

ERIE READER

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL PREVIEW

EXILE ON STATE STREET: A NEW COLUMN BY RICK FILIPPI

- ★ THE CLIVEN BUNDY SAGA ★ OFF TO THE RACES! ★
- BAYFRONT BILLBOARD ALLEY ★ A QUIET REVOLUTION
- ★ GAME OF ARMS ★ BINES VS. VINES ★
- ★ THE FLAGSHIP CITY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ★

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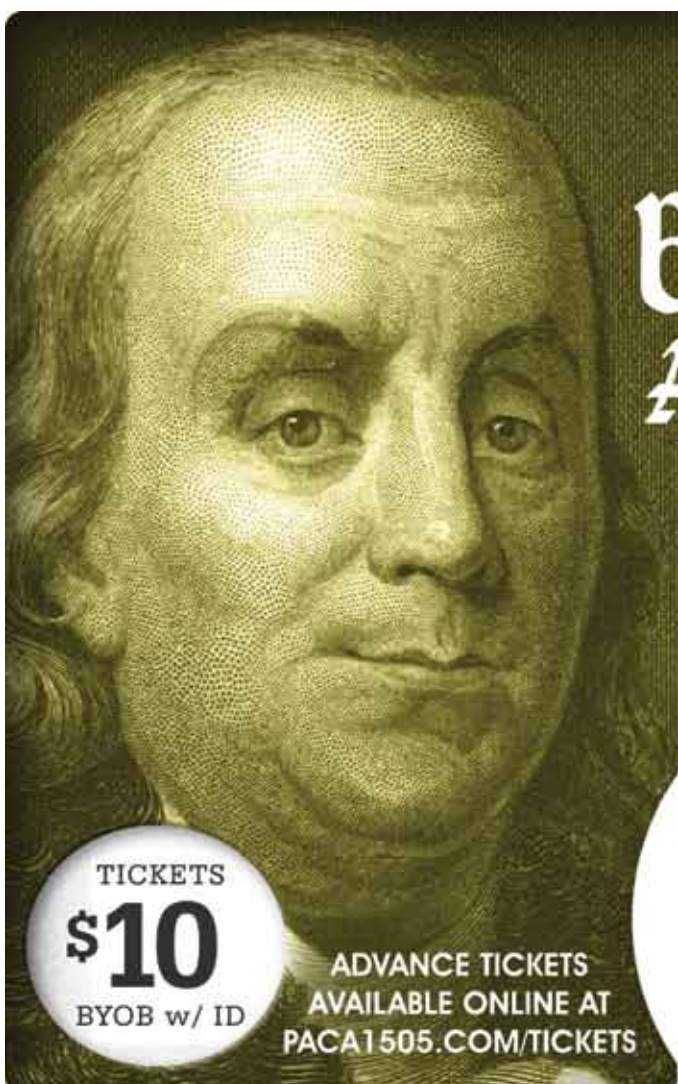
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From the Editors

On the Sunday when we were putting the finishing touches on our recent 40 Under 40 issue, we woke up to the worst kind of news. A young man we happen to know was fatally shot by one of his friends in yet another senseless gun accident. His name was Abram Sorek; add it to the long, sad list.

Abe was 23, just weeks away from graduating St. Vincent College and was in Erie to attend his younger brother's art exhibit at the Barber National Institute. That Saturday night, he got together with some old friends and ended his evening at one of their homes. A fun, mundane weekend in Erie that should've ended the way these weekends almost always end — with some laughs, and a few good, new memories. But it didn't end that way; instead a gun was introduced into the equation, and someone seemingly without respect or fear picked it up, and Abe lost his life.

We can't help thinking of that gun, of how and why it was there, and of Abe — his entire life in front of him, just happening to be here and ending up in the wrong place at the wrong time. A tragic intersection.

But was it simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time? These were some of his friends after all. And they were in a safe, secure place. The only difference, obviously, is that one of those friends thought it was an acceptable idea to bring what ended up being a loaded weapon into their midst. A thoughtless decision, but one that shines some light on what we see as an important aspect of the polarizing issue of gun control: A lack of reverence for guns due to their increasingly ubiquitous presence in our society.

This particular debate brings out the worst in us as Americans. It's one of those "all or nothing" type of arguments, and the truth doesn't lie there. Those of you who abhor guns and would like to ban and melt them all down are ultimately as credible as those of you who would like to solve gun violence by throwing more and more guns at the problem. If everyone who wants a gun is allowed to buy whatever they want, whenever they want, and carry those guns wherever they want, we not only end up with too many guns and too many people carrying those guns, we risk losing some of the reverence and healthy fear all guns deserve. Stupidity, mixed with that lack of reverence, is exactly what happened two weeks ago on Kakhwa Boulevard, and is the reason Abe isn't with us today.

The story of Abe's death led the news that Sunday night. The very next story was on an open carry rally that took place in Perry Square the same day. Some of the citizens at that rally think the government is constantly trying to take away our guns. To this assertion, the rest of us continually ask: why? Because there are those of us who want proper background checks and archaic loopholes closed? Because there are those of us who believe certain assault weapons shouldn't necessarily be sold to anyone who wants them? These things seem like common sense. Measures put in place to keep us safe.

Abe's death can't count for nothing. We hope it reminds everybody that while we should continue to enjoy the right to bear arms, pumping our homes, bars, schools, and public spaces full of them makes as much sense as taking that right away.

Street Corner Soapbox

The Cliven Bundy Saga

By: Jay Stevens

Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy didn't give a rat's ass about the federal government's orders not to graze his cattle on federal land. Hell, his parents and his parents' parents' cattle all grazed that land, going back more than a hundred years, and he figured it was more his than the government's. And what for? A desert tortoise! The federal government cares more about a damn reptile than Cliven Bundy! So, screw 'em!

So started the Bundy saga back in 1989. Bundy let his cows graze on federal land, ignoring injunctions and court orders to move them, amassing fines and, eventually and obviously, resulting in the Bureau of Land Management rounding up his cattle this spring – 25 years later! Only Bundy had recruited militia and other rightwing groups to his side, who encamped near his land with their guns and pickup trucks, and who helped him take back his animals from the BLM at what they're calling the "Battle of Bunkerville" – a tense standoff between federal agents and armed militia groups. The government backed down, the cows were released, and freedom-loving patriots – Sean Hannity, Rand Paul – everywhere rejoiced!

Only this happened: "I want to tell you one more thing I know about the Negro," said the rancher during a videotaped press conference. "They abort their children, they put their young men in jail, because they never learned how to pick cotton. And I've often wondered, are they better off as slaves, picking cotton and having a family life, or are they better off under government subsidy?"

And the support vanished.

Fox News' Sean Hannity called Bundy's comments "racist" and "beyond despicable."

"His remarks on race are offensive," said Kentucky's Sen. Rand Paul, "and I wholeheartedly disagree with him."

Other Nevada Republicans disowned the rancher, as did a number of conservative pundits and talk-show hosts and politicians.

Here's the thing. It's a shame Bundy's comments distract us from important issues.

Like this: There's nothing to rally around in Bundy's case. He took without paying. That's theft.

There are real issues around use of federal land in the west. Ranchers like Bundy are too often just getting by. The price they pay to graze federal lands often determines whether they survive, and in many cases we're talking about ranching families who've worked the land for generations. And sometimes federal environmental policies do endanger them. That is, sometimes they are driven out by the desert tortoise.

But that doesn't mean Bundy is admirable. Or right.

"You notice there's no cattlemen that are standing beside Bundy," said former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, himself a rancher. "They support what the BLM does. This guy...he's a grifter."

And the "freedom-loving patriots" who rallied to Bundy's side? Mostly militia groups and others, rightwing extremists who don't believe in the federal government's authority. Nevada's Sen. Harry Reid called them "domestic terrorists," which isn't so far off, if you consider that they confronted federal agents with guns and prevented them from carrying out the law. Which isn't far off, either, if you consider the roots of the militia, its history, and the myriad conflicts with federal agents they've had over the years.

There's a lot of talk of Ruby Ridge and Waco, in which people were killed by federal agents in violent standoffs, often unnecessarily or even wrongfully. But there's also the Montana Freemen – militia extremists who declared themselves independent of federal authority, which they saw as freeing themselves from the laws against, say, passing bad checks and threatening public officials. And there's also Timothy McVeigh, who blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. What's talked about less often are the pipe bombs that exploded in Nevada federal offices in the 1990s, or the myriad and too-frequent threats against Forest Service and BLM and US Fish and Wildlife

agents.

This is a dangerous, extralegal movement.

Not that Bundy's racism doesn't matter. There's a tradition of justifying slavery in the U.S., and Bundy's comments fall right into a too-familiar groove. The modern social state gives African-Americans less freedom than they had under slavery. But, as Charles Blow wrote in the *New York Times*, "there is no modern-day comparison in this country to the horrors of slavery. None!"

And as the *Washington Post's* Dana Milbank reminds us, Bundy's racial views are all-too-familiar on the radical right. The militia's Posse Comitatus movement was birthed of anti-Semitism, and much of the criticism of President Obama from those groups circles around terms like "half-breed" or "mongrel."

There's nothing to rally around in Bundy's case. He took without paying. That's theft.

"Not all people who resist the authority of the federal government are motivated by race, of course," wrote Milbank, "and not all racists are anti-government. But there is a long symbiosis between the two."

Even the left-wing response tying early Republican support for Bundy to a pervasive racism in the GOP aren't all that far off. "[T]his liberal conflation is a sample of flawed logic," wrote columnist Kathleen Parker. "That said, it is not baseless. The GOP is not a party of racists, but it is a party with racists."

And it does beg the question, where are these so-called patriots when it comes to responding to real government attacks on Americans' rights? Why are they silent when states pass laws limiting the rights of minorities and the poor to vote?

But perhaps the biggest question revolves around the federal government's response – or lack of response to Bundy and his militia supporters. Contrast their treatment with, say, Occupy protesters, who were gassed and shot with rubber bullets in cities across the U.S. Or contrast how Bundy's militia was treated with the 1985 "eviction" of the group MOVE from a Philadelphia row house. In that case, police first shot tear gas, then dropped explosives on the house. A fire broke out. The police let it burn. The result? Sixty homes destroyed and eleven dead, including five children. The difference? MOVE was an African-American group.

Bundy shouldn't be shot, of course. But he has yet to suffer any consequences from violating federal law and intimidating federal agents with arms. And that fits a disturbing pattern of government indifference to violence and intimidation by homegrown conservative extremists.

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News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepherd

LEAD STORY — Alter Egos

First-term U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho of Florida is already among the House's most conservative members, but his Republican primary challenger claims to be even more so — but with a quixotic, longtime hobby as a costumed, role-playing "gamer." Challenger Jake Rush (in his day job, a lawyer) portrays supernatural characters as a prominent member of the national Mind's Eye Society and Florida's Covenant of the Poisoned Absinthe, including a vampire named "Chazz Darling," who, according to a Yahoo message board, once left an explicit, body-parts-bloodying threat to a role-player with whom he had been feuding. (The Florida political report SaintPetersBlog broke the story — and was quickly criticized, less by Rush's political defenders than by the indignant "cosplay" community, feeling mocked.) [SaintPetersBlog, 4-1-2014] [MiamiNewTimes.com, 4-1-2014]

Government in Action

A scandal erupted in 2013 at Minot (N.D.) Air Force Base when missile-launch specialists were charged with cheating on proficiency tests, but additional documents uncovered by the Associated Press in March 2014 show that the problem was worse than originally reported. The overall missile-launch program, run by "missileers," was judged "substandard" — the equivalent of an F grade in school — and "rehabilitated" in the eyes of Air Force officers only because the 91st Missile Wing Command's support staff (cooks, drivers, clerks, etc.) scored very high and brought the command's overall performance to the equivalent of a D. [Associated Press via PBS Newshour, 3-14-2014]

The tax software company Vertex reported in March, via the Tax Foundation, that tax-hating American states have somehow organized themselves into nearly 10,000 sales/use-tax jurisdictions with distinct rules, coverages or exemptions. Ironically, states criticized as tax profligates sometimes have the simplest systems (e.g., one set of rules covering the entire state, such as in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C.) while states regarded as refuges from intrusive government often have the most complicated (e.g., 310 different jurisdictions in Utah, 587 in Oklahoma, 994 in Iowa and 1,515 in Texas). [TaxFoundation.org, 3-24-2014]

Formally asking a sweetheart to "please be my (boyfriend/girlfriend)" is said to be a traditional romantic milestone in Japanese relationships, and the town of Nagareyama in Chiba Prefecture now provides a govern-

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The Way I See It

It's Derby Time

By: Rebecca Styn

For horseracing fanatics like myself, there's nothing quite like the Kentucky Derby. Now in its 140th season, this year's most prestigious American horse race boasts a wide field of thoroughbreds of which only one three-year-old champion colt (amongst his human counterparts) will take home the \$2 million purse alongside the coveted opportunity to win what is considered the greatest accomplishment in all of horse racing – the elusive Triple Crown.

All of this in just two minutes' work.

While the mint isn't even in the glass yet and the whiskey hasn't been poured (well, except for the one resting in front of me), it's time to talk favorites about this timeless event happening this coming Saturday, May 3rd at Churchill Downs, in Louisville, K.Y.

At the time of publication, it's pretty much a full field (horses get scratched, unfortunately, more often than not). This year, we're looking at 20 horses – most of them running this distance for the first time. Below you'll find my best bets on who you'll see place amongst the superfecta; that is, the first four horses that will cross the finish line.

If history has anything to say for this thoroughbred, he has the best odds of being a true contender in the Triple Crown, a total of three races – which hasn't been won since 1978.

1. To Win - California Chrome. This field favorite comes in with odds at 7-4. If history has anything to say for this thoroughbred, he has the best odds of being a true contender in the Triple Crown, a total of three races – which hasn't been won since 1978. In this colt's last four races, he has handily defeated his counterparts by a total of 24 1/4 lengths (including a top race – the Santa Anita Derby). Art Sherman is his trainer, and at 77 years old, he could become the oldest trainer to win – but winning isn't something new to him. Throughout the course of his career, he has won over 2,100 races.

2. To Place - Danza. This contender comes in with 8-1 odds, and he's actually named after Tony Danza. This alone makes him a favorite in my book. However, he is considered the strongest of famed trainer Todd Pletcher's entries. He is a late charger in terms of being viewed as an elite horse, having had a pedestrian beginning

before taking a seven-month layoff. A rocky start coming back to the field, he had 41-1 odds going into the Arkansas Derby. He won by over four lengths. Plus, a win by Danza shows us who's the boss (no, this will never get old).

3. To Show - Wicked Strong. Another 8-1 favorite, alongside a solid victory in the Wood Memorial (a major prep race for the Derby) is currently ranked 4th going into the Derby. Originally named "Moyne Spun," shortly after the Boston bombings, the owner changed his name in tribute, and with every race he wins, one percent of the winnings go to the One Fund, which was set up to support the victims of the tragedy in the Boston Marathon. To date, that has amounted to roughly \$7k, and his owner, Don Little, Jr., has upped the ante to 5 percent for the Triple Crown races.

4. In the Field - Chitu. A dark horse by all standards. Currently at 25-1 odds, little attention has been placed on this foal due to his inconsistent running patterns. However, he has been trained by Hall-of-Famer Bob Baffert, who has saddled 19 horses in the run for the roses. He has a strong lineage of quality speed and stamina. And he's a long-shot. That alone (plus a nice payout with a win), makes him a favorite in my book.

Interesting to note, the day this issue is published also happens to be known as "Draw Day." This is when the draw is held to determine spots in the starting gate. And post position has plays a huge role in the race – while no horse has ever won the Kentucky Derby because of their post position, many horses have probably lost largely as a result of the draw. And statistically, horses that start the race closer to the rail have historically won more often. Watch for these. The final odds are set on draw day, too.

Your best bet? Head up to the Presque Isle Downs and Casino. This year, for fans on the go, in addition to being able to wager and watch at the casino, they have drive-thru wagering (betting at a drive-thru window is the same as betting with a clerk at any mutuel window – except, well, you never have to leave your car). This option will be available for all three Triple Crown Races: Kentucky Derby 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the Preakness & Belmont 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also, their 100-day live racing schedule kicks off on Sunday, May 11. While they eliminated live racing Saturday nights (racing is Sunday through Thursday), racing fans can rejoice in the fact that the group will have live racing two Saturdays this season – the Preakness and the Belmont. For a complete schedule, go to: casinoinerie.com.

Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Email me at rStyn@ErieReader.com, and follow me on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/fj9db>

ment document to commemorate that big step (for a filing fee, of course). In fact, according to the news site RocketNews24.com, since only one party need file the document, the town hopes the form will become a strategic step to declare one's love without the need for messy, face-to-face, rejection-risking confrontation (and also become a robust municipal-revenue producer). [RocketNews24, 3-10-2014]

Great Art!

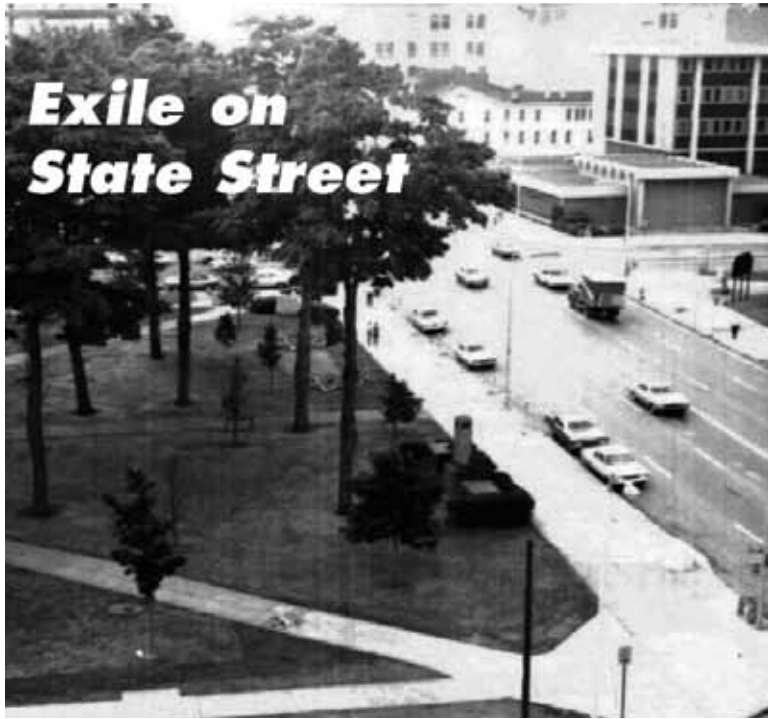
British artist Millie Brown, 27, profiled in January in London's Daily Mail, creates Jackson Pollock-style canvases by vomiting on them after ingesting colored soy milk. Brown (whose work hangs in London's Ripley's Believe It or Not! showcase) said she fasts for two days prior to public performances and, as the show starts, times her ingestions so that the proper hues don't prematurely mix in her stomach. Her appearance, at work, in a Lady Gaga music video brought her a somewhat larger audience. Said the understated Brown, "I am able to challenge people's perceptions of beauty." [Daily Mail, 1-31-2014]

Paris' Hunting and Wildlife Museum hosted, from April 1 to April 13, artist Abraham Poincheval's real-time demonstration of "birth and rebirth" — his living completely inside a hollowed-out bear carcass the entire time, eating, drinking, reading, sleeping and relieving himself (down the bear's legs) before a live camera, with a viewing window for spectators. Poincheval, who in a previous installation lived for a while in a hole, likened the experience merely to the cramped quarters of astronauts. [Huffington Post, 4-11-2014]

Police Report

Petty Theft: (1) Although Douglas Lydic, 29, escaped from a patrol car in December in Commodore, Pa., while handcuffed (and was soon re-captured), prosecutors declined to charge him with fleeing since he was merely being "detained" at the time. However, they did charge Lydic with theft of the handcuffs. (2) Petty and Tacky: Dustin Bell, 25, wearing a police officer's badge that had been stolen from the Sand Springs, Okla., department, apparently only casually considered how to wield his newly acquired "authority." He was arrested in April after asking at a Tulsa tanning salon for a law-enforcement discount — to get a \$34 session for \$10. [Associated Press via PoliceOne.com, 12-25-2013] [KOTV (Tulsa), 4-6-2014]

Misunderstanding: Four Maine State Police troopers rushed to a home in the town of China in January, alarmed by 911 calls about an assault in progress (according to neighbors who reported raucous screaming). Trooper Thomas Bureau found that the suspected "crime scene" was the home of a pig farmer, who showed troopers the pen out back in which a male had been placed with five sows "in heat" and that the squealing (either by the sows or the beleaguered male) was not unusual. [Morning Sentinel (Waterville, Me.), 2-5-2014]



Exile on State Street

Brian Conway

prehensive strategy to fundamentally change the way we are doing business. Further, the corollary to this has been the lack of political leadership able to recognize the issues and take on the challenges necessary to bring transformative change to the Erie Region.

You all know me by now. I am no stranger to controversy. The purpose of this column will be to lay out the challenges and opportunities necessary for Erie to reverse its downward slide. The type of change that I have advocated and will continue to advocate in this column will be controversial, especially if you are of the opinion that Erie is doing just fine. And there are many out there of this conviction; perhaps because we have been in a state of perpetual decline for more than a generation, it has become ingrained.

To its credit, the Erie Region has retained many experts over the last twenty years to identify our problems and propose solutions. One analysis, which I will cite often in this column, is the 2001 report by Brian Bosworth: "Toward an Economic Development Strategy for Erie." Bosworth made thirteen major recommendations in the report. His first major recommendation for the Region was to get organized with the creation of a high-level, civic coordinating council designed to integrate the activities of the region's principal business-based civic and governmental institutions and authorities, with the goal of implementing the recommendations of his report as well as other major economic development initiatives. The most recent controversy regarding the inland port project is a perfect example of the type of venture that should have been identified as an important economic development initiative and vetted through a countywide coordinating committee. Instead, and let me say I

believe this is an important project, the concept surfaced with little support from any one except its protagonists.

Many of you may recall that following Bosworth's highly publicized report, I, along with then County Executive Rick Schenker, launched the Civic Coordinating Committee or C³ to implement a comprehensive and coordinated economic develop-

ment strategy for Erie County. C³ heralded some initial success, if only that for the first time, the Erie Region developed a defined strategy for economic and social development.

Various organizations were tasked with moving the agenda forward, whether it was developing an Internet Access Strategy, creating a marketing plan for the region, downtown development, or the establishment of a community college. Unfortunately, both Mr. Schenker and I left office and the committee faded away.

The hard facts indicate we have not effectively responded as the Erie Region continues to lag behind the rest of the state and nation in most of the significant indicators of a healthy and viable region, i.e. population, jobs and wealth.

That leaves us where we have been for the last eight or nine years with no comprehensive plan, no coordinated strategy, and importantly, no matrix upon which we can hold various organizations accountable. Thus, as with the inland port project, one organization may have a good idea, but it's not part of an overall strategy, including a strategy on how to get it done. The region is then left with a controversial project, quite likely to be derailed by opposition, that doesn't happen, which reinforces the region's accli-

nonprofits and authorities must be part of the effort. Finally, elected officials must also be part of the team.

As Bosworth concluded "...if a region's leadership – especially in a region that is struggling – wants to make an important contribution to wealth and opportunity for its people, it must begin by getting organized. It needs to be organized at the level of the economy, and be able to direct public investment and influence private investment rationally for the region as a whole."

It's not too late to get organized. In the coming weeks and months, I will continue to highlight those issues and strategies that I believe will be crucial to moving Erie's economic and social agenda forward.

Rick Filippi can be contacted at rFilippi@ErieReader.com.

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Addressing the Regions's Plan

By: Rick Filippi

"Our region is currently facing certain identifiable problems which can and should be analyzed and attacked in a systematic manner. However, we shall certainly experience within the next ten years both challenges and opportunities that none of us can even begin to foresee. The question is, will the region be prepared to address those challenges, and seize the opportunities, in an effective and timely manner."

I wrote those words (with the help of Jim Walczak) in my "Blue Print for Progress" thirteen years ago when I

launched my campaign for mayor of Erie. They are as true today as they were then. How have we answered that question during the last near decade? The hard facts indicate we have not effectively responded as the Erie Region continues to lag behind the rest of the state and nation in most of the significant indicators of a healthy and viable region, i.e. population, jobs, and wealth. As a result, we have lost significant ground relative to other regions of similar size and opportunity.

Beginning with this article and continuing throughout the year, I will focus on issues and strategies that can produce growth and opportunity for our Region. Many of these issues have been debated at various levels and with various intensities for probably a generation. What has been lacking for the most part, however, is a com-

JUST TOYIN' WITCHA By: B. Toy





Acharya Kedar leads an evening of teaching, chanting, and meditation at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.

his disciples, Muktananda Paramahansa," he explains. "The teachings and practices of this Siddha lineage have been passed from Master to Devotee, in an unbroken lineage, since the period just prior to the start of the Bronze Age. So, ours is a time-honored lineage."

With his initiation began 18 years of intense study in the Yoga of the Siddhas. He studied in ashrams in India, New York, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, and Chicago.

"After receiving the command to do so from my Master, I began an independent, not-for-profit, public charity, The Bhakta School of Transformation. Supreme Meditation," he says, "is a program of that school."

And now Kedar's path has led him to Erie, where he sees opportunity abound.

"I have come to Erie to launch a meditation and chanting revolution with the intention to raise consciousness," he adds.

He will offer weekly programs in meditation and chanting, bi-monthly weekend meditation retreats, and a weeklong meditation retreat in August. "We are here in Erie to stay," Kedar says.

Back at the Unitarian center, Kedar is set up in the center of the room, sitting cross-legged on comfortable pillows, wearing distinctive orange cloth. He begins the evening with spiritual music, chanting the mantra "Om Namah Shivaya," a Sanskrit phrase that translates to "God is in me." Ten-year-old Chloe, an aspiring Yogi who was introduced to the practice by her mother, is set up on the floor in front of him playing along on the harmonium, while the rest of the audience is set up in a semi-circle around the two of them. It is a call and response — audience participation is strongly encouraged but not required. No one is here to judge.

Om Namah Shivaya.

Om Namah Shivaya...

Contributed Photo

The chanting continues for about five minutes, with the intensity increasing then decreasing — then the music stops. We're enveloped by the silence.

Kedar's voice is the first thing we hear. He instructs us to follow our thoughts as an observer. When a thought enters our mind, we should acknowledge it and let it pass. When another thought arises, we should do the same.

Once again we return to silence. As we sit watching our thoughts, a funny thing happens: we start having those thoughts less and less. The space between the thoughts is a calm place, and a peaceful feeling takes over. Everything is right, *right now*. This space between the thoughts is where the bliss lies.

For more information on Supreme Meditation, visit: SupremeMeditation.org.

Brian Graham can be contacted at bGraham@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Brian_Graham. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/zc7va>



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A Quiet Revolution

Meditation Master Acharya Kedar is on a Mission

By: Brian Graham

The stress of everyday life is a constant in the modern world. On some days, that stress can feel like a weight pressing down on us; our list of tasks seeming unmanageable while our thoughts tumble around inside our heads like a disjointed movie. Imagine if we could turn that movie off, even for a short time. What is left if we make our minds quiet?

A quiet mind is the goal of meditation. In a quiet mind there is peace, contentment, gratitude and with enough practice, even bliss.

Acharya Kedar is a meditation master and a spiritual teacher, and a few Thursdays ago, he brought his practice to the Unitarian Universalist congregation of Erie for a night of teaching, chanting, and meditation.

Born in Rome, Italy but raised in New York City, Kedar grew up in a spiritual family of artists and performers. His mother was an opera diva. He studied violin at Julliard and the Manhattan School of Music. He played jazz with the Marsalis brothers. His brother is Giancarlo Esposito, (Gus Fring, for all you *Breaking Bad* fans).

Kedar dabbled in meditation as a child through Karate and Kung Fu, but it was when he discovered the teachings of the Siddhas, or enlightened masters, that his spiritual journey truly took hold.

"I was initiated into the lineage of Bhagawan Nityananda of Ganeshpuri in 1978, by one of



Dark Star Jubilee
 May 24 - 26 // Thornville, Ohio // Advance passes: \$129 to \$250; kids 12 and under \$25 // On the road: About 4 hours + 30 minutes

For fans of some of the biggest and best names in modern jam, bluegrass, folk, and all manner of things in between, the Dark Star Jubilee is always, most definitely, a place where it's at.

Big enough to be completely awesome, but small enough to be low-hassle, the high-spirited Jubilee – hosted by Grateful Dead re-imaginers Dark Star Orchestra – starts Friday, May 23 and soars through Sunday, May 25 on the rolling hillsides of historic Legend Valley (home to a few of the Dead's most celebrated shows) in Thornville, Ohio.

This year's lineup includes three nights of sure-to-be-stellar Dead sets by DSO, along with long days and late nights filled with performances by festive favorites like Yonder Mountain String Band, Keller Williams, Galactic, The Devil Makes Three, The Wailers, New Riders of the Purple Sage, and many, many more.

For more info: darkstarjubilee.com

The Mad Tea Party Jam
 June 19 - 22 // Hedgesville, W.Va. // Advance passes: \$85 to \$185 // On the road: About 5 hours

One of a few premier new-age transformational art and music festivals to have started blossoming around the region in recent years, The Mad Tea Party Jam – Thursday, June 19 through Sunday, June 22 in Hedgesville, W.Va. – is described by organizers and hosts aptly as "an intimate rager where we all come together to love one another and transform our energies into a single creative collective."

Headlined by jamtronica masters like Papadosio, The Werks, and Dopapod, this year's musical lineup is otherwise packed to the gills on multiple stages, and, with a dazzling array of visual artists actively creating live works and installations throughout, tons of worthwhile workshops, and a whole lot of other out-there fun to be had, The Mad Tea Party Jam truly is the kind of place where art isn't just life – it's living.

For more info: facebook.com/TheMadTeaPartyJam

Summer Music Festival Preview

Fourteen Festivals within a Five-hour Drive of Erie

By Ryan Smith

I got to head to the hills and get my ears filled with some summer sounds good and early this year – all the way back in March. And let me tell you, man, it was sweet, sweet music, enough to warm the soul up and down.

"I thought this was supposed to be an early bird party. Seems like *the* party to me," one of the Rumpke Mountain Boys – a real wild and crazy bunch, to be sure – said to the bundled-up, dance-happy crowd (another wild and crazy bunch, to be sure) during one of their late-night sets at Hoopla in the Hills, a four-day, (very) early spring music and camping fest in what was still-chilly Athens, Ohio.

Rightly said, man.

Another guy, doing a kinda loopy, weaving zigzag up and down the long line of cars filled with fest-goers waiting to get in and get down, stopped at my window: "It's crazy," he proclaimed with a big smile, a sorta blown-away, real out-there air all around him.

"But it's a *good* crazy," he said more quietly, like he was sharing a secret, before he hopped back off to wherever his road was taking him.

For me, when it comes to thinking about the spring and summer festival season, that just about sums it up: These gatherings can be weird, they can be wild, and, when the music's good and the vibes are right, they can be nothing short of wonderful.

And this year's season, with much music of note going on around the region, is just getting started.

So, here and now, for your information and enjoyment, dear Reader readers, we have compiled a list that highlights just some of the most noted and worth checking-out of the summer's music festivals. Some are nearby and some are a little further out, but, to make your trips easy, we've narrowed the list – which ended up being a good baker's dozen, plus one – to destinations

that are within a five(ish)-hour-or-less driving distance from the Gem City.

Get those bags packed and ready, folks – here we go:

Susquehanna Breakdown
 May 10 // Scranton // Advance passes: \$28 to \$69; kids 10 and under free // On the road: About 5 hours + 10 minutes

Hosted by Pennsylvania bluegrass favorites Cabinet (no strangers to Erie-area crowds,

On scene at Great Blue Heron Music Festival — where everyone feels like family and friends.

those fellas), this tasty little one-day-and-over-night fest – formerly known as Cabinet's Spring Fest – returns, as the newly-named Susquehanna Breakdown, to The Pavilion at Montage Mountain in Scranton on Saturday, May 10.

With a solid lineup featuring performances by Cabinet (of course), Sister Sparrow & the Dirty Birds, Marco Benevento, Floodwood, Melvin Seals, The Kalob Griffin Band, and a whole lot more, the Breakdown's gracious hosts say this year's festival – named "from a track on the band's most recent album, a nearby river, and a noisy, energetic American country dance" – promises to be even better than before.

For more info: susquehannabreakdown.com

Downtown Edinboro Art and Music Festival

May 15 - 18 // Edinboro // FREE // On the road: 20 minutes or so

Steeped in Appalachian-roots traditions and celebrating a decade of ushering in the summer festival season by welcoming great performers, artists, and an array of workshops – all free and open – right in Erie's own backyard, the Edinboro Art and Music Festival is Thursday, May 15 through Sunday, May 18 on multiple stages and various venues, both indoor and out, in the beautiful 'Boro.

This year's lineup has set performances by a slew of local, regional and national acts, including the likes of Donna the Buffalo, Eric Brewer & Friends, Potwhole, Blue Sky Mission Club, Big Daddy Zydeco, Jim Avett, Driftwood, Claire Stuczynski, and Salmon Frank, just to name a handful.

For more info: edinboroartandmusic.com

Buffalove Music Festival

June 19 - 22 // Silver Creek, N.Y. // Advance passes: \$50; kids 12 and under free // On the road: About 1 hour + 15 minutes

A well-homegrown fest featuring some of Upstate New York's most must-see bands and performers, the Buffalove Music Festival returns to not-too-distant Silver Creek, N.Y. from Thursday, June 19 through Sunday, June 22.

This year's Buffalove includes main headliners Jimkata, along with two-nights-each performances by Funktional Flow, Aqueous, Mister F, and Slip Madigan, and, beyond that, a lengthy and colorful lineup of others who comprise some of New York's very finest.

For more info: buffalovemusicfest.com

Family Roots Festival

June 19 - 22 // Glouster, Ohio // Advance passes: \$80 to \$90 // On the road: About 4 hours + 45 minutes

Yet another fest that runs a long weekend from June 19 through June 22, the Family Roots Festival – which calls Smoke Rise Ranch in Glouster, Ohio its home – welcomes everybody in for four

days and three nights of good-and-get-down live music, camping, art, and friendly vibes.

The 2014 Roots' lineup features performances by Melvin Seals & JGB, Ozric Tentacles, Rumpke Mountain Boys, Cabinet, The Heavy Pets, Adams Ale, Greenhouse Lounge, Dr. Fameus, and, ranging from electronic to bluegrass and beyond, a whole bunch more.

For more info: familyrootsfest.com

Great Blue Heron Music Festival

July 4 - 6 // Sherman, N.Y. // Advance passes: \$70 to \$80 // On the road: About 40 minutes

One of local fest-heads' long-standing (and well-deserved) favorites of every year, the Great Blue Heron Music Festival is one where, in my experience, everyone really feels like both family and friends.

It's Friday, July 4 through Sunday, July 6 at the beautiful Heron festival grounds in nearby Sherman, N.Y., and everyone, from longtime-goers to newbies, is welcome to join the family for a week-end in western New York.

This year's Heron lineup includes performances by Donna the Buffalo, The Campbell Brothers, Lake Street Dive, Kevin Kinsella with Mosaic Foundation, Big Leg Emma, Jake Orvis & the Broken Band, Driftwood, Jim Donovan and the Sun King Warriors, Smackdab, and dozens more.

For more info: greatblueheron.com



Ryan Smith

GratefulFest

July 4 - 6 // Garrettsville, Ohio // Advance passes: To be announced // On the road: About 2 hours

Also on Independence Day weekend, GratefulFest 2014 – featuring Dead-centric performances by Melvin Seals, Rusted Root, and more – is one of many amazing festival events hosted throughout the summer by the fine folks at stunning Nelson Ledges Quarry Park in closeby Garrettsville, Ohio.

GratefulFest's full lineup is to be announced soon, according to organizers, so keep your eyes and ears out for additional word from the people of the Ledges soon.

For more info: nlqp.com

Rootwire Transformational Arts Festival 2K14

July 17 - 20 // Terra Alta, W.Va. // Advance passes: \$125 // On the road: About 4 hours

Fully committed to celebrating truly great underground music, performance, and art,

and with a firm-but-very-friendly emphasis on boosting, and making real, ideals like enlightenment, community, and social change, the Rootwire Transformational Arts Festival 2K14 – Thursday, July 17 through Sunday, July 20 at Sunshine Daydream Memorial Park in wild-and-wonderful Terra Alta, W.Va. – is the place to be for anyone who's looking for a little change of headspace.

Along with dozens of acclaimed visual and performing artists working their magic throughout Sunshine Daydream all weekend long, Rootwire 2K14's includes a stellar lineup of musical performances by headliners like Shpongole, Beats Antique, EOTO, Conspirator, Zilla, and many more mind-benders.

For more info: rootwirefest.com

Gathering at Chaffee's

July 25 - 26 // Girard // Advance passes: \$40 to \$50 // On the road: About a half-hour

This is one two-day fest that lotsa folks from around here wait, with happy anticipation

(and with good reason), all year long for: The good-and-intimate, and even more good-and-groovy, Gathering at Chaffee's.

Still nice and cozy, but having spread out a little in recent years to include more and bigger regional acts, the 2014 Gathering lineup is a veritable who's-who of local and area jam and rock favorites, including Aqueous, Spiritual Rez, Eric Brewer & Friends, Jimkata, Funktapuss, and Conehead Buddha to name just a few.

It's another one where you can expect awesome tunes, positive vibes, and to make new friends quickly.

For more info: thegatheringatchaffees.com

Summer Hookah 2014

July 25 - 26 // Garrettsville, Ohio // Advance passes: To be announced // On the road: About 2 hours

You just might wanna get your head (and the rest of you, too) back to Nelson Ledges Quarry Park in Garrettsville, Ohio on Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26 for Summer Hoo-

Rootwire Transformational Arts Festival 2K14 runs July 17-20 this year.

kah 2014.

Always another big Ledges crowd pleaser, this year's Summer Hookah boasts headlining performances by ekoostik hookah and the Bernie Worrell Orchestra, with much more to be announced, according to organizers.

For more info: nlqp.com

Outrageous Universe Revival (O.U.R. Festival)

Aug. 1 - 3 // Panama, N.Y. // Advance passes: \$50 // On the road: About 45 minutes

Now entering its 18th year, the Outrageous Universe Revival (O.U.R. Festival) – Friday, Aug. 1 through Sunday, Aug. 3 at Kevin Cole Farm in Panama, N.Y., is set to be O.U.R.'s best to date, according to organizers.

With a lineup like this – Hypnotic Clambake, Mosaic Foundation, Smackdab, Baby Gramps, Well Worn Boot, and a big bunch more – it sure sounds like it. [Cont. on 22]



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SANDBAR \$2.00 DOS EQUIS AMBAR 16oz. DRAFTS

DOCKSIDER \$3.00 DOS EQUIS AMBAR DRAFTS

DOS DE MAYO SPECIAL

Friday, May 2nd - Sunday, May 4th

SHERLOCKS PARK PLACE \$2.25 DOS EQUIS/TECATE BOTTLES

CUATRO DE MAYO SPECIAL

Sunday, May 4th

FAT WILLIES 5 FOR \$7.50 DOS EQUIS AMBAR BOTTLES

CINCO DE MAYO SPECIALS

Monday, May 5th

EDINBORO HOTEL \$2.00 DOS EQUIS BOTTLES

PLYMOUTH \$2.50 DOS EQUIS LAGER BOTTLES

EL CANELO (PEACH ST.) \$1.99 DOS EQUIS BOTTLES

BACARDI JOES \$2.00 DOS EQUIS BOTTLES

FIESTA DE MAYO SPECIALS

Thursday, May 1st - Monday, May 5th

EL CANELO (W. 12TH ST.) \$1.99 DOS EQUIS BOTTLES

\$3.00 DOS EQUIS 23oz. DRAFTS

Thursday, May 1st - Saturday, May 10th

EL CANELO (HABORCREEK) \$1.99 DOS EQUIS BOTTLES



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wed 4.30

The Earth Wins at TREC

This is your last chance to catch *The Earth Wins*, playing on the Tom Ridge Environmental Center's Big Green Screen. The film explores the wonders of our planet, from climate change to natural disasters, and was shot completely from the air in four continents. If watching a fascinating educational film on a 4-story-high, 45-foot-wide green screen appeals to you — and we think it might — you'll want to check it out. Also showing are *Mysteries of the Unseen World* and *Titans of the Ice Age*.

2 p.m. & 5 p.m. // 301 Peninsula Drive // trecpi.org

thurs 5.01

Big Sean and Chevy Woods at Behrend

Big Sean — the Grammy-nominated Detroit rapper credited with having fast-talked his way onto the Billboard Hot 100 chart by bluffing his way into a radio interview seat next to Kanye West — brings his skills to Penn State Behrend's Junker Center tonight. Taylor Gang recording artist Chevy Woods opens. Tickets are \$20 for Behrend students, and \$30 for everyone else.

8 p.m. // 5103 Station Road // estore.psu.edu // 898.6171

fri 5.02

Tyler Smilo

Local singer-songwriter Tyler Smilo doesn't need fancy tricks to reach listeners. No, Smilo sticks with a simple formula of honest, heartfelt lyrics and stirring compositions that poke and prod at you until you feel something. Get a dose of the Smilo experience when he takes the stage at The King's Rook this Friday.

9:30 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

All An Act Theatre presents Smoking Section

There is a lot of laughter in life, whether you're laughing at someone or someone is laughing at you. In Erie's premiere of *Smoking Section*, you'll find this and more when four couples get their worlds upturned with the assistance of one absent-minded waiter as they meet for a dinner they will not soon forget at a stylish Italian restaurant in Brooklyn. Tickets are just \$12.

7:30 p.m. // 652 W. 17th St. // allanact.net

sat 5.03

Gears to Beers

Some people may treat themselves after a good workout, but with Gears to Beers, the reward is part of the goal. WQLN and Sprague Farm and Brew Works team up for two sets bicycle tours - one lasting 25 miles and the other 40 miles - with both paths leading to the wonderful brews at the

Darrell Hammond

For nearly 40 years, *Saturday Night Live* has been a comedic institution. Stars like Bill Murray, Eddie Murphy, and Tina Fey have all performed on the live sketch show during a run of over 700 episodes and counting. However, just one person can claim the title of longest tenured cast member — Darrell Hammond, who will be performing at Jr's Last Laugh Friday May 9 and Saturday, May 10.

Most known for his belly-laugh inducing impressions of Bill Clinton and Sean Connery, Hammond was a cast member for 14 years, over a third of *SNL's* existence, a run in which the comedian impersonated 107 different real-life people and had the honor of shouting the show's trademark opener "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night" 70 times by the time he left in 1999.

Hammond's days at *Saturday Night Live* weren't always so funny, however. A few years after his departure from the show, Hammond opened up about his abusive childhood, which led to alcoholism and cocaine abuse during his career. Now clean, Hammond's back to doing what he does best — making people laugh.

There will be a lot of comedic history on stage when Hammond comes to Jr's, so check out the master impressionist and frank jokester telling his tales live from Erie. — Alex Bieler

6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Friday May 9 and Saturday May 10 // 1402 State St. // 461.0911



Contributed Photo

Sprague Farm. Make sure to register for a day full of bikes and beers.

10 or 11 a.m. // 22113 U.S. 6 or 8425 Peach St. // 864.3001, wqln.org

Thomas Rhett

Country singer Thomas Rhett burst onto the music scene last year when the title track off of his debut album *It Goes Like This* went platinum. Now the 24-year-old Rhett, who has already co-written songs for country superstars Jason Aldean and Florida Georgia Line, will travel up to Edinboro University to entertain students and Erie County country fans alike.

7 p.m. // 455 Scotland Road, Edinboro // edinborotickets.com

Erie Philharmonic - A Tribute to Motown

Relive the classic sounds and dance moves of the rocking '60s and '70s that changed America. Backed by the Erie Philharmonic orchestra, Motown hits like "My Girl," "Stand by Me," and "Under the Boardwalk" come to life and may have you dancing in the aisles. Featured guest artist is Spectrum.

8 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // 455.1375

Art in the Woods

Experience over 100 beautiful pieces of art ranging from pottery, fiber, painting, and woodwork to jewelry, photography, and much more. Contributions will come from local, regional, and student artists who offer their work as a fundraiser for the school. Participate in the silent art auction, hear live music including Lisa Stahlbaum and Seann Clark, taste a variety of appetizers, enjoy local wine and beer tasting, and bid on additional gift certificates and baskets. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

4 to 8 p.m. // 1390 W. Townhall Road // 866.3760

sun 5.04

Mercyhurst Langer Series presents August: Osage County

August: Osage County tells the story of an unusually warm August in Pawhuska, Oklahoma and a family crisis that brings a dysfunctional family back to the house they grew up in — and to the woman who raised them. Originally a play that debuted on Broadway in 2007, the film stars Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Ewan McGregor, Juliette Lewis, and

more. Tickets are \$6 at the Taylor Little Theatre.

2 p.m. // 501 E. 38th St. // maic.mercyhurst.edu

Raw Edges: A Celebration of 20/40 Years

The Mercyhurst Dancers and returning alumni celebrate 40 years of dance at Mercyhurst University and 20 years of choreography by artistic director Tauna Hunter and production manager/resident designer Michael Gleason. Performances will be held at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center.

2 p.m. // 501 E. 38th St. // 824.3000

mon 5.05

Buck Night: Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron Aeros

Going to see the SeaWolves play is plenty fun, but when you add in specially-priced Smith's hot dogs, draft beers, soft drinks, and popcorn, it can brighten even the most dour of Mondays. The hometown team will take on Cleveland Indians AA-affiliate Akron Aeros on Buck Night, starting off a three-game home series at The Uht.

7:05 p.m. // 110 E. 10th St. // 456.1300

tues 5.06

Jefferson in Paris: The Women

During the five years that Thomas Jefferson spent as our ambassador to France from 1784-1789, he interacted with two women that changed his life forever. Historians, for years, generally believed that he had an affair with Maria Cosway, wife of a celebrated English miniaturist, but they also argued that no such relationship arose between Jefferson and Sally Hemings, his fourteen year-old slave who accompanied his youngest daughter to Paris in 1787. This lecture, however, will demonstrate that both assumptions were wrong. Lecturer: Barry Grossman, J.D.

7 p.m. // 3207 State St. // 459.8000

wed 5.07

'All Things That Fly'

Artwork from the Natural Impressions 3rd Annual Mixed Media Student Art Competition — from the colorful imaginations of area students from first grade through college — is on display all month at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. For this year's competition, participating young artists were encouraged to submit artwork that best reflects the theme "All Things That Fly." The free exhibit, running through May 28, is open daily during regular TREC hours.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily // 301 Peninsula Drive // trecpi.org



Contributed Photo

Music Meets Art Opening Reception

While World of Music has sonic compositions down pat, the instrument emporium will add another version of art to their facilities for a week. The local music store will celebrate the second annual Music Meets Art Show/Sale this spring, starting with an opening reception at 5 p.m. Friday, May 2.

For a whole week, World of Music will be showcasing works of art among the instruments, blending treats for the ears and eyes during store hours after the reception through Saturday, May 10. Local singer-songwriter extraordinaire Zack Orr will help kick off the Show/Sale with a performance of his lovingly-crafted tunes. Music-themed submissions from various artists will be up for sale to provide a feast for the eyes while hors d'oeuvres from La Bella will provide some great grub for your taste buds to complete a night that will reward all your senses. Even more, the \$10 entry fee from every art submission, as well as any donations from you wonderful people, will benefit The ANNA Shelter, a local nonprofit animal welfare organization.

With a wonderful combination of great music, cool art, tasty grub, and the satisfaction of helping adorable animals in need, Music Meets Art Opening Reception makes for a cool event on so many levels. — Alex Bieler

5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 2 // 1355 W. 26th St. // 459.2585

thurs 5.08

BLOOM Collaborative Open Studio

It's always exciting to share an event that gives Erieites a great opportunity to make something beautiful. BLOOM Collaborative's Open Studios lets you explore or even discover your creativity with the outlet of your choosing, from fused glass and sculpture to painting and drawing, whether you're an experienced artist or whether you're partial to stick figures. Open studios are every Thursday evening. Cost is just \$10, including all materials.

6 to 8 p.m. // 138 East 26th St. // 878.3688

fri 5.09

Smackdab and Digital Dave

Docksiders will gets a taste of both Western New York and Pittsburgh when two different

genres come together this Friday. Funky soul band Smackdab from Jamestown will lead off the night with groovy jams, while DJ Dave Lander will make the trip upstate to keep the beat moving well into the night for the State Street crowd.

7 p.m. // 1015 State St. // 459.0099

Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle

With field trips to Presque Isle's hottest birding spots, all manners of interesting workshops on birds, all manners of interesting talks about birds, and much more on and for all things winged in and around beautiful Erie, Presque Isle Audubon's Festival of the Birds takes flight today. The festival continues through Sunday at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and various locations around gorgeous-in-the-spring Presque Isle. The event is presented in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



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5/17!

Tyler Smilo 5/2
The Vigils 5/3
Brooke Surgener 5/9
Strangers and Liars 5/10

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May 1-3

BRENT MORIN



Brent Morin is one of the fastest rising comedians in Los Angeles. In recent months, the "Chelsea Lately" panel regular made his late-night debut on "Conan" (where he was a P.A. for three years) and landed a role opposite old pal Chris D'Elia in the upcoming NBC series "Undateable," produced by Bill Lawrence.

\$12.50 Per Ticket

May 9-10

DARRELL HAMMOND
"Special Event"



SNL cast member 1995-2009 - comedian Darrell Hammond remains the sketch TV show's strongest and funniest performer. As well as being part of skits where he had chemistry with other cast members, Hammond won audiences over with dead-on impersonations of various celebrities and Hollywood figures, such as President Bill Clinton.

\$25 Per Ticket

May 15-17

ROCKY LAPORTE
"Special Event"



Rocky's clean, blue-collar style of comedy continues to increase in popularity as he travels the country. Today Rocky is one of the most sought after comedians in the USA.

\$15 Per Ticket

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Continued Photo

The New Americans: Lives of Three Refugees

Brain drain may be taking a toll on Erie County's overall population, but while some people are leaving the area, there are those that are consistently making their way to Northwest Pennsylvania. Erie has become a haven for immigrants looking for a home in the United States, and one local man has taken to telling the story of those that have come to The Gem City to escape the horrors of war and persecution.

First-time filmmaker Maitham Basha-Agha's *The New American: Lives of Three Refugees* will be shown at 5 p.m., Tuesday May 6 at UPMC Hamot in April. The documentary focuses on Agha's brother and two of his friends' journey to the United States and the transition of finding a new home.

The 25-year-old director and writer emigrated from Iraq at the age of 10, and with *The New Americans*, he's ready to show locals that while some people are moving away from the area, the Erie immigrant population not only found a new home here, but also a brighter future. — Alex Bieler

5 p.m. Tuesday, May 6 // 201 State St. // del@unitedwayerie.org

Spring Art Fair

New York City may be over six hours away, but a part of the Big Apple will be right in Erie, helping to benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children – Erie Ambulatory Surgery Center and Outpatient Specialty Care Center.

Fifteen artists from New York City will have their original works of art displayed from 5 to 9 p.m. May 1 and 2 at the Erie Center auditorium, with pieces ranging from Renaissance-inspired portraits to illusionist watercolors, all available to buy for your collection. In addition to the visual goods up for grabs, fifty percent of all net purchases at the Art Fair will go directly to patient care services at Shriners Hospital.

Organized by Erie native Larry Walczak, a practicing artist and educator in Brooklyn, the Spring Art Fair takes a slice of culture from the Big Apple to treat local art enthusiasts, while Shriners Hospitals' medical programs benefit from the rest of the creative pie. — Alex Bieler

5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 2 // 1645 W. Eighth St. // 875.8700



Linda Ganjian

Pre-registration is encouraged. Full-weekend ticket costs range from \$40 to \$50 for children; \$80 to \$100 for students with valid ID; and \$120 to \$145 for adults. Event-specific passes are available, too, so check the registration info on presqueisleaudubon.org for further ticketing details.

Friday to Sunday // TREC, various locations around Presque Isle // presqueisleaudubon.org

sat 5.10

Jerry Gaff

After a year full of fingerpicked bluesy folk songs, Jerry Gaff was rewarded for his impressive fretwork with a Blue Pike Award nomination for his intriguing six-string compositions. Check and see Gaff's nimble fingers for yourself when he performs at the Pie-in-the-Sky Cafe this Saturday evening.

5:30 p.m. // 463 W. Eighth St. // 459.8638

Viva La Rummage Sale

The Erie Art Museum is bringing back the coolest rummage sale in Erie! Find new treasures and support the art museum by shopping at the Old Customs house for gently used household items- furniture, glass, pottery, art & clothing. All sales proceeds benefit Museum programming.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. // 411 State St. // 459.5477

Meadville Community Theatre presents On Golden Pond

On Golden Pond is a love story of Norman and Ethel Thayer, a couple who return to their summer home on Golden Pond for the 48th year. When their daughter and her fiancé visit, they leave her fiancé's teenager with Norman and Ethel for the summer, bringing the couple even closer together as the child quickly becomes the grandchild they have always wanted. Tickets are just \$10.

8 p.m. // 400 N. Main St., Meadville // 333.1773

sun 5.11

Erie Playhouse Youtheatre presents A Little Princess

When young Sarah Crewe's father leaves for India, Sarah is sent to a London boarding school where she is resented by the headmistress for her cleverness, yet treated well because of her father's wealth. When things go awry, Sarah finds herself in dire straits but remains good-natured while using her imagination to escape her harsh circumstances.

2 p.m. // 13 W. 10th St. // erieplayhouse.org

mon 5.12

Blasco presents Presque Isle Flute Choir

The Presque Isle Flute Choir presents its annual Spring Concert — part of the ongoing Blasco Concert Series — tonight at Hirt Auditorium. The highlight performance (that happens to be about smackdab in the middle of this year's Blasco series, which kicked off in late April and continues through mid-June) is free and open to the public. So go and hear the sound of music.

7 p.m. // 160 E. Front St. // 451-7320

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Sat. May 3 **French Kiss**

Thu. May 8 **Marshmallow Overcoat**

Fri. May 9 **Kevlar**

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MUSIC REVIEWS

Protomartyr

Under Color of Official Right
Hardly Art
★★★★★



When Protomartyr opened for Cloud Nothings in Cleveland last August, the Beachland Ballroom crowd wasn't sure what to think of the Detroit quartet. For the first few songs, singer Joe Casey slumped over the microphone, mumbling words while the band hammered out frantic tunes. Then, Casey came alive, whipping out pointed lines amid dark, chaotic sonic blasts for a night of frenzied post-punk fun. Eight months later, the band released its sophomore album *Under Color of Official Right* and they pick up right where they left off in Cleveland. At 14 songs and a lean 34 minutes, the album hits hard and fast, although the band inserts a few moments of levity to balance out the dark overtones. "Tarpeian Rock" shows off the band's grit while "Ain't So Simple" hooks listeners just a few seconds in with its catchy guitar lines. *Under Color of Right* is an impressive display of hard-hitting post-punk with enough quirk to intrigue. — Alex Bieler

Eels

The Cautionary Tales of Mark Oliver Everett
Relativity
★★★★★



After the bouncy optimism of *Wonderful, Glorious*, Eels return to more somber territory on *The Cautionary Tales of Mark Oliver Everett*. Appropriately, the new album finds bandleader Mark Oliver Everett eschewing the joyful bounce of past songs like "Mr. E's Beautiful Blues" for a more subtle, introspective approach, leaving the alternative veteran to examine his past and the regret of leaving someone you cared for. *Cautionary Tales's* restrained, solemn approach recalls albums like Beck's *Sea Change*, an LP that embraces sparse compositions to emphasize the weight of the singer's worried words. Everett's cracking vocals take center stage on the album, providing a weight to the gentle swaths of strings and strummed guitars of "Agatha Chang" and the precisely-picked "Swallow in the Sun." *Cautionary Tales* missteps when it takes a turn for the sinister on "Series of Misunderstandings" and "Dead Reckoning," but Everett's introspective study makes for a quiet, meditative listen. — Alex Bieler

Walter Trout

The Blues Came Callin'
Provogue
★★★★★



Blues great Walter Trout's been through some ups and downs in his nearly 50-year professional career, but he's currently in the fight of his life, battling liver trouble and awaiting a transplant. On *The Blues Came Callin'* (release date June 10) his searing, sustained solos still hearken back to his days with friend and mentor John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, but his voice – that meaty, authoritative snarl – is noticeably more weathered, weary, and wizened, most notably on the J.B Lenoir-penned "The Whale." Likewise indicative of his recent health, the songwriting takes a markedly introspective tone, most evident on "The Bottom of the River." But everything about this album just, well, works – right down to the merciful absence of overproduction found on almost every modern blues release since the mid-'90s. So, to those unfamiliar with the music of Walter Trout, I say: If the blues comes callin' for you, answer it. — Cory Vaillancourt

Manchester Orchestra

Cope
Sony Music Entertainment
★★★★★



Manchester Orchestra has been a monstrous fly on the wall for years. Laboring with tough lineup changes, religious speculation, and dancing between big-label promises and small-band mentalities, the band has released an album that balances the big production feel with their true basement sound. *Cope* sets neatly in between their 2011 release, *Simple Math*, and 2009's *Mean Everything to Nothing*. Although Manchester Orchestra has always had colorful and powerful lyrics, the lyrical aggressiveness on this record shows Andy Hull, the band's singer, as a strong and nuanced voice that should be respected in this generation of music. The drum strategies are interesting and pulsating in each and every song. All of the songs create their own voice with relentless, guitar-driven melodies, like in "All That I Really Wanted" and "Trees." Whether you are needing some good old-fashioned rock music or indie expressions, *Cope* creates the perfect atmosphere for some solid listening. — Jess Scutella



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Ryan Smith

Constant State of Change

electroFLUX

By: Ryan Smith

At first, having just stepped in to Basement Transmissions, I couldn't quite tell whether the music was issuing forth from the front of the venue, or the back, down from a high space, or up from below. The sound, to my ears, was everywhere, entirely all around, and the rest of my body – the bottom of my feet through the top of my head – felt its sonic reverberations.

This was not simply (and, most certainly, not simple) music. This – the output, I soon saw, of one man (he went by Hossa Nova) and a guitar – was an excursion, an exploration, a bold experiment.

This is what came out of Basement Transmissions on Thursday, April 24: This was electroFLUX.

That short description doesn't come close to fully relaying the near-total sonic immersion brought to BT by the artists participating in that evening's installment of the ongoing electroFLUX experimental music series.

"It's [an] experimental music night here ... [and] every artist is doing something different," said BT owner, artist, and event promoter Bob

Jensen. Their "intent isn't so much to form a structure" musically, he said, but to explore and experiment with "the soundscape, non-traditional music structures, and instrumentation that's out of the ordinary.

"It's more about mood, and environment, and the sound experience," Jensen said.

Untying themselves from the constraints of

traditional musical structures, the artists were left free – truly free – to explore what mood, and environment, and sound can become. And the results of their experiments could range, even within any given moment, from jarring, violent discord to blissful, ethereal calm.

It's a fully natural exploration – and much like nature itself.

Along with a joint excursion/performance by local artists Adam Holquist, Joseph Allen Popp, and Alex Wilson, that evening's electroFLUX also welcomed in, from Wisconsin, ambient artist Boyle along with noted Philadelphia-based guitarists/explorers Eric Carbonara and Nick Millevoi.

These days, Carbonara experiments with electric instrumental pieces influenced by flamenco and classical Hindustani styles as, he told the Reader's own Alex Bieler recently, "a cathartic vehicle for self-expression and to tell stories about myself."

Carbonara is "an amazing guitarist. Do yourself a favor and see him perform," Pittsburgh-based experimental multi-instrumentalist Mike Brother-Ong Tamburo posted in response to the Reader's preview on the latest electroFLUX event.

Simple, yet true. And he was just one of many talented musicians displaying their artistic prowess that night, each taking his turn, churn-

Experimental musicians gathered at Basement Transmissions Thursday, April 24 for the electroFLUX Series.

ing out distinct, striking sounds, and for that – for this segment of the series, for the whole series, the mini-festival of experimental notes and tones flowing from the front, the back, down below and up high – I was thankful.

I'll always pay gratitude to artists who are able to affect my space, both physical and of the spirit, and those I saw and heard that evening were certainly well capable of doing that.

To me, that's art at its most truthful, and, often, most worthwhile: Something new. Something adventurous and unhindered. Something brave.

And if you missed it yourself that night, try to keep an ear to the ground for when the next electroFLUX event may be happening at one of Erie's most progressive performance spaces.

You'll be doing yourself a favor.

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



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Bred Trifana

Bines versus Vines

A Night of Local Beer and Wine Pairings

By: The Reader Eater

Beer versus wine – it sounds like the perfect title for a show on Food Network, but at the very least, it's a debate all of us diners and imbibers have had at least once or twice.

The ol' *what pairs better with gazpacho drizzled with a jalapeño olive oil – a tangy saison or a tart Riesling?* argument.

Or the ever-common *which couples up nice and close to a pheasant breast perched atop braised pheasant legs with potatoes, carrots, and a wholegrain mustard – an oaky dry red wine or a bold, bitter IPA?* quarrel.

Haven't tipsily fought the beer-versus-wine discussion *that specifically?* Come Monday, May 12 and Tuesday, May 13, you'll have exactly that opportunity with Erie's first-ever Bines versus Vines.

In one corner, the bines (named for the part of the plant on which hops grow) of Lavery Brewing company will square off against the vines (named for the part of the – well, you likely already knew that...) of 6 Mile Cellars in the other corner.

The proverbial ring? A four-course meal dreamt up by Joe Perino out of Frankie and May Fresh Grocer's kitchen.

The referees? All of those who choose to partake either night, as patrons will vote after each course to determine which paired better with Joe's creation: Beer or wine.

Which takes us to the practice arena a few Tuesdays back.

"Erie is perfect for this and should be open to it," says the chef who works at Colao's and teaches classes at Frankie and May, which happens to service as the evening's training facilities, as Lavery Pub Manager Patrick Miller and 6 Mile President Bart Towell test out some of their wares with Joe's creations – including that gazpacho and that pheasant – for the upcoming friendly match.

"This has been a project that's been floating around in my head for about a year and a half now," says Pat Miller, who tested out Lavery's

award-winning Liopard Oir with the cold, tomato soup brightened with fresh basil. "We established a great relationship with 6 Mile Cellars when we opened the pub, and they have the same sort of ethos we do as a company."

"When Pat suggested the event, it felt like a fresh idea and a fun collaboration," adds Bart, who paired 6 Mile's crisp Winsome White. "When Frankie and May – along with a very talented local chef – came into the picture, I think we all saw something unique. This 'trial dinner' definitely confirmed our ideas."

"It seemed like a perfect fit for us to work together with another great small local business [Frankie and May Fresh Grocer], have some fun with a little friendly competition, and help out a great and worthy local charity – the Erie Crime Victims Center. The whole idea behind the event is: Eat Local, Drink Local, Help Local," Pat says.

But soup and pheasant and Riesling and Farmhouse Ale only account for half of the night. If the bout begins with a light soup in round one, round two throws off the gloves with a chopped salad featuring blanched radishes, roasted fennel, arugula, bacon, smoked moody blue cheese, and hazelnuts – which just so happen to be roasted in the fat of the bacon along with some

Lavery Brewing Company squares off against 6 Mile Cellars over a four-course meal Monday, May 12 and Tuesday, May 13.

brown sugar – topped with a smooth honey-lemon vinaigrette.

For that, Bart paired 6 Mile's Derby Red, the sweetest wine of the night, which was sugary and fragrant without being too overwhelming. Pat trotted out Lavery's Death or Glory in keeping with his saison run, but being a black saison, the Clash-inspired beer offered a roasted bitterness of chocolate and coffee.

The main event? That was the pheasant – an I'm-gonna-use-every-part-of-this-bird-in-this-dish-because-I-don't-waste-food-type of plate. And as it was the heaviest part of the night, the heaviest drinks squared off – a full-bodied red and a nearly-off-the-BTU-charts IPA.

In the fourth and final round, Joe served up Barland pears braised

whole then seared in butter and topped with mascarpone cheese and homemade granola. Not decadent enough, you say? They're also topped with an ice-wine drizzle.

Pat went dark and heavy with Lavery's Ulster Breakfast Stout with a dark coffee aroma and rich mouthfeel, while Bart decided on going lighter with 6 Mile's Vignoles that gave a honey taste on the front end and citrus notes on the back.

"It's exciting to pair different beers with different dishes and see how similarities can magnify flavors already present in both or play with contrast in flavors to bring out more subtle tasting notes," Pat says. "Every pairing is different and chosen to elevate the tasting experience, of both the beer and food, as a whole. Pairings are especially fun because you can get a sort of synergistic effect where you can make 1+1=3."

And like beer, wine fits that non-linear mathematical equation quite nicely.

"Wines each have their own unique flavors that can range from floral and citrus to warm cocoa and spice," Bart adds. "With the dishes we try to match the flavors as well as balance the acids in each. It's art blended with a bit of food science as well."

Beer, wine, food, art, science, math – no matter how you count it – all add up to a lively, friendly fight and diners and imbibers' night not to be missed.

May the best libation win.

Bines versus Vines will be held both nights at 6 p.m. at Lavery Brewing Company, located at 128 W. 12th St. A very limited amount of tickets for the evenings are for sale at Lavery's, 6 Mile Cellars, and Frankie and May and are \$75 a piece or \$140 per couple. For more bine-based information, visit: LaveryBrewing.com or call 454.0405; for more vine-based information, visit 6MileCellars.com or call 580.8375.

The Reader Eater can be contacted at ReaderEater@eriereader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/oqppqz>





Contributed Photo

Street Fashionista

By Lili Morton

With the recent departure of the *Erie Reader's Street Fashionista*, Leslie McAllister, you may be feeling lost and wondering how you're going to get your fashion fix now. Allow me to introduce myself; I'm Lili Morton, and I'll be your new *Street Fashionista*. I know I have some pretty stylish shoes to fill and I intend to start doing so right now.

You may be asking yourself, why this girl? Let me start by sharing a bit about myself. Since my high school days when I convinced my Home Economics teacher to let me educate the class on designers and sketch my own designs instead of sewing a knapsack like the others, I knew fashion was in my blood. I studied Fashion Merchandising at Michigan State University before moving to New York City where I worked for the iconic Diane von Furstenberg, styled for a trendy boutique in NoHo (where celebs such as Keri Russell and Leven Rambin often shopped), and worked on indie film sets and on television shows, like *Law & Order*

as well as a Verizon Commercial. I was constantly surrounded by the most beautiful fabrics, prints and cutting-edge styles. I learned a lot from my surroundings. I watched and took notes from the best and I saw how looks were created – noticing why something worked and why another something else didn't. I learned how to take risks, experimenting with new trends to make them work for me. After moving home to Erie five years ago, I started working with others (mostly business men and women) to help them develop their own personal style. My friends, family and colleagues were always asking me for fashion advice and

wanting me to revamp their closet or go shopping with them. I used their interest to reach out to more people – from freelancing fashion articles to conducting seminars on fashion and style.

Fast-forward to April 2014: I am still very much a part of the fashion industry, having become a top stylist for Keaton Row, a virtual styling platform where women can work with a stylist for free. After completing an online style profile, a woman is paired with a stylist who creates a lookbook to fit her needs, budget, body type and, of course, style. The clothes come from popular online retailers such as Shopbop, Nordstrom, Asos, and Les Nouvelles. Prices range from \$20 for a top to \$2,000 (yes, \$2,000 for one top!). I style women all across the country, from high-level executives and film producers to stay-at-home moms and recent college graduates.

But enough about me – I'd like to hear from you as the *Street Fashionista* series begins its new chapter. So tell me, what do you want to read about in this new take on an old favorite? Do you want to read Q&As? See designer profiles? Explore trends?

Share your thoughts and ideas at LMorton@ErieReader.com. I'll be writing interesting fashion articles that both educate and inspire, and reader suggestions, feedback, thoughts, and opinions are always welcome.

For now, I thought I'd end on a stylish note by highlighting some of my favorite trends for spring and how to wear them:

Wide-Leg Trousers: A sleek pair of white, wide-leg trousers paired with a crisp, blue button-down, a wide-brimmed hat, chunky wedges, and cross-body bag is perfect for a day of wine tasting or dining al fresco.

Tea-Length Skirts: These work for the office or the weekend. At work, pair with a more fitted top to create balance (caution: voluminous skirt with voluminous top = voluminous girl). On the weekend, opt for a crop-top. Crop tops can bare your belly or they can hit at the waistline of the skirt to cover any skin. Opt for what makes you most comfortable.

Slip-On Sneakers: Create a stylish, androgynous look by pairing with boyfriend jeans, shlub tee and cool jacket. Steve Madden and Loefler Randall are my favorites.

Lili Morton can be contacted at LMorton@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter on Twitter @ [SatinAndScotch](https://twitter.com/SatinAndScotch). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/g09iy>



Guest Opinions

Transforming our Community and Challenging Younger Generations

By: Dave Brennan

We have arrived at a critical point in our history where we are finally realizing the need to transform our economy into something new. This transformation needs to respond to the realities of the 21st century while also continuing to embrace our traditional manufacturing base. Our focus needs to be on the most important natural resource we have: people. Transforming our economy will require that we take the right steps to DEVELOP, RETAIN, and ATTRACT a talented workforce.

Working together with our younger generation – the millennials – is critical to this transformation. As they will continue to assume positions as active citizens, taxpayers, local elected officials, and community leaders, millennials will present our region with new perspectives and opportunities.

DEVELOP — We need a low-cost alternative for higher education, such as a community college. The recently published Coordinated University White Paper is a commitment that has been developed by our local universities to collaborate on improving Erie's economy and access to education. This report is a good start to prepare our workforce by developing the education and skills that are needed for future jobs. Also, the recent news from Edinboro University on the development of the Porreco Community's College is another forward step in the right direction.

RETAIN — We need to be more aggressive in promoting creativity and innovation in order to develop a more diverse economy by providing the resources and support for our entrepreneurs that are growing new companies. Excellent examples of agencies that are already providing this support are Gannon University's Erie Technology Incubator and Ben Franklin Technology Partners. Another example is the Corry Redevelopment Authority's Industrial Incubator.

ATTRACT — We need to continue to build up our community assets. One of our local strengths is our arts and cultural community, which helps to strengthen the vibrancy and marketability of our region. It has been proven that arts and culture-related industries provide direct economic benefits by creating jobs, enhancing our quality of life, and attracting young people to our area. Other amenities that attract young people are the availability of public transportation, bike lanes, and quality green spaces and parks. We also need to be more proactive in our efforts to revitalize our neighborhoods. Quality neighborhoods with affordable housing options will attract businesses, build our tax base, and attract a more youthful population to our region.

THE CHALLENGE — To accomplish these goals, we need our innovative, young talent to step up to the plate. We need new faces and new ideas in our government and community organizations, on our boards, and on our authorities. Although many young people are already making contributions, we need more involvement and organizations must reach out to provide more opportunities.

We need to get more young people to the polls, involved in the election process, and involved in government. If people are more educated on how government works, they will be better prepared to help to improve our community. Whether they will admit it or not, many people, especially our youth, are disconnected from our government as well as our community. Reasons for this disconnect range from personal financial situations, to mistrust, to the fact that they are just too busy.

Millennials need to take an interest in local issues and take an active part in a more collaborative process to solve our problems. Engaging millennials needs to be an integral part of any discussions to improve our community and millennials need to take the lead to help find new ways to engage the public. Technological advances have provided opportunities to provide better communication and public engagement. We need to embrace and take advantage of these advances and seize this opportunity to benefit our entire community.

THE OFFER — As a lifelong resident of Erie and as an elected official, I am committed to taking an active role in supporting these goals and challenges to our community and to our young people. I will continue to reach out to our community through social media, public meetings, and through personal discussions to seek input, make connections, provide local government transparency, and to provide opportunities for citizen engagement.

In closing, I would like to commend the accomplishments of the individuals who were recently recognized in *Erie Reader's* "40-Under-40" issue. I want to thank them for their hard work and commitment to our region.

With that said, I would like to issue a challenge to our under 40 population. I challenge this younger generation to continue to do more and invest more in our community. Volunteer, help a neighbor, get involved on a nonprofit board or committee, mentor others, pursue your dreams and help others find theirs. I believe that real progress can only be made on the shoulders of those individuals who are willing and have a true passion to make things better.

You can contact Dave Brennan at dbrennan@erie.pa.com, find him on Facebook at [DavidBrennanforErie](https://www.facebook.com/DavidBrennanforErie), and follow him on Twitter @ [DaveBrennanErie](https://twitter.com/DaveBrennanErie). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/9t7sk>





Contributed Photo

Geeked Out:

The Flagship City International Film Festival

By: John Lindvay

I love film. And lucky for me, Erie loves film, too. Even with our dwindling list of cineplexes to patronize, Erie film lovers have plenty of ways to get their fix. I've attended my fair share of film showings at the Erie Art Museum, I've enjoyed lying down on the hillside of Frontier Park on a cool summer evening to catch a flick, and annually in the fall, I've checked out the Eerie Horror Film Festival, a celebrated film festival known nationwide. And those are just a few.

This spring, Erie welcomes a newcomer to its film family: The Flagship City International Film Festival.

Greg Ropp and John Walkiewicz – the same guys who run the Horror Film Fest – are the masterminds behind the new festival, which will be held at the Bayfront Convention Center May 2 to May 4. And they're the two guys perfect for the job, because Greg and John have a love for film that goes beyond anyone else I know, and their affection for film has helped to spawn many of the film events I love already.

Aside from their already-renowned work on the Horror Fest, they are looking to foster a film fest that can service all movie fans. This new festival will include film entries from multiple genres, ranging from documentary to experimental to family to religious to comedy to drama. Submissions to the new festival are coming from all over the world including: Europe, United Arab Emirates, Portugal, and our neighbor to the north, Canada.

Something that I am personally excited for are the student showings. Each of the aforementioned genre categories have student submissions being screened, offering a great op-

portunity for young budding filmmakers from our own town and studying in our own local universities to show off their films in a larger setting.

While Greg and John admit that this first year will be small in comparison to what they want to achieve, John says, "There is no reason that with the support of the public and local business that this can't grow into something like South by Southwest," a festival that started out as a small event in Austin, Texas and is now one of the larger cultural events in the country, bringing in billions in dollars to the surrounding community.

Of the twenty films currently set to be screened, John and Greg highlighted these three for me to share with you.

First, on Friday night at 8:30 p.m. there's the romantic sci-fi film *There Are No Goodbyes*. Lyons Den Production shot the film both locally and internationally. The cast and crew will be in attendance for a Q&A after the screening, so all your local aspiring actors and filmmakers would

There Are No Goodbyes will be screened Friday, May 2 with a Q&A with the cast and crew to follow.

be wise to drop in and see what shooting locally can look like.

Saturday night at 9 p.m. the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival Gold Remi Award-winning romantic drama *Available*, starring Alexa Yeames, who is currently co-starring in CW's *The Originals*, will be shown. Past winners of the Gold Remi include Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg, and Spike Lee.

Finally, John mentioned the short comedy *Water Lords*, starring Greg Pitts (*Office Space*), Oscar Nunez (*The Office* – US version), and Audrey Landers (*Dallas*). There is also a short documentary about an Army Reserve unit from Rochester, N.Y. that went to the Persian Gulf War called *Four Days*. Then there is also a film that deals with what may be done to help revitalize a former factory town with *Farewell to Factory Towns*?

We sometimes forget about how much culture we have here in Erie as well as the people who help make sure we are exposed to it. Whether it is individuals like Greg and John working hard to put on incredible film festivals or those working in our community to help connect us to the arts, events like this, and people willing to put the effort into them make our community better. It gives opportunity to those who care passionately about the arts and brings in new industry, so there's no reason why Erie can't support these new endeavors – if only we support those who try to make it possible.

John Lindvay can be contacted at jlindvay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @FightStrife. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erindr.com/90mxt>



Screening Schedule for Flagship City International Film Festival

Tickets cost \$10 per day or \$25 for the entire weekend. Doors will open a half an hour before the first block of movies each day.

Friday, May 2

4 to 6 p.m.

GOLD
DOVE ON A ROOF
SURVIVING FAMILY

6:30 to 8 p.m.

THE BRIGHT SIDE
WHERE WE BELONG

8:30 to 10 p.m.

THERE ARE NO GOODBYES
(with Q&A to follow)

Saturday, May 3

4 to 6 p.m.

AZEN UNTEN
A CHILD LIES HERE
ULTRAMARINE
TU SERAS UN HOMME

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

CLOUDS OF MEMORIES
DRIVING BLIND

9 to 10:30 p.m.

AVAILABLE

Sunday, May 4

Noon to 2 p.m.

REBOOT
IF I TELL YOU
JOSHUA
HOW WINNE GOT HER FALSE TEETH
GREASEPAINT

2:15 to 2:45 p.m.

Awards Ceremony

3 to 5 p.m.

WATER LORDS
IN SESSION
FOUR DAYS
FAREWELL TO FACTORY TOWNS?



The Wrecking Crew, also known as Team Relentless, practices for an upcoming bout.

Ryan Smith

to having the spotlight on them at home as well as the arm wrestling table.

“It was weird at first,” Dave says of the filming experience. “I wasn’t used to it at all and I was nervous all of the time, but you do it once or twice and these guys make you feel really comfortable, like they’re not there.”

Even better, the TV experience not only provided exposure for the group, but also some financial stability, helping the team with travel expenses from trips to tournaments across the country. While Dave could earn upwards of \$100,000 this year if he performs well in various tournaments, a good year for James might net him just around \$5,000, meaning that all three men hold down regular jobs, with Dave serving as a corrections officer at the Erie County Prison, Bart as a cement mason, and James as a maintenance worker.

“We were all joking that we had the coolest sponsor ever, that AMC was sponsoring us to arm wrestle,” Bart laughs while he leans back in his chair.

Dave can pull in some nice paydays at major tournaments, but for most people, arm wrestling is not a lucrative sport, especially with the potential for injuries. Before becoming a world champion, Dave broke his arm in his second tournament ever, the snap creating a noise loud enough for the whole room to hear. Bart has battled torn pectoral muscles and signs of bursitis in his elbow. James busted up his thumb so bad that he couldn’t brush his teeth with his left hand for three months because he couldn’t pinch down. Yet even with the wear and tear, the thrill of arm wrestling drew them in despite the risks.

“For me, I was always an athlete, but after a certain age, you can’t do certain things and you can’t play football anymore,” Dave says quietly, leaning forward in a chair that seems a bit too small for him. “But this, you can arm wrestle for a long time, and being competitive, it’s just fun. And as a team, we’re great friends.”

James agrees with his Team Relentless companion, adding on to the idea of bonding in the sport.

“For me being older, I’ve quit a few times [before], but came back again with this latest rendition of this team,” he says, a smile on the 46-year old’s stubbled face. “When you’re in that together, it’s something you respect and share. I don’t have to win to get their respect, I just have to fight and bust my ass and they’ll just be as proud of me as if I won.”

Arm wrestling may not have the following that other sports do, but that doesn’t make it any less passionate. Similarly, Erie may not have the glitz and the glamour of some other cities, but like Bart, Dave, and James, it certainly has the heart to put it over the top of the competition and emerge victorious in the *Game of Arms*, regardless of the pin count.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ Catch2oQ. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/1qzkb>



Game of Arms

Erie arm-wrestling team lands spot on AMC’s new hit show

By: Alex Bieler

Early spring is a goldmine for sports fans. It’s playoff season for hockey and basketball, baseball is hitting its stride, and even the NFL has football fans yammering on about the upcoming draft. Still, while Erieites have plenty of major sports stars to display on their glowing, high-definition flat screens, there are some underground athletes right here in the Flagship City that can make for the most compelling television of the lot.

Arm wrestlers may not get the same billing as their ball- and puck-moving brethren in most markets, but in Erie, the underground sport may have the upper hand in national exposure with *Game of Arms*, an unscripted reality show on AMC that finished its first season Tuesday, April 29. The program followed five teams of arm wrestlers from different areas around the country as they faced off, quite literally, mano-a-mano. One of those teams was the Wrecking Crew, known locally as Team Relentless, a group of five individuals representing Erie against the strongest arms in New York, California, Missouri, and Louisiana. In each episode, two of the teams square off, with each member facing off against another challenger in a best-of-five matchup for a \$1,000 team prize and an extra \$250 bucks for individuals winners.

While the other four groups may call a larger media market than Northwestern Pennsylvania home, it’s hard for any other city in the nation to match the area’s arm wrestling history.

“Arm wrestling has always been big in Erie,” James Wagner says, elbows resting on the table as though he’ll be grappling with another competitor shortly. “Danny Carr and Donnie Plonski helped start it. They were arm wrestling in the infancy of [the sport] in the United States, so there’s always been a presence here in Erie. If you were raised in Erie, you wrestled in Danny’s tournaments, and then after [Danny] moved on you wrestled in Donnie’s tournaments.”

James is joined at the table by fellow Erie team-

mates Bart Wood and Dave Chaffee, who both nod in agreement. It’s a funny thing, meeting people you watched on TV. I’d call myself a rather large individual at nearly six-and-a-half feet tall, but it was hard not to feel miniscule compared to the trio, each sporting biceps swollen enough to match my thighs. They seem unreal, these physical specimens whose limbs bulge from exerting over 200 lbs. of force through their grips alone and can pull an SUV around with their wrist, but real they are, with bodies chiseled through dedication and training.

“I will tell you that 90 percent of all arm wrestlers diet, work out, train, and know exactly what they’re eating,” James says before taking a

puff from his e-cigarette, the words “More human than human” emblazoned across his red shirt. “The arm wrestlers now are more physically-fit, developed, built, and trained for our specific areas, as opposed to those that are the beer-guzzling, double meat-eating kind.”

Looking at the trio, it’s easy to see what percentile they fall under, with James and Bart’s 18-plus inch biceps squeezing out past the sleeves on their t-shirts. Dave’s arms are covered in a black pullover, but the heavyweight’s sheer muscle mass can’t be disguised by a layer of cotton when the man has the ability to bicep curl over 200 pounds with a single arm, roughly the weight of an average NFL wide receiver.

While James and Bart are accomplished arm wrestlers, Dave has reached a level that few pullers ever do, becoming a world champion. The 36-year-old beat out the field at the 2010 World Arm Wrestling Federation Championship, placing first in the men’s right-handed superheavyweight division, joining fellow Erie-natives Dave Sherwood and John Heynoski, Sr. to complete the feat. Even more, fellow Erie teammate and West Virginia native Travis Bagent, whose smack-talking ways are backed up by his talent, was a world champion in 2003. To round out the current five-man squad, John Heynoski, Jr. followed in his late father’s footsteps and joined Team Relentless, which was named after Heynoski, Sr.’s motto.

“I’ve got to say, we’re considered a powerhouse since Dave’s success,” Bart says. “James has won many Master’s national titles, I’ve only placed in the top four, but with Dave’s dominance, a lot of people have noticed Erie.”

Dave’s performance helped catch the eye of the people at Undertow Films, the company that produced hit shows like *Deadliest Catch* and wanted to create a gritty, underground feel for *Game of Arms*. In addition to the team’s pulling prowess, Undertow showcased the various storylines that accompanied the competition, meaning that the team would have to get used

[Cont. from 9] O.U.R. hosts Hypnotic Clambake said they've also further teamed up with the regional Active Artists Alliance and host-venue the Kevin Cole Farm to make this year's festival the best one yet, so, whether you've been there before or not, you may wanna check it out.

For more info: ourmusicfest.com

The Werk Out Music and Arts Festival

Aug. 7-9 // Thornville, Ohio // Advance passes: \$90 to \$170 // On the road: About 4 hours + 30 minutes

Another fest that goes a long way (purposefully, of course) toward blurring the lines between artists and their audiences, The Werk Out Music and Arts Festival returns to historic Legend Valley in Thornville, Ohio from Thursday, Aug. 7 through Saturday, Aug. 9.

Showcasing a good chunk of the colorful Midwest festival scene, The Werk Out's lineup includes multiple performances by host band The Werks, Papadosio, Rumpke Mountain Boys, Zoogma, Dopapod, and Zach Deputy, along with sets by the likes of Emancipator, Future Rock, Toubab Krewe, Phutureprimitive and many more.

For more info: thewerkoutfestival.com

Peach Music Festival

Aug. 14-17 // Scranton // Passes: \$129 to \$500 // On the road: About 5 hours + 10 minutes

Hosted by American music legends the Allman Brothers Band, the Peach Music Festival returns for its third year to Montage

Mountain in Scranton from Thursday, Aug. 14 through Sunday, Aug. 17.

For fans of the more traditional (in a manner of speaking), larger-sized, jam-heavy music fests, the Peach – featuring huge hitters like the Allmans, Bob Weir & Ratdog, Trey Anastasio Band, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Gov't Mule, and lots of other very-well-known acts – is big, it's beautiful, and it's most definitely worth the trip.

For more info: thepeachmusicfestival.com

So there you have it, folks, in a nutshell.

But make no mistake – this list doesn't have nearly all of the festivals that may be well worth some of your hard-earned time and funds this summer season, many of which aren't all that far away from the Erie area. It's just a little taste of some of the sweetest things around.

So, if you're into it (or think you might be), start exploring around here, around there, and around everywhere. You'll be doing yourself a big favor, because, despite the way some like to naysay, good music – make that great music – and good people (make that great people) are still very much alive and well, and all around you.

Maybe, in fact, more than ever before.

Ryan Smith can be contacted at rsmith@erieviewer.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @RyanSmithPlens. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erivdr.com/qxh50>



ER Sports

By: James R. LeCorchick

I HAVE HAD plenty of time to think in the past couple of weeks, and I couldn't help but look back at the many changes made in the sports world. And after looking back, I decided the most interesting to me was the wonderful world of college basketball, a game that I was hooked on at a very young age and stayed obsessed with until the landscape spiraled out of control in 1972 – the year freshmen became eligible to play on the varsity.

All of a sudden, college hoops became a cesspool that prepared "amateur" hoopsters for the NBA – and nothing else.

This is now a sport where the likes of Kentucky's John Calipari and Louisville's Rick Pitino are the faces of the sport – not the classy types of John Wooden, Dean Smith, and Al McGuire.

What a difference.

However, what really sparked my interest was a story on ESPN that blared "Cal" may have nine McDonald's All-Americans on his roster next year. Of course ESPN thought this was the greatest possibility ever. I think a bigger story would be how all nine of these high school "students" ended up in Lexington.

But we know that's never going to happen

Yet the ESPN story reminded me of a great two hours I spent with the former Marquette Coach, Al McGuire. We talked while taking a stroll in downtown Erie once when he was here to give a talk. Someone had set up a time for him to come on my radio show and he had some time to kill, so we took a two-hour stroll around lower State Street and the lower east side of Erie.

Not many knew he was an expert in the field of architecture and loved older cities, especially Erie. His knowledge of the old buildings in Erie simply amazed me.

Coach McGuire is one of the most interesting people I have ever met, and when I think back to that walk, I don't think basketball was even in his top-five topics, as he discussed a variety of subjects – aside from architecture – with great passion, including toy soldiers and motorcycles.

IT'S ALMOST impossible to discuss Al McGuire without talking about the time he applied for the Gannon University job, the Golden Knights instead hiring Jim Harding for the 1963-64 season, which was a good move at the time.

McGuire, a New York City native, had brought his Belmont Abbey College team to Erie two straight years and was building himself a national reputation at the small school.

However, while he had some supporters on the hiring committee, McGuire was considered a risk because he was a bit flamboyant and extremely colorful. McGuire then ended up getting hired at Marquette in 1974 – the school he stayed at for 14 years while winning a national title and establishing the Warriors (now Golden Eagles) as a national power. He later went on to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Meanwhile, the controversial Harding had Gannon in the national limelight for three years and then left Erie for Philadelphia LaSalle, staying one controversy-filled season with the Ex-

plorers. Harding also coached at the University of Detroit and in the pros, where he lived up to his reputation by punching the owner of the team in the mouth at a banquet.

And upon further examination, it's amazing the connections Gannon has had with Division I coaching positions.

While McGuire and Harding had their D-I connections, GU also had a hookup with Marquette, as the Golden Knights hired Bob Dukiet following his release by the Warriors; the Golden Knights also lost two coaches to Division I.

John Denny Bayer left for the University of Nevada Las Vegas and Tom Chapman accepted the Saint Bonaventure position. As a matter of fact, Bayer was replaced at UNLV by the legendary Jerry Tarkanian.

If ever a professional sports organization needed a great season, it was the Erie Otters. And the Otters responded with a record-breaking year.

IF EVER a professional sports organization needed a great season, it was the Erie Otters. And the Otters responded with a record-breaking year.

Interest in the OHL team was at an all-time low, but that interest has done a 180 in just one year with a best single-season record and a new attendance mark. And I believe most of the success on the ice goes to Coach Kris Knobloch, with General Manager John Frey getting credit for a lot of the marketing moves.

Also, this season enables Owner Sherry Bassin to sell the team and go out near the top.

My hockey experts tell me the Otters still needed a little work on the ice, but the base is set and the future is extremely bright.

But no matter who gets the credit right now, it was refreshing not to have to listen to a bunch of rumors regarding the future of the Otters. Today, there's no doubt: Hockey is alive and well in the Big E.

And the resuscitation could not have come at a better time.

James R. LeCorchick can be contacted at JRLSportsReport@gmail.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @JRLSports. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erivdr.com/rd9h7>



Sudoku

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

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

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Answer to Sudoku

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1 Last of the Mohicans, 6 Home Box Office (abbr.), 9 Repose, 12 Hollow stone, 13 Tree, 14 Us (Ger.), 15 Lagoon, 16 Goddess (Lat.), 17 Own (Scott.), 18 Inborn, 20 Keen, 22 Desert plant, 24 Television channel, 27 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.), 28 Bird, 32 Air, 34 Presidential nickname, 36 Indian music, 37 Glass-furnace mouth, 39 Survey, 41 Cistern, 42 Brown vesuvianite, 44 East, 47 Principal commodity, 52 According to (2 words), 53 Belonging to (suf.), 55 Eng. poet, 56 Compass direction, 57 Rhine tributary, 58 Wife of Balder, 59 No (Scott.), 60 Fiddler crab genus, 61 Handwriting on the wall, contraction, group, 7 Animal sound, 8 Ruminant's stomach, 9 Haw. feast, 10 Initial (abbr.), 11 Anglo-Saxon slave, 19 French art, 21 Russ. despot, 23 Pole in Gaelic games, 24 Public vehicle, 25 Family relative, 26 Thus (Lat.), 29 Civil Aeronautics Board (abbr.), 30 Oriental potentiate, 31 Women's Army Corps (abbr.), 33 Scientific name (suf.), 35 Unfledged hawk, 38 Lamb (Fr.), 40 Range, 43 Blaubok, 44 Home landscape, 45 Isle of Napoleon, 46 Wind indicator, 48 Wings, 49 Carnation, 50 Solitary, 51 And other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.), 54 "Blue Eagle"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE: ABM OBED CAAM RAY FIRE OAHE PINAFORE ALAR ATALA DTS ALLO ETAAIC YEAR ARCA ABR ACC BLEAK RAY PRE LOAD MESO PURGE DITA EDE ADDER SUNN PRESERVE AJAR INIT AES PINE CAINE BLT

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In addition to having a well-rounded legal education, Rick Filippi has secured access to serve before the U.S. Court of Appeals (3rd District) and the United States Supreme Court. He also has experience in local politics, having served on Erie's city council from 1998 to 2001. Additionally, he was elected Erie mayor from 2001 to 2005.

Rick has made a career caring for the people, both in politics and in his legal practice. When you have an important legal problem, put Rick's experience to work for you.

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A Great Lakes and Erie County Watershed Awareness Day & Watershed Project Celebration

FREE

Wednesday, May 14th, 2014
**Two sessions: 11:00AM – 1:00PM
or 7:00PM – 8:30PM**

Penn State Behrend College
Reed Union Building
4701 College Drive
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Dr. Mike Campbell of Mercyhurst University will talk
12:30PM to 1PM on "Climate Change and Our Water Future"

An emphasis on Erie watersheds and threats to the Great Lakes is essential to the future prosperity of this region if we want to sustain current and upcoming generations economically and environmentally. We must succeed in educating and involving all the people that live work and recreate here. The Watershed Project offers importance to the role of water in a regional plan for sustainable development and will get people thinking about how water can be a key element in promoting economic development that is sustainable in the truest sense of the word.

Destination Erie and PA Sea Grant invite you to hear from the one group often left out of decision-making and future planning efforts. These future scientists, teachers, town planners, politicians, farmers, consumers and business leaders will share human impacts and best management practices they discovered through their watershed investigations and stewardship projects. Students and teachers from Fairview High School, Wilson Middle School, The Neighborhood Art House, Iroquois Elementary School, North East Middle School and Union City High School will also share their recommendations with the general public.

For more information
please contact Michael Fuhrman
at mfuhrman@eriecountygov.org



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RACE DATES
MAY 11 -
SEPTEMBER 25
POST TIME 5:25PM

2014

RACE



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RACES
MAY 17 & JUNE 7

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MOTHER'S DAY CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

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Sunday, May 11, 2014
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