

ERIE READER

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ERIE'S LIVE MUSIC SCENE?

By: Cory Vaillancourt

NEIGHBORHOODS IN DECLINE: POVERTY, VIOLENCE, AND NO VOICE ON CITY COUNCIL

By: Rick Filippi

INLAND PORT: DERAILED

THE COMMUNITY'S COLLEGE: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AT PORRECO



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July

- 8 8 GREAT TUESDAYS ALL STARS
- 15 THE TOMMY STEELE BAND
- 22 BEN MILLER BAND & ERIC LINDELL
- 29 HERE COME THE MUMMIES

August

- 5 THE GATHERING FIELD
- 12 ONE WORLD TRIBE 
- 19 THE GROOVE
- 26 RICK MAGEE AND THE ROADHOUSE ROCKERS & JAKES BLUES 



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June

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 CRUISE THE BAY
 6pm, Bayfront Park & Ride Lot
 Produced by Lake Erie Car Classics Club 814-474-5183

28 BUFFET ON THE BAY
 4pm, Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Produced by Second Harvest Food Bank 814-459-3663

July

7, 14, 21, 28 CRUISE THE BAY
 6pm, Bayfront Park & Ride Lot
 Produced by Lake Erie Car Classics Club 814-474-5183

8, 15, 22, 29 8 GREAT TUESDAYS
 6:30pm, Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Produced by Erie Port Authority 814-455-7557



26 BEER ON THE BAY
 12pm, 4pm, Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Produced by Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership 814-454-7191, and the Erie Brewing Company

26, 27 LAND LIGHTHOUSE TOURS
 Erie Land Lighthouse
 Produced by Erie Playhouse Youththeater 814-454-2852

27 COPS AND RODDERS
 Liberty Park Parking Lot
 Contact 814-923-2829

FREE EMTA Shuttles on all 8 Great Tuesdays and select events from the Bayfront Convention Center, Intermodal Transportation Center, and the Thomas C. Hoffman Transportation Hub.

For your safety, no pets, bikes, rollerblades, skateboards, weapons or alcohol may be brought into Liberty Park. Calendar subject to change.

  Follow the Erie Port Authority and 8 Great Tuesdays for the latest updates

August

4, 11, 18, 25 CRUISE THE BAY
 6pm, Bayfront Park & Ride Lot
 Produced by Lake Erie Car Classics Club 814-474-5183

5, 12, 19, 26 8 GREAT TUESDAYS
 6:30pm, Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Produced by Erie Port Authority 814-455-7557

6 SENIOR CITIZENS DAY ON THE BAY
 Bayfront District Merchants
 Call 814-455-7557 for details

9 LAKE ERIE FREEDOM CHAPTER CHARITY POKER RUN AFTER PARTY
 3-8pm, Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Contact 814-397-6719

16 CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA
 Bayfront Maritime Center 814-456-4077

23, 24 LAND LIGHTHOUSE TOURS
 Erie Land Lighthouse
 Produced by Erie Playhouse Youththeater 814-454-2852

24 GOSPELFEST
 Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Produced by New Jerusalem Lutheran Church 814-455-1972

September

7 WALK FOR SMALL ANIMALS
 Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Produced by Because You Care, Inc. 814-866-5039

8, 15, 22, 29 CRUISE THE BAY
 6pm, Bayfront Park & Ride Lot
 Produced by Lake Erie Car Classics Club 814-474-5183

13 HEART WALK
 Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Produced by American Heart Association 814-836-0013

20 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S
 Burger King Amphitheater/Liberty Park
 Produced by Alzheimer's Association 814-456-9200





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May 28, 2014

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From the Editors

Many of us thought the day would never come. But if you've been following the news, you know that Northwestern Pennsylvania will no longer remain one of the most significant chunks of the Keystone State going unserved by a community college. But rather than bringing a traditional community college to the area, one local university has taken steps on its own to ensure that Erie-area residents have yet another opportunity to further their education.

This is still big news, and Rebecca Styn gives the details behind the motives for The Community's College, now housed at the Porreco Center of Edinboro University, in this issue.

But there is yet another major educational hurdle remaining in our state and in our region.

Of the 296,957 children ages 3 and 4 in Pennsylvania, 208,991 don't have access to high-quality pre-K learning opportunities. More shocking yet, 178,795 — or 60 percent — of those children live in families below 300 percent poverty, and currently there are only enough public funds to make pre-K available for less than 20 percent of 3 and 4-year old statewide. Furthermore, a new report by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) reveals that Pennsylvania ranks 30th out of 41 states that provide high-quality pre-k to 4-year-olds.

In Erie County alone, 6,864 children don't have access to that high-quality pre-K education. And if current poverty trends have taught us anything, that number simply won't reduce itself.

That's why in a year in which we'll either re-elect our current governor or

decide someone else is a better fit for the job, as well as make critical decisions for who represents us in the state legislature, we want to turn our attention — and yours — to the PreK for PA initiative to help ensure this issue gets the attention it deserves from those making the funding decisions in Harrisburg.

Local leaders Ron DiNicola and Nick Scott, Jr. — under the guidance and direction of Kate Philips — are co-chairing the campaign here in Erie, and already, big plans are in the works — like a visit from former Pa. Governors Ed Rendell and Mark Schweiker Monday, June 9.

We encourage you to continue following our coverage of this issue for the coming months and to consider this an issue of the utmost importance, because regardless of whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, liberal or conservative, it's no mystery as to whether investments in early-childhood education can work here.

Recent studies prove that every dollar spent on pre-K education can yield up to a \$17 return on investment for the local economy. Pre-K also has the potential to save between \$2 and \$11 for every dollar spent from crime-related expenses the state would incur in later years.

That is, if we want to combat crime, poverty, and violence — three plagues jockeying for top-billing on the morning and evening news in Erie — we need to invest early and often in education, and that means that even with limited resources, supporting the NWPA PreK for PA is one of the smart investments we can stand to make.

For more information on PreK for PA, visit: www.prekforpa.org.

Street Corner Soapbox

Same-sex Marriage Now Legal in Pa.

By: Jay Stevens

“By virtue of this ruling,” wrote Federal Judge John E. Jones III in his conclusion on *Whitewood v Wolf*, “same-sex couples who seek to marry in Pennsylvania may do so, and already married same-sex couples will be recognized as such in the Commonwealth.”

And so, Jones struck down Pennsylvania's same-sex marriage ban.

Republican Gov. Tom Corbett, who had hired private lawyers to defend the state's ban because the state attorney general, Kathleen Kane, had no interest in doing so, and who had equated gay sex with incest during an October television interview, declined to appeal the ruling.

With that, Pennsylvania became the 19th state to permit same-sex marriage.

This is not a victory for gays and lesbians. It's a victory for all of us, even those that support the ban. It's a victory for marriage, for individuals having the power to make their own life's decisions, for the freedom of expression.

This is a victory for love.

“Marriage...bestows enormous private and social advantages on those who choose to marry,” wrote Massachusetts Chief Justice Margaret Marshall in the landmark 2003 case that legalized same-sex marriage in that state – the first to do so. “Civil marriage is at once a deeply personal commitment to another human being and a highly public celebration of the ideas of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family...”

“Because it fulfills yearnings for security, safe haven, and connection that express our com-

mon humanity, civil marriage is an esteemed institution, and the decision whether and whom to marry is among life's momentous acts of self-definition.”

That decision followed on other, equally famous court rulings that define marriage as primarily an individual's choice. The Supreme Court's decision in *Griswold v Connecticut* legalized birth control in 1965, ostensibly for married couples, calling marriage “an association that promotes a way of life, not causes; a harmony in living, not political faiths; a bilateral loyalty, not commercial or social projects.” In 1967, in *Loving v Virginia*, the Supreme Court ruled states can't prevent people of different races from marrying because marriage “resides with the individual and cannot be infringed by the state.”

Marriage defined as such – a “momentous act of self-definition” – is a highly personal relationship between individuals, and a place that the state has little right to go. It follows, then, that the state can't outlaw marriage between two people of the same sex – especially after the Supreme Court in its 2003 *Lawrence v Texas* decision ruled that Americans' consensual sexual conduct was protected by the Constitution.

“The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives,” wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy in that decision. “The State cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime.”

To oppose same-sex marriage, then, requires logic that refutes those ideas, that demonstrates the state does have a right to “guard” marriage and determine whom we can and cannot marry.

Take a 2006 decision by the Washington Supreme Court, which upheld its ban (later overturned by the state legislature) over the argument that limited marriage to opposite-sex partners “furthers procreation, essential to the survival of the human race.”

Forget for a moment the absurdity of the logic that straight couples would stop having sex if gay marriage were allowed. The ruling argued that marriage is primarily a biological function to produce children. States have an interest in continuing the species; therefore, they have a right to regulate marriage to ensure the institution is properly producing children.

A similar decision by New York's highest court at the same time upholding its own ban, went further, admitting the only reason childless opposite-sex couples were allowed to marry were the administrative difficulties that would follow were they not. “While same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples are easily distinguished,” went the majority decision, “limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples likely to have children would require grossly intrusive inquiries, and arbitrary and unreliable line-drawing.”

Marriage is primarily a mechanism for producing babies, goes the argument.

Worse still are the arguments that tradition and history should have say over who gets mar-

ried. That's the argument Corbett's lawyers made in the recent Pennsylvania case. Pennsylvanians have traditionally discriminated against gays. Therefore, the tradition should continue. Or, as Supreme Court Justice Anton Scalia argued in his dissent in *Lawrence v Texas*, “[s]tate laws against...same-sex marriage...are likewise sustainable only in light...of laws based on moral choices,” which are supported by “majoritarian sexual morality.” That is, the state has the right to discriminate against unions between two individuals if a majority finds it

This is not a victory for gays and lesbians. It's a victory for all of us, even those that support the ban. It's a victory for marriage, for individuals having the power to make their own life's decisions, for the freedom of expression.

distasteful, even if there is no legitimate reason for preventing the union.

Or, whom we marry should be subject to the whims of our neighbors and our government.

These ideas, of course, are absurd. “Some of our citizens are made deeply uncomfortable by the notion of same-sex marriage,” wrote Justice Jones in the Pennsylvania decision. “However, that same-sex marriage causes discomfort in some does not make its prohibition constitutional.”

The definition of marriage instead offered by Massachusetts Judge Marshall clearly benefits from the weight of truth. Marriage is a “personal commitment to another human being” and a “celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family.” Marriage *does* “fulfill yearnings for security, safe haven, and connection that express our common humanity” and this is why it's an “esteemed institution.” You know it's true when you read it.

And *these* are the reasons I am married.

“In future generations the label *same-sex marriages* will be abandoned, to be replaced simply by *marriage*,” wrote justice Jones. “We are a better people than what these laws represent, and it is time to discard them into the ash heap of history.”

Jay Stevens can be contacted at Jay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Snevets_Yaj. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/mt9ss>



News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepherd

LEAD STORY — Prom Draft

A week before the National Football League held its 2014 Draft Day in May, a large contingent of junior and senior boys staged their own draft day at Corona del Mar High School in Newport Beach, Calif., “dividing up” the available girls to ask to the upcoming prom. As in the NFL, the drafters “scout” the draftees, and a “rule book” notes the draft's boundaries (e.g., this year, sophomore girls are eligible). The girls, of course, can decline the invitation, but the draft, as in the NFL, is designed to discourage a selected girl from being “poached” by “competing” boys. Obviously, many in the community expressed horror at the draft, with the principal denouncing it and urging parents to rein in their sons, but one of the drafted girls wrote that the whole thing was just “fun” and “is not, was never, and will never ever be used to objectify the girls.” [Orange County Register, 5-7-2014]

Can't Possibly Be True

The downfall of Russia-sympathizing Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich in February (which eventually provoked Vladimir Putin's retaliation against Ukraine) accelerated when his countrymen learned of his startlingly opulent lifestyle (e.g., gold toilets, a private zoo) — including catching a video glimpse of a nude portrait Yanukovich had commissioned of himself by artist Olga Oleynik. Yanukovich, a not-particularly-buff 63-year-old man, was portrayed reclining and with an undersized male endowment. (Oleynik told Agence France-Presse news service that she had done a similar portrait of Putin — more generously endowed — but was “afraid” to show it in public or to disclose whether it was actually commissioned by Putin.) [Agence France-Presse via Global Post, 3-27-2014]

Skylar King, 28, filed a lawsuit in Clayton, Mo., in April against dentist Mark Meyers (and his Same Day Dentures clinic) for a 2009 session in which Meyers somehow obtained King's consent to extract all 32 of his teeth and provide dentures, promptly after obtaining \$5,235 on King's mother's credit card. King, who was seeking treatment for an abscessed tooth, said Dr. Meyers warned that he was at risk of “fatal blood poisoning” unless all teeth were yanked. Dr. Meyers insisted that King actually requested the procedure, even though X-rays revealed that at least 28 of the teeth were treatable. [Courthouse News Service, 4-23-2014]

As of late March, the Sainsbury's supermarket in Basford, England, still had an operational ATM on an outside wall even though its screen and controls were only 15 inches off the ground, forcing customers to bend over or kneel down to get cash. A Sainsbury's spokesman, shown a photo by a reporter of a user squatting “incredibly uncomfortably,” said no one had complained, but

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that the store would look into moving the machine. The only explanation offered for the placement was that the store is located on a hill. [BBC News, 3-25-2014]

Unclear on the Concept

Wellma "Tootie" Shafer, 46, was fired as a cashier at the Last Chance Market in Russell, Iowa, after a customer reported her engaging in "sexual" banter at the register. Her boss, Rick Braaksma, explained, "We cannot ... talk about adult situations in front of other customers," and when Shafer sought unemployment compensation, Braaksma challenged her application. However, among the items Last Chance sells are Wake the F— Up Coffee, The Hottest F—ing Sauce (noted, the label states, for its "ass-burning quality"), and The Hottest F—ing Nuts (all product names using the explicit "F word"), and a state administrative judge granted Shafer benefits, showing (according to an April Des Moines Register report) little sympathy for the store's contradictory policy. [Des Moines Register, 4-24-2014]

Refresher Course on Buddhism Needed: An unnamed 40-year-old man was charged in Briec, France, in May for a February incident in which his cat knocked over his statue of Buddha, demolishing it. The man apparently so reveres Buddha that, enraged, he tortured the cat by tossing it into his washing machine and setting it for a cycle at the equivalent of 104 degrees F. [The Local (Paris), 5-7-2014]

The Continuing Crisis

Brazilian authorities told reporters in April that villagers in remote Ayopaya, needing to recover three motorbikes stolen by two men, tied them to a tree of woe for several days until relatives came up with compensation. The tree was a permanent host for ants that produce a venom with anti-inflammatory properties used to treat arthritis, and though relatives paid up three days later, both men required hospitalization, one with kidney failure. [Associated Press via The Guardian (London), 4-14-2014]

Underreported among the 24-hour news saturation in April on the sinking of the South Korean ferry en route from Incheon to the recreational island of Jeju is that a primary attraction on Jeju is "LoveLand," a theme park with bold, uninhibited sexual structures, and a traditional honeymoon destination. Visitors enter through giant spread female legs, and most park mascots are anthropomorphic figures representing the male and female sex organs. The park contains 140 sculptures of humans in sexual positions and of phallus statues and stone labia — and, reportedly, something called a "hands-on masturbation cycle." [Yahoo News, 6-29-2007]

Bright Ideas

For this year's annual April 25 fundraising project, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) sold a 60-second "message," digitally downloadable for a donation of the equivalent of \$2.11 — but consisting only of silence ("prerecorded" silence). A veterans' official told Australian Broadcasting Corporation News, "I was a bit dubious (but) ... I've seen the enthusiasm at which this is being picked up nationally." [ABC News, 4-13-2014]

The Way I See It

"Not in My Backyard" Wins Again

By: Rebecca Styn

Based on what seems to be solely public opinion, Erie recently found out that Harborcreek Township was deemed unsuitable for the proposed Erie Rail Terminal project.

Which means that as of now, there won't be a Rail Terminal in Erie. Period.

For those of you who may not know what the Rail Terminal project was, in a nutshell, the project's design was to essentially help businesses grow by making it easier to move freight in and out of Erie, with the hope to entice future import and export businesses to open here. Alongside that, it would have led to immediate job growth, calling on the skill sets of many of our local tradesmen. Subsequently, permanent jobs at the facility would have been created and additional jobs would be another result as businesses would begin growing.

And the Rail Terminal would have to pay property taxes and the increased business profits would have increased business taxes.

This was a win-win for us. It might have not been in the most ideal location for some, but the truth is, there was never going to be an ideal location. Ever. Instead of looking at the greater good and to the future, most of these residents looked at what would affect them — personally. Many approached it with a NIMBY (not in my backyard) reaction, claiming it was a great project, but it should be elsewhere. These types of reactions aren't new to us, so I'm not just pointing fingers at this most recent project failure, but the overall outlook of many of the residents in our county.

DevelopErie Executive Director John Elliott, when responding to media as to why the rail project wouldn't move forward, said Erie is a "risk adverse" community. And he's right; over-



timately been addressed. Public safety being one of them. What many individuals don't realize is those taxes I mentioned earlier could have been used to improve roads and emergency response times — by taking that money and investing it in public safety.

The truth is, there is never going to be a perfect location for most projects that happen in the world — but that shouldn't stop them from happening. If Erie reacted like this every single time,

When Harborcreek residents rose up to derail the proposed Erie Rail Terminal project, increased truck traffic was a common complaint.

Government can create the environment to help attract businesses — but after that, it's really up to us. And unless projects like this recent one come to fruition, we don't create the opportunity to attract larger businesses — competitive companies — to come and grow here. It's a domino effect, and we all know this. Yet, we continue to remain stagnant, set in our ways, and stomp our feet when things aren't the most ideal — for us.

Access to transportation outlets may be the most important factor to economic development. We must exploit what we are provided with as a city. For Erie, that is roads, rails, and lakes. It may not be the most glamorous of industries, but they are the most vital to our current growth. And if we capitalize on this, then we can start to create the quality of life that we all are craving to bring more of into to our Gem City. And then we start another kind of domino effect — so that once these industries spark, we can then attract and create the businesses that are hipper, trendier, and more glamorous. The ones your kids want to come home to.

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/rft94>



What pains me the most about projects like these, is that it's usually not a majority of the individuals that help kill them, but rather a smaller, but louder, minority. And those louder ones often don't have the best interest of the greater good at heart — rather the select few.

all, we are afraid of change.

Time and time again, I see potential growth trampled down. What pains me the most about projects like these, is that it's usually not a majority of the individuals that help kill them, but rather a smaller, but louder, minority. And those louder ones often don't have the best interest of the greater good at heart — rather the select few. And when this happens, projects like these get squashed.

The fact is, many of these residents have very valid concerns, however those concerns would have been everywhere — and they could have ul-

we would never have seen GE or the colleges or universities or hospitals that exist here today.

Societies need to grow and adapt — and if they don't, they become stagnant. Businesses start to move away. Communities experience Brain Drain.

And Erie certainly isn't an exception to this. I hear individuals throughout our city and county constantly complaining about how their children leave and don't come home. They want public officials and government to create jobs — reasons for them to stay or come back. But government doesn't create jobs. Individuals and businesses do.



Exile on State Street

Poverty, Violence, and No Voice on City Council

By: Rick Filippi

"A pure democracy is a society consisting of a small number of citizens, who assemble and administer the government in person." – James Madison

Obviously, our great democracy is not a "pure" democracy on a state and national scale. Instead, we rely on a representative democracy, as voters in various districts elect representatives who, at least in theory, take the interest of their constituents to their respective capitals.

But what about here in the City of Erie, at the local government level – the City Council? Do these various councilmembers really represent the City's neighborhoods and their unique issues?

I started thinking about this issue recently with the tsunami-like wave

of gun violence threatening the City's residents. By the time this article is in print, there will have been approximately 100 shooting incidents in the City since the beginning of January. By all accounts, at least 36 people have been injured or killed in the bloodletting. Many law-abiding residents of the City live in constant fear for their safety, particularly if they're living in the "forgotten" neighborhoods of the City where the majority of the mayhem has been perpetrated. These are the City's depressed neighborhoods, marked by housing blight, infrastructure deterioration, and lack of economic opportunity.

I do not believe that any serious observer of this violence can deny that it is at crisis proportions. To say that the mayor's response to the crisis has been anemic is an understatement. And let me be clear: This is not a condemnation of the men and women of the Erie Police Bureau. They are doing everything they can with what they have to stem the tide of violence. Unfortunately, it took the mayor nearly four months to at least publicly address the situation. And our City Councilmembers, has anyone even heard a peep from them

on this critical issue?

From our City officials, there is little interest and even less action. The areas of the City most affected already suffer from a sense of hopelessness. This lack of hope has led to apathy and an environment that condones violence as a means of problem solving. To be sure, this is not the only cause of the violence, but in a City that has seen some better days, I believe it is an important factor. And a significant factor contributing to this sense of hopelessness is the lack of representation of many of the City's neighborhoods in their elected government – particularly the City Council.

The City's current form of government, the MayorCouncil Plan was adopted in the mid-1960s – a time during which Erie was still a growing city. The Plan called for the election of an executive – the mayor – as well as the treasurer, controller, and a legislature – the council. All elected officials, including the councilmembers, were and are elected at-large, meaning individual councilmembers do not represent districts or neighborhoods but represent the entire City.

Perhaps the City was more homogenous back then and this made sense as most neighborhoods were working-class areas supported by the vast industrial strength of the City, but as times have changed, and with the loss of the City's industrial powerhouses, we've seen these neighborhoods slowly decline. The lower east and west sides and the central city have been impacted the most. And as this dynamic has continued for more than a generation, an interesting development has occurred which is probably an unintended consequence of the City's at-large election policy.

Did you know that currently nine of the City's ten elected officials reside in the City's Fifth Ward, the area roughly south of 26th Street and east of State Street/Peach Street? Of the seven coun-

cilmembers, only Curtis Jones, Jr. lives in another ward, the Fourth, which includes the West Bay Front and Frontier areas. And Mr. Jones lives on Pittsburgh Avenue, as far west in the City as you can get without being in Millcreek.

Of the remaining council members, only Jim Winarski lives north of 32nd Street.

That is, huge areas of the City – including the First Ward (East Bay Front), Second Ward (East Central City), Third Ward (West Central City),

Currently nine of the City's ten elected officials reside in the City's Fifth Ward.

and interestingly, the Sixth Ward (South West City) – have no representatives on Council.

This phenomenon has been ongoing for the better part of a generation. When I was elected to City Council in 1997, I was the first person elected from the Third Ward in decades. Other Wards – and more importantly neighborhoods – have not had one of their neighbors on Council for decades. A great deal of the gun violence, and for that matter, the blight and lack of investment, is occurring in these same areas.

I suggest that at a time when we should be pursuing more regional government, that we should also be taking care to govern the City subregionally. After all, the neighborhood is the fundamental building block of an urban area. We should strongly consider

Opposite: Participants in the 2013 Three Mile Isle Challenge pose for a post-race photo.

reforms to the City's governance structure.

Most importantly, in an effort to empower the citizens of these neighborhoods, we need to establish an election of councilmembers by population-apportioned districts that reflect the City's cultural and historical neighborhood areas. This would provide a sense of empowerment to the areas struggling with no representation and hopelessness.

The City can initiate a change in its governance by establishing a study commission. This can be done by council ordinance or citizen petition. Recall that Millcreek Township did it recently. It's been fifty years since the City changed its form of government, and it hasn't been the best fifty years for the City. It's time to give the citizens some direct representation before there's no one left to bother.

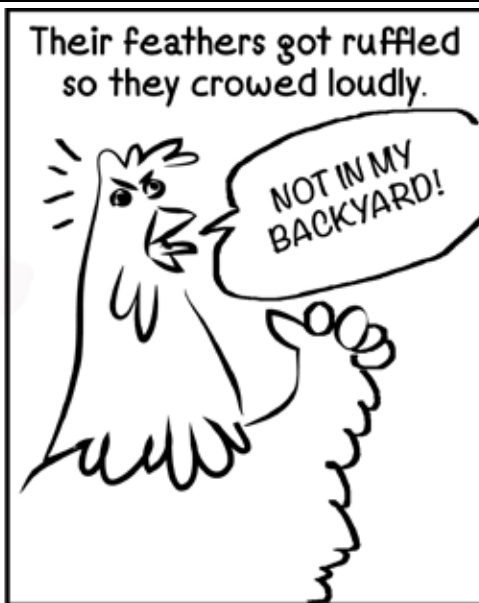
This will certainly not solve the violent crime wave, but it will give these neighborhoods a champion, who lives around the block or across the street, who shares in the same concerns afflicting their neighborhood every day.

Perhaps when our city councilmembers know what it's like to hear gunshots on their block, they might have a greater appreciation for what their constituents are dealing with. Then, when a problem occurs, perhaps we would hear some demands for action before it becomes a crisis.

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JUST TOYIN' WITCHA By: B. Toy





Contributed Photo

Runner's Paradise

With Three Mile Isle and Beast on the Bay returning, running on Presque Isle has never been better.

By: **Brian Graham**

Running is innate to the human species. Biologically speaking, our bipedal bodies are perfectly evolved for long distance running. Our muscular glutes, large knee-caps, and spring-like Achilles tendons efficiently propel us forward, while our unique cooling system — sweat — helps our bodies maintain the perfect temperature over long periods of intense physical activity.

We are natural-born runners, and we have been that way since we first started getting around on two legs. Thousands of years ago, endurance running gave our tribal ancestors a much-needed advantage. Although they weren't the fastest runners on the African plains, they were able to track large game over long distances, running the whole time, until the terrified prey finally dropped over from exhaustion.

Even today, there are certain indigenous tribes, like the Tarahumara of northwestern Mexico and the Kalahari bushmen of southern Africa, that are centered around running, where children are taught to run as soon as they can walk, and continue to run throughout their lives and into old age.

Humans are the top long-distance runners in the animal kingdom. The only other animal that comes close is the horse. But we can even beat horses over great distances.

For many of us, however, the skills and natural advantages of our hard-running ancestors have mostly faded away — running is no longer necessary for survival.

For some of us, though, running is the perfect way to reconnect with the primal forces of the body.

Instead of hunting antelope, we run for other rewards. We run because we like competing with our fellow runners for trophies and a sense of accomplishment. We run because it is excellent exercise. We run for the rush of endorphins known as a "runner's high." And sometimes we run just because it feels good.

No matter what your reason, it's hard to beat our local gem, Presque Isle State Park, as a running venue. For road runners, there is a 13 mile paved road that winds its way around the entire peninsula — twice around the park and you

just completed a marathon. For those who like to run on the sand, there are miles of peacefully deserted beaches where you can soak in the serenity of Lake Erie.

And if you like your running to include navigating obstacles, getting wet and muddy, and cooperating with your fellow man, Presque Isle has something for you, too. On June 14, Three Mile Isle will return to the beaches of Presque Isle State Park. In its second year, Three Mile Isle is an obstacle course set over — you guessed it — three miles, extending from Beach 10 to Beach 11. According to Jon DeMarco of Presque Isle Partnership, Three Mile Isle is "a non-competitive, un-timed event aimed at placing participants outside their comfort zones."

With 14 obstacles set over a mixed terrain, the course is appropriate for all skill levels. There are mountains of sand to climb, raised beams over water to make your way across, tunnels to traverse, walls to conquer, and even a giant slide for the kid in everyone.

"Everyone will finish — camaraderie is key," DeMarco adds.

DeMarco expects about 400 participants this year and you can register as a group or as an individual. The registration fee is \$75, and includes a moisture-wicking T-shirt, a commemorative dog-tag, and a post-race party and meal in the parking lot of Joe Root's Grill. Proceeds from the event will go towards improvements to the park.

If three miles doesn't seem like a big enough of a challenge to you, you can look at Three Mile Isle as a warm-up for Beast on the Bay, a 10-mile, extreme obstacle course that takes place Sept. 9 on the shores of Presque Isle and benefits the Barber National Institute.

With summer starting to heat up, you owe it to yourself to find a reason to make it to Presque Isle and get running. After all, it's what we were born to do.

Brian Graham can be contacted at BGraham@eriereader.com. Follow him on twitter @ [brian_graham](https://twitter.com/brian_graham). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/zpdy5>



Erie Reader 40 Under 40 Summer Get-together!

Come meet and connect with the **Erie Reader 40 Under 40** classes of 2013 and 2014, on June 5th, from 6 to 8 p.m.



Eighty of Erie's **top young innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders who are shaping the future of the Gem City** will gather trackside at **The Brewer** at **Union Station** for an evening of drinks, food, networking, and music provided by Erie's own Eric Brewer and Zack Orr, two *40 Under 40* alumni.



PRESQUE ISLE PARTNERSHIP presents



"The adult version of the childhood playground"

Saturday, June 14, 2014

Where: Navigate three (3) miles through various terrains of Presque Isle beginning and ending at Beach 11

When: 10 AM START

Obstacles: 14

Registration Fee:

- By May 16: \$75
- After May 16: \$85

What You Get

- Three Mile Isle Performance T-shirt
- Three Mile Isle Dog Tag when you cross the finish line
- After Party, DJ & Food @ Joe Root's Grill parking lot
- One complimentary beer provided by Miller Lite (21+)
- The gratification of knowing that your participation benefits Presque Isle State Park!

To Benefit: Projects on the park undertaken by Presque Isle Partnership to enhance the Presque Isle visitor experience.

REGISTER NOW AT
www.DiscoverPI.com



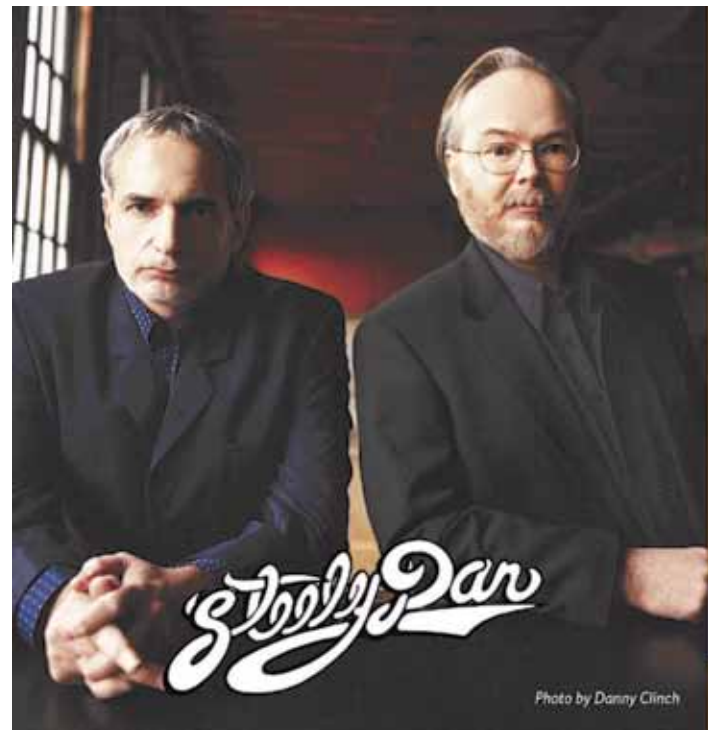
Limited to 500 participants. Participants must be at least 18 years old prior to race day to participate.

Presque Isle Partnership presents

STEELY DAN

AUGUST 9, 2014

Presque Isle State Park • Beach 11



Tickets on sale at **ErieEvents.com**



Marty Schwab, owner of the now-defunct crooked i and former "King of State."

Wednesday – what will become of it?

"I'm focused on simplifying my life a little bit," said Marty Schwab, owner of the now-defunct crooked i. "My son lives in Florida, and he's getting to the age where he needs his dad a lot more, so I'm going to be heading back down there."

Schwab's a big dude, in his early 40s. At first glance, he appears menacing and cross, but he's one of the nicest, most outgoing guys you'll ever meet, and his comments about his son exposed a sweetness in his voice most people never get to hear. And although he usually looks like he just walked off the set of a rap-rock video, the copiously-inked Schwab – a native of nearby Falconer, N.Y. – is a Mercyhurst University alum with an MBA from the University of Alabama who has a long history in the entertainment business.

This wasn't his first rodeo.

"Honestly, I don't know what I'm going to do. There are some opportunities that I can't really talk about, but I'm not too worried about it; if I find I have to jump back into the real world, I have 15 years of professional experience behind me, and all the college degrees, and all that bullshit," he said, unconcernedly. "Owning this place definitely took its toll on both of us."

The "us" he speaks of includes his partner/partner-in-crime Tracy Evans; the toll he speaks of is the life of a bar owner – which isn't all Absinthe wishes and PBR dreams like many people may think. They cleaned up all manner of messes, they sometimes dealt with unreasonable or belligerent patrons, they went weeks without seeing the sun, and they also grappled with a level of bureaucracy and scrutiny that most businesses couldn't even begin to imagine. But Schwab and Evans managed it with grace and style, building from nothing a highly-respected regional music venue that galvanized the local scene and hosted everyone from national touring acts to established regional bands to the crooked i's bread and butter – a deep and wide pool of talented local musicians.

"One thing that really drew me back to Erie [from Florida, where he also worked in the nightclub industry] was the fact that I knew there was soooooo much talent here, in terms of musicians," Schwab said. "There's guys like [local bassist and composer] Steve Trohoske who have been doing it for years. The difficulty is getting the general public to support it."

Trohoske would know all about that. He's been selling the weirdest music in Erie for more than 20 years now, and can put together a sharp band of almost any style for almost any occasion in almost no time flat, as evidenced by

his recent work with the Troika Russian Festival. It's how he makes his living, and, he's living.

"I have people contact me all the time on Facebook to work, and I have had people coming out and stopping at my gigs for years," Trohoske said. "Some I see at every gig, some I see every six months, sometimes an old friend from grade school will just drop by; I think Erie does a great job at supporting music in this town."

But Trohoske's special blend of sonic stew wasn't the only genre welcome at the crooked i. Jonny Evans – frontman for "hippie-hop" rock-funk-fusion crew Lower Eastside Connection and no relation to the crooked i's Tracy Evans – couldn't be further from where Trohoske is, professionally. He's only been performing for about four years, but he found a home for the LEC's distinctive sound at the crooked i and he shares Trohoske's opinion.

"We have a very strong local [music] community right now, and I have no doubt that it will continue, and be stronger than ever," he said.

Schwab – having already conceded difficulty – still agrees with both Johnny Evans and Trohoske. Although rumors flew furiously in the days after it became known that the crooked i was closing – suggesting everything from an elaborate April Fool's Day joke to a catastrophic business collapse – none of them were true. In short, the crooked i was a successful enterprise almost from the beginning, treating local music lovers to quality acts in an intimate setting, and giving little-known local bands – like the LEC when they first took the stage – a chance where they may not have had one.

"They didn't discriminate against any genres," Evans continued. "One night you could see bluegrass, the next night dubstep, the next night hip-hop, the next night metal. Everything came through there. I really loved that they supported hip-hop as well, because it is difficult sometimes to establish a nice venue for the hip-hop scene. Erie has an amazing hip-hop scene in my opinion; there are so many talented artists, and at the crooked i, Marty gave every one of them a chance to get their music out there."

But for the faithful followers of Erie's music scene, things are different now.

Basically, Schwab sold the squat, heavily-graffiti'd building at 1013 State St. as well as the liquor license to a buyer he isn't at liberty to discuss yet, but he kept 'the crooked i' brand – synonymous 'round these parts with raucous rocking revelry – for himself.

"I do know what the plans are," Schwab said of the establishment that will soon occupy the hallowed halls of the former crooked i, "and it's gonna be something cool. It's not gonna be just your average, run-of-the-mill Erie Ale House. Now, whether or not it works... If you can make something go in Erie, you can make it go just about

anywhere in the f— country, man. So I wish them the best of luck."

B lurry, bleary, beery weekend blowouts aside, the crooked i clearly contributed an awful lot to the local economy as well – not just through their core business function of serving booze, but also by serving as a ready venue for local musicians eager to hone their craft as well as pay their bills. What are their options now? Just how broke is Matt "Broke" Boland really going to be?

"I personally think that the crooked i completely served its purpose," Boland said. Boland's been a frequent performer at the crooked i and has a large local following. He's equally adept on the mic, the axe, the tin sandwich, and – in his newest project, Potwhole – the standup bass. "[The crooked i] came and showed musicians how to be more professional about their profession. A music scene is only as strong as the musicians and fans are – it shouldn't matter where a venue is, or how cool a venue is; what should matter is how good the musicians are, and the fans and scene will travel with it."

The strength of Boland's argument – an argument molded from years of experience performing in and around Erie despite his relative youth – lies in the stampede of local bars and clubs that have stepped up and begun presenting acts best known for their performances at the crooked i.

"Some place, some one is going to step up and start doing shows," Schwab opined when I spoke to him in late March. "Let's use [regional jam band] Aqueous for example. It would be a f— crime if some other bar doesn't pick them up, because it's a *guaranteed* 300-person night! When those boys started with us, we did a door deal with them where at the end of the night, we handed them a couple hundred bucks. Which, you know, it was fine. The last time they played here, it was well over a thousand. The fans are here, and if another spot in town doesn't realize that, they're suckers. Because it's guaranteed revenue. And you're at least offering *something* different than every other f— bar in town."

And, as was foretold by Schwab, places like The Oasis, Sherlock's, and the Dockside have all begun booking musicians best known for their crooked i performances. However, it remains to be seen if local music fans will flock as eagerly to a sports bar known for cover bands, a metallic shredhole, or a chameleonesque dance club to see serious, local musical acts as they did to the i.

"We can do it all, from jazz to Mushroomhead," said Bev Walker, owner of Sherlock's. She stressed that the crooked i's departure from the scene doesn't really leave a vacuum. Bev's been involved in the scene for more than 35 years; from her vantage point at 508 State St., she's seen them come,

The State of State

What's next for the live music scene in Erie?

By: Cory Vaillancourt

Three months ago, the revelation that the successful and popular music venue the crooked i would soon be shuttered took devout State Street scenesters by surprise. Two months ago, the doors of the crooked i opened for the last time to a zealous congregation who paid their respects to the soon-to-be-departed high temple of live music in Erie.

Today, the wayfaring pilgrims of that congregation wander through the dramatic tragedy of traumatic drudgery.

They wonder what happened. They wonder why it happened. And, most importantly, they wonder what *will* happen to a rich and vibrant music scene in a dreary Rust Belt town that – per capita – has been blessed with more talented DJs, instrumentalists, MCs, singers, and songwriters and than most cities twice the girth now

that the place where they all came together is gone.

So where will we all go now? What will we all do? The kingdom of State Street – that metaphorical neon-glazed downtown of our minds where the live music spills out onto the streets and the booze freely flows from the taps and your friends are everywhere and the cutie you've been eyeing all night walks right up to you with a smile and it's always Saturday night, even on a

and she's seen them go. And her calendar's still packed.

Even a Greek Gyro joint – Shickalay's On the Bay, located at 2860 W. Sixth St. – is dipping its toes into the water by hosting a Sublime tribute band with local media darlings Falling Hollywood in the large, grassy field behind the restaurant Sunday, June 1.

"We're not really doing anything different," Eddie Bayeh, owner of both the Docksider and Shickalay's told me, although the upcoming big show at Docksider (Terrance Simien) and a possible series of them at Shickalay's might prove him wrong; Bayeh shared with me some big-name national acts he hopes to ink that will certainly make some waves in the local scene.

And there's the still-young all-ages venue, Basement Transmissions.

"I think what Bobby Jensen is doing down at Basement Transmissions gives hope for that younger generation that's coming through, so I think that as far as the music scene goes, it's stronger than ever," Schwab said; proving him right, Jensen recently announced that his popular all-ages venue would be moving into larger digs at the former Roadhouse Theater on West 11th Street. "And, I've heard great things about the King's Rook. I remember when I was a kid I used to go there. It was a cool spot."

"That dance floor's legit," Schwab deadpanned.



Contributed Photos

Turns out, everyone's been hearing good things about the King's Rook Club, an old membership joint known until recently as that place your parents used to go in the '80s, or that place with a school bus *inside* the building, or the place with the big giant head hanging over the Peach Street sidewalk down near 19th Street.

The King's Rook Club got its start in the mid-'70s when Duane Wallin purchased the building at 1921 Peach St. from the 313th Machine Gun Battalion and decided to keep much of the eclectic decor — including a three-foot-long bomb, ancient radio headsets, and a twisted propeller — around as they converted it to the King's Rook Chess

and Gaming Club.

The Club remained in the Wallin family, with Duane's son James taking the reigns in the '80s and '90s, shifting the focus to nightclub vibe before his son, Jon, recently started making some serious play in the live local market.

The reason for the Rook's resurgence and focus on the folk, bluegrass, newgrass, American scene?

"Live music's just a good thing in general, and the people in that scene are good-hearted and enjoy a good time," Jon Wallin said. "There are a lot of good people in the live music scene."

Happily, one of those "good people" in the live music scene is *not* on his way out of town.

Steve Trohoske can put together a sharp band in almost no time flat, as evidenced by his recent work with the Troika Russian Festival.

"Ryan Bartosek's sticking around here," said Schwab of bassist in local band Daybreak Radio and talent buyer at Rubber Tramp Live, where he works with Tracy Evans promoting and booking regional, national, and international acts like Broccoli Samurai, Buffalo Soldier, Chrome Moses, Conehead Buddha, Smackdab, and Tony Grey's Cosmic Strut.

"The music scene does not die when a venue closes its doors; it shuffles around a bit and then eventually lands someplace new," Bartosek said. "Forward Hall was one of the coolest places to see live music in town, but eventually it shut its doors. Docksider was *the* place to go for live music before and after that, and when the crooked i opened, a lot of the Docksider faithful fought it tooth and nail – Docksider was their home and their scene. However, when it shut its doors, people started trickling into the crooked i, and eventually they made it their home. That will happen again somewhere else, and time will tell where that new home will be."

Between dedicated, talented businesspeople like Bartosek, Jensen, and Wallin, old heads

like Trohoske, young bucks like Bolland and Johnny Evans – and rooms like the Rook, Basement Transmissions, Docksider, The Oasis, PACA, Sherlocks, as well as countless others around this dreary Rust-Belt town – the wandering, wondering, wayfaring pilgrims just might experience another revelation:

Maybe the *state of State* – that fanciful kingdom – is stronger than it seems.

"Yeah, I feel like it's in good hands," Schwab said. "Tracy and I don't want to feel like four years – which isn't a long time, big-picture – we don't want it to be all for nothing. We know that we've created memories for people, but we want to see it continue. And I think with us stepping away from the picture, there are people that are going to step into those roles. And they're going to do some cool stuff."

"The musicians will figure it out," said Tracy. "Before we even closed, musicians were talking about what they're going to be doing next." Marty elaborated. "And it's not, 'What are we going to do next?' it's 'This is what we are going to do next to keep this thing going.'"

Cory Vaillancourt can be reached at cVaillancourt@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/zpdy5>



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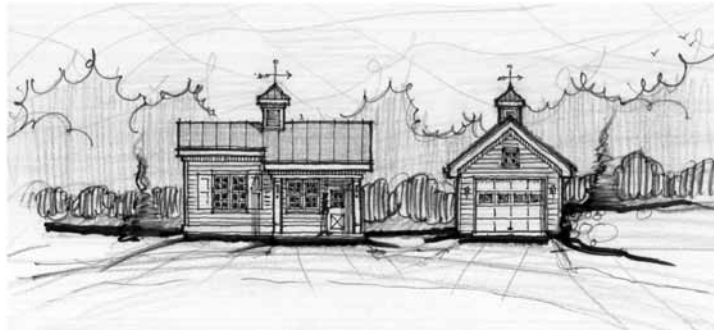
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Edinboro University has big plans for the 26-acre Porreco College, including exterior enhancements, a 90-seat lecture hall, a science lab/agricultural incubator, a campus bookstore, and a café.

Fast-forward seven months later and the group worked out everything in terms of programming and finances. The concept of the Community's College is that, unlike before, it will now be a fully self-sustaining campus.

"We are going to have major upgrades to the property – the programming will all be right on that campus," according to Mengine. "The goal is to create an associate degree or certificate program that a student can complete in its entirety at Porreco, without ever having to go out to the University. And then when the student is finished, they can go directly into the workforce, or go apply to any four year college and transfer those credits."

The 26-acre facility is actually already equipped with state-of-the-art classrooms – but those upgrades will include exterior enhancements, a 90-seat lecture hall, a science lab/agricultural incubator, a campus bookstore, and a café.

Contributed Photos

The Community's College

The Future of Education at Porreco

By: Rebecca Styn

Often perceived as the "unsung heroes" of America's educational system, community colleges play a critical role in educational development. They serve almost half of the undergraduate students in the United States, provide open access to postsecondary education, help prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions, offer workforce development and skills training, and present noncredit programs such as English as a Second Language or community enrichment programs alongside a variety of cultural activities.

According to the PA Commission of Community Colleges, Pennsylvania's 14 community colleges provide high-quality, higher education and workforce training to approximately 500,000 individuals from around the Commonwealth each year. Of those individuals, 230,000 are undergraduate students. That's roughly one out of every five undergraduate students in Pa. – as there are roughly 1.15 million undergraduate students studying in the Keystone state.

Yet our region is one of the most un-served areas statewide. That is, until now.

But over the last several years, the idea of a community college has been a hotbed topic for many throughout the Erie community. Although a community college system was established in Pennsylvania back in 1960, it wasn't until around 2008 that the subject started to see any traction in the Erie area. At the time, the county prepared a feasibility study for the state. The local initiative, while extensively researched, showcased a number of compelling reasons for movement on the project, but it stalled mainly due to its critics.

One of the biggest arguments at the time the community college issue was up for debate was that Erie already boasted four major higher educational institutions and therefore this initiative was not actually necessary. What we may not ever fully grasp however, is that even with four universities within a stone's throw, very few individuals in the community are receiving a post-secondary education.

In fact, as of last year, of the 100,000-plus population in the Erie City alone, while 86 percent of students have high school diplomas, only 21 percent boast bachelor's degrees, and 8 percent hold graduate or professional degrees. In addition to educational averages, it isn't difficult to recognize, given the departure of much of GE, alongside our current trends in industry, that there are a number of individuals who still need

the skills required to meet the needs of our current labor market – for now and in the future.

So, while we have several great outlets providing quality education, many weren't taking advantage of it. Why?

Well, key roadblocks to accessing these outlets – time, money, flexibility, and on-the-job training – weren't being addressed. One may argue that all the colleges and universities locally deal with these key issues on some level, and that is true; however, that's simply not the name of their game and none can afford to offer these things to the extent that is necessary for many individuals – something a true community college will do.

But now, Edinboro University is helping to pave the way for an opportunity that may have never come to fruition otherwise – with their development of the Porreco College of Edinboro University, better known with its new moniker: "The Community's College."

Of the many Edinboro University administration members involved in this project – President Dr. Julie Wollman, Vice President for University Advancement, Tina Mengine, and the College of Science & Health Professions Dean, Dr. Nathan Ritchey are on the forefront of the university's new development for the use of an already established and functional satellite of their institution. They all mirrored the same

sentiments of the history of the project, as well as the great potential for the future, and they are ready to see the Erie community have its community college.

"When President Wollman started about 18 months ago, one of the first things we did was initiate a strategic plan for the community," Mengine explains. "We had been through multiple presidents over a very short period of time, so we knew we needed to set a roadmap for the future. As part of that plan, we needed to address the Porreco Center, as we knew we needed to do more with that campus and the community so we decided to try to look at filling the void of the community college."

Wollman adds, "But if that hadn't been endorsed during the planning process and recognized as a valuable initiative with all of the constituents with the university, I don't think we would have gone ahead with it."

It wasn't until seven months ago, however, that the bulk of the planning process started.

"We hired a new dean, Dr. Nathan Ritchey – from Youngstown State [University]. He just happened to have experience in this arena as he worked on the community college plan there," Mengine adds. "So, we had this wonderful benefit of his research in Youngstown – especially as the town is similar in terms of market. With him on board, it just really all fell into place."

The curriculum will be shaped by the local labor market. They will coordinate with area employers and this will help ensure the programs will keep pace with evolving workforce opportunities.

The programming is especially important to this project. Currently, there are four associate degrees, alongside a certificate program offered at the Porreco College. In addition, students can take courses to help contribute to requirements necessary to earn an associate's or bachelor's degree. And they are continuing to expand upon their programming, creating specialized degrees by working with individual businesses, education and non-profit communities to help create a variety of more targeted programs.

"Currently, our campus has 350 students that take advantage of the programming at the Porreco facility," says Mengine. "And we currently have about 40 students from GE right now that are in the GE apprentice program – because all their apprentices need to have associate degrees." The group has also started meeting with local businesses.

"In addition, earlier this week we met with Better Baked Foods to talk about a food safety program. Our goal is to work with individual businesses to help tailor these programs and education offerings."

Cont. on 21

May 28 – June 10

If We
WERE
You...

wed 5.28

Meet Music Executives Aaron Arnold & Timothy Temper

One of the biggest issues breaking into the music scene - whether trying to get good advice or exposure - is actually meeting the real decision-makers that have real careers in the industry. Well, now's your chance. Join Aaron Arnold and Timothy Temper as they offer up the unfiltered 411 on how to build your career. Come and join this "real-talk" session. Tickets are \$15 and the event will be held at the Metropolitan Club.

7 p.m. // 144 W. 13th St. // 456.5400

thurs 5.29

Young People's Chorus of Erie Guest Bartending Event!

Join friends and fans of the Young People's Chorus of Erie as they bartend on the bay - at the beautiful Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel. There will be drink specials, food specials, and the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel has offered to validate parking during the event for attendees. In addition, the patio will be open - with a cash bar offering beer and house wines. All tips benefit the Young People's Chorus of Erie's youth choral music program. YPC Erie is a youth outreach organization of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

5 to 8:30 p.m. // 55 West Bay Drive // ypcerie.org

Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution

While the smell of smoked meats saturate the air during Rib Fest, Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution will be cooking up something special inside Sherlock's. The local bluegrass band will pick, strum, and sing from the soul, providing a treat for your heart while others feed their bellies in Perry Square.

10 p.m. // 508 State St. // 453.7760

fri 5.30

Dragon Wagon

Typically, fire-breathing mythical creatures and wooden modes of transportation wouldn't make for a good mix, but when it comes to Dragon Wagon, the combination is quite enjoyable. The Ann Arbor, Mich. trio serves up intoxicating bluegrass-tinged americana tunes that would pair nicely with a shot of whiskey, a fiery night of fine folk at the Erie Ale House.

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

GNOSiS w/ Special Guest

If you don't know GNOSiS, then you better head down to Sandbar Draft House to get an in-person lesson on the Edinboro band. The electronic jam troupe will team up with local progressive rockers Special Guest to put on a masterclass in



40 Under 40 Summer Get-Together

Recently, the *Erie Reader* unveiled its second-ever 40 Under 40 list, highlighting, well, 40 of the area's brightest stars before they finished their fourth decade on this world. The issue was a big hit with readers, showing off a mix of artists, physicians, entrepreneurs, and all types of folks who are helping to make Erie a better place in which to work, live, and play. However, we're not quite finished with celebrating our honorees just yet, as the *Erie Reader* presents the 40 Under 40 Summer Get-together from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 5 at The Brewerrie at Union Station.

The event will feature not only members from the most recent batch of 40 Under 40 alumni, but the 2013 class will be on hand as well, creating a list of 80 individuals who have made an impact on The Gem City. Now it's your chance to mingle with our honorees, as the Summer Get-together is free and open to the public, allowing you to share a few drinks and hors d'oeuvres with some big players in the Erie scene while 40 Under 40 alums Zack Orr and Eric Brewer show off their musical skills that helped land them on the 2013 list.

We like to show off the bright spots in Erie, and on June 5, we'll get that chance again - with 80 reasons why this city has a bright future at the Summer Get-together. — Alex Bieler

6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 5 // 123 W. 14th St. // ErieReader.com

how to rock a Friday night.

8 p.m. // 2835 W. 8th St. // 464.8880

sat 5.31

Other Desert Cities

Presented by Dramashop, *Other Desert Cities* focuses on a family divided by politics who is driven further apart by the rehashing of an old family secret. The tale provides a searing look at the dramatics of life in the American family, and the tension of political rivalries when they intersect with philosophical and moral beliefs.

8 p.m. // 1001 State St., 2nd Fl. // info@dramashop.org

Plant and Produce Preview at Goodell Gardens

Gardening this summer? Head on out to Goodell Gardens in Edinboro to get some fresh plant and vegetable starts — and some of the season's finest early produce — all from small, earth-friendly Erie-area farms, at Goodell's biennial

Plant & Produce Preview Sale. You'll see, and be able to take home, some of what's been growing at area farms like Peace by Piece Farm, Conneautee Creamery, Tender Acres, and others from around the region. Admission and parking are free, too.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. // 221 Waterford St., Edinboro // goodellgardens.org

sun 6.01

Go Even Crafter for Children's Advocacy Center

Erie-area children's advocates want you to put your money where your heart is today, and head over to PACA on State Street for this year's Even Crafter Craft Fair. The fair features the work of an array of fine local makers and artists, and organizers say all cash raised from at-the-door donations and the fair's auction will benefit the Bradley H. Foulk Children's Advocacy Center of Erie County.

Noon to 4 p.m. // 1505 State St. // pac1505.com

mon 6.02

Daytime Lagoon by Pontoon

The lagoons at Presque Isle are full of natural wonders and unique beauty. Experience these calm waters through a ride aboard a pontoon boat. Daily rides are free, however seating is limited. Sign up begins daily at 10 a.m. and are on a first come, first serve basis in person at the pontoon boat station on Presque Isle State Park.

11 a.m. // Pontoon Boat Station just past Perry Monument // 833.7424

tues 6.03

Titans of the Ice Age - Big Screen Movies at the TREC

Titans of the Ice Age transports viewers to the beautiful and otherworldly frozen landscapes of North America, Europe, and Asia ten thousand years before modern civilization. The magic of the giant screen reveals the harsh and beautiful kingdom of these titans: an ancient world of ice, the dawn of our ancestors, a time when humans fought for survival alongside majestic woolly beasts. Sponsored by Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center

12 & 4 p.m. // 301 Peninsula Drive // 838.4123

wed 6.04

Mid-Day Art Break at the Erie Art Museum

Join the Erie Art Museum and Steve Trohoske's Art Groupies for lunch this Wednesday as the group offers up live music on the Museum's 5th Street patio, the Museum provides free docent-led gallery tours at 12:30 & 1 p.m. and stop by for lunch at the Wave Cafe. The event is free, but feel free to tip the musicians (they're donating their time for this summer event).

Noon // 20 E. Fifth St. // 459.5477

thurs 6.05

Downtown Block Party benefitting the YMCA

Kickoff the series of the summer! Join the Erie SeaWolves and local bands Refugee and Mayflower Hill as they celebrate the summer in grand fashion with this traveling street party. Rain or shine, this free event will be packed, so it's always a good idea to get there early if you want a street table. Proceeds benefit the YMCA.

6 p.m. // 110 E. 10th St. // 455-3743

fri 6.06

Chris Higbee

It certainly isn't a gamble when Presque Isle Downs brings country rocker Chris Higbee to Erie this Friday. The Pittsburgh-based farm boy



Another Pint Please...

Erie's Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival

After a long, cold winter, Erie has already started to feel the change of the season, but with the Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival, locals can finally get a true taste of summer. For four days, Perry Square will be buzzing with barbecue enthusiasts as the downtown destination is taken over by eight different vendors looking to have our city name them as the best in the rib business. In addition to the barbecued treats, other festival foods, such as funnel cakes, deep-fried Oreos, and corn dogs, will be available for purchase in the Square.

Taste isn't the only sense that the Rib Fest should appeal to, as smells of baked beans, corn bread, and prime cuts of meat should pair nicely with the sounds of Waterford blues crew Rick Magee and the Roadhouse Rockers who play on the main stage Friday night, part of live music lineup that also includes Jackson Station on Thursday and French Kiss on Saturday.

The barbecue vendors are back in The Flagship City to impress your tastebuds, so treat your senses to the taste, smell, and feel of summer when the Rib Fest returns this May. — Alex Bieler
11 a.m. to 10 p.m. May 28-31 // Perry Square Park // facebook.com/ErieRibFest

is a sure-fire bet to provide some energized country tunes for the casino crowd.

9 p.m. // 8199 Perry Highway // 866.374.3386

LaMorvielle Mixtape Release Party at PACA

Local producer and artist LaMorvielle is throwin' down a big party to release her new mixtape — "The Goddess of Love" — tonight at PACA, and she's already invited a whole lotta friends. With guest performances by the likes of Erie's C. Brown, RedSkill, Doc'Proto, LA'Raine, Byron Eanes, Neiman, Lady A, Jonny Evans, and A.T.G., it's sure to be a fun-filled night on State Street. Admission is \$5, and the show is 21+ only.

9 p.m. // 1505 State St. // pacal505.com

Community Poetry Appreciation Awards at Poets' Hall

You can experience the words of some of the city's most noted poets — through their own voices — tonight at Erie's 2014 Community Poetry Appreciation Awards at Poets' Hall on East Lake Road. Featuring local poets Veronica Hopkins, Kim Noyes, Luchetta Manus (Cookee), Chuck Joy, and Luke Kuzmush (this year's International Fellowship of Poets and Spoken Word Artists' nominees for Erie Community Laureate), the CPA Awards will also include a special appearance by 2013 Community Laureate Winner Monica Igras.

May 28, 2014

And there will be local live music as well, courtesy of LEC guitarist Dan Head and the event's host, Fazed Cookies' Michael Bennett. Donations are requested, and most appreciated.

Doors: 7:30 p.m. // 1136 East Lake Road // facebook.com/ErieCommunityPoetryAwards

sat 6.07

Clay Snyder

In a recent issue, Erie Reader Contributing Editor Cory Vaillancourt had a chance to review Clay Snyder's album *Your Own Path*, and he liked what he heard calling it "different and interesting and a breath of fresh air." Check and see if you agree with Mr. Vaillancourt's assessment when Snyder performs at the Sunset Grill in Edinboro this Saturday.

12670 Edinboro Road, Edinboro // 734.1033

Art & Sole 5k Run/Walk

Join us for the 7th Annual Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk benefiting the Neighborhood Art House. Participants will begin at the Neighborhood Art House, proceed through downtown Erie and end at the Neighborhood Art House. Plus, your participation helps to support after-school and summer arts programs for inner-city youth.

9 a.m. // 201 E. 10th // 455.5508

Thu. May 29 Sean Patrick and the New Grass Revolution

Fri. May 30 Smoke & Mirrors

Sat. May 31 Six Years After

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Contributed Photo

Badfish and Falling Hollywood

New things are exciting, and the prospect of a brand new musical venue with a festival atmosphere is something that should get Erieites rather energized. Well, Shickalay's on the Bay is going to put a charge into the musical community when they kick off their summer music series with Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime and Falling Hollywood Sunday, June 1 in a show that will intrigue plenty of locals.

According to Shickalay's owner, Eddie Bayeh, the thought of hosting big-scale shows on the field behind the restaurant was a big part of why he invested in the establishment last year.

"I mean, who would turn music down?" Bayeh asks, following up the thought with a laugh. "You can't go wrong; the show is close to the beach on a hot, [and hopefully] sunny Sunday afternoon. Great music, a great vibe, cold beer – how could you say 'no' to that?"

The members of Falling Hollywood certainly couldn't, as they will open for Badfish to kick off the whole Shickalay's experience, which will feature vendors and an open-field set-up to embrace a beach party vibe.

"It's something new for Erie," says Falling Hollywood singer and guitarist Matt Flowers. "That venue location is a prime spot. It's outdoors and you don't have to drive all of the way out to Girard or go to New York to get that festival atmosphere, so it's really cool."

Add supreme Sublime tribute band Badfish to the equation and the start of the Shickalay's series has a formula for success, so get out there on June 1 and treat yourself to something new. — Alex Bieler

2 p.m. Sunday, June 1 // 2860 W. Sixth St. // facebook.com/ShickalaysOnTheBay

Morning Ecopaddle at PI

Join up with one of Presque Isle State Park's expert naturalists for a morning-time paddle to view the varied — and very beautiful — flora and fauna in and around the wide and wonder-

ful park. Bring your own kayak or canoe, or rent one from the park. No registration or experience is required.

9 to 11:30 a.m. // Presque Isle
Lagoons Launch // trecpi.org

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sun 6.08

Jesus Christ Superstar at the Erie Playhouse

Truly a masterpiece! Take an emotional journey through the final days of Jesus Christ in this powerful rock opera. Both thought-provoking and tender, it illuminates the awe-inspiring power of the human spirit with a passion that goes straight to the heart. The stirring and contemporary score will hold you spellbound.

2 p.m. // 13 W. 10th St. // 454.2852

EYEHATEGOD, Homewreckr, and guests

Louisiana hard-rockers EYEHATEGOD have been in the music business for quite some time, and now they'll bring the band's 26-year history to Basement Transmissions for a night of many bands and heavy riffs. The NOLA crew will be joined by Washington's Homewreckr and six other big, bad bands to keep your ears ringing for the rest of the coming work week.

12 p.m. // 1501 State St. // basementtransmissions.com

mon 6.09

Sounds of Summer

The City of Erie will kick-off their Sounds of Summer music series this Monday night with the King of Rock 'n' Roll. Jim Moore, Erie Elvis Appreciator will be offering up some classic rockabilly tunes for those that loved this beyond-generational icon at the St. Joseph Apartments. This event is free and open to the public.

7 p.m. // 517 Maryland Ave. // erie.pa.us

tues 6.10

Partners in Dance

It's a summer beach party! Well, close. It is the theme for this year's 13th Annual Erie Homes for Children and Adults Partners in Dance program. This performance is brought to you by the EHCA Adult's MOVE program alongside Dafmark Dance Theater. Led by Dafmark's Hoop dancer, Jennifer Dennehy alongside dancers and members of Dafmark Dance Theater, the exciting spring show will feature choreographed movement, colorful costumes, engaging music, and shining smiles. Admission to the performance is free and open to the public.

1:30 p.m. // 320 E. 10th St. // 454-1534

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Destination Erie Phase Three Public Workshops

When you get an opportunity to make a difference in your community, you should embrace the chance to help shape the area you call home for the better – and now's your chance, as Destination Erie will be holding a series of public workshops for the third phase of their plan to better Erie County.

"We've laid out a vision for the future, but these workshops are how we'll talk about how we're going to get there," says Destination Erie Project Manager Anna Frantz says. "These workshops are the best opportunity for the public to participate in that conversation."

Since the members of Destination Erie are keen on getting the opinions of Erieites to help shape the future of this county, workshops will be held from June 9 to 12 in the Girard, North East, McKean, Millcreek, Erie, and Corry areas to provide multiple opportunities for people to have their voices heard in a conversation that could have a serious impact on the future of this region.

"We're going to be talking about the types of projects we would like to see come out of this long-term regional plan, so in terms of why it's so important for people to come, this is the most exciting time in this public planning process, because this is when we start to talk about concrete ideas," Frantz says.

The times are a changin', and you can have a say in exactly what changes are made to Erie County by attending the Phase Three Public Workshops. Destination Erie is giving you an opportunity to impact the future of this community, but now it's on you to take the reins on Erie's future. — Alex Bieler

6:30 p.m. Monday, June 9 (Girard); 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 10 (North East); 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 10 (McKean); 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 11 (Erie); 10 a.m. Thursday, June 12 (Erie); 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12 (Corry) // 1001 Main St. East, Girard; 2025 Orchard Beach Road, North East; 7300 Grubb Road, McKean; 2525 W. 38th St., Erie; 1001 Atking St., Erie; 534 E. Pleasant St., Corry // planerieregion.com

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MUSIC REVIEWS

Ray LaMontagne

Supernova
RCA

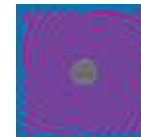


★★★★★

It all started ten-plus years ago with that warbly, charcoal tenor crooning *Troooooouuble, trouble, trouble, trouble – trouble been doggin' my soul since the day I was born...* LaMontagne's follow-ups to his debut record – 2006's *Till the Sun Turns Black* and 2008's *Gossip in Grain* borrowed from LaMontagne's woe-fueled wintertime sorrow and pining storytelling, leaving listeners little to distinguish any artistic development or maturity. LaMontagne turned to the Pariah Dogs to churn out his fourth album, and the evolution became more evident with *God Willin' And The Creek Don't Rise*. But it isn't until 2014's Dan Auerbach-produced *Supernova* that LaMontagne takes his biggest, boldest steps yet – not dipping a toe but getting ankle-deep in psychedelic folk. Auerbach adds to the record with reverb-rich electric guitars but does so without smothering LaMontagne's signature sound. Album-opener "Lavender" and album-title track "Supernova" are standouts, but the record's other eight tunes carry their own, making *Supernova* a welcomed fun, chill, bright summertime spin. —Ben Spегgen

The Black Keys

Turn Blue
Nonesuch



★★★★★

After 2011's radio-friendly *El Camino* – a welcomed return to the barn-burnin' chunky blues-rock of The Black Keys of yesteryear – it would have been easy to just copy and paste the formula onto the next album – complete with 'Play Loud' sticker on the album cover – for guaranteed fun and success. But Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney aren't in the "easy" part of their musical trip. *Turn Blue* hints at 2010's breakthrough *Brothers*, a '60s soul meets garage-rock blues experiment; but where *Brothers* sounded conflicted and half-measure at times, *Turn Blue* goes full-measure, taking the band into its most experimental places yet. "Weight of Love" opens with a Neil Young "Down By the River"-esque soft guitar riff, only to continue for over seven minutes with psychedelic glow, finishing with a *Wish You Were Here* warmth. To the album's credit, finding a stand-out single aside from the lead single "Fever" isn't easy – which makes for the most interesting and daring Black Keys record yet. – Ben Spегgen

LCD Soundsystem

The Long Goodbye
Parlophone



★★★★★

Three years after LCD Soundsystem played its final show at Madison Square Garden, James Murphy and his musical gang has provided another gift for the group's fervent following. *The Long Goodbye* may seem oddly timed given the gap since the end of LCD's blazing run, but once you shut up and start playing all of live album's hits, all of the potential cash grab reservations are lost in Murphy's ability to hit your emotional sweet spot. At over three hours in length, *The Long Goodbye* provides plenty of moments for the feels, whether it be the march into adulthood ("Home"), the thrills of life ("Dance Yrself Clean"), or the anxieties of life ("All My Friends"). By the time that Murphy reaches concert and potential career closer "New York, I Love You But You're Bringing Me Down," the mood is bittersweet yet beautiful, like attending a going-away party for a friend you may never see again, a feeling that perfectly encapsulates the LCD Sound-system experience. – Alex Bieler

Wye Oak

Shriek
Merge



★★★★

When it comes to the feel of Wye Oak's latest album, *Shriek* can seem like an odd name. It could perhaps be used to describe the reaction of Wye Oak fans when they learned that the duo of Jenn Wasner and Andy Stack would be tossing aside their guitars for their fourth studio album. Maybe it's an appropriate representation of how Wasner may have felt when she became bored with her six-string sidekick. Either way, *Shriek* feels more like a screech than it does a warm, dreamy coo over the course of ten tracks. Opening track "Before" sets the new phase of Wye Oak into motion, bouncing along as Wasner switches to the bass and the Stack's double duty on synths and drums. While *Shriek* lacks that same emotional kick that Wasner could provide with the guitar flurries and squalls of songs past, Wye Oak's fourth album offers up a promising future for the duo. – Alex Bieler

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Lili Morton

I had the pleasure of meeting Emily at an early morning Business Networking International (BNI) meeting where we instantly bonded over stories about our experiences working in the fashion industry in New York City. I was instantly drawn to her classic, yet trendy styling habits. When interviewing her, I learned tips for shopping one of her favorite brands, how she punches up her work look, and the one accessory she can't live without.

Lili Morton: You spent some time in New York City. Tell us about that experience – who you worked for, what you did, etc.?

Emily Fetcko: It was ages ago! I have always loved fashion, and the details that go into creating pieces, presenting them, and marketing them. I was intent on working in public relations for fashion magazines. After college graduation, I spent just a few weeks in NYC talking with fashion editors and publishers as well as cutting fabric swatches and attending design meetings. The problem for me was it was right after Sept. 11, and while my brief time there was very meaningful, there was a different feeling in the air, and I realized that the experience I was hoping to have wasn't going to happen in *that* NYC at *that* time.

LM: They say history repeats itself. What is one piece of clothing you're holding onto, knowing it may come back in style?

EF: I have recently done a major closet purge, but there is this vintage, crocheted cream sweater that I unearthed from my grandmother's closet. It just spoke to me, and I do wear it from time to time – mostly in the fall with boots and jeans. I probably should let it go, but I just can't!

LM: Favorite fashion magazine?

EF: If you would've visited me before I got married last September, my coffee table was packed with fashion and design magazines. But the one I really enjoy that's fairly accessible is *Harper's Bazaar*.

Each season I like to sneak off to Barnes & Noble and look at the British and French editions of *Harper's*

too. I love seeing what they're up to across the pond!

LM: Name your top three brands.

EF: I started buying J.Crew during college with the money I saved. I still have two amazing pairs of boots that are 15 plus years old that look new because of their quality. The key to shopping brands like J.Crew, which recently exploded in price point, is to shop their seasonal sales. I also really like Sonja Rykiel and Proenza Schouler for fun and sophisticated pieces.

LM: What advice can you share with business women who are tired of wearing the same old "business casual" look to the office? How do you punch up your work week attire?

EF: *Rule No. 1.* – Your clothes can't look sad. They should fit perfectly, and be tailored to give you a flawless look. Fuzzies and worn areas? Get rid of it. They are not doing you any favors.

Rule No. 2. – I am a huge fan of mixing color – although I do love my neutrals. My favorite combos are mossy greens with deep turquoise, and orchid purple with coral orange. Try wearing a cream or navy pant with a punchy top and colorful cardigan.

Rule No. 3. – I can't say enough about belts and long chunky necklaces. These two accessories can be found on the cheap and can totally change your outfit. And they allow your shape to show through without covering you up too much.

LM: Favorite dress you've ever worn and why? What was the color, cut, material? How did it make you feel?

EF: My wedding dress! It was a vintage "trumpet" cut and design with a sheer overlay of angled, pleated organza, in the loveliest soft white.

It had a beautiful sheer ballerina neckline with a one-shoulder beaded drop sleeve. It was the perfect blend of modern meets vintage. I didn't want to look like every other bride and do the strapless, bright white repeat.

I wanted it to really reflect my personality and the feel of our wedding. It just worked, and everyone has told me they've never seen a dress like

that. At my core, I'm an old soul and a romantic.

LM: Marilyn Monroe or Audrey Hepburn?

EF: Audrey Hepburn hands down. She gave off a very girlish and gentle vibe that seemed to come easy for her. But she was a real force when it came to her work with children and poverty around the world. Being kind and giving is the most beautiful feature anyone can have.

LM: You score a ticket to the Forbe's Women Summit in NYC. Tory Burch, Bobbi Brown, Moira Forbes, and Diane von Furstenberg – to name a few – will all be in attendance. What do you wear?

EF: Well, I'd probably have to go tried-and-true. A J.Crew pencil skirt and matching suit jacket from their Super 120s line in cream or light beige. I'd pop a colorful and fun printed button-down underneath it with some matching colorful heels and offset it with a belt or chunky necklace that stands out against the rest. There can be so much gray and black at business events and luncheons. It's nice to stand out – in a good way – and still look polished and professional.

LM: What is one accessory you can't live without? Why?

EF: That would be my wedding rings! They are very unusual with a mixed vintage look, and were the most special gift I ever received. Even when I have rough days, I always look down and remember that someone loves me. And love looks good on everyone!

You can stay in touch with Moxie Media at facebook.com/Moxie.Media.Creative or email Emily at emg@moxiemediactive.com.

Lili Morton can be contacted at LMorton@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @ [SatinAndScotch](https://twitter.com/SatinAndScotch). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/etu82>



Street Fashionista

Classic, Trendy Styles

By: Lili Morton

As the new Street Fashionista, I feel it's my duty to introduce you to members of the community who are smart, creative, and of course oh-so-stylish. Emily Fetcko is one of those people and is the owner and creative director of Moxie Media. Moxie, which Emily brought to Erie from her hometown of Oil City this past September, is a marketing firm that provides print and online marketing, graphic design, strategy, cost analysis, event planning, and fundraising services for businesses and nonprofits.

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Contributed Photos

Considering the City

What good is public transit?

By: CIVITAS member Lisa Austin

During his 2013 visit to Erie, University of Buffalo, SUNY professor Dr. Daniel B. Hess praised transit for offering “access to education, employment, healthcare, shopping, recreation, entertainment, and socialization.” Hess said transit promotes neighborhood reinvestment and can help reduce “sprawl, pollution, and oil dependence.”

John Renwick, of ATU 568 (Amalgamated Transit Union), organized a rally at Perry Square May 18 to encourage increased funding for “surface transportation” to keep buses and trains running. Renwick commented that transit is “an essential service” providing thousands with “access to employment and independence.” Several riders attended the rally. Rick Ketchem, a disabled widower living on \$710 a month, was one of them, and said he “depends on the bus.” Another, Nykesha Tate, said she uses public transportation to get everywhere she needs to go.

Citydata.com indicates that the average income in Erie is \$31,901 while car ownership costs over \$9,000 a year (ConsumerReports.org.) According to Diana Ames of the PA Coalition to End Homelessness, buses are one of the “critical pieces” necessary to overcome poverty.

That is, better transit can translate to a better community.

It’s no secret: Transit creates jobs. Ed Torres, of ATU 568, reports that our region’s “expanding tourism and hospitality” industry is creating a greater demand for bus routes. Matt McLaughlin, of the IBEW Local 56 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) and Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council, says employers seeking locations for businesses “look at bus route availability.” The American Transportation Association reports that for every dollar invested in public transportation, four dollars is generated in local economic returns.

What’s more, transit contributes to “brain gain.” Julie Minich, of All Aboard Erie, says that young people today “prefer to move to communities with affordable, convenient transportation.”

Transit also creates “community.” For forty years, Priscilla Lichtenwalter caught the 5:45 a.m. bus at Plum and 28th streets to commute to work at 901 State Street, the old Marine Bank. Lichtenwalter’s daughter, Shelle Barron, remembers her Mom carrying homemade cakes onto the bus to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries and to honor the driver when he retired. In the 1946 movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” George Bailey is shown how his hometown, Bedford Falls, was impacted by his lifetime of good deeds. If Priscilla hadn’t taken the bus, Erie just wouldn’t be the same.

Lastly, transit supports education. Back in

1902, students living in Erie could commute by trolley to the State Normal School in Edinboro. At 7:05 a.m., an early riser could catch the first of fifteen southbound departures at Union Station. After 14 stops (26th, Kearsarge, Hershey, Guckes Siding, Richley’s Grove, Burnam’s Siding, McKean, Rugling Siding, Branchville, Power Plant, McLean, Stock Yard Siding, Gillasple, and McCammon Siding) the trolley would arrive at Edinboro at 8:08 a.m. Though now buried under asphalt, the tracks along Meadville Street marked the campus “front door.” Three of the school’s classes commissioned gateways of brick and stone, marked “1908,” “1909” and “1910” that continue to wait, in vain, to greet commuters.

Today, most Edinboro University students who live in Erie drive to school. A few, like Mike Barczynski, have to ride the bus. Though Barczynski says getting up at dawn, taking the 7 a.m. bus to Peach Street, catching a transfer to the Millcreek Mall, and waiting for the bus to Edinboro and enduring a daily four-hour round trip “was a pain” he says he appreciated that bus was “free with a student ID.” He credits his achievement of making the Dean’s List to his “built-in study time” on the bus.

Back in the 1950s, a group of Massachusetts schools collaborated to share resources, to plan joint programs, and to create “inter-campus transportation.” Today, this Five School Consortium (Amherst, Mt. Holyoke, Smith,

U. Mass Amherst and Hampshire) is thriving. Other consortiums across the country from Ohio to California support transit. USA streetsblog.org notes that Stanford University estimates \$100 million in savings through ride-sharing and public transit that eliminated the need for additional parking lots.

Over a decade ago, Bowling Green State University proposed a user-funded commuter rail network linking colleges and universities throughout the state to “reduce the cost of higher education, encourage resource sharing, improve educational opportunities, expand research collaboration, create jobs and foster sustainability.” This proposal – the Ohio Higher Education Rail Network (OHERN) – inspired PHERN, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Road Network. PHERN proposes linking northwestern Pennsylvania colleges with each other and with the Intermodal Center, Amtrak and the Erie International Airport.

In 1913, city planner John Nolen issued his plans for “Greater Erie.” Nolen said, “the prosperity of a city depends to a very large degree on its transportation facilities” and that the transit company is “not satisfying the public with direct routes.” One of Nolen’s “special recommendations” was to support “the health,

Clockwise from top left: A gate from 1908, an arch from 1909, and a gate from 1910 welcomed students arriving via trolley to the former State Normal School in Edinboro — now known as Edinboro University.

the morality, the wealth, and the comfort of the people” by creating “an adequate interurban trolley freight and passenger” system.

To, wit, one-hundred years later, perhaps we should say: Better late than never!

All Aboard Erie and Civitas are hosting a free panel discussion on PHERN (the PA Higher Education Road Network) on Thursday, June 19, 2014 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Intermodal Transportation Center Conference Room at 208 East Bayfront Parkway, Erie, PA 16507. Civitas members can be reached at their website www.civitaserie.com, via Facebook at CivitasErie, by emailing Lisa@civitaserie.com, or by scheduling a Friday morning meeting at the Civitas office in the Masonic Building, 32 W. Eighth St.. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/etu82>





Stephen Melissethian

Geeked Out:

Net Neutrality at Risk

By: John Lindvay

So what exactly is Net Neutrality? Surely you've heard this phrase thrown around a lot more than usual recently, and it just so happens the reason the topic's been abuzz lately is simple: it's a pretty big deal, and it affects all of us.

What's not news, though, is that the Internet has become a common tool for all – heck, it's rapidly replacing the television as the go-to for just about anything for a growing majority of people – but what does Net Neutrality mean for the average user and why should we care?

Let's examine it through HBO's *The Wire* and Title II regulation.

Net Neutrality is the concept that everything on the Internet – the pure bits of data that beam around the country over our cable lines – is all regulated equally. That is, this bit of data isn't more important than that bit of data, and as such, all data moves through the Intertubes evenly. While we can pay more for more bandwidth – the ability to send and receive those bits of data faster – there are no favorites when all the bits are in network – just the steady stream of the Internet beaming into your computer, phone, or gaming console.

Net Neutrality protects the consumer and the content providers from being unfairly charged for access to those bits of data – meaning that Net Neutrality ensures all data is treated similarly when it comes to cost to access.

Recently, Amazon announced amazing news – well at least for me. HBO's *The Wire* is now accessible through Amazon's Instant Video service, and if you are an Amazon Prime mem-

ber, it's free to watch. Ahh YEAH, I say! – the highest-rated TV show in history is finally accessible in a way that I like through a service I gladly pay for.

The Wire isn't only a great show, but now that it's online, it's a great example to use in this case. Here's how:

I pay a cable bill to get access to the Internet, which allows me to watch McNulty crack wise.

Amazon also pays a bill for the bandwidth that it takes to push McNulty's wisecracks to my computer. The Internet Service Provider, the company that controls the network, gets paid twice – once by Amazon and again by me and my cable bill. Without Net Neutrality, the ISP can and has already told services like Amazon and Netflix that if they want their customers to get their videos, they will need to pay up for a faster service lane. In other words, if you want to ride in an express lane, you've got to pay a higher toll.

So now they'd be getting paid three times for essentially one transaction. I pay to access the Internet to stream the video to my computer. Amazon pays for the bandwidth. Amazon then pays again to make sure that this stream of data doesn't get arbitrarily slowed down by the Internet Service Provider, thus keeping me – and all their other customers – happy.

If it sounds like highway robbery, it should. Because it is.

The Internet has become an essential part of our lives, and for most of us, it might as well be a public utility for how much we rely on it. This is where Net Neutrality has taken a step for the worse. In January of this year the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia threw out the previous FCC regulation on ISPs. Previously ISPs had a special set of laws that kept Net Neutrality in place. The reason for the ruling was based on a problem with definitions. Judges love them some technicalities.

Broadband Internet access was defined differently than your old school land-based 'com-

Washington, D.C., May 15, 2014. Social justice activists rally in front of the FCC to oppose proposed Net Neutrality rule changes that would essentially end the free and open Internet.

mon carriers.' Common Carriers, or traditional phone companies, are governed by a thing called Title II from the original 1934 Telecommunications Act. Broadband Internet is currently classified as an information service. Since they were classified as something not under the ruling of the FCC, the previous laws in place that helped protect Net Neutrality have been thrown away.

Now we have the scenario I described above, as we pay, they pay, and they pay again to the same company to provide us our access to the Internet.

Perhaps this is just open market economics. Perhaps it's a part of increasing desire to reduce government regulations. Perhaps it's just greed. But in our age with all of us tethered to the most amazing thing society has ever produced, we should keep it as open and as accessible as the air we breathe and the water we drink.

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Cont. from 11 The curriculum will be shaped by the local labor market. They will coordinate with area employers and this will help ensure the programs will keep pace with evolving workforce opportunities.

By fall 2014, the Porreco College will offer coursework consisting of at least one certificate, and a minimum of four Associate Degrees.

One of their major commitments is also reducing poverty. Currently the poverty rate in Erie County is 15.8 percent - and for those with high school degree it is 13 percent. Statistics show that the rate continues to drop with those that go on to receive an associate's degree and/or a bachelor's degree.

Ritchey, in addition to the key expertise he brought to this project, has also been out in the community working with several local nonprofits to help address educational attainment.

"We currently have a workforce readiness grant and our goal is to provide displaced workers with some basic skills to enter into the workforce," he explains.

Edinboro University works closely with nonprofits, such as the Erie City Mission, the Multicultural Community Resource Center, and the Hero Organization. "We go over career choices and job readiness and help provide basic skills such as how to search and interview for a job," he adds.

And they are seeing results. "In the group we worked with at the City Mission, some of those students now have jobs and at least one has signed up to come to college. We are doing the same thing with Hero, Inc."

Hero is a nonprofit organization dedicated to education for the consumer and the job seeker in the industry of healthcare. "With Hero, we have 28 students. At the end of the five-week program many of those students will land directly in the workforce. And we also have a wonderful budding relationship with the Multicultural Resource Center," Ritchey says. "I'm so impressed with them and relish the thought that we can do some great work there. The refugee population is significant and providing the means for entrance into college at low prices is a game changer for them."

The tuition is comparable to Pennsylvania's other 14 community colleges, and is actually lower in cost than the initial community college study had ball-parked. Mengine explains, "We are offering tuition at true community college rates. When the initial community college study was done, the average cost per student was going to be \$2500. We're actually below that number offering a full-time cost of just over \$2300 a semester for a full-time student."

So, how are they doing that?

"Any Erie County resident will qualify for what we call the Porreco Promise, which is a scholarship we're offering to every student. Add in financial aid and many individuals will have access to education for virtually no cost to them."

The Porreco Promise is an endowment funded through private donations and will provide grants of \$3k per student per year for any Erie County resident attending full-time and seeking a degree.

And this will all be created without public assistance - meaning no added taxes to the local community. Some individuals in the public have stated that the Porreco College isn't a true community college, and Wollman explains - that in a way - it isn't.

"A community college is funded by the local community - funded by taxes, this is not," she says. "This is going to be funded privately. It's an innovative approach - without added taxes to the local community."

Unlike a typical community college, the Porreco College won't be another burden on the backs of local taxpayers. But like a typical community college, the community will be present in the forefront of its identity.

"We're trying to break down every single barrier in order to offer anyone educational opportunities. In addition to the tuition, we're on a bus line. Every student gets free bus service," Mengine explains. "We will open the grounds up to the community. We're going to redo the orchards, put in a walking path and community garden, something that is both educational and recreational. We are engaging local industry."

"Any Erie County resident will qualify for what we call the Porreco Promise, which is a scholarship we're offering to every student. Add in financial aid and many individuals will have access to education for virtually no cost to them."

The only real difference is that it's funded privately. We believe we have answered every question that says we are not one."

Wollman adds that, "The important thing is that we can improve degree attainment. This is a really hopeful initiative. We have a bright vision and believe we can be successful as a city and a region, and I think it's important for our local businesses and industry to work with us. Our focus is looking to the future - and moving forward with a positive outlook on what we can do to change the community."

Although it's not the traditional community college dreamt up six years ago for our region, the Community's College still creates that opportunity for many individuals to pursue an education they couldn't have gotten elsewhere. As a result, Erie County truly has an opportunity to vastly improve our economic development in hopes of attracting future employers through these emerging workforces. This initiative will be affordable to every citizen - high school graduates, workers who need additional skill sets and dislocated workers - nobody will be denied the opportunity of education. It also has the potential to benefit other local colleges and universities and some students will be more likely to pursue advanced degrees. And all this comes without incurring new debt.

Overall, this truly is a win-win for our community.

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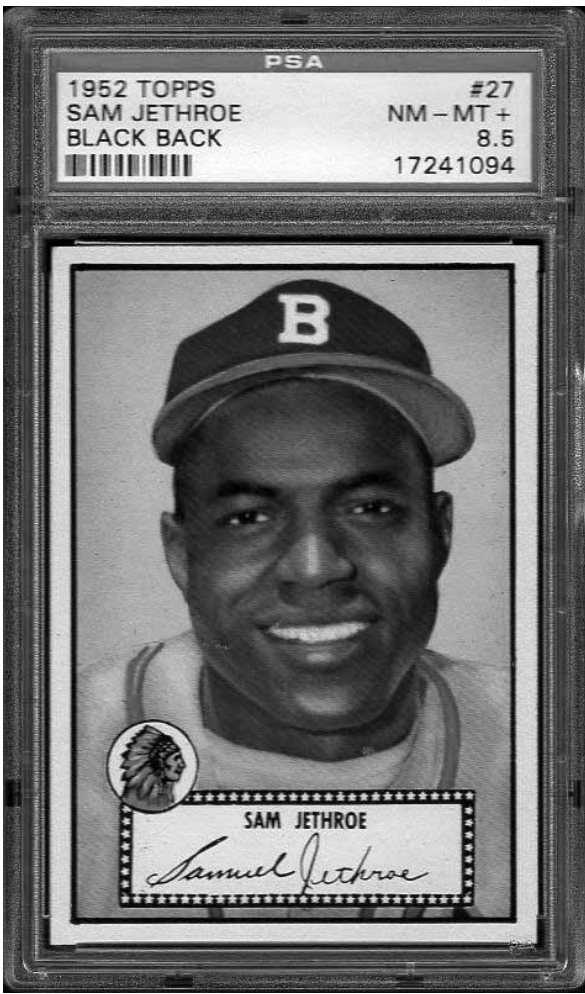
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ER Sports

By: James R. LeCorchick



(Left) A baseball card for Sam Jethroe – a 1952 Topps from a Black Pack (#27) that lists at \$8,195.00. (Right, from left) Sam Jethroe with Monte Irvin, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, and Giants' manager Leo Durocher.



having the honor, the privilege, the thrill of playing with the great Sam Jethroe, a true legend in all of baseball. Sam and I were teammates on the Kohler Beer team, and it's an experience I wouldn't trade for anything.

I was 20 years old at the time, of course that means I knew everything about everything, especially baseball, when I joined the KB squad, coached by GL legend **Tom Lee**. Playing for the true gentleman Tom Lee is a story in itself, and could be told another time.

I'll never forget the first practice with the Kohler squad when a gentleman near 50 years old came up to me and started discussing the art of hitting, and then showing me how to put his advice to use with a batting clinic I'll never forget. I was awestruck.

And I became more awestruck when I asked someone, "Who's that coach?" After a bit of a giggle, I was told, "You have to be kidding. He's not a coach; he's a player."

"That's the Jet!" I was in shock, getting a personal hitting clinic from the legendary **Sam "The Jet" Jethroe** was almost too exciting.

After his pro-baseball career had come to an end, Jethroe planted his roots in Erie, working in a local factory, continuing to play ball in semi-pro leagues, and eventually opening a bar.

What a dream season that was for me, sitting at practice or between innings picking his brain and hanging on every word he spoke was beyond description. I remember thinking many times that year, "I'm sitting and talking baseball with the Sam Jethroe..." It was almost beyond belief.

I can remember like it was yesterday, Sam hitting gap shots in games at Bayview and completing his inside-the-park home run before an outfielder could get to the ball.

He also loved to pitch and that gave many opportunities to talk to him during the game as I was the first baseman. Some of the comments were classic.

It was amazing how truly humble he was. And it was even more amazing he had no anger directed at the game that didn't permit him to play in its segregated league until he was past his prime.

But he didn't make any excuses once he received his chance, as he was the National League Rookie

of the Year in 1950 with the Boston Braves – at the age of 32 – and adding stolen base titles his first two seasons in "the bigs."

The native of East St. Louis, Ill., was billed as the fastest human in the world and he lived up to it, including beating an Olympic sprint champion in several exhibition races when he was in his mid-30s.

When Jethroe was in his prime, he played seven seasons in the Negro league and led the Cleveland Buckeyes to two pennants and a NL championship in 1945, hitting .340 during that span. He also won two batting crowns with averages of .393 and .353, and pacing the loop in stolen bases three consecutive seasons.

He had a true love for the game and continued to play well into his 50s.

We became great friends and I spent many an evening after my Glenwood League days going to his bar at 14th and Parade streets to continue

our baseball discussions, including some sessions when former major leaguers, such as George Crowe, would show up and join the conversation.

Jethroe was a regular, and one of the most popular members, at the Downtown YMCA. It seemed the comment was always the same when someone met him for the first time at the Y. "I met Sammy Jethroe today at the YMCA," they would point out. Followed by, "I can't believe how humble he is and what a great person."

Great person! That pretty much summed up The Jet.

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SAM JETHROE

AS MANY PEOPLE my age are prone to do, I was sitting around reminiscing with some friends of mine at dinner recently and we started talking about the "good ole days," of course. We had all played baseball so our exploits on the diamond dominated the conversation.

It was probably hard to separate fact from fiction, but no one really cared, as it was a totally delightful event, although my friends seem to relish reminding me of my failures over the years – and there were plenty. However, it got me to thinking, and I was still in that thought process driving home and it continued when I went in the house and sat down.

Baseball ruled a good part of my early years, and it was extremely enjoyable thinking back and remembering how much joy the sport of baseball gave me.

I was blessed to play Boys Baseball for nine years, high school for two, American Legion for one, college for one (I was only eligible one year), and then wrapped up my "career" with one year in the Glenwood League. And I have to admit there actually were many highlights I was extremely proud of, but there is one that stands above all the others – way above.

As I looked back at my 12 years of organized ball (high school and American legion overlapped one year in case you did the math), I still got goose bumps thinking of my year in the GL,

Sudoku

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

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

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Answer to Sudoku

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	34 Variation (pref.)	ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
1 Fellow	35 Ice	MENT SOB FLAG
4 Taro	36 Scientific name (suf.)	AGIB ODA YOGI
8 Foot (suf.)	37 Aquarium fish	PILASTERICAL
12 N.Z. fish	38 Christmas song	OLE KORIN AGT
13 Black	40 Egypt, evil god	KIL LOST
14 Great Lake	41 Saga (2 words)	TAROT ALTAITE
15 Bachelor of Fine Arts (abbr.)	44 Belonging to (suf.)	OMER FAA BOOM
16 Medal (2 words)	47 Silver-iron ore	BIPEDAL ZANTE
18 Prison: Brit.	48 Javanese poison tree	RAIL BEL
20 Ceremonial entrance	49 Monkey	OBI STAAT BIN
21 Belt	50 Indo-Chin. people	LEEK HABANERA
23 Palm starch	51 Man's name: abbr.	PAVE ERE ENAM
25 Indian camel	52 Talk	EDEN REL ROSE
26 Vast		
27 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)		
30 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)	DOWN	
31 Cheek bone	1 Apronlike cloth	assembly cry
32 King (Fr.)	2 Television band abbr.	5 Son of Adam
33 Ten decibels	3 Bias	6 Botanical (abbr.)
	4 Anglo-Saxon	7 Feminine (suf.)
		8 Five of trump
		9 Viking
		10 Plate language
		11 Mouse-spotter's

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

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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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