers. "We're counting [this] as our second show of 2014 ... [and] you guys are already such an awesome crowd."

But on Spin's other point, I've decided I have to differ:

At 33, Tegan's and Sara's stuff, it seems, is still very much the stuff of teens, and the teens I saw seemed to love it.

No, I know they loved it. I mean, they said so. A lot. "WE LOOOOVE YOOOOUUUU TEEGAAN!!!!," I heard some kid up in the balcony scream, all heart-out.

I looked up toward the voice, and saw a group of kids, one of many clusters in their mid-teens or not much at all older, a mixed bag of boys and girls. And they're way, way into it, with frantic-excited, faces like those crazy-made, blown-away kids on old footage of The Beatles performing.

"I remember that," I thought as I looked up. That first-concert kind of feeling, that WOW-I-can't-even-handle-it feeling you got at that first real, big show you went to as a kid.

For me as an awkward, mulleted, thick-spectacled high-schooler, that moment first came in 1995, when I made the hours-long pilgrimage from the backwoods of Kane to see pop-metal wizard Ozzy Osbourne performing in Erie.

And it was amazing.

I feel blessed, truly, that I've not forgotten that feeling. And real gratitude, too, that there have been so many, many more amazing sounds, sights and moments since way back then.

For a lot of the kids, that first-time moment looked to be coming from seeing Tegan and Sara playing at Allegheny a couple of weekends back.

And from where I was watching, it looked amazing for them – the kind of thing they'll never forget.

In my book, and whether I'd call myself a fan or not, any music that can do that for someone, anyone – no matter what sound it takes or makes – is something, and that thing's always somehow good, and real, and true.

Ryan Smith can be contacted at rSmith@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter [@RyanSmithPlens](https://twitter.com/RyanSmithPlens). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/s9itc>.



Tech Watch

Sochi Problems Go Viral

By: Abby Witham, Epic WebStudios

If you use any social media platform, you've likely already seen #SochiProblems. Every time I refresh my Twitter feed, I see something new about the 2014 Winter Olympics being held this time Sochi, Russia.

So if you're like me and are following the Olympic updates, you're likely seeing the barrage of posts about how mismanaged the event is more often than updates on the medal count. But if you haven't seen the pictures of "dangerous water," electrical fixtures hanging out of showers, or the hordes of stray dogs, on Twitter, just search @SochiProblems, #Sochi, #Olympics... the list seems to be never-ending.

Here's the thing: social media is changing how we experience the Winter Olympics because it allows for fans to get an inside look at the event – in real time. As many now know, the organizers at Sochi were unprepared and conditions seem severely lacking, considering the \$50 billion price tag the event came with.

But at least some of those who are at Sochi to compete have managed to humorize the situation for us.

One athlete, bobsledder Johnny Quinn, first got stuck in his bathroom when the door became jammed. The Olympian put his Olympic preparation to work by using his bobsled push training to break out, only to get stuck in an elevator just two days later. Quinn quickly became an Internet sensation by joining in on the hashtag #SochiProblems, which is still a trending topic on Twitter. Quinn even got some shout outs from celebrities, including William Shatner on Twitter.

But why are we shocked about the conditions? Sochi was expected to be extravagant and well-managed, especially with those \$50 million price tag that came with the event. CNBC reported, "the price tag for the Sochi Games? \$50 billion, making Sochi the most expensive games in history." In fact, that's more expensive than all other Winter Olympics to date combined.

With that high of a budget, one would think that having a working door and clean water would be a given.

After media finally moved on from the security concerns and the accidental Olympic ring malfunction at the Opening Ceremony, there were hopes that maybe people would start focusing on the athletes and their sports. But then snow started to melt and turn to slush. Now athletes have been the ones voicing concerns about the condition of the course, both on social media and through journalists, with the snowboarding half pipe being one of the main concerns.

American Hannah Teter, a two-time Olympic medalist told USA Today, "It is a little dangerous, I saw more people fall today than I have all season. It's just dangerous because it's crappy..."

Teter even took to Twitter about her concerns for the halfpipe, calling it the "sketchiest halfpipe finals" she'd seen in "a long time."

Shaun White, another two-time Olympics snowboarding champion had injured his wrist on the snowboard slopestyle course and decided to drop out of that competition and focus on the halfpipe. White had also expressed concerns about how tough the conditions were, and it showed in White's performance when he failed to medal in an event he won in the past two Olympics, placing fourth in the halfpipe competition.

Aside from the safety concerns and the tweeting, the 2014 Winter Olympics has broken *real* ground, with twelve new events making their debut, including the ski halfpipe (men's and women's), ski slopestyle (men's and women's), snowboard slopestyle (men's and women's), snowboard parallel slalom, women's ski jumping, biathlon mixed relay, a new figure skating team event, and luge team relay.

The saddest part about #SochiProblems is how much it has taken away from these new events and the making of history with women competing in ski jumping for the first time – which is what *should* be getting the lion's share of coverage. Instead, many of the articles on athletes have been overshadowed by the missing doorknobs and "dangerous" water.

With less than a week left in the games, let's hope social media focuses on the athletes and their performances.



Abby Witham can be contacted at Epic@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/ban1q>.



at the Erie Art Museum

SPRING 2014 FILM PROGRAM



FEB 19 • 7 PM
**Before
Midnight** (2013)
Drama/Romance | Rated R

Almost two decades have passed since Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Celine (Julie Delpy) first met on that train bound for Vienna. *Before Midnight* is the sequel to *Before Sunrise* (1995) and *Before Sunset* (2004), all directed by Richard Linklater. Intelligent, powerfully acted perspectives on love, marriage, and long-term commitment.

★ Academy Award Nominee

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Outside Voices

By: Jessica Courter

What was your favorite movie from the past year shown at FILM?

As the latest season gets underway, we spoke with a few fans of the popular downtown Wednesday night movie series.

Rainey Hokaj

"The films at the Art Museum are always good, but **In a World...** was one of the best. It was witty and had a great story line. The actors were perfect and added the necessary elements to make the film what it was."



Alisha Skalko

"**Blue is the Warmest Color** was definitely one of my favorites of last season. It was a little shocking, but it was refreshing to see a romance that disregarded the average boundaries of romantic dramas."



Chris Arkwright

"Of last season, my favorite movie was **In a World...** I like comedies, and it was kind of ironic in a way. It was interesting seeing her character develop from everyone not taking her seriously to her making it big time."



Patrick Vincent

"Of the several films I had seen last season, I would have to say **Zero Dark Thirty** had the most impact on me. I really like historical movies, and the hunt for Bin Laden definitely warranted a historical film."



Jessica Courter can be contacted at jCourter@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/om5yc>



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Smart Food

By: Helen Agresti

Today, we're seeing quinoa, agave, and honey in many healthy recipes and products on our store shelves, and they've become staples in the pantries of many health-conscious eaters.

Simply put, quinoa is a powerhouse grain that cooks faster than brown rice and contains a higher percentage of nutrients per serving, and both agave and honey sweeten our favorite foods and beverages. But one of these two ingredients sweetens food by using just a small amount, while the other sweetener has a distinct flavor and contains more health benefits.

What is Quinoa, and what makes it a "Super Grain"?

K.P. — Pittsburgh

Quinoa (pronounced: keen-wah) is my favorite of all the grains. It tastes delicious warm or cold. It contains all nine essential amino acids necessary for our body to build and repair muscle and tissue, which makes it a complete protein. Quinoa is gluten and cholesterol free. Along with its high protein content, it's super-grain packed with iron and fiber.

Unlike rice and other grains, it cooks up in less than 15 minutes. Add a few tablespoons of olive oil, a pinch of sea salt, juice from a fresh lemon and you have a great base for a meal or snack. It stores nicely in an airtight container for up to three days in the refrigerator.

Start your day off with quinoa by adding egg whites, spinach, and feta. Perhaps you want something sweeter for breakfast? Have it with a little maple syrup and low-fat turkey sausage.

And because it travels well, you can take quinoa to work and enjoy it as a salad for lunch. I like to dress it up with avocado, diced cucumber, chopped bell peppers, low-fat cheese, and grilled chicken.

At our house, I serve it most often with dinner. In the fall and winter months, I typically serve it warm with shrimp or scallops. I like to improvise and toss in whatever vegetables I have in stock.

If quinoa starts to get dry and sticks together, I sparingly add more olive oil or a marinade that compliments the other ingredients.



Blairing Media

What's better: Agave or Honey?

N.M. — Erie

We all know where honey comes from, but what is agave? Agave nectar is a natural sweetener that comes from the blue agave plant, which is grown in the desert region of Mexico. Because it comes from a plant source, it's very appealing to vegans.

Agave nectar tastes one-and-a-half times sweeter than honey due to its higher fructose content. But remember: fructose is known for increasing our risk for obesity and Type-2 Diabetes, so when using agave in recipes, it's important to remember a little goes a long way compared to other sweeteners. It's most commonly used to sweeten teas, smoothies, energy bars, and various baked goods. I've used both agave and honey separately in our smoothie and healthy snack recipes.

When agave and honey are compared per serving, their amount of calories, carbohydrates, and sugar, are almost identical. Honey, however, is more flavorful and nutrient dense. Honey also provides more antioxidants and minerals. This is why honey is my sweetener of choice. I try to create recipes that are nutritious and delicious. In my opinion, honey is both.



Wikimedia Commons

Helen Agresti is a Registered Dietitian and founder of Professional Nutrition Consulting, LLC. She's ready to answer your questions about food trends, healthy eating, and all things food. You can contact her at hAgresti@ErieReader.com, and follow her on Twitter @HelenAgresti To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/pbldr>.



The Irish Rovers Long Goodbye Tour

March 8, 8 p.m.

Pre-Show Event:
Cummings Art Gallery, 7 p.m.

Enjoy traditional Celtic tunes
from The Bangerzz and
a seasonal stout from
Lavery Brewing Company.

miac.mercyhurst.edu

814-824-3000



Expect to sing along.



Sudoku

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

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

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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆☆☆

Sudoku

See Feb. 5th Issue for Solution

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

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

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DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Beat rapidly
 - 5 Indian music
 - 9 Center (abbr.)
 - 12 N.Z. locust
 - 13 Jewish month
 - 14 Exclamation
 - 15 Occupational Safety and Health Adm. (abbr.)
 - 16 Yesterday (Ital.)
 - 17 Name (Fr.)
 - 18 Licensed practical nurse (abbr.)
 - 20 Follow
 - 22 Clothe
 - 25 Amazon tributary
 - 27 Skin vesicle
 - 28 Bygone days
 - 29 Concentrated (abbr.)
 - 31 Before (Lat.)
 - 34 Turk. title
 - 35 Indian prince
 - 37 Unfavorable
 - 38 Chin. poet (2 words)
 - 40 Pressure (pref.)
 - 41 Legume
 - 42 Egg (pref.)
 - 44 "Faerie Queene" lady
 - 45 Exclamation
 - 46 Ahead
 - 49 Art (Lat.)
 - 51 Fellow
 - 52 Gamin
 - 54 Arabic (abbr.)
 - 58 Gelderland city
 - 59 Half (pref.)
 - 60 Deride
 - 61 The (Ger.)
 - 62 Unfledged hawk
 - 63 Kih
- DOWN**
- 1 Indo-Chin. language
 - 2 Bronze (Lat.)
 - 3 Ultimate degree
 - 4 S. Afr. language
 - 5 Mack
 - 6 "Fables in Slang" author
 - 7 Global
 - 8 Alexandrian
 - 9 theologian
 - 9 Draft
 - 10 Quaker pronoun
 - 11 City of the Seven Hills
 - 19 Bitter (pref.)
 - 21 Least bit
 - 22 S. Afr. dialect
 - 23 Today (Ital.)
 - 24 Araroba (2 words)
 - 26 Fr. historical provinces
 - 30 Hemp
 - 32 Anchovy sauce
 - 33 King of Israel
 - 36 White with age
 - 39 Eggs
 - 43 Sultan's decree
 - 46 Son of Ruth
 - 47 Bare
 - 48 Squirrel's nest
 - 50 Pudding
 - 53 Candelnut tree
 - 55 Estuary
 - 56 Away (pref.)
 - 57 Gamble

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R	O	C	A	K	A	N	B	A	N	D
A	B	R	S	E	B	I	E	C	O	N
B	E	E	S	E	E	K	W	A	T	E
T	R	E	F	A	R	A	L			
Q	U	O	I	T	B	A	R	D		
A	N	N	A	O	R	L	E	S	B	E
D	U	N	A	D	I	O	S	E	U	R
I	S	E	N	E	N	E	G	A	Y	A
A	I	R	E	G	I	G	O	T		
A	B	C	S	O	E	N	O			
S	N	A	K	E	L	I	K	E	O	A
R	A	K	E	A	C	I	S	A	I	
O	G	E	E	D	I	E	T	E	A	N

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			62				63			

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A53

ER Sports

By: James R. LeCorchick

Where do I start? Erie has to be one of the greatest towns for a sports fan, as there is definitely something for everyone, and there is so much happening that really I don't know where to start.

But it doesn't matter – you can't go wrong.

So, I have opted to begin with the recent **Erie Sports Banquet** held at the Convention Center, and it happened to be the 50th annual brought to us by the legendary Artie Arkelian. It's hard for me to believe that I was just getting my driver's license when AA held the initial event.

Who could've imagined it would sustain for half a century? Only Arkelian could pull this off – especially nowadays, as the athletes demand such high appearance figures, but many still show up because of the respect he has throughout the country.

This year's event was held at the Bayfront Convention Center, and it was the perfect setting for the extravaganza that featured five Hall of Famers, several more outstanding pro athletes, and a few local high school stars.

As large as the Convention Center is, it was almost too small to accommodate all the class exuded by the featured guests who took time to sign a slew of autographs as well as talk sports with the fans. It would be impossible to name all the stars and what they did, but I did have a chance to interview – and chat – with many of them.

Of course, the main attraction was the Tech great **Fred Biletnikoff**, who was back for the second consecutive year, and Biletnikoff's charity was the recipient of the proceeds from the great affair. He has a sincere love for his hometown, and again, took time off from his busy schedule to visit Central Tech and talk to some of the current football players.

I sat with former Pittsburgh Steeler **Dwayne Woodruff** and his wife for dinner, and he is one of the most impressive athletes I've met in a long time. He is a judge in Pittsburgh now,



Former Tech stars Tom Wedzik (left) and Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff exchange some Centaur tales as well as recall the good old days growing up on the Eastside.

and he and his wife Joy talked to every young person that asked for an autograph, giving each and everyone a quick lecture on how important school is.

Dwayne and Joy are both graduates of Louisville University.

I did my *Sports Blitz* show from the lobby preceding the affair and the likes of former Steeler Robin Cole and ex-Browns top dog Hanford Dixon could not have been nicer.

There's no doubt: Out of five stars, the 50th annual Erie Sports Banquet was a six-star event.

ONE OF the biggest surprises – and more impressive teams – this season is the **Edinboro University Lady Scots** basketball squad, with the charges of Coach Stan Swank putting them in a strong position to win the PSAC West and host the conference championship. The Boro has really impressed with a pair of wins over rival – and nationally ranked – Gannon.

In the latest meeting between the two powerhouses, EUP led 37-21 at the half and grabbed a 12-point decision. And this was on the Lady Knights' home court.

ANOTHER MAJOR surprise team has to be the Erie Otters, as the local icers are a flat-out powerhouse in the OHL, and the team is drawing huge numbers for



Dane Fox celebrates his record-setting goal.

their games. This is great news as it seems like just yesterday the owners were talking about selling the team, and there was a strong possibility that it could've been to an out-of-town group.

That would've been a disaster. Also, the Erie fans had a chance to see history recently when Dan Fox broke the single-season record for goals by an Otter player.

CATHEDRAL PREP has had numerous outstanding performances by basketball players over the years, but I'm not sure any Rambler has carried a team like



Matty Harris with Coach Mark Majewski after scoring 1,000 career points.

senior **Matty Harris** has done of late. He has had several games that border on incredible, as he has helped his team to a Region crown while giving CP plenty of momentum entering the playoffs.

In a recent two-game period, he tallied a total of 78 points, 38 in an OT win over Central Tech followed by a 40-point performance in another OT game against a good Canadian squad.

I believe his two-game tally of 78 points is a local record. The only player, I believe, that could've come close to that was Strong Vincent great **Essie Hollis**.

THE THIRD ANNUAL Erie Area Coaches Clinic is slated for Saturday, March 8 at the Avalon Hotel. The clinic will feature over 10 hours of football instruction from the most successful college and high school mentors in the area.

Clinic directors include **Matt Melle, Brad Orlando, and Aaron Slocum**.

The cost for the event is \$40 for an individual and \$160 for a staff. For more information, contact Melle at 823.2471 or Orlando at 873.6664.

SUPER 7s

As the playoffs are upon us, it's time for the top teams to put up or shut up. I am looking for these squads to put up.

GIRLS

1. (Last Week 1) HICKORY – The Hornets are a powerhouse, but it will be interesting to see how they hold up against the best in post-seasons play.

2. (2) VILLA MARIA – If there's a team peaking at the right time, it's the Victors. VMA is just steamrolling opponents and could go far in the playoffs.

3. (7) - GENERAL McLANE – The Lancers made a huge leap to the No. 3 spot and appear poised to be a tough out in the post-season.

4. (5) KENNEDY CATHOLIC – KC plays in one of the smaller classifications, but the Sharon-area school will be a force.

5. (6) CONNEAUT – This team could be one of the major surprises in the playoffs.

6. (NR) GIRARD – The Yellow Jackets are another team peaking at the perfect time, and Girard faithful take their hoops seriously.

7. (3) MERCYHURST PREP – The Lakers are hitting the post-season on a bit of a slide, but they usually respond well under playoff pressure.

BOYS

1. (2) CATHEDRAL PREP – The Ramblers made some believers by sweeping McDowell in the regular season, and Division I recruit Matty Harris has put together some legendary performances. He has been nearly phenomenal in some clutch situations in several close games.

2. (1) McDOWELL – The Trojans have compiled a glossy record, but they have to prove they can beat rival Prep, with the Ramblers winning 11 straight in the series.

3. (3) FAIRVIEW – The Tigers are playing great ball and will be hitting the

playoff trail with a full head of steam.

4. (5) EAST – Coach Matt Jones has his Warriors playing great, too, and they are as athletic as any team around.

5. (4) FARRELL – Another team with incredible athletes; it will take a good squad to stop the Steelers.

6. (NR) OIL CITY – Let's give the Oilers some respect, as they have quietly put together a solid team with some veteran players.

7. (NR) – COCHRANTON – The Cardinals are another team flying under the radar, but we will see how they compete in the playoffs.

DROPPED OUT — Strong Vincent, Mercyhurst Prep

Erie Skater Brings Home Trophy for Leadership and Passion for Hockey

Over 50 teams from the United States and Canada participated in the 20th Annual Sarah Backstrom Hockey Tournament hosted in Erie by the **Erie Lady Lions**. The Cazenovia Lady Chiefs earned the U19 title, and the Acanzster Avlanche capturing the U16 crown.

The Lady Chiefs edged the Chicago Falcons for their title and the Avlanche sneaked by the Kensington Valley Ravens by the same score for their championship.



Taylor Ridge took home the Sarah Backstrom Trophy at 20th annual tournament.

Taylor Ridge earned the Sarah Backstrom Trophy, the award signifying leadership and passion for the game. Ridge competed for the Erie U19 squad.

From 2000 to 2010, previous winners include: **Nikki Work, Krystal Champagne, Delilah Ball, Tracy Nolan, Savannah Varner, Julie Smith, Laura Gaslewski, Krista McCauley, Ashley Hapner, Sarah Evan, Sara Evan, Stacey Hiles, Kelly Keinle, and Rebeca Wheeler**.

The 21st Annual Sarah Backstrom Tournament will be held the first week-end of February 2015.

You can email James LeCorchick at @JRLSportsReport@gmail.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @JRLSports. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/q9nnh>.



12 NEWS



ERIE'S MORNING NEWS TEAM

TODAY
IN HD

GET YOUR
MORNING
STARTED WITH US



KARA COLEMAN

MARK SOLIDAY

WEEKDAYS
5:00 - 7:00 AM

GET IN YOUR GAME!



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Fridays in February • 2pm – 9pm
7 lucky winners every hour receive
Free Play or cash prizes!

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