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# ERIE READER

**FRACKING UPDATE:  
PIZZA AND POLITICS IN PA.**

**RUSSIAN BEAR AWAKENS  
COUNTY SALARIES**

**SNARKY PUPPY**

**THE REV. PEYTON'S  
BIG DAMN BAND**

**GNOSIS**

**ARCADE FIRE**

**GEEKING OUT  
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**WHISPERS OF LIGHT:  
A STORY OF HOPE**

**MUSIC, FASHION, NUTRITION,  
TECH, *ER SPORTS*, AND  
TWO-WEEKS WORTH OF ERIE EVENTS**



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March 19, 2014

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## From the Editors

**L**ike a helicopter landing a block away from where you're standing. Like the roar you bear witness to while white-knuckling the railing at Niagara Falls.

That is what thousands of gallons of natural gas spewing out of the ground aflame sounds like.

Sure, you've likely seen the videos on YouTube, on the news, in films of people striking their lighters at their kitchen sinks to create a cascading flood of flames from tapwater. But if you search a little deeper, look a little harder, you'll find a video shot by Greene County resident Thad Swestyn from Bald Hill that captures the raging inferno that started just before 7 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11 and churned on for days after.

Welcome to the dangers faced by those living in Frackland, USA.

For us at *The Reader*, it began with our fourth issue in our first volume when we first looked at what hydraulic fracturing means for Pennsylvania and the residents of the Keystone State. From there, we've discussed Gov. Tom Corbett's fracking-friendly agenda, looked at the lives of frack well operators and workers, and continually kept our ears to the ground to hear what was coming next. In this case, it was simply too hard to ignore the rumbles belching out from the Earth.

Three years later, the process by which natural-gas companies are harvesting the energy source below our bedrock is something that continues to concern us — and explosions like the one in Bobtown, Pa., a small, rural town not far from where one of our editors grew up, serve as clear reminders that this process of extraction remains dangerous to residents,

the land, and the people working at the sites.

What's equally disturbing is the disconnect that remains between Big Frack and the residents affected by the drilling. In the feature you'll find in this issue, Ryan Smith explores the decision made by Chevron — the company who owned the well, but had outsourced the labor to contractor Cameron International — to apologize to the region by dishing out some coupons for pizza and pop, which in turn received more media attention than the actual well explosion that killed one worker and injured another.

But as the fissure between Big Frack and Pennsylvania landowners continues to widen, the State Supreme Court is working to restore a balance in power with changes to state law so that companies like Chevron, Chesapeake Energy, and Range Resources can't gut the land and soak up all the profits for themselves. Laws that nearly paralyzed landowners in 2012 were revisited, reworked, and retooled just months ago, ensuring landowners wouldn't be forcefully deafened by the rally cry *drill, baby, drill!*

This story — the tale of fracking and its future in Pennsylvania and beyond — is far from over and continues to evolve the deeper we get beneath the surface of it. In fact, fracking proponent Gov. Corbett even called the State Attorney General to open an investigation into the expense billing of Big Frack, claiming that their processes are "defying logic."

For some that might seem like a hollow gesture in a re-election year, but for now it's clear that progress is being made — just not with free pizza and pop.

# Street Corner Soapbox

## The Slumbering Russian Bear Awakens

By: Jay Stevens

Ever hear of Godwin's Law? It's an Internet meme that arose out of discussion groups in the 1990s, and it essentially says this: The longer a discussion goes, the more likely someone will make a comparison to Hitler and the Nazis. And as soon as you do, you lose the debate.

Why? That's because if you're comparing somebody to Nazis, you're trying to shut down debate. They're evil, and if you're like Hitler... well, so much for you, right?

Which is idiotic. Unless folks are engaging in systematic, mass murder of millions based on ideas of racial superiority, they ain't Nazis. Comparing, say, a democratically elected president who's pushing for universal health care to Adolf Hitler...well, that not only shows a weak grasp of history, it also grossly diminishes the horror of the Holocaust, even if your health care plan was cancelled.

And now, since the Russian occupation of Crimea, Godwin's Law is getting quite a workout.

"Now if this sounds familiar," said former U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, of the

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It's not the first time Russia and European countries tussled over Crimea – that would be Crimean War, fought back in 1850 and over issues similar to what we're seeing today.

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Russian intervention in Ukraine, "it's what Hitler did back in the 1930s." "This is the same thing Hitler did prior to WWII," said Sen. John McCain, "I'm pleased Hillary Clinton has commented on it." When asked if he would compare Russian President Vladimir Putin to Hitler, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said, "it's hard not to." And they're not the only ones who see a little of the German dictator in Putin: Sen. Lindsay Graham, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Russian chess champion Garry Kasparov, and former national security adviser Zbigniew Brezinski all agreed.

Here's what they see: Hitler, in the 1930s, used the presence of German-speaking peoples in European countries to justify invading and occupying Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Putin, in 2014, used the presence of Russian-speaking peoples in the Ukraine to occupy Crimea.

But Putin's not talking about needing a greater Russia for pure Slavs to stroll about. He doesn't have his eye on all of Europe. He's not building death camps. Heck, from a geopolitical standpoint, Russia's action even makes sense, especially if you consider Russia's history has been

all about getting access to a warm-water port. Crimea houses Russia's primary naval base. Western Ukraine's desire to join the European Union – which sparked Russia's intervention – threatens that base. It's not even the first time Russia and European countries tussled over Crimea – that would be Crimean War, fought back in 1850 and over issues similar to what we're seeing today. Then, as today, Europeans opposed Russian expansion into Ukraine.

But!

There are similarities, anyway, between Putin's Russia and 1920s- and 30s-style fascism. Heck, there's even a term – "Putinism" – to describe how Russia's political system is a single-party authoritarian government built on the Soviet Union's "glorious" past and revolving around a charismatic leader. Maybe you wouldn't call Russia a dictatorship, but you wouldn't call it liberal or progressive, either. Putin's popular among Russians, but then again, not much serious opposition is tolerated.

And maybe more concerning – to us, anyway – is how some folks around here swoon for the man.

"Putin decides what to do, and he does it in half a day," said Rudolph Giuliani. "That's what I call a leader."

"People are looking at Putin as one who wrestles bears and drills for oil," said Sarah Palin. "They look at our president as one who wears mom jeans and equivocates and bloviates."

And when Putin recently passed laws criminalizing homosexuality, too many American conservatives eagerly supported him. "If we seek to build a Good Society by traditional Catholic and Christian standards," wrote former presidential candidate, Pat Buchanan, "why should not homosexual propaganda be treated the same as racist or anti-Semitic propaganda?" "I give 1.5 cheers to Putin," wrote conservative columnist, Rod Dreher, "he is anti-liberal in ways that are morally objectionable but also in ways that are morally praiseworthy."

And who could ever forget President George W. Bush's appraisal of the Russian president way back in 2001? "I looked the man in the eye. I found him to be very straightforward and trustworthy and we had a very good dialog. I was able to get a sense of his soul." Which may explain why Bush looked the other way during Russia's



Russian Presidential Press and Information Office

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**Just months after the Winter Olympics, Russian President Vladimir Putin continues to heat up international relations.**

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brutal war in Chechnya, or when Russia invaded the Georgian republic.

"I have never in my life been so conscious of such a directed force. It is thrilling when seen manifested in the energy, pride, and morale of the people – especially the young people," wrote another observer – but not of Putin's Russia. That was Charles Lindbergh's wife, Anne, after their visit to Nazi Germany. The Lindberghs, of course, were supporters of Hitler, as were many other prominent Americans, including Henry Ford, American flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker, Sears Roebuck Chairman Douglas Stuart, and Teddy Roosevelt's daughter, Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

Not that any American Hitler supporters knew in 1938 what lie in store for Europe, or approve of mass murder. And Putin is no Hitler!

But, still, there's a tendency among conservative extremists to dote on decisive action, on personality, on strength and forcefulness. And if there's a lesson from Nazi Germany – and maybe from Putin's Russia, too – it's that you shouldn't hanker for a strong man to run things his way.

Because he just might do so.

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# News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepherd

## Sobering Signs

In February, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that David Bell could not avoid being charged with DUI merely because he had been sober enough to pass all six "field sobriety tests" administered during a traffic stop. It was enough, the court said, that he had admitted drinking that night. A few days later, the Austin American-Statesman reported on Texan Larry Davis' struggle to clear the 2013 DWI arrest from his record – since he had blown a 0.0 alcohol reading that night and then had voluntarily undergone a blood test for other impairing drugs and come up clean on that. Davis had admitted to "one drink," but allegedly failed a "field sobriety test" (in the opinion of the arresting officer, anyway). (Davis' case is still unresolved, but since he has been declared an "indigent," the state covers his legal expenses.) [Associated Press via WRCB-TV (Chattanooga), 2-21-2014] [Austin American-Statesman, 2-24-2013]

## Compelling Explanations

Briton Jack Harvey, 42, drew a three-plus-year sentence in Truro Crown Court in February following his guilty plea on drug charges. Earlier, he had insisted that police had planted the drugs they found in his house and car, and even that a stranger (maybe "some filthy woman," he said) must be the owner of that cocaine and heroin that police found taped to his testicles. [WestBriton.co.uk, 2-6-2014]

Logical: (1) John Rogers of Geneva, Fla., recently acquitted in a shooting death (using Florida's "stand your ground" defense), convinced a judge in February to return his guns, which police had confiscated when they arrested him. Rogers said he needs the guns for protection because he is particularly vulnerable – in that he is blind. (2) Rogerio Scotton, challenging federal charges in January that he lied to immigration officials about his "marriage" to a Cuban woman (a "sham," said prosecutors), offered to prove the matrimony's bona fides by showing the couple's conjugal-bed videos in open court. (The judge instructed Scotton to find a "less intrusive" way to make the same point.) [WESH-TV (Orlando), 2-21-2014] [South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 1-22-2014]

## The Continuing Crisis

The firm 3D Babies has begun selling (for \$800) 8-inch-long fetal sculptures developed from 3-D ultrasound images, computer graphics and 3-D printing technology ("printing" successive layers of material continuously, eventually creating a physical object). (Four-inch and 2-inch models are available for \$400 and \$200, respectively.) For celebrity hounds who are not planning imminent parenthood, the company sells one fetal sculpture off the shelf: the Kim Kardashian-Kanye West fetus ("Baby North West") for only \$250. [FastCoDesign.com, 1-17-2014]



# The Way I See It

## Key County Administrative Gaps Narrowed

By: Rebecca Styn

On Tuesday, March 11, Erie County Council approved four of the five administrative positions County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper requested. The four salaries approved were for the director of administration, director of the Erie County Department of Health, direc-

would be as attractive as their private sector counterparts.

Overall, the public sector is actually filled with higher-skilled workers. The national statistics regarding qualifications show that the public sector has a much higher percentage of employees with at least a bachelor's degree – 38 percent compared to 23 percent in the private sector in 2010.

different parts of the pay scale and the deviations are much more varied. Public sector pay is more bunched in the middle, while private sector pay is more unequal, lower at the low end and higher at the high end. That is why, if you count it one way – and take the mean – private sector pay looks higher. So, the truth is, they both – at varying levels – outperform each other.

We must keep in mind that by not offering competitive pay for those with degree level qualifications, the public sector could end up losing higher caliber graduates to the private sector – and there are certain roles that I believe are not worth compromising – including those that help to govern our day to day lives.

Building the right – and best – team can help propel our community forward, because the old adage – you get what you pay for – often does come to fruition.

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### A higher salary would create more incentive for the more experienced and/or knowledgeable candidate to apply, because these public sector positions would be as attractive as their private sector counterparts.

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tor for the Office of Children and Youth, and a newly formed position of IT Director. The fifth position, an administrative officer, was tabled because County Councilmembers said they want further evidence that the role is necessary.

These requests needed approval, because according to the county's personnel code, employees new to a position can receive a maximum of 4.2 percent above the starting salary for the position, but any salary higher than that requires County Council approval.

While the four positions were approved, in some cases the salaries were amended to a lower annual pay than what Dahlkemper had initially proposed. The director of administration position was approved at \$70,000 – \$15k lower than what was initially requested – and the salary for the IT Director was proposed at \$94,994 but was approved only at \$85k.

The salary proposed by Dahlkemper for the director of administration was \$22,172 higher than budgeted for this year. However, according to Dahlkemper, directors of administration in other third-class Pennsylvania counties average about \$102,000 in annual salary.

Some County Councilmembers wanted lower pay for these positions because they are public sector jobs – and councilmembers are listening to the demands of residents asking County Council to reject the proposals for this reason. However, I believe that many of us need to adjust our viewpoint on this issue. Just because it's a public sector job, doesn't mean it's any less demanding or pertinent than a private sector position. In fact, oftentimes these roles have a more direct impact on our lives (via the government). Why wouldn't we want to fill these positions with the highest caliber candidate – as such, a higher salary would create more incentive for the more experienced and/or knowledgeable candidate to apply, because these public sector positions

Yet this remains a nationally continuous and heated issue, and there is much debate out there about who gets paid more – private or public workers. The truth is, the difference overall isn't very much; however, a look at the

Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Contact me at [rStyn@ErieReader.com](mailto:rStyn@ErieReader.com), and follow me on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/bfbs8>



Ms. Blondie Bennett (her recently acquired real name), 38, is not just a California model selling provocative "Barbie doll" photos of herself online (featuring her recently augmented 32JJ breast implants). She is at work on a longer-range project to remake herself completely as a human Barbie doll — to include the popular critique that Barbie represents not only bodily perfection but mindlessness. Bennett said she has had 20 hypnotherapy sessions to "help" her appear more confused and vacant, according to news reports. "I want people to see me as a plastic sex doll, and being brainless is a big part of that." She said she is doing well, in that she recently got lost driving to her mother's house. [Daily Mail, 2-19-2014; Huffington Post, 2-19-2014]

### Perspective

**F**irst-World Problems: The designer Giorgio Armani is one of the most recent one-day sponsors of a United Nations project to send safe drinking water to help some of the planet's 768 million people without access to a clean supply. The Tap Project program signs up smartphone users with a reward: that it will donate one day's clean water to a child for anyone who can manage to refrain from picking up his or her phone for 10 consecutive minutes. Tap Project screens even feature a 10-minute countdown clock to help do-gooders remain strong in the face of anxiety over the brief loss of access to Facebook, online games, et al. [TreeHugger.com, 2-26-2014]

### The Litigious Society

**B**ritish litigant Jane Mulcahy was turned down twice recently in her attempts to sue her former divorce lawyers for negligence — although they had won her case, defeating her husband's contentions. The lawyers were negligent, she said, because they never told her that if she "won" the lawsuit, the marriage would be over. Lord Justice Briggs, in the second appeal, said that Mulcahy's Roman Catholic faith should have tipped her off that "divorce" ended the marriage. [The Independent (London), 1-10-2014]

**C**lients Richard and Sandra Weiner filed a lawsuit in Paterson, N.J., in January against their former real estate agent, Robert Lindsay, who they said had a blatant conflict of interest while offering the Weiners' house for sale. The agent allegedly, purposely, high-balled the asking price so that the house would remain unsold longer — so that two agents (Lindsay and Jeannemarie Phelan) could meet there frequently, using a duplicate key to bypass the lockbox recorder, and have sexual liaisons. The agents denied the charge, but Coldwell Banker terminated their services. [Courthouse News Service, 12-20-2013]

### Ironies

**A**s Americans know, Canada's health care system, funded largely by taxes, is dramatically less expensive than America's — well, unless you're a dog. The Canadian news service CTV reported in February that increasingly, pet owners in Winnipeg, Manitoba, are making the 120-mile car trip to Grand Forks, N.D., because U.S. veterinarian prices are significantly lower than comparable services by Canadian vets. One Winnipeg family, facing a \$650 teeth-cleaning plus blood work for Jackson, their Shitzu, took him on the road trip to Grand Forks, where the bill came to \$205. [CTV News, 2-13-2014]



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Still need more to be impressed? How about this: NASA is currently in the early stages of their new Asteroid Initiative. The goal is to launch a spacecraft into Earth's orbit to catch a passing asteroid and sling shot it into a lunar orbit. Yes, they want to catch an asteroid — roughly 23 feet in diameter — so we can study it — in space!

NASA also recently unveiled its newest rocket, the SLS, or Space Launch System. This rocket is larger than the original Gemini rockets that got us to the moon (read: massive) and will allow NASA to carry its Asteroid Mission spacecraft up into its ready position.

Probably the coolest thing about this mission in particular is that NASA recently partnered with Squad, a game studio based out of Mexico City, to make a playable version of the Asteroid Initiative available for anyone to try. Squad's *Kerbal Space Program*, or KSP for short, is a sandbox game (a nonlinear-style game that allows players to complete challenges in a number of different sequences) that is all about a space program.

In KSP, players are given parts to build rockets and then are left to their own devices. Many will try to land on the moon or perhaps create a space station to orbit the Earth, but most will watch their rocket explode in spectacular ways as they slowly begin to understand the basics of space flight. KSP teaches players all about apogee and perigee: terms relating to variance in orbit.

I have played *Kerbal Space Program*, and it is fantastic. If you ever wanted to start your own space program and try to reach the furthest edges of our galaxy, it's now not only possible but modeled in a way that is mostly accurate to the natural world. The best part of KSP is that the developers are constantly working on it, adding new things for players to toy around with. They even allow players to modify the game and cre-

ate their own parts. As for examples: one fan of the game made all the *Star Trek Enterprises* and another re-created the Millennium Falcon. Man, I love nerds.

But I've saved the best for last. FOX just rebooted Carl Sagan's awe-inspiring *COSMOS* — this time hosted by astrophysicists Neil deGrasse Tyson. Neil is a prominent figure in the

As science has helped us understand more and more about our world and our place in it, I can barely keep my heart rate down when talking to friends about space.

astrophysicist crowd, and you probably have seen him talk at U.S. Senate hearings defending the space program or on various shows talking about the wonders of space.

Now FOX has *COSMOS* running on a prime-time slot on Sundays. In the first episode Neil reviewed the age of the universe and where we all fall on the calendar of space-time.

The show's pilot episode was — just as space itself is — truly magical, and *COSMOS* — like *Gravity*, 24-mile skydiving, and NASA-initiated video games — is helping capture the imagination of what makes the human race so great: We dare to reach beyond the terrestrial bonds within which we were born.

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# GEEKED OUT

*Space! The Nerd's Final — and Favorite! — Frontier*

By: John Lindvay

The Oscars just wrapped up, and my favorite movie, *Gravity*, returned from orbit with seven awards. Alfonso Cuarón's visually striking film about an astronaut-scientist's incredible escape from uncertainty in the Earth's course reminded me how much I love space. And that made me want to talk about space and all the cool space-related things happening right now.

Simply put: *Gravity* is breathtaking in its cinematography and depiction of what it is like to be in zero gravity. It requires the imagination to think about what life would be like out amongst the stars and highlights the advancements in sci-fi filmmaking over the years. I began my first fascinations with the cultural touchstone of *Star Wars*, and ever since, as science has helped us understand more and more about our world and our place in it, I can barely keep my heart rate down when talking to friends about space.

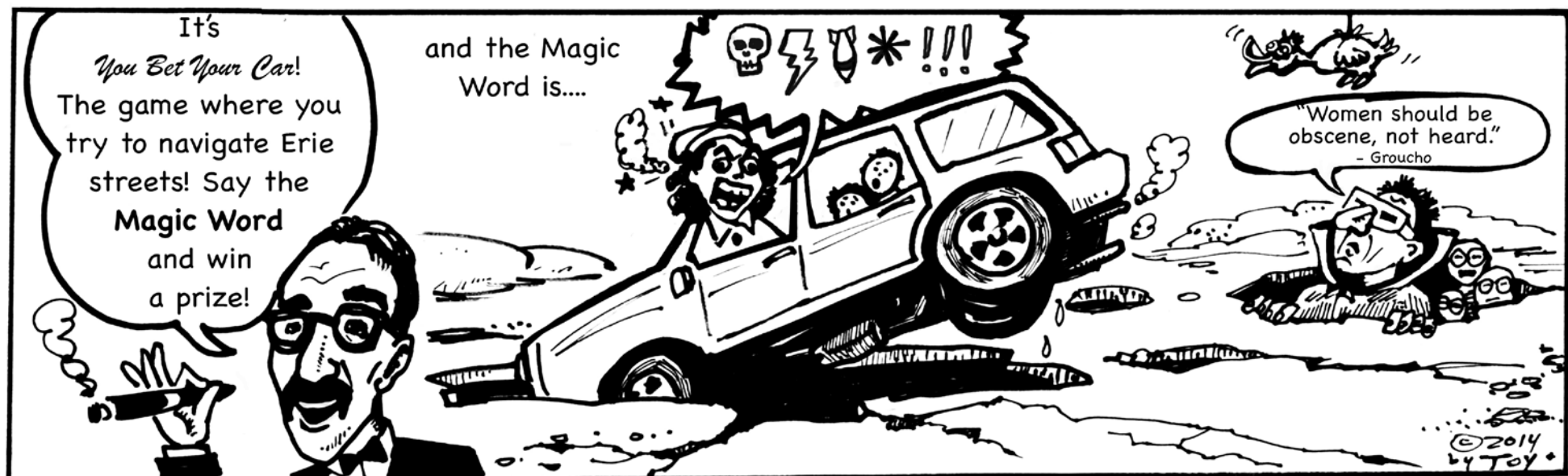
I mean, after all, we *actually* went to the moon! In one decade we decided that not only would we get to outer space, but we would have an American walk on the dusty surface of our near-

est neighbor.

But if that doesn't make your heart race like mine, what about that space jump? The one made by the now legendary sky-diver Felix

# JUST TOYIN' WITCHA

By: B. Toy







Dan Bollinger

Ever since the supplement made its television debut on *The Dr. Oz Show* at the end of 2012, it's created quite a buzz.

capabilities.

Commonly asked questions, then, are: Does green coffee bean extract help shed pounds, and is it safe?

A study published in the journal of *Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity* suggests that chlorogenic acid may help to decrease the absorption of fat and carbohydrates, as well as fire up the metabolism. Therefore, it may also be responsible for the decrease risk of Type 2 Diabetes.

But green coffee beans aren't the sole source of chlorogenic acid. It is also found in various vegetables, like cabbage, carrots, and cucumbers.

There's still a lot of speculation buzzing about Dr. Oz's Green coffee bean extract study. Further clinical studies are needed in order to determine whether there may be harmful side effects from taking the supplement.

But consumers should beware.

According to Dr. OZ, the green coffee bean supplement should contain at least 45 percent chlorogenic acid extract. The bottle should always list ingredients. Chlorogenic acid extract will be listed as GCA® (green coffee antioxidant) or Svetol®. It should not contain any fillers or artificial ingredients. Do not take Green coffee bean extract if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or under the age of 18.

While I often recommend certain vitamin and mineral supplements, I do not advocate "weight loss" pills, like this green coffee bean extract. When it comes to weight loss and maintaining an ideal body weight, I tell clients there's nothing more effective than eating healthy and exercising regularly.

Weight gain doesn't happen overnight. Likewise, weight loss is a process of making healthy decisions that become habit over time.

*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://erirdr.com/1usou*



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# Smart Food

## The Most Talked About Weight Loss Supplement: Does The Green Coffee Bean Make You Lean?

By: Helen Agresti

In my nutrition practice, I often get asked about weight loss supplements, as many people want a quick fix because they think their schedules don't permit them to cook at home or exercise regularly.

Recently, I've been getting a lot of questions about green coffee bean extract.

Ever since the supplement made its television debut on *The Dr. Oz Show* at the end of 2012, it has created quite a buzz. Dr. Mehmet Oz and his team conducted a study of almost 100 women between the ages of 35 and 49 who were overweight and had no preexisting medical conditions; pregnant and breastfeeding women were excluded from the two-week study. The Body Mass Indexes of those participating ranked between 25-45 – meaning the participating women were either overweight or obese.

The test and control groups were asked to keep mandatory food journals. They were also encouraged to leave their diets and lifestyles unchanged. The women took either the green coffee bean extract or the placebo three times a day 30 minutes before each meal.

The group of women who took the green coffee bean extract lost an average of two pounds. However, the group of women who took the placebo lost an average of one pound.

For reference, healthy weight loss should be one to two pounds per week. I typically see a client's weight drop after he or she has been consistent in keeping a food journal for two weeks. So, the result of the control groups weight loss wasn't a surprise. The results of the control group were most likely due to their required food journaling during the two-week period.

What exactly is green coffee bean extract?

Green coffee bean extract is found in unroasted coffee beans. The beans are boiled in distilled water and then the mixture is cooled for at least an hour. The main component of green coffee is chlorogenic acid. It is responsible for inhibiting the formation of fat. When coffee beans are roasted, they go from their natural green color to a mahogany brown. During the roasting process, the amount chlorogenic acid is decreased significantly. Therefore, regular brewed coffee does not have good fat burning

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Fracking laws in Pennsylvania are changing, but Big Frack seems as disconnected as ever to the communities affected by natural-gas drilling.



Daniel Foster

# Fracking Update:

## Pizza and Politics in Pa.

By: Ryan Smith

"True immorality," wrote great novelist Gustave Flaubert, is this: "Ignorance, and stupidity." And true "inhumanity," – the consequence of true immorality – "is the keynote of stupidity in power," wrote great anarchist Alexander Berkman.

Those sorts of statements, made long, long ago by thinkers far greater than myself, have been flying around in my head since I took up this story – one of industrial power, political play-ins, and pizza pies – a couple of weeks back.

By now, you've likely heard something of it: After a natural gas well at a hydraulic fracturing operation in Greene County exploded on Feb. 11 – killing one worker and injuring another in an intense, skyward-shooting inferno that blazed for days – mega-corporation Chevron, the well's owner, saw buying a bunch of coupons for free pizzas and soda as a fitting apology to the Bobtown-area community.

Stupid, a lot of people thought at that. Ignorant.

Then, as I worked my way through this piece last week, my editor passed along another story, a report from *The Daily Beast* detailing "How the Kings of Fracking Double-crossed Their Way to Riches," mainly by taking the liberty of massively chopping royalty checks due to unsuspecting landowners in fracking states – including Pennsylvania.

Immoral, I thought at that. Inhumane.

It occurred to me, then, that it's the same kind of (un)thinking and disconnection making some suits in high positions believe that pizza was a suitable outreach in the Greene County incident – a stupid mistake – that is perpetuating the really scary and wicked practices and actions – immoral and inhumane – on the parts of the "kings of fracking" in general.

The state Supreme Court made a decision late last year that promises to put some previously-taken power

back into the hands of local residents and leaders when it comes to deciding where and how the fracking industry will affect their communities.

Here's to hoping that say will be taken, and, further, that it will be heard, and have effects as well – if nowhere else, then at least on the thinking of the big power players who are changing the landscape of Pennsylvania under the feet of the people who call it home.

I called Bobtown Pizza one day a couple weekends ago – around mid-afternoon, sometime between the standard lunch and dinner rushes – and the guy on the other end of the line sounded pretty busy.

He was, too. The co-owner of the place, he was putting on a one-man show that afternoon, tossing all the pies, answering all the call-ins, cashing out all the walk-ins, and doing everything else it takes to keep business

moving in and out the door on any given Saturday.

That's a small-town pizza joint for you, I thought.

And small-town Bobtown is: Unincorporated, with a Census-registered population of just a handful over 750 people, it's not unlike a lot of other little spots in Greene County and elsewhere around the southwestern-most tip of Pennsylvania's map. A lot like the rest of the big but quiet, rural Appalachia region known mostly before (if for anything) as coal-mining country, and mostly these days (if for anything) as Marcellus Shale gas-drilling – fracking – country.

The Bobtown area started making headlines around the country recently for the latter, however, after a Chevron-owned natural gas well in nearby Dunkard Township exploded on Feb. 11, resulting in the death of one worker while injuring another, creating an intense, massive, skyward-shooting

inferno that reportedly took workers and emergency responders days to safely approach and finally extinguish.

Oddly enough, it was in the days following the explosion – as responders continued their efforts to control the fire's related impacts physically, and industry officials attempted to quell the commotion in other ways – that Bobtown's local pizza started making it into those headlines too.

And with it, the commotion only grew louder.

See, it went something like this: The folks in charge of local community outreach for Chevron (the U.S.-based, multinational energy mega-corporation that's one of the world's six largest oil companies, ranking 11th on *Fortune* 500's list of the biggest companies in the world) apparently decided to buy some pizza – well, a bunch of gift certificates for pizza – from that little shop I called up over the week-

end.

The free-pizza vouchers, also good for a two-liter of soda, were reportedly dropped off, along with Chevron company-headered letters, to 100 local households around the immediate area of the incident – just a simple "token of appreciation," the company's spokespeople said.

"Chevron recognizes the effect this has had on the community," stated the letter (photos of it, along with the pizza coupons, have since seen heavy circulation around the Internet). "We value being a responsible member of this community," the statement read in part, and "we appreciate the strong support we have received from nearby residents as we work to respond to this incident in a safe manner."

Turns out, Chevron's semi-apology by pizza left a bad taste in a whole lot of people's mouths. And soon, comments and criticisms started flying around town, and then, through social media sites and mass media outlets, and everywhere else around the country:

"Worst apology ever," said one Tweet, quoted in a CNN feature online.

"Nice community relations," another sarcastic Tweet stated. "If you are frightened by fire and explosion, relax, have a pizza!"

I hear Stephen Colbert even ran a segment on the whole pie thing.

Yeah, there's been a lot of talk about that pizza recently, Greene County Commissioner Archie Trader told me when I called him for an interview a little earlier this month.

He and Greene County's two other commissioners had since spoken with Chevron's local community outreach staff, Trader said, and even they acknowledged that "it was a huge mistake."

At first, with local residents having been forced to endure the well explosion itself and all the following effects – the noise of the fire, the disruptions of the ongoing emergency response, the fears about what that fire might be putting into the air, and more – Chevron apparently just "thought [the pizza coupons would] be kinda nice," a friendly gesture, said Trader.

And, in the end, "that really blew up in their face."

When it comes down it, from what he's been hearing, it seems most people who were on the receiving end of the vouchers just "thought they were very cheap," Trader said.

Talking with Trader, I get the impression a lot of people may mean that in more ways than one. And, to me, it speaks of a real, scary disconnect between the fracking industry's talking heads and its decision-makers and the communities in which they're currently doing big, big business.

There's generally no regular data-reporting or even informal discus-





That could increasingly be the case in other fracking towns around the state, too, after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided late last year to throw out significant chunks of a 2012 law, Act 13, (crafted by industry-friendly Gov. Tom Corbett and other friends of fracking in the state legislature) that had, by its function, essentially amputated any abilities of cities' and counties' leaders to have some hand in regulating the industry's actions on the local level.

A couple of key features of Act 13's major changes to the rule book that were ruled unconstitutional: One section of the law required municipalities throughout Pennsylvania to allow for oil and gas industry development in all zoning areas — not only those zoned for industrial development; another deemed that state-issued rules on fracking could preempt all local zoning rules and regulations.

"Few could seriously dispute how remarkable a revolution [was] worked by [that now-changed] legislation upon the existing zoning regimen in Pennsylvania, including residential zones," Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron Castille was quoted as stating in a Dec. 20, 2013 Associated Press article. It was an unprecedented "displacement of prior planning, and derivative expectations, regarding land use, zoning, and enjoyment of property," Castille further stated.

Basically, Act 13, gone unrevised, could have marked "the no-return point" for communities' rights when it comes to fracking, said Tom Fuhrman of the Lake Erie Region Conservancy. And "that impacts Erie," he said, "because we're in the Great Lakes watershed."

Now, as Fuhrman sees it, "there's no reason, logically, to ever drill" for nat-

ural gas in any area of that vast, and vastly important, watershed. Because logically, "it's just not worth the risk."

But if you're not quite thinking logically — if, say, vast amounts of potential untapped profits are getting in the way of that vital function — then you might be able to come up with reasons to drill (baby, drill) here, there, and, hell, everywhere.

And that's where, gone unchecked, that old Act 13 could have gotten really scary.

*As it now stands, there are still no provisions allowing any municipality in Pennsylvania — including Erie and its neighboring communities — to effectively zone fracking out entirely*

As it now stands, there are still no provisions allowing any municipality in Pennsylvania — including Erie and its neighboring communities — to effectively zone fracking out entirely, but the court's decision does at least put a measure of discretion back into the hands of community leaders to decide where such development may occur.

There in Greene County, for example, fracking's boom has meant way more development — and development of different kinds — than the county's comprehensive planners and leaders had ever previously anticipated.

And there are other concerns that, for the past couple of years and under the former law, had generally gone unheard.

Overall, Trader's opinions on fracking and the companies leading the

industry are positive, he said. "I can only speak for myself," when it comes to that, he said, but "I am concerned" about its potential impacts on environment and health in the areas where it takes place, Trader said. For example, he said he has "a deep concern with how much water we've been using [millions of gallons of chemical-laden wastewater are produced as part of the fracking process], and what we're going to do with it.

"That bothers me a little bit," Trader said, and it's the kind of thing he'd like the county's leaders — as well as its engineers and other hired experts — to have more of a say-so in, have some leverage in.

Now that the state Supreme Court has thrown out some of the rules that had taken most of the teeth out that, Trader says he's glad that local leaders effectively have their voices back.

That could be a good thing for the industry's leaders, too. Maybe next time one of their incidents or accidents or operations calls for a humane, civil, and respectful response to a community affected, they can stop in to talk with the local leaders — who are usually pretty accessible, ready to talk, and give their opinions — and see what they think of pizza.

Speaking of, the very-busy owner of Bobtown Pizza, just before he got off the line and back to work, told me that, so far, only about 15 of the 100 coupons had been redeemed.

Ryan Smith can be contacted at [rSmith@ErieReader.com](mailto:rSmith@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him

on Twitter @Ryan-SmithPlens. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/pgjcz>



sions about local operations between fracking officials and Greene County's board of commissioners, Trader said, and, to his knowledge, such talks don't usually take place at the county-level of government elsewhere around the state, either.

Don't get him wrong; Trader's no enemy of the industry, and generally had good things to say about its posi-

**Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in 2013 to put the teeth back into fracking zoning laws, giving residents more say about their land.**

tive impact on local economies — but he'd "like to see more of our county's people be involved" in what's happening, Trader said.

And, before too long, "I think we will," he added.

## 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"**  
An off-Broadway satire of  
1960s beach films  
April 4, 5, 10, 11, 12  
8:00 p.m.

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Leslie McAllister

# Street Fashionista

Lili Morton

By: Leslie McAllister

**W**e all need a little help sometimes. Maybe our closets are jammed with outdated and unworn clothing – maybe the tags are even still attached. We have all experienced trying to find the right dress and those dream jeans with a perfect fit. It can be a nightmare. Entrée la styliste – a professional with knowledge and a keen eye for what works. One who is ahead of the trends.

Meet Lili Morton: blogger, resident fashionista, and stylist for Keaton Row, an online site dedicated to personal shopping and styling.

**Describe your style.** I would describe my style as classic with a trendy edge. I'll build a look around basics, but always find a way to add an exciting twist – whether it's a cool jacket or tons of jewelry. My go-to look tends to be all black or one with leather accents. I guess that is the New York influence in me.

**If you had minutes to pack for Paris what are the top-five items you would choose?** LBD (little black dress), Chanel Espadrilles, big floppy hat, over-

sized diamond studs, and classic black pumps.

**Best silhouette for all body shapes?** Wrap dress or Fit-n-Flare. Both pieces accentuate a woman's curves. If you don't have curves, you'll have them wearing either of these two styles. The majority of women I work with want to hide their hips and rear – these are the silhouettes I always recommend to achieve that.

**Name the top-three trends happening for spring.** No. 1: Matching sets.

Torn by Ronny Kobo and Tibi have some fabulous options. The great thing about matching sets is you're getting three looks in one. Wear as a set, wear the top with jeans, or the skirt with a blouse – three looks, one price!

No. 2: Anything Midi. Midi skirts – hit between your knee and ankle – or rings – which are worn between the tip of your finger and first knuckle. They were around last year, but will have a stronger presence this year.

A popular way to style a midi skirt is with my No. 3 trend, a crop top. The key to pulling off the crop-top look without looking like a floozy is by keeping the rest of your look understated. Stay away from low-rise bottoms. You want to look trendy, not desperate.

No. 4. – Sorry! I couldn't just pick three! Fringe. Is. Everywhere. Bags, dresses, skirts, tops, etc.

Always remember, when choosing to wear a trend, keep your body in mind. You need to dress for your figure, otherwise it won't work. For example, my legs are short and muscular, so you will not see me rocking cut-offs this summer. They don't work for me.

**If you could be an accessory, which would you choose?** It would have to be sunglasses, so I can see all of the fabu-

tee, cute flats, and a scarf or ball cap creates an easy, stylish and comfortable look for any busy woman.

**What should we be purging from our closets?** I should really take my own advice here. Anything you haven't worn for one to two years is probably a safe item to purge. When it comes to clothes, I'll admit I'm a hoarder. I'm always thinking, "Maybe I'll want to wear that again," or "Maybe that will come back in style." Ahem, the '90s!

**Tell us about what you do in the community and your role at Keaton Row. Where can people find you?** I work in Sales & Marketing for McCormick Coffee, am a member of the Board of Directors at the Erie Playhouse, and volunteer with Make-A-Wish. I'm always looking for other opportunities when it comes to fashion and style as well. I'm available for

Always remember, when choosing to wear a trend, keep your body in mind. You need to dress for your figure, otherwise it won't work.

lous fashion trends happening. Or, a delicate Jennifer Zeuner necklace, because her pieces go with everything.

**Hats are such a big thing – I mean, when are they not – but what is the newest emerging must-have accessory?** I've been seeing ear cuffs everywhere! I've had my eye on a few of Ryan Storer's designs. They are gorgeous. Asos, Tishop, and Baublebar have more affordable and equally stylish pieces. Oh and mules. Everyone should own a great pair to slip on this summer.

**In your A to Z list, what do G and Z stand for?** G = Geo. A top and skirt of matching set with geometrical print. A printed piece is a great way to punch up any look. I've been using a Rachel Roy pencil skirt in many of my lookbooks this season. I've paired it with a billowy blouse for a romantic look, a tailored blazer for structure at the office, or a graphic tee, leather jacket, and booties for an edgy weekend look.

Z = Zoe. Because let's face it, when it comes to fashion and trends, Rachel Zoe knows all. To go from a celebrity stylist to building her own collection – which *Women's Wear Daily* raved about in its first season – is a huge accomplishment and shows how influential she is.

**What is the first thing you would do to style an outdated soccer mom?** I'm going to put that mama in some new blue jeans! While "mom jeans" have become a recent trend, they don't always work for moms. Ironic, huh? Aside from finding well-tailored, stylish denim, I'd focus on comfort, functionality, and simplicity. A slouchy

consultations or closet clean-outs, but my recent focus has been on my Keaton Row business, which is done virtually. I've had the opportunity to work with more than 200 women across the country.

At KR, I pull pieces from our catalog to create fully styled looks for my clients. I typically create five to seven looks that are incorporated into a lookbook. The lookbook is then emailed to my client, who is able to view and shop my suggestions. I also make myself available to correspond via email, phone, or Google Hangouts to talk about the pieces I chose and different ways to style each piece.

Keaton Row partners with popular retailers such as Nordstrom, Asos, Shopbop, and Les Nouvelles. I'm also an active member of their stylist community and mentor about 50 stylists. If anyone has a love for fashion and is interested in learning more, I'm always excited to talk about the opportunities.

You can find more Lili Morton at [LiliMorton.com](http://LiliMorton.com) and [SatinAndScotch.com](http://SatinAndScotch.com). You can follow her on Instagram @morton\_street and on Pinterest @mortonstreet.

Find me out on the town and challenge yourself to get noticed by the Erie Reader! Leslie McAllister can be contacted at [LMcAllister@ErieReader.com](mailto:LMcAllister@ErieReader.com), and you can follow her on Twitter @ShopJuFu. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/6qym8>





March 19 - April 1

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wed 3.19

**FILM at the EAM presents  
*Cutie and the Boxer***

Is there a better way to spend your Wednesday night than watching a great film, beer and popcorn in hand, at the Erie Art Museum? We don't think so. This week's film is a 2013 documentary of Japanese boxing painter Ushio Shinohara and his 40-year marriage to his wife, Noriko, featuring original artwork by the couple. Tickets are just \$5.  
7 p.m. // 20 E. Fifth St. // [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org)

thurs 3.20

**Open Studio**

Looking for a no-pressure opportunity to find and explore the artist within you? There's no experience necessary at BLOOM Collaborative's Open Studio, a multi-medium workshop every Thursday. The \$10 participation cost — which supports BLOOM's array of public arts programs — gets you all the materials you'll need to delve into everything from drawing and painting to sculpture to fused glass, not to mention valuable time learning from some of the city's master arts teachers. The popular programs are for everyone, beginners to advanced artists, and there's no need to pre-register. No pressure, indeed!

6 to 8 p.m. // BLOOM Collaborative,  
138 E. 26th St. // 878.3688

**Future Legends III**

There's a burgeoning hip-hop scene here in Erie, and you have the opportunity to catch some of its stellar performers at PACA during Future Legends III. The third part of the series presented by Roswell Enterprises will feature the talents of local MC Ghost the Ill Figure, Johnny Evans, and a special set featuring Heresy performing with The LEC, three acts on a night for potential legends.

6 to 9 p.m. // 1505 State St. // [pac1505.com](http://pac1505.com)

fri 3.21

**Barry Hall's *A Trois* at  
Schuster Theatre**

Directed by Sarah Sgro, "A Trois" sheds light on the unique circumstances that sometimes surround relationships, be it friends or lovers. Watch as each scene seamlessly merges into the next as the actors tell their stories, remaining on their stools the entire time. This performance is part of Gannon's Fringe Festival. Tickets are just \$5.

8 p.m. // 620 Sassafras St. // 871.7494

**The Downtown Y's Celebrity  
Bartending Event**

It's that time of year again – The Downtown

**Snarky Puppy**

Awards can work wonders for exposure. Take Arcade Fire for instance. Back in 2004, the band had put out a critically-adored debut album, but to the mainstream masses, the members were just a bunch of kids from Canada that nobody'd ever heard of – that is, until one fateful night in 2011 when a confused Barbra Streisand announced that Arcade Fire took home the top prize at the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards.

Of course, such exposure to the red carpets, big money music executives, and selfie possibilities with Daft Punk could potentially change any critically-beloved band, scaring those that came to love them before The Grammys. Well, it's a good thing that a golden gramophone won't change Michael League and musical collective Snarky Puppy from doing what they do best: making excellent jazz-fusion tunes that deserve your attention.

"I'm still wearing a \$20 hoodie from H&M right now and an old pair of shoes," League says over the phone before a Snarky Puppy show in Charlotte, N.C. "Also, the band doesn't play any differently. We're the same band that we were before we won the Grammy. We grow every day and get better every day, but that has nothing to do with the award."

No, it probably has more to do with the fact that the members of Snarky Puppy are dedicated to making infectious pieces of ear candy, which helped them win the "Best R&B Performance" Grammy this past February for their take on Brenda Russell's "Something." The band, which consists of a rotating cast of up to 30 different musicians but typically boasts eight or nine members at each gig, will be bringing their award-winning talents to the crooked i Thursday, March 20 for a show presented by the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture.

While the Grammy win won't be affecting the band's play – which is good, because these Puppies can play – it still is great to see a group like Snarky Puppy earning more attention for their jazzy gifts.

"For reputation in the music world, it's big, because I think the music industry never really acknowledged our existence," League says. "Not that they ignored us, just that they really never heard of us. Music lovers and musicians have known who we are for a long time, so for them, the Grammy is a celebration point, an example of how a band that plays music that isn't the norm can still win the highest award that you can as a musician."

Now it's time to meet the new Snarky Puppy, which, thankfully, is the same as the old Snarky Puppy, and that's plenty fine for fans of the band and newcomers alike. — Alex Bieler

8 p.m. Thursday, March 20 // 1013 State St. // [facebook.com/thecrookedierie](http://facebook.com/thecrookedierie), [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu)

Y's Celebrity Bartending Event will take place at Benjamin's Pub and Eatery inside The Avalon Hotel. Join for 50/50 s, Raffles, Small Games of Chance, Mystery Bag Game and a Beer Pyramid Raffle courtesy of Erie Beer. Jack Stevenson from Jackson Station will be performing and all proceeds will benefit The Downtown "Y"'s "We Build People Campaign."

5 to 8 p.m. // 16 W. 10th St. // 452.1432



Street for a musical ride.

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1013 State St. // [facebook.com/thecrookedierie](http://facebook.com/thecrookedierie)

sat 3.22

**Let's Murder Marsha!  
by Monk Ferris**

What happens when an addicted-to-murder-mystery-novels-housewife overhears her husband plotting her murder? Why, she plots to murder him first, of course. The only problem: he was actually planning her birthday surprise. The drama unfolds at All An Act Theatre Productions as part of Gannon's Fringe Festival. Buy your ticket at [allanact.net](http://allanact.net).

7:30 p.m. // 652 West 17th St. // 450.8553

**Erie Philharmonic Pops  
Concert – Pixar in Concert**

From the *Toy Story* trilogy to *The Incredibles* and *UP*, Pixar has forever impacted filmmaking and given audiences of all ages some of the most beloved characters in cinematic history. Your Erie Phil presents Pixar in Concert, with visually stunning clips and memorable scores from each of Pixar's movies accompanied by a wide range of music: sweeping orchestral works, pop tunes, original compositions, and cover songs.

8 p.m. // 811 State St. // 455.1375

**'80s Rewind Dance**

Join the Junior League of Erie as they party like it's 1989 at the '80s Rewind Dance & Casino Night. Entertainment by Millennium Sound and New Wave Nation. Dress in your best 80s attire and be amongst the 1200 people wearing their favorite '80s fashion - neon, big hair, pegged pants and splatter paint! Must be 21 years of age. Proceeds benefits women's leadership through the Junior League of Erie and community projects. Table reservations are a must.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 220 Peninsula Drive // [juniorleagueoferie.com](http://juniorleagueoferie.com)

**Julio Quezada and Mambo**

If you're looking to liven up your night, it might be time for a heavy serving of Latin. It may be a dead language, but the dance-inducing rhythms of Latin music will certainly make you feel alive, especially when Julio Quezada and his band Mambo take the stage at Anchor In this Saturday. Don't stay inside, head out and feel alive at Anchor In.

6 to 9 p.m. // 3122 West Lake Road // 833.1212

sun 3.23

**Langer Film Series presents  
*Inside Llewyn Davis***

Starring Oscar Isaac, Carey Mulligan, John Goodman, and Justin Timberlake, this 2013



## Whispers of Light: A Story of Hope

There are plenty of ways to tell a story, but sometimes it takes more than words to get a point across. For *Whispers of Light: A Story of Hope*, the best way to communicate is through dance.

The Highmark Caring Place and Maria Caruso's Bodiography Contemporary Ballet Repertory Company are teaming up to put on an original ballet at the Warner Theatre Saturday, March 29.

The performance will help tell the stories of grieving children and the differences that the Caring Place has made in their lives by comforting and supporting them in dark times. In fact, these children not only act as inspiration for *Whispers of Light*, but will also star in the production, as some of them will be up on stage to tell their tales as the dancers gracefully move along to Nancy Galbraith's original score.

Through words and dance, *Whispers of Light* will give a voice to the struggles and triumphs of the children that seek the help of the Caring Place. Be a part of the heartbreaking and heartwarming tale when the whispers reach the Warner Theatre stage. — Alex Bieler

8 p.m. Saturday, March 29 // 811 State St. // 452.4857



Contributed Photo

**PARTY LIKE IT'S 1989!**  
 THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ERIE PRESENTS  
**80S ◀ REWIND DANCE & CASINO**  
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2 p.m. // 501 East 38th St. // [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu)

**mon 3.24**

### Women's History Month

Women's History Month events continue at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with "Does the U.S. Have a Rape Culture?," a presentation by Dr. Stephen J. Sullivan of EUP's philosophy department. Sullivan's talk, according to event organizers, will evaluate the common feminist claim that the answer to that question is 'Yes', discussing, by extension, the Steubenville rape case, national data on rape and sexual assault, and providing international comparisons.

7:30 to 9 p.m. // R. Benjamin Wiley Arts and Sciences Center, Room 107 // 732.2000; [edinboro.edu](http://edinboro.edu)

**tues 3.25**

### Freedom Riders

All are encouraged to take in a free showing of 'Freedom Riders' tonight at Edinboro University, part of the Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle film series. The ongoing film series, which continues through April, introduces four powerful documentaries with new footage illustrating the history of the struggle for civil rights in America, and includes related lectures, discussion forums, and scholarly presentations.

7 p.m. // Butterfield Hall, Room 134 // 732-1231

**wed 3.26**

### Jim Gaffigan

The pale-skinned comedian has returned to performing live to promote his most recent comedy album *Mr. Universe* (2012) with an all new set of hilarious and outrageous material. No worries though folks, I'm sure plenty of hot pockets, bacon, and other food goodness will be talked about as well.

7 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // 450.8553

**thurs 3.27**

### English Awards Night

Each year, Gannon University honors local poets, writers, researchers, and reporters during its Award Night. The English department adds to the celebration by bringing a renowned poet to campus for a reading, and this year's no exception, as award-winning Palestinian-American Poet, Writer, Anthologist, and Educator Naomi Shihab Nye will share her work with Erie — all free of charge.

7:30 p.m. // Yehl Ballroom in the Waldron Campus Center, 109 University Square // 871.7240

### Edinboro Film Series presents *What Richard Did*

Richard Karlsen is the epitome of a privileged, well-to-do teenager in Dublin's south side. The world is seemingly full of possibilities for Richard until the summer after high school when he makes a single, fatal mistake that shadows him and those closest to him, destroying the only life he ever knew. Tickets are just \$5.

8:30 p.m. // 217 Meadville St., Edinboro // [events.edinboro.edu](http://events.edinboro.edu)

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## The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band

Attending a great show can feel like a religious experience, so it makes sense that the crooked i is bringing in The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band to put on a musical sermon of sorts Saturday, March 29.

The Indiana trio, made up of guitarist and vocalist The Reverend Josh Peyton, washboard player Breezy Peyton, and drummer Ben Russell, built up a group of faithful followers with their honest, down-to-earth blues tunes featuring plenty of quick pickin' and grit. Locals might remember them brightening up a fairly rainy day at Crawford County Music Festival last year, where The Rev and company put on a show that got plenty of boots stomping along, despite all the mud.

Even better, the Big Damn Band won't be the only ones preaching during this Saturday night musical mass, as the Dex Romweber Duo and Erie's own Matt Texter will be acting as the soulful deacons to the rocking Peyton, making for one heavenly Saturday night on State Street. — Alex Bieler

10 p.m. Saturday, March 29 // 1013 State St. // [facebook.com/thecrookedierie](http://facebook.com/thecrookedierie)



Birch Miller

of classic torch songs, presented by SafeNet. Tickets are just \$10.

8 p.m. // 254 E. 10th St. // 455.1774

### Strangers and Liars w/ guests

Great music and good causes meet at the King's Rook Club this Saturday, when five different bands come together to put on a special benefit show for the AJO movement. Local act Strangers and Liars headlines a group of rockers ready to provide a night of music in memory of Alyssa Josephine O'Neill.

9 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // 456.6439

## sun 3.30

### Edinboro University Players present "Carnage"

It all starts when 11-year-old Bruno gets a couple of his teeth knocked out by Ferdinand, another 11-year-old. Inevitably, parents get involved and each boy's parents meet in an attempt to resolve the issue respectively. This goes awry, however, when the childishness of each parent emerges, turning the meeting into one of chaos. Originally written in French, this play has been praised in English-translated versions in both London and New York. Tickets are just \$5.

2:30 p.m. // 217 Meadville St. // 732.2518

### The Goddamn Gallows

If you miss The Goddamn Gallows when they return to the crooked i this Sunday, you may have to take the Lord's name in shame. The gutterbilly champions are providing one last bit of celebration before the work week starts, so fans of the five-man crew can rely on a big ol' night of ol' timey punk goodness to sate you until the next weekend.

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1013 State St. // [facebook.com/thecrookedierie](http://facebook.com/thecrookedierie)

## tues 4.01

### Gasland 2

Filmmaker Josh Fox is back with the follow-up to his Oscar-nominated film, *Gasland*, as he continues examining the dangers of fracking. Give Ryan Smith's fracking feature in this issue a read, and then head to the Whole Foods Co-op to see if you agree with Fox's claim that oil and gas industries are "contaminating our democracy."

6 p.m. // 1341 W. 26th St. // 456.0282

## fri 3.28

### Cinderella

Otherwise known as "Cenerentola" in Italian, *Cinderella* is a beloved opera written in 1817. With enduring themes of good versus evil, the D'Angelo Department of Music's production is true to the original version featuring an ignorant stepfather and a wise mystic instead of popular culture's evil step mother and fairy godmother. The production will feature a grand finale to rival any in grand opera repertoire, celebrating the triumph good over evil.

8 p.m. // MIAC, 501 E. 38th St. // 824.2000

### Smackdab w/ The LEC

One band is a little bit funk-rock and the other is more hip-hop, but Western New York's Smackd-

ab and Erie's The LEC make for a mighty pair. The two local favorites will come together for a show at the crooked i for anyone who likes a bit of soul in their music, whether it's nice and funk, or a dose of hippie-hop.

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1013 State St. // [facebook.com/thecrookedierie](http://facebook.com/thecrookedierie)

## sat 3.29

### The Bad Haircut

After he saw it, Managing Editor Ben Spегgen called the production: "An intellect's delight... a thinking man's play, grappling with the notion of humanity's disconnectedness through religion, philosophy, psychology, medicine, materialism, and spiritualism while using

comedy as the vehicle to drive through the myriad challenges and issues we face in contemporary culture, keeping the production grounded in a disturbingly poignant humor." We say "Enough said" and "You should go see this play," as today's the last show of the extended run at PACA.

7:30 p.m. // 1505 State St. // [paca1505.com](http://paca1505.com)

### SafeNet presents TORCH – an evening of hot jazz music

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WITH THE THE DEX ROMWEBER DUO AND MATT TEXTER

MARCH 29 // SATURDAY @ 10:00

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# MUSIC REVIEWS

## Real Estate

*Atlas*

Domino

★★★★



With the release of their third studio album, the members of New Jersey indie group Real Estate have continued to establish that they are very good at creating breezy, reverberating pieces of shimmering guitar tracks. *Atlas* provides another serving of the band's now signature sound, although there is a dose of melancholy beneath the band's sunny guitar work, with thoughts of anxiety and loss dotting singer Martin Courtney's lyrics. It's a subtle shift for Real Estate, and one that has mixed success, as more somber songs, like "Primitive," never really grab your attention like past tracks off of the band's excellent album *Days*. Still, there are some very enjoyable pieces to *Atlas*, such as the catchy "Talking Backwards" or dreamy opener "Had to Hear." *Atlas* isn't always memorable, but it's another solid entry into Real Estate's breezy repertoire – although the members may have to start mixing things up to keep our attention next time. — Alex Bieler

## Elbow

*The Take Off and Landing of Everything*

Concord

★★★★



Given how often bands seem to pump out break-up records, it's understandable for listeners to be a bit hesitant when the term is thrown out for a new album, as it is for Elbow's latest release *The Take Off and Landing of Everything*. Still, sad songs have a special ability to draw people in, and it's easy to get sucked in by the British band's sixth studio album. Inspired in part by lead singer Guy Garvey's breakup with his longtime girlfriend, *The Take Off and Landing of Everything* is a spacious and, at times, gorgeous set of songs about the highs and the lows of relationships, both romantically and with close friends. Garvey and company apply a careful amount of craftsmanship to tracks, such as "Fly Boy Blue/Lunette" and "New York Morning," giving tracks breathing room to provide a lovely background for Garvey's soaring vocals, a proper take off for a break-up album. — Alex Bieler

## Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings

*Give the People What They Want*

Daptone Records

★★★★



Since their debut in 2000, Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings have become torchbearers in the funk/soul revivalist movement. Rooted at the foundation of Daptone Records, their brand of funk harkens back more towards the grit of the JBs rather than west coasters Parliament. On their sixth LP, you find them doing what they do best: laying down track after track of soul and funk. A decade in the game and a roster of accomplishments – from soundtracks and world tours to backing up Amy Winehouse in the studio – you would think that by now they would be playing to major label demands. From the second the drums hit in "Retreat," all concerns are put aside. Weaving tales of love gone wrong and hard times, Sharon lets you know she has felt your pain and she is singing your song. At the same time, blasting horns and drum breaks make this a dance party waiting to happen wherever you may be. — Iggy Imig

## Clay Snyder

*Your Own Path*

Self-Released

★★★★



Hey, you! Have you ever wondered what would happen if you took the spacey sparse ethereality of Chris Whitley, layered it atop the minimalist electronic sensibilities of the rock band Doves, then slathered it all up with vocals from a laboratory-created triple-stranded DNA helix consisting of Christopher Cross, Maynard James Keenan, and Kenny Loggins? Have you?! Well if so, boy do I have the guy for you. This guy – guitarist and singer-songwriter Clay Snyder – landed in Erie from Hawaii less than two months ago and brought with him an album that's different and interesting and a breath of fresh air from the somewhat self-cannibalizing scene sometimes seen here. That Snyder's got talent is apparent on "Your Own Path," the aforementioned 5-track album, but the most interesting thing he's got going is that voice; it'll be exciting to see how and where he fits in after this strong album starts making the rounds. — Cory Vaillancourt





Alex Bieler

## Arcade Fire Shines on Reflektor Tour

The not-to-be-missed concert of the year

By: Alex Bieler

Ten years ago, Arcade Fire was mesmerizing crowds at intimate shows after the release of the band's debut album *Funeral*, a gorgeous set of songs shaped by death and renewal. The band has grown since its impressive beginning, entering the realm of mainstream awareness after taking Album of the Year honors at the 2011 Grammy Awards, moving the band out of small venues and into big arenas, which would mark a big shift for any band.

Arcade Fire, however, was more than up to the challenge Sunday, March 16 at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, as the band threw a party those in attendance won't likely forget any time soon.

After dancing to a pair of short sets by DJs Kid Koala and Dan Deacon on a secondary stage behind the dance floor, those in the nearly sold out crowd turned their attention to a giant black curtain and waited for the Montreal musicians to appear. Soon, people dressed in formal wear and assorted costumes

(stormtrooper, colonial citizen, and ninja Superman all included) began an "Arcade" chant to summon the band, prompting a man covered in mirror fragments (a *Reflektor* suit, so to speak) to announce the main act, and Arcade Fire responded in well, fiery fashion.

The Montreal-based indie darlings Arcade Fire rocked Cleveland March 16.

The band kicked off with the blazing "Normal Person" off of their latest album *Reflektor* – which explains that *Reflektor* suit – with Win Butler, decked in a black and white suit jacket and black pants emblazoned with eyeballs, cooing "Do you like rock 'n' roll music, because I don't know if I do" to the crowd before an arena-sized guitar riff filled the building. If the band was looking to prove that they could pull off an arena show, then they accomplished that mission in just the first few minutes.

Still, the show only escalated from there, as the band whipped out *Funeral* favorite "Rebellion (Lies)," leading into a sing-along paired with a blast of confetti that descended into the delirious crowd. Arcade Fire skittered across its discography, visiting the Grammy-winning *The Suburbs* with a dreamy extended version of the album's title track before transitioning into a rocking "Ready to Start." The crowd provided extra heft to *Neon Bible* standout "No Cars Go," joining in on ev-

ery "Hey!" shouted by the multiple members on stage.

With all of the extra space provided in an arena, the band utilized the secondary stage throughout the night. After they finished captivating the crowd with the excellent *Reflektor* track "Afterlife," multi-instrumentalist Regine Chassagne sprinted out to the middle of the arena for "It's Never Over (Hey Orpheus)," belting the tune as the stage was raised in the air. It was straight back to the main stage for Chassagne after that, as she took to the mic once again to close out the main set with "Sprawl II (Mountains Beyond Mountains)" amid a dazzling light show – another area where the band took advantage of the arena's capabilities.

After a short reprieve, Arcade Fire returned for the encore, unleashing a furious rendition of "Reflektor" to help incite a dance party across the floor and both seating levels. The arena kept moving when Butler returned to the stage wearing a box made of TV monitors for a cover of Devo's "Uncontrollable Urge," a nod to Devo's northeast Ohio roots, before Arcade Fire launched into "Here Comes the Night Time" with the help of a massive blast from the confetti cannons mounted in front of the stage. Once the colored squares settled, Butler announced one final song for the night, stating "If you sing this loud enough, the Miami Heat will lose in the Finals" before the band started playing the anthemic "Wake Up" from *Funeral*. And sing loud, the crowd did, matching the band word-for-word, even providing a particularly goosebump-inducing moment when Arcade Fire cut out to let the audience take over.

And then, as Chassagne sang on "Orpheus," it was over too soon, as the band thanked the crowd and took their leave. The crowd, mesmerized for the past couple of hours, meandered out into the streets with rousing choruses still ringing in their ears from a heartfelt performance that shook an entire arena.

Alex Bieler can't be found. He's lost amongst all the confetti, but if you want to buy him a *Reflektor* suit or chat about Arcade Fire, you can try reaching him at [aBieler@ErieReader.com](mailto:aBieler@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/bsduq>





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Ryan Smith

# Outside Voices

By: Jessica Courter

In the March 5 issue of the Erie Reader, Rebecca Styn reported that one in five people in Erie County lives in poverty. In the city, that number increases to one in four. Undoubtedly, poverty is a complex and complicated issue, and if we're going to win the War on Poverty that President Johnson declared back in 1964, we need answers that'll lead to solutions. Just as importantly, we need to know how the denizens of Erie view the issue right here in our own backyard, so we took to the streets to ask the question:

**What is the No. 1 issue that needs to be addressed to combat poverty in Erie County?**

## Justin Spence

*"The thing that really attacks the homeless is alcoholism and drug abuse... Also, they need to know that they are loved and cared about. Like, what about a homeless day? A day where people who don't like to acknowledge that there are homeless come out and they acknowledge that we are homeless, we are here, and we are suffering."*



## Robert Egleston

*"I'm thinking it's the gun violence – the violence on the businesses, on the people, and the little gang violence that they have up here. I am originally from Pittsburgh; I actually just moved up to here to get away from the gang violence. So I come up here, and it's pretty sad."*



## Mary Havers

*"I'd say definitely more shelters or more awareness of shelters. Also, more temp agencies and employment agencies in general. We have Career Concepts and we have the one over on 12th Street, but I think that's really it – and if you're homeless you need more help in general, like suits for interviews, et cetera."*



## Kiarra Hitzges

*"Not a lot of people have the desire to work. They want to sit and get welfare or social security, things like that. One thing that would help poverty is if people would actually want to go out and work...not forcing them, but almost taking their incentives away if they aren't looking for a job."*



Jessica Courter can be reached at [jCourter@eriereader.com](mailto:jCourter@eriereader.com). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/8eeiy>



# Welcome to the State of Synesthesia

Edinboro-based soundscapers GNOSiS entrance crooked i crowd

By: Ryan Smith

Synesthesia: A strange, rare phenomenon – born deep inside, at the level where mind and body fundamentally connect – in which stimulation of one sensory pathway (say, your ears) leads to automatic sense experiences within other pathways (say, your eyes).

Put most simply, it's a pure union of the senses – what some people are talking about, for instance, when they say they've had the sensation of feeling (really *feeling*) music all over, inside and out, up, down, and all around them.

It's a special state of being indeed, and one that few ever get lucky enough – get opened up enough – to experience.

But GNOSiS – a local band making some serious soundwaves around the region these days – is out to make synesthetes of us all.

And, after catching the Edinboro-based groove collective at the crooked i last week (where they opened for Ohio-based jamtronica outfit Broccoli Samurai), I'd say those fellas are doing something – hell, a lot of things – just right.

Coming from a variety of different musical backgrounds ranging from reggae to metal and points in between, GNOSiS (featuring Ethan Pieper on guitars and vocals; Sam Edwards, percussion; Pat Scutella, guitars; Michael Fraser, keyboards and synthesizers; and Owen Walsh on bass) melds together elements of all of it, creating a fast-and-funky soundscape that's all their own.

As GNOSiS laid the bricks of that auditory pathway down (and up, and all around), they had berker pixel-pusher Psyence – effectively a sixth member of the band – busy in the back, pumping out wild visuals onto dual round screens. It's not just your typical trippy, oily blots and exercises in fractal geometry he's working with, either: This Psyence guy (a.k.a. Josh Malin) has a whole lot more going on, and the result is something beyond logical reason, something approaching mind-melting.

When taken in with GNOSiS' sound, what you get – if you let yourself let go and tune in – is something strange and rare... something beautiful and indescribable... something synesthetic.

While very much doing their own thing, GNOSiS is drawing from that small but growing cadre of musicians and bands (groups like Papadosio, Lotus, Consider the Source, Snarky Puppy, and others) who are effectively re-defining the term 'jam-band' for a new generation, the now generation. Taking it all in last week – the sounds, the visuals, the electrified hoola-hoops creating multi-colored neon loops in the darkness – I thought, *hell, these boys would be a perfect fit at any of the many new-age summer music festivals popping up throughout the region and elsewhere around the country.*

And, with some luck and a little help from their fans, out onto that wider, wilder road may just be where GNOSiS is headed next.

"If you like us here, go there," Pieper, gesturing toward a merch table in the back, said to the i crowd near the end of GNOSiS' set.

It was there that fans could vote for GNOSiS to be added the lineup at Hoopla in the Hills, a sweet, early-season festival – headlined by Papadosio, EOTO, and a slew of others – coming up later this month in Athens, Ohio.

No worries, though, if you missed that chance to cast a vote (or votes) for GNOSiS to play the Hoopla – there's still time. Until March 23 at 11:30 p.m., supporters of their mission may cast multiple votes by visiting 'Vote for GNOSiS to play hoopla in the hills' on Facebook.

After hearing (and seeing, and feeling) GNOSiS at the i recently, it's a sure bet they have this guy's vote.

You can also catch GNOSiS – and come down with a strange case a synesthesia yourself – at McKean's Valley Inn Saturday, March 22; at Annabell's Bar and Lounge in Akron, Ohio on April 19; at Erie's own King's Rook Club on April 26; at the Tudor Lounge in Buffalo on May 17; and at the Gathering at Chaffee's on July 25 and 26.

Wherever they go, "it's always a journey," Pieper told me. And "it's exciting every time." Agreed.

Ryan Smith can be contacted at [rSmith@ErieReader.com](mailto:rSmith@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @RyanSmithPlens. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/np5k7>





# ERIE'S EATS

## American Fusion

**AVANTI'S** If you've only eaten breakfast at Avanti's, you are in for a big surprise. Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, this daytime diner changes over to a fine dining establishment. Check back often since the menu changes weekly. BYOB  
1662 W. 8th St. // 456.3096

**1201 KITCHEN** Featuring Latin/Asian-inspired food, this hip downtown spot is full of great art, and the marble bar is a perfect place to try their fresh sushi. With a menu that changes every four to six weeks, be sure to check in often.  
1201 State St. // 464.8989

## American

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

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

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

**ERIE ALE HOUSE** 16 Taps, Full Bar, full menu including appetizers, sandwiches, salads, wings, hand tossed pizzas. Acoustic entertainment on 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. Enjoy great food, great drinks in a warm and inviting atmosphere in the heart of downtown Erie.  
1033 State St // 454.4500

## Barbecue

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

## Breakfast

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

**JO'S BROOKLYN BAGELS** A walk through the door says it all. Well, at least it's speaking to your noise. Inhale deeply and breathe in those aromas. Fresh bagels and coffee. What's not to love about that combination? A

little piece of Brooklyn right here in Erie.

833 W. 38th St. // 520.6246

**PEGGY'S RESTAURANT** A landmark in the Liberty Plaza for a few decades now, Peggy's serves up quick, affordable meals and plenty of room for conversation. You can sit at the long counter that spans nearly the entire restaurant, grab a booth up front, or get a table in the back.  
3512 Liberty St. // 866.3216

**THE BREAKFAST PLACE** Low prices and big portions—just the way Erie likes it! The Cajun eggs are a must-try.  
2340 E. 38th St. // 825.2727

**PANOS** Open late night with an attentive wait staff who will never let your coffee mug go empty. Try the famous Greek omelet.  
1504 W. 38th St. // 866.0517

**SIDEWALK CAFE** Tucked away on historic North Park Row, you'll find one of downtown's popular breakfast and lunch places.  
26 N. Park Row // 455.0002

**GEORGE'S** With retro decor trimmed in red and black, George's is known just as much for looking like a retro diner as it is for the friendly safe and great grub. They're famous for their mashed potatoes, but don't get stuck on only that. Try the soups and sandwiches on for size too.  
2614 Glenwood Park Avenue // 455.0860

**DOMINICK'S** Famous among Erie's late-night bar patrons who swear by this place as a sure-fire hangover cure.  
123 E. 12th St. // 456.6891

**HYATT'S** - Serving up breakfast and lunch standards for years and is a staple in the West Erie Plaza.  
928 W. Erie Plaza // 456.0102

**Zodiac Diner** - Proudly serving Erie since 2006, the Zodiac Diner promises that you'll never walk away with hunger pangs or an empty wallet. From breakfast to lunch to dinner to catering, Zodiac is serving up fresh, homemade dishes in a vintage, throw-back atmosphere. While the menu staples will never let you down, give the specials a try for something new.  
2516 State St. // 580.9627

## Brewpub

**BREWERIE** Erie's only brew-on-premise pub and eatery, the BrewerIE is on a mission to, "Revitalize Downtown Erie One Pint at a Time."  
123 W. 14th St. // 454.2200

## Caribbean

**PINEAPPLE EDDIE** Southern regional cuisine served

up with a bit of Caribbean flair. Featuring savory dishes like Creole shrimp and andouille sausage over grits, seared catfish served with rice and beans and fresh sauteed vegetables, and grilled Angus Rib Eye steak. Deserts include grilled pound cake served w/fresh glazed pineapple, ice cream and rum sauce, and luscious lime layer cake. BYOB.  
1402 W. 10th St. // 454.0700

## Chinese

**GOLDEN WOK** Quality ingredients, affordable prices, and consistent service make this Chinese restaurant stand out among the rest.  
3202 Pitt. Ave. // 836.9657

## Delicatessens

**TERESA'S ITALIAN DELI**

Teresa's Deli has been a staple in Erie for over 60 years, and it's no secret why. Now in its third generation, the Theresa's staff still makes the food fresh every day, following the same scratch recipes used since 1949.  
3201 Greengarden Blvd. // 864.5322 and 810 E. 38th St. // 459.1145

**PICASSO'S** With signature panini-style sandwiches like the Lee Roslyn (Twinkie, ham, and cheese) and the DaVinci (sausage, ravioli, and provolone), Picasso's is a must-try. Great vegetarian options available.  
2060 Interchange Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 866.1183

**TICKLE'S DELI** - This popular deli features good prices and big, tasty sandwiches including the famous "Big Freddy." Call ahead if you can because this downtown hotspot gets busy at lunchtime.  
17 W. 4th St. // 455.5718

**GERRY'S 8TH STREET DELI** From the world-class deli to the homemade soups, Gerry's offers everything you'd expect from a deli. But with sandwich names like "Cluckmeister," "Chive Turkey," "Tongue Fu," and "Brest of Times" just to name a few, you're going to want to keep going back to check out all of these one-of-a-kind sandwiches. Deli hours run Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
2620 W. 8th St. // 836.8702

## French

**BERTRAND'S BISTRO** A menu featuring local meats and vegetables and organic and Kosher ingredients when possible. The crepes and award-winning wine selection are more than enough to encourage a trip to France via downtown Erie.  
18 N. Park Row // 871.6477

## Gastropubs

**JECKYL & HYDES** - Just like the title characters—wait, character—this gastropub seems bent on being two things at once—and that's a good thing. While the seating area is small, which makes for a cozy experience, the tastes are big and bold.  
8 E. 10th St. // 456.0072

## Indian

**RAJ MAHAL** - Offering a wide variety of Indian cuisine, both vegetarian and carnivore friendly, with an ever-popular lunch buffet. BYOB  
5618 Peach St. // 838.1055

## Irish

**MOLLY BRANNIGANS** - Got a hankering for bangers and mash? Have no idea what the heck bangers and mash is? Head to this authentic Irish gastropub where you can get your fill of Irish-fare and Irish drinks. From Jameson to Guinness, from Shepherd's Pie to Purcell's Fish and Chips, Molly Brannigans brings the Irish pub to downtown Erie.  
970 Millcreek Mall // 868.7999

**MCGARREY'S OAKWOOD CAFE** Known for the award-winning Reuben, McGarrey's believes in big portions of comfort food served up hot and fresh. Although Irish in name, McGarrey's also dishes out American and Italian cuisine so that you're bound to find something satisfying.  
1624 W. 38th wSt. // 866.0552

## Italian

**ALTO CUCINA** Chef Pat Rodgers mixes the old-world with the exotic. Beautiful décor, with an outdoor deck for the summer months.  
3531 W. Lake Road // 835.3900

**COLAO'S** Authentic Italian, fresh seafood, and a cozy, intimate setting.  
2826 Plum St. // 866.9621

**MI SCUZI** Southern Italian cuisine with fresh, homemade pasta.  
2641 Myrtle St. // 454.4533

**AMICI RISTORANTE** With dinner hours from 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and a takeout menu available Monday through Saturday, Amici Ristorante dishes out fresh food at affordable prices. From wings to pizza to fresh perch sandwiches and more, the menu has something for everyone. Call ahead one hour for takeout since food is prepared fresh per order.  
1518 Walnut St. // 455.0041

## Japanese

**SUSHI AND ASIAN CUISINE** Fresh sushi and sashimi

steal the spotlight of this show but their supporting cast shouldn't go unnoticed. The Kim Chi is a great place to start and any of the noodle choices make for good choices to continue on. With veggie-friendly options and a staff happy to serve you, Sushi and Asian Cuisine is a must.  
1014 State St. // 455.0596

**AOYAMA** Think it's hard to find a daily sushi bar in Erie? Find your way to Aoyama for the hibachi experience combined with an extensive sashimi and sushi menu. You'll have the choice between hibachi-style seating and the traditional sit-down dining experience, so your mood can do the choosing for you. Reservations are highly suggested.  
970 Millcreek Mall // 868.7999

**HIBACHI** From flinging shrimp to slinging steak, Hibachi combines dinner with the show without service charges or ticket fees. If you're fine with sitting beside your date instead of across from him or her, opt for this straight-off the grill without time-to-chill dinner experience.  
3000 W. 12th St. // 838.2495

## Mediterranean

**PETRA** Open since 2004, Petra serves as Erie's window to the Eastern Mediterranean. The folks at Petra want you to have "a unique culinary experience." And with Mediterranean-inspired items on the menu you're unlikely to find anywhere else, this is a one of a kind dining experience.  
3602 W. Lake Road // 838.7197

## Mexican

**EL TORO LOCO** With a full bar and the best margaritas in town, there is something for everyone. Enjoy a little taste of Mexico right here in downtown Erie.  
333 State St. // 454.5626

**LATINO'S** With fresh ingredients and a commitment to serving up the authentic Mexican-cuisine experience, Latinos is the place to go for more than just the average Tex-Mex experience. The place isn't flashy, but with food this good, it doesn't have to be.  
1315 Parade St. // 452.1966

**EL CANELO** With three locations to serve the greater-Erie area, you're never more than a 15 minute drive from all the chips and salsa you can handle served up with sizzling fajitas, hand-wrapped enchiladas and burritos, and a whole lot more. Don't be fooled by the imitators.2709  
W. 12th St. // 835.2290 and 4236 Peach St. // 860.8187 and 4459 Buffalo Rd. // 898.1531

**MOE'S** With friendly staff serving up fresh, made-to-order southwest fare, Moe's is a great place for quality, on-the-go Mexican food.  
2052 Edinboro Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 868.2121

## Middle Eastern

**CASABLANCA** From traditional to modern recipes, from strictly vegetarian meals to meals centered around a choice selection of fresh meat, Casablanca Grille looks to provide something for everyone looking for a good Moroccan meal—and the diversity's a good thing too since when it comes to Middle East Mediterranean cuisine, Casablanca is it. Reservations are recommended.  
2174 W. 8th St. // 452.4544

**PALM MARKET AND DELI**

This authentic Arabic market and eatery offers delicious, freshly prepared food and baked goods for a very reasonable price. The market offers a wide variety of exotic food and merchandise.  
2702 Parade St.

## Pizza

**PAPA JOE'S** With specialty pizzas ranging from "Vegan Demise" to "Chicken Gorgonzola" and subs that go by the names of "Enchanted Eggplant" and "Chuck Norris," Papa Joe's brings more to the table than any commercial pizza joint. And to boot, they serve up a mean falafel sandwich—something that's a must.  
3826 W. Ridge Rd. // 835.3360

**VALERIO'S** More than just Pizza, Wings, and Subs! Local Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria that has been serving Erie County for over 17 years. Offering a variety of Homemade Italian Dinners, Seafood, Daily Lunch Specials, and Catering Services. Check out our menu online at www.valeriospizzeria.com. With 3 convenient locations to serve you, we'll have you singing...Manga Italiano!  
2179 W. 32nd St. // 833-2979 and 1803 E. 38th St. 825-2693 and 724 Powell 833-8884 // Catering Office// 866-3193

**PENINSULA PIZZERIA**

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

## Suds and Grub

**U PICK 6 TAP HOUSE** Great beer meets great food at the corner of Fourth and State streets. From gourmet flat-

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

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

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

## Steakhouse

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

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

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

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

## Thai

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

## Vegetarian

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

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

## Wings

**BUFFALO WILD WINGS**

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

**Interchange Road (Across from Millcreek Mall) 868.9464**

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

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

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

## Sweet Treats

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

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

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

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

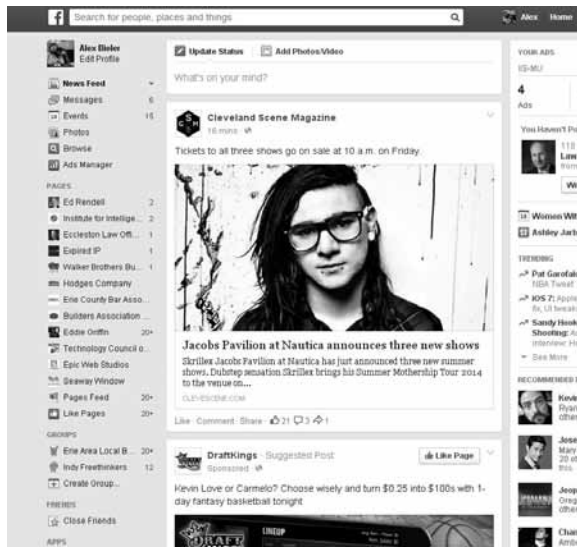


# Tech Watch

Out with the new and in with the old: Facebook's New News Feed

By: Angela Kelly, Epic WebStudios

Over a year ago Facebook introduced their new News Feed to the world – and a year later we are seeing a re-introduction to the design. After hearing negative feedback from users who had a sampling of the 2013 News Feed revamp, Facebook changed direction from flashy to functionality for its 2014 redesign. According to Facebook, "People who tested [the 2013 redesign] told us that they liked the bigger photos and images, but found it more difficult to navigate Facebook overall. The updated design has the best of both worlds: it keeps the layout and navigation people liked, but offers bigger images and photos, as well as a new font."



Facebook's New News Feed has been streamlined and redesigned

When the News Feed was first revealed in 2006, it lacked visual appeal and focused mostly on text – highlighting what was happening in user's social circles. In 2009 it was adapted once more by adding filters to select the type of news users want to see, real-time updates via the stream, highlights to see updates from friends users interact with on a regular basis and placing the publisher to the top of the News Feed to make updates. As the News Feed evolved, Facebook began to concentrate more on the visual elements and changed their layout to make room for larger images and videos. By 2013, the News Feed developed into a hub of information from friends and pages with stimulating visuals, easy navigation and functionality.

lower resolution of 612x612 to take up less space on their servers, create a uniform look within their own environment, and allow for faster load time to better their users' experience before posting it onto their application.

Now, take that 612x612 image and share it on Facebook – you lose the quality. Therefore, we will see large images that are blurry or pixelated when users utilize external apps on Facebook.

A few days after their announcement of a News Feed redesign, Facebook for Business publicized that they too will begin "rolling out a streamlined look for Pages." Business pages will now look and feel more like a user's personal profile. The right-side column will display the Page's posts while the left-sided column will show the business' information such as a map, phone number, hours of operation, website URL, and photos/videos.

However, some of the greatest features now available on the Facebook Business Pages aren't visible to the everyday user – but administrators to these Pages are seeing big changes. Not only have they cleaned up the admin interface, but they also made improvements to accessing tools, such as Pages to Watch. This tool allows administrators to compare the performance of their page to those of similar businesses.

While the 'new new News Feed' has not been rolled out to everyone yet, we did manage to get a glimpse of it and to our surprise were very impressed with the changes.

Facebook has turned its current News Feed layout into a streamlined, sleek, and minimal design. Features of the redesigned News Feed include larger images and fonts, removing specialized feeds – ones that show you posts or photos from specific groups – and changing up the navigation by placing it on the left side (again). One important note for users to know is that stories (what your friends post) and ads will both be the same size in the News Feed.

In an interview with Mashable, a Facebook spokesperson said, "We want to be clear that this update does not affect ad specs, ads performance, or optimization. These changes are visual updates and do not affect how content is surfaced to people, nor do they change how stories are ranked in News Feed."

Larger images in the News Feed are a great idea if users are posting high-quality images. Most smartphones have the capability to produce 2048x2048 images (that's a high-resolution image), but applications tend to reduce the quality. Instagram, for example, will take your original image of 2048x2048 and reduce it to a

Although it took a year for Facebook to consider the feedback that they received from users during the first new News Feed, it was well worth the wait. The down side is our News Feeds will be full of people who do not adapt to change well making statuses about how much they dislike the updates. Can't win them all, right?

Angela Kelly can be contacted at [Epic@ErieReader.com](mailto:Epic@ErieReader.com). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/lvyo4>



## Sudoku

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

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

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## Answer to Sudoku

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

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS
- 1 Greek letter
  - 4 Eastern bishop's title
  - 8 Indian music
  - 12 Handle
  - 13 City on the Rhine
  - 14 Stench
  - 15 Camel hair cloth
  - 16 Trave
  - 18 Olive color
  - 20 Ger. dive bomber
  - 21 Witless chatter
  - 23 Boys' author
  - 27 Elide (2 words)
  - 32 Killer whale
  - 33 Buddhist column
  - 34 Nape
  - 36 Atl. Coast Conference (abbr.)
  - 37 Anatomy (abbr.)
  - 39 Channel islands
  - 41 Bless: Yidd.
  - 43 Central nervous system (abbr.)
  - 44 Enamel (Fr.)
  - 48 Abstract being
  - 51 Lamia (2 words)
  - 55 Brown
  - 56 Card
  - 57 Norse epic
  - 58 Vanity
  - 59 Circular motion
  - 60 Thoroughfare
  - 61 Cut
- DOWN
- 1 Interpret
  - 2 Jap. pit viper
  - 3 Monkey
  - 4 Amer. Kennel Club (abbr.)
  - 5 Round Table knight
  - 6 Stigma
  - 7 Korean apricot
  - 8 Tropical fish
  - 9 "Fables in Slang" author
  - 10 Port. colony in India
  - 11 Limb
  - 17 Jamaican dance music
  - 19 Lug
  - 22 Kidney bean
  - 24 Culm (2 words)
  - 25 Lo (Lat.)
  - 26 Blue
  - 27 Thick slice
  - 28 Bowling alley
  - 29 Geode
  - 30 Medieval shield
  - 31 Fluidity unit
  - 35 Amer. Red Cross (abbr.)
  - 38 Sleeping sickness fly
  - 40 Compass direction
  - 42 Her Majesty's Ship (abbr.)
  - 45 Mime
  - 46 Iodine (pref.)
  - 47 Wife of Tyndareus
  - 49 Farinaceous food
  - 50 Enough (Scot.)
  - 51 Cask
  - 52 Noun-forming (suf.)
  - 53 Aura
  - 54 Angry

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				13				14		
15				16			17			
18		19		20						
		21		22		23		24	25	26
27	28			29	30	31		32		
33			34			35		36		
37		38		39				40		
41				42			43			
		44		45	46	47		48	49	50
51	52	53					54		55	
56					57				58	
59					60				61	

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## HIGH SCHOOL OPENINGS

**IT WAS EXTREMELY** surprising when the school boards at Harbor Creek and Iroquois High School opened their head football jobs, and it's even a bit more surprising that new coaches have not been named yet. While some people look at this as an "off-season," this is a crucial time of the year to get the kids in the weight room and have them going through the playbooks.

And it's even more important when a new coach will be in charge.

I know it's extremely important to take a certain amount of time to make the correct decision, but each day that there's no head coach, it's not fair to the players. You can't underestimate the importance of the hard work that is needed with the weights if a school is going to have a successful football program.

Even the Millcreek School Board knew enough to get a head coach in place as soon as possible. And that's saying something, as this was a group that was going to build a new school for \$120,000,000 – with no money available. Of course, this is a story for another time – and another place.

Meanwhile, back to the task on hand, The Harbor Creek and Iroquois School Boards need to make decisions immediately. The new coaches are already behind the eight ball and waiting any longer will put them in a hole that will take years to dig out of.

I have no idea who applied for these positions, but in the last issue of the *Erie Reader*, I suggested Mercyhurst Prep Head Coach **Matt Morgan** and Cathedral Prep Defensive Coordinator **Matt Melle** – two excellent candidates in my mind. As I mentioned, this was merely a suggestion on my part, as I had no inside info.

However, I talked to Coach Melle recently, and it appears he will take the DC position under new coach **Brad Orlando** at McDowell. I have not discussed this with Coach Morgan, and I have no idea if he is even interested in leaving the Lakers.

The one important fact that has to be kept in mind while selecting a coach is the rules the district must follow regarding the teachers' unions. I am not sure if they have to stay in the district if a candidate from that district applies.

Since then, a couple of different fans have called my radio show and informed me of the two people they think are front-runners for the jobs – one at HC and one at the Big I. And they both appear to be excellent can-



**ERIE NATIVE (Villa Maria) Kayla McBride was named the Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year. She has led Notre dame to an undefeated season and an ACC championship. She is also one of 10 finalists for National Player of the Year.**

didates and would be good fits for each position.

I do not have a lot of info on the potential coaches, but I will gladly pass on to the ER readers what I have.

Regarding Harbor Creek, the name submitted to me was **Justin Blose**, a former kicker for the Huskies, who was one of the best in the school's history and who went on to have a successful collegiate career.

The caller was extremely excited about the possibility of Blose taking over, but I am not sure if he is a teacher in the district. I do know he is highly respected and should be considered a great possibility – if he's interested.

Meanwhile, in Lawrence Park, a caller tossed out the name of former Gannon football player and ex-Fort LeBoeuf Head Coach **John Campbell**. The former Bison boss is a unique story, as he didn't play high school ball while at Cathedral Prep but went on to become a starting running back for the Golden Knights in college.

According to the *Sports Blitz* caller, Campbell has children in the Iroquois School District and could be interested in the football slot. He, also, would be a fine selection if possible.

While all these coaching rumors are swirling around, the best one I heard came from a Harbor Creek fan off the air. And while it is not documented, I have to admit it's a great story.

**Dan Budziszewski** was the Huskies' coach for 32 years and then was named Athletic Director a year ago. According to my source, the School Board planned on Buda coaching football for a year while also serving as AD, and then they were going to open the gridiron position, Buda remaining on as the Athletic Director.

However, it appears no one informed him of this plan and he was bit surprised when his football job was opened up. Apparently he was upset – and who could blame him – about losing the football job and made some remarks to the board that he wanted a clarification on his AD position, and they opened that up.

So, it seems to me, now that they are done blindsiding the former coach, they can concentrate on naming a coach at HC.

It appears the Harbor Creek School Board is giving the Millcreek School Board a run for the money when it comes to making odd decisions. And



**GANNON WRESTLING COACH Don Henry (center) was named one of six inductees named to the NCAA Division II Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He's in his 30th season as the head coach of the Golden Knight grapplers.**

that has to be a frightening thought for HC residents.

## PLAYOFF SURPRISES

**I WAS A** little surprised at the lack of success by most Erie area high schools in the PIAA playoffs, but the future is bright for several teams, especially the Strong Vincent boys' team. Coach **Shannon Pullium** started two freshmen and far exceeded expectations.

Leading the way will be 6-2 **David Morris**, son of former Gannon star David Morris, who destroyed all the freshmen scoring records. He is well on his way to becoming the all-time

look at how to build programs in the public school sector, they should take a close look at the boys' basketball bosses – Pullium at Strong Vincent, **Matt Jones** at East, and **Tom Koval** at Central Tech. These guys get results by putting in a lot of time and a lot of effort.

## NEW HIRE

**GANNON UNIVERSITY** football coach **Brad Rzyczycki** has named **John Thompson** as the new defensive coordinator for the Golden Knights. Thompson was at St. Vincent College the past three seasons as defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach.



**Gannon University named John Thompson as the new defensive coordinator for the Golden Knights football team.**

leading scorer in Erie hoops history.

**FOR PEOPLE** who like rumors, someone told me there will be just two city high schools playing sports next season. He is considered a reliable source, but I just don't believe it.

For starters, the schedules are already made for most sports, and it would be nearly impossible to redo those. And that's just one factor.

If public school officials want to take

He played college football at Marist, where he was a four-year letter winner for the Red Foxes.

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