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ERIE READER

**Summer In The City:
Jobs Program Steers At-risk
Youth Toward A Better Path**

**Gilbert Gottfried Q&A:
On The Beatles, Talking Ducks,
and the Art of Telling Jokes Too Soon**

Fine Art and Erie Economics

**Waterford Authority Crumbles
Plans for Potato Chip Plant**



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2014 Summer Schedule

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

Breakdown of Program Costs (unless otherwise noted):

Distinguished Visiting Speaker Lectures:
 \$15/person; \$25 with a guest

Lectures:
 \$10/person; \$15 with a guest

Historical Tour:
 \$800 per person; \$1,500 with a guest (an extra \$150 will be charged to those who want a single occupancy hotel room)

Payments must be received at registration.

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

Day / Date /Time	Title	Instructor	Program Type
Wed./July 9/7:00-8:30	The British Royals Visit "The World of Tomorrow"	David Cope, M.Ed.	Lecture
Thurs./July 10/7:00-8:30	The Arctic: Resources, Russia, and Geopolitics	Richard Buys, M.S., Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)	Lecture
Tues./July 15/7:00-8:30	Good Hunting: An American Spymaster's Story	Jack Devine, M.A.* and Vernon Loeb*	Distinguished Visiting Speaker Lecture
Wed./July 16/7:00-8:30	The Virginia Dynasty	William P. Garvey, Ph.D.	Free Lecture
Sun./July 20/6:15-8:30	An Evening of Political Satire with Mark Russell: An Ice Cream Social	Mark Russell*	Distinguished Visiting Speaker Lecture
Mon./July 21/7:00-8:30	An Evening with Teddy Roosevelt	Joe Wiegand, Re-enactor*	Distinguished Visiting Speaker Lecture
Tues./July 22/7:00-8:30	A Musical Odyssey from the Great American Songbook	The Four Grads	Free Lecture
Wed./July 30/7:00-8:30	The Erie Economy: How Do We Move Forward?	Jim Kurre, Ph.D.	Free Lecture
Thurs./July 31/7:00-8:30	Project Icebreaker: Unlocking the Offshore Wind Potential of the Great Lakes	Eric Ritter, B.A.*	NWPAGE/Clean Air Council Free Lecture
Tues./August 5/7:00-8:30	Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!: The Evolving Artistry of the Beatles	Kenneth Womack, Ph.D.*	Free Distinguished Visiting Speaker Lecture
Wed./August 6/7:00-8:30	Songs of Summer, Acappella	Lake Erie Sound	Free Performance
Sat./September 20 – Tues./September 23	Virginia Dynasty Tour	Jefferson Society Staff	Historical Tour

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News & Notes

- 4 Street Corner Soapbox**
Batting Lessons
- 5 The Way I See It**
Waterford Authority Crumbles Plans for Potato Chip Plant
- 6 Just Toyin' Witcha**
Erie's East Side Food Desert
- 6 Considering the City**
The Congress for New Urbanism
- 9 Summer in the City**
Jobs Program Steers at-Risk Youth Toward a Better Path
- 22 ER Sports**
Local sports with James R. LeCorchick

Culture

- 7 Street Fashionista**
Music Fashion
- 11 Fine Art and Erie Economics**
Can the Erie market support paintings with high price tags?
- 12 If We Were You**
Here's what we would do
- 16 Music Reviews**
- 17 The Soulful Sounds of Summer**
Gloria Reuben Kicks off Romolo Music Series
- 19 Gilber Gottfried Q&A**
A Wonderful Hypocrisy
- 20 Geeked Out**
Action Toy Man

From the Editors

A few weeks back, we wrote about the importance of laying the foundation for education at an early age. That discussion surrounded high-quality Pre-K education in Pennsylvania and how it serves as the cornerstone upon which we can invest today for a bright future in the years to come.

But immediate challenges still lie in front of us. What do we do about the youth population that not a decade and a half from now but in the next couple of years will face the world as adults, seeking employment, education, something more than a puncher's chance at a good life?

A few months back, there was a community march. Co-led by Gary Horton, director of the Urban Erie Community Development Corp., and Bishop Dwane Brock, leader of the Victory Christian Center, 125 people took to the streets and headed to the Erie Community Foundation to seek financial support for a summer jobs program in Erie County.

A summer jobs program geared toward an adolescent population — community leaders hope — will curtail the rise in crime and violence plaguing our region. As we know,

"Poverty" remains an ever-present headline. And as more employers continue to look for prospective employees with job experience already under their belts, getting even an entry-level job without that prior experience is becoming virtually impossible.

That is, invest now in our youth-about-to-

Invest now in our youth-about-to-become-adults, and see results now — because when these minors enter the workforce as adults in a few years, they enter with a stronger, more developed resume, and they stand a better chance at continual employment.

become-adults, and see results now — because when these minors enter the workforce as adults in a few years, they enter with a stronger, more developed resume, and they stand a better chance at continual employment. Which suggests that with a decrease in

the unemployment rates, a decrease in crime, violence, and poverty will follow.

In this issue, you'll find Jim Wertz's feature on the Erie Summer Jobs Program — the details of that march, the work the Erie Community Foundation is doing, and what these means for our region moving forward in the next few months.

As of June 13, over 160 applications have been received to Erie Summer JAM (Jobs And More). Before these applicants begin employment with various institutions come the official start date of July 1, they will have completed 20 hours of soft-skills training at the Venango Training and Development Center. Then, they'll begin entering the workforce.

In Jim's feature, Horton told him that, "There's no better time than the present to show unity and solidarity." And he's right. Without strong building blocks now — in the present — our future doesn't stand a chance.

Let's hope that come the end of August, unity and solidarity amongst the community — not just a segment of our community, but the whole community — will triumph over despair and disconnect.

Street Corner Soap Box

Batting Lessons

By: Jay Stevens

This time about a year ago, Chris Cron – manager of the Erie SeaWolves – and I sat in his office and complained about our sons.

It started with a story about George Brett. Brett, of course, is the Kansas City Hall of Fame third baseman who hit .390 in 1980. Last season, during a particularly miserable stretch for Kansas City hitters, the Royals coaxed Brett out of retirement to serve as the team's batting coach. Brett didn't have any experience as a coach, but the hitting instructor they fired – Jack Maloof – had set off a media firestorm by proclaiming proudly his team would “lead the league” in fewest home runs, and the team needed a jolt of energy and some positive news coverage. What better way than to do that than bring out Brett in a Royals jersey?

In the press conference at the announcement, Brett was asked if he had served as hitting instructor before. “Well, no,” said Brett, “but I've helped guys out.” What about Brett's own sons? (Brett has three.) Had he ever taught them to hit?

It turns out this Hall of Famer had to hire private batting instructors for his own boys. “You can't teach your kids anything,” said Brett.

“No doubt about it,” said Cron.

At the time, Cron's oldest son, CJ, was a top prospect in the Angels' system. Like his father, he's a first baseman.

“We have a batting cage in the backyard,” said Cron, “and when I was instructing CJ – or trying to help him – maybe there was some loud talking going on.” Cron chuckled drily. CJ, it turns out, wouldn't listen to his

father's hitting tips. It wasn't until he went away to college – University of Utah – that he started to get it.

“Calls me after his freshman year,” said Cron, “says, ‘hey dad, I'm thinking about making these changes.’ And as I'm listening to it, it's the changes I've been trying to incorporate into his approach or his swing for like the last two or three years. I don't say a word. I just sit there and listen. He's getting it. Because it's not the old man's idea. It's his idea. So he's going to believe it a little more.”

I nodded like crazy, because my son, the 9-year-old, 50-pound second baseman for the Erie Phillies was struggling. He clasped his back elbow to his ribs when he batted. He dove off the plate too frequently, he was too timid. Sometimes his mind wandered when he was in the field and he booted routine grounders. He hit .188 for the year. (Yes, I kept track.)

But he didn't listen to a word I said, just groaned and rolled his eyes and ran out onto the field.

I know it's a dumb habit to try to correct all of my kid's faults. It's impossible. He doesn't enjoy it. I don't enjoy it. It's just that I've been there. It seems like I've already made all the mistakes there are to make. And if somehow he'd just listen to me and learn from where I've gone wrong, he'd sail through the tough times, leaving trouble in his wake, off to his own beautiful, glorious life.

That is, I love my boy. And I want the best for him. I can't help myself.

Cron gave me advice. The best thing I could do for my kid? “Just let him play,” he said. So I've learned to shut my trap. I go, watch and encourage, only.

What a difference a year makes. CJ Cron was called up to the Angels this summer and hit over .300 in his first month of play. His dad was a career minor leaguer and never scored or knocked in a run in the 12 games he played in the majors; CJ, as of June 20, has hit four homers, scored 11, and knocked in 16. *The Los Angeles Times* says he's known for his power and “knack for delivering in the clutch.”

My own second baseman, too, has had a good year. He hit .575 for his team with an improbable .700 on-base percentage. Once, in an All-Star game, he knocked a ball clean over the head of the opposing center fielder. His back elbow is up. And now he has a beautiful, fluid swing you can't teach.

The lesson is obvious, isn't it?

This past Father's Day, my son and daughter bought me a team Germany soccer jersey (we're a World Cup family!), and we celebrated by watching Argentina-Bosnia and Herzegovina, and then with a walk through the park for ice cream. I was unable, however, to talk to my own father. He lay exhausted in a Massachusetts hospital,

too tired from chemotherapy and radiation treatment to speak. He's been plagued by ongoing health problems, and his recent cancer diagnosis signaled a new threat, a new level of severity none of us talk about. Last night, my mother wrote in an email, he said he didn't think he'd make it through

I know it's a dumb habit to try to correct all of my kid's faults. It's impossible. He doesn't enjoy it. I don't enjoy it. It's just that I've been there.

the night. But he did.

As he lies ill, possibly dying, I've been searching for memories about my father to stitch together to form some kind of narrative. But it eludes me. I remember a jaunty engineer's cap and red windbreaker he wore in the '70s, paint-splattered jeans for Saturdays, and lying in the back of his car listening to his John Denver 8-tracks as we drove through town. He biked and golfed and had a handicap of 180 for his Friday night bowling league. I didn't realize how strong he was until I once saw him muscle a softball out of our town's baseball park. These memories don't tell a story. But they do describe a man.

He was a ski instructor, but I hated skiing with him. He hired others to teach me, and I raced downhill competitively for 20 years. He was an engineer, but I never let him help me with my math homework. He lived in a small, rural New England town – and lives there still – while I lived all over: Germany, Russia, Seattle, San Francisco, Montana, Erie. In short, he let me play, and I made my own way with all my own mistakes and troubles. I also managed to pick up some things nobody can teach. But he was always there, encouraging.

There's a special kind of fear felt for those that watch loved ones fend for themselves. But there's a joy to it, too, with the greater reward of watching sons soar free.

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/rg1jv>



News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepherd

LEAD STORY — Too Cute!

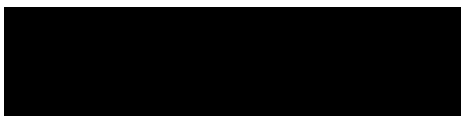
Marking Japan's latest unfathomable social trend, two paperback photo books — both consisting only of portraits of the rear ends of hamsters — have experienced surprising and still-growing printing runs. Japanese society has long seemed easily captured by anything considered “kawaii” (or “cute”), according to a May Wall Street Journal dispatch, and a representative of one book's publisher called his volume “delightfully cute.” “I can't stop smiling,” he said, “when I see these butts.” The two books in print are “Hamuketsu” (hamster buttocks) and “Hamuketsu — So Cute You Could Faint.” A third, “The Original Hamuketsu,” was set to debut in June. [Wall Street Journal, 5-21-2014]

Recurring Themes

Another driver died after being unable to dodge his own vehicle. A 58-year-old man was hit by his SUV in New York City in June after he double-parked and was opening the door on the passenger side and realized that the vehicle was still in reverse gear. He tried to jam one foot onto the brake but hit the gas instead, causing the car to jump backward, ejecting him, and pinning him between the SUV and a van parked alongside. The man suffered a heart attack and died as his vehicle broke free and drifted across the busy Manhattan intersection of Madison Avenue and East 49th Street. [DNAinfo New York, 6-5-2014]

Dead or just in “deep meditation”? A renowned Hindu guru, Shri Ashutosh Maharaj, in his 70s, passed away in January (so concluded police in Jalandhar, India), but His Holiness' disciples have refused to release the body, keeping it in a commercial freezer, contending that he has merely drifted into the deeper form of the meditation for which he is well-known — and will return to life when he is ready. (The guru's religious order, not coincidentally, is a real estate powerhouse in the Punjab region and on nearly every continent, and the guru's family is certain the “meditation” is a ruse to allow the Ashram's continued control of the financial empire.) [Daily Telegraph (London), 5-28-2014]

After the U.S. Postal Service finalizes its purchase of “small-arms ammunition,” it will become only the most recent federal agency to make a large purchase of bullets for its armed agents (who are perhaps more numerous than the public realizes). In the last year or so, reports have surfaced that the Social Security Administration ordered 174,000 hollow-point bullets, the Department of Agriculture 320,000 rounds, Homeland Security 450 million rounds (for its 135,000 armed agents), the FBI 100 million hollow-points, and even the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 46,000 rounds. (In May, the Department of Agriculture added an order of submachine



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guns and body armor.) [Newsmax, 4-14-2014] [Washington Times, 5-16-2014]

Unclear on the Concept: Robert Kiefer, 25, was arrested in Akron, Ohio, in February after losing his composure over an expected check that had not yet arrived in the mail. Rather than complain to the check issuer, Kiefer did as several others have done in News of the Weird's experience — attack the letter carrier. Kiefer pepper-sprayed the postman (with his own canister that he carries for protection), and in the ensuing struggle, bit the carrier on the leg. [Akron Beacon Journal, 2-10-2014]

Police in Lincoln, Nebraska, tracking down a call about a missing 3-year-old boy downtown, managed to locate him in the type of place where other toddlers have turned up after briefly escaping the sight of their parents: inside a toy vending machine. The boy had crawled up through the toy-release slot of the Bear Claw and was safely, joyously playing among the bin of colorful stuffed animals at Madsen's Bowling & Billiards. [Omaha World-Herald, 4-15-2014]

In the second such incident reported here in four months, an overenthusiastic police officer handcuffed and detained a firefighter working a 9-1-1 call, ostensibly because the firefighter refused to stop work and go move his fire truck to the officer's satisfaction. Like the earlier incident in California, the unequivocal state law in Louisiana makes it illegal for anyone to interfere with a firefighter on an emergency call, and the officer from the New Roads, La., Police Department in principle faces a stiff fine and possible jail sentence. [WBRZ-TV (Baton Rouge), 3-26-2014]

Orthodox Judaism requires a divorcing spouse to obtain the permission of the other via a document called a "get," leaving much power in the hands of the responding spouse — and leading to an occasional resort to trickery or violence to persuade an uncooperative spouse. In May, Lakewood, N.J., Rabbi Mendel Epstein, his son and three other men were indicted for scheming to use electric cattle prods on behalf of wives against recalcitrant husbands. (Four other men in the alleged scheme have already pleaded guilty.) According to prosecutors, Rabbi Epstein has been implicated in other over-the-top efforts to obtain gets, in 2009 and 2010, and the indictment charges the 2013 episode also involved kidnapping, surgical blades and a screwdriver. [Asbury Park Press, 5-22-2014]

Emergency crews in the U.K. once again came under criticism in June when dozens of police and firefighters, in three trucks and using a cherry-picker, blocked off a busy street in Cheltenham for an hour so they could rescue and release a bird (a "rook") caught in netting on top of a small apartment building. (Bonus irony: The building's owner had installed the keepaway netting for the sole purpose of discouraging rooks from roosting and nesting, as they were soiling neighborhood rooftops.) [Western Daily Press (Leicester), 6-3-2014]

The Way I See It

Waterford Authority Crumbles Plans for Potato Chip Plant

By: Rebecca Styn

As a friend of mine jokingly asked me the other day, what could be more noncontroversial than putting a new potato chip plant into an old potato chip plant?

Well, just ask the Waterford Water and Sewer Authority.

KLN Family Brands — a Minnesota-based family-owned business that produces a variety of salty snacks, candy, and much more (including, yes, potato chips) — is about to move into the former Troyer Farms location. It's been about five months since the announcement that the dormant building would take on new residents, and now walls are up and millions of dollars worth of equipment stands ready to be installed.

The company would ultimately bring on about 125 people — including previous Troyer employees. You know, not only a skilled labor workforce, but individuals that actually have experience making snack food products.

The group has definitely met some obstacles along the way — one including an archaeological search for American Indian artifacts — but none as small-minded as the one that occurred Thursday, June 19.

As part of the project, the facility needs to extend municipal water and sewer lines [which they were personally paying for] about 7,000 feet from the plant along Route 97 so that they didn't need to utilize well water. On Wednesday, June 18, Waterford Township Supervisors approved those extension plans.

What could be more noncontroversial than putting a new potato chip plant into an old potato chip plant? Well, just ask the Waterford Water and Sewer Authority.

Yet a day later, with a 2-2 vote, the Water and Sewer Authority essentially nixed that vote, denying approval of the extension. And although the vote was 2-2, there was actually one member of the five-person authority not accounted for (he missed the meeting due to graduate school obligations and was supposed to be teleconferenced in that night).

But that call never came. And as such, a stalemate occurred, and immediately thereafter, the two who voted in favor of the extension immediately resigned. When I heard all this, words could not



express my frustration. We had just gone through this with the Erie Rail Terminal project. In fact, as we continue to hit this brick wall over and over and over again — perhaps, Erie truly is the definition of insanity.

The truth is: Although it is the constituents who cry out, it is the officials that ultimately make many of the decisions. And the greater truth is that some shouldn't be in office — because they can't make the decisions that need to be made.

Yes, elected and appointed officials are all bombarded by different residents, concerned citizens, and naysayers, encouraged to lean a certain way. And yes, many of those constituents are the ones who have supported these officials at different times in their lives.

But any person that represents the public, even on at small level, needs to be able to stay above the fray. They need to *listen* to their constituents, take their thoughts and concerns seriously, but *then* they need to be able to move forward in the direction that will ultimately benefit the constituents — as a whole.

Because you cannot make everyone happy — at any point, or any time.

And if you don't have the ability to trust the professionals to make the tough decisions, to understand that some of those that once supported you may not in the future because of a decision you made, then, please, leave these authorities and step down from these

KLN Family Brands hopes to move into the old Troyer Farms plant in Waterford. If only the Water and Sewer Authority would get on board.

committees to let those who can deal with it do so.

Let's remember that we are a Republic for a reason. We elect and appoint individuals because we trust they will make the right decisions after hearing the public's viewpoints and considering all of the other matters at hand. That is, We The Public cannot demand that these elected and appointed officials serve as our puppets; we need to trust they — as our leaders — will make the best decisions for us regardless of our individual opinions and wishes — and they need to have the fortitude to do that and not merely bend to the will of the loudest voices.

Nobody ever said anything good came easy, and we all have been through growing pains. But if we don't start adapting to the future, we're going to lose, period. And this applies to everything from major life decisions down to potato chip plants.

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/xn69m>



Considering the City

The Congress for New Urbanism Conference: CNU 22

By: Civitas members Lisa Austin and Steve Sonnenberg

The Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) advocates “traditional neighborhood design.” At this twenty-second annual conference (CMU 22), Civitas learned more about urban waterfront development and form-based zoning – ideas that could benefit Erie.

Regarding the waterfront: a century ago, John Nolen, (one of the great-grandfathers of CNU) commented that Erie’s great harbor is naturally the finest for commerce on the Great Lakes.” But, water transportation has long been outpaced by railroads, interstates, and airports.

However, CNU speaker James Howard Kunstler (author of *The Long Emergency*) says we are experiencing the “end of cheap oil” and that our economy will become dependent on “inland waterways.” This is a wake-up call for Erie to beef up docks and establish water transit to cities on the Great Lakes.

Erie’s bluff discourages pedestrian and bike access to the water; most people drive to the Bayfront. Back in 1913, Nolen suggested pedestrian piers spanning over the railroad tracks (today’s highway.) Another idea was to cut through the bluffs – as has been done at State and Holland streets.

Taking a cue from Nolen (and from Dan Dahlkemper’s and Lisa Austin’s collaborative proposal for Cleveland’s “Irishtown Bend”) Civitas suggested a diagonal grid of pathways, plazas and staircases from Liberty and Parade streets. Before his untimely death on June 3, Jeff Gault, the founder of BABO (Bayfront Access and Beautification Organization), reported that a pedestrian path will be established on the bluff this year with a crossing to Liberty Park. While welcome, a street-based connection would better help revitalize bluff-top neighborhoods.

CNU speaker John O. Norquist, who served as Milwaukee’s mayor during that Great Lake city’s dramatic revitalization, said that communities that “want their waterfronts to come alive” should create “small cafes, bars, and retail outlets to reflect the people and the culture.”

Erie’s waterfront has worthy, but isolated destinations including the Intermodal Center, the Blasco Library, the Maritime Museum, the Bicentennial Tower, the Sheraton, the Bayfront Convention Center, a miniature golf course, several restaurants, parks, private clubs, a nursing-home, and gated-res-



idences – but, we need more small, varied, and walkable developments.

Another CNU speaker, the celebrated urban planning policy consultant and former mayor, Enrique Peñalosa, helped transform one of the world’s most dangerous cities: Bogota, Columbia. Peñalosa improved public transportation and public parks to create “good pedestrian space.” He promoted the right of all residents “not just to survive, but

to be happy” and to “not feel inferior.”

Peñalosa said that “great cities” find ways to put “very wealthy people next to very low-income people together as equals” in public spaces. Given Erie’s rise in crime, perhaps it is time to study Bogata’s success.

Closer to home, Buffalo’s mayor offered a path to zoning reform. In 2010, Mayor Byron Brown “tossed out” the city’s 1950’s-era zoning ordinance and created a “Green Code” based on New Urbanist principles of “smart-growth.” Buffalo’s new form-based zoning guides a building’s façade and volume and is concerned with each building’s relationship to other buildings and to sidewalks and streets. “Green Code” regulations encourage mixed-use, walkable neighborhoods by jointly regulating private and public space and by eliminating minimum parking requirements in favor of “standards on the form, location and environmental performance” of parking.

In contrast, Erie’s zoning focuses on parking requirements and the use of the site: single-family homes here, multi-family housing there, and a push for shopping, office, and industrial structures somewhere else.

While Erie’s zoning ordinance has good features, the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) frequently overturns the code, weakening its power to shape our community. For instance, the Erie County Historical Society (ECHS) requested a variance to construct a parking lot and a single-story collections warehouse “behind” the society’s Watson-Curtze Mansion. Even though the neighboring structures are multi-story residential buildings located the same distance from the street, the ZHB granted the ECHS request. Sadly, the character of this historic West Fifth Street residential neighborhood

will be permanently altered by the ECHS parking lot and warehouse.

Another unfortunate example: the GetGo corporation bought an industrial site on the Bayfront and West 12th Street and then asked permission to break the zoning rules to build a gas station, food center, and car wash. Again, the ZHB said “yes.” The handsome, ivy-covered, Reed manufacturing building on the Bayfront and West Eighth Street is an appropriate industrial structure. The entrance to our waterfront will be soon be marred by another brightly-lit, 24-hour “pole-barn.”

Erie deserves better.

And Erie leaders are trying. Already, the work of BABO, the Sons of Lake Erie, the Lake Erie Regional Conservancy, and others echo Peñalosa’s ideas about public space. Brenda Sandberg, the Director of Erie’s Department of Economic and Community Development, reports that during 2004 to 2005, Erie rewrote its Zoning Code and took “baby steps” towards form-based zoning in residential neighborhoods. With luck, the Destination Erie report will encourage Erie to adopt a CNU-inspired form-based zoning and hire a City Planner with the power to advocate for public spaces.

Erie’s 1913 City Planning Committee – the one that hired Nolen – wrote that Erie “faces a promising future” and that “the task of today is to solve present problems and to plan wisely and unselfishly.” In 2014, Erie’s vast potential remains, as does the “the task” of planning “wisely and unselfishly.”

Join the conversation during a Preservation Happy Hour co-hosted by City Councilman Dave Brennan and Civitas at the Plymouth Tavern at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, July 24.

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 Street. To follow this story or to comment scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/hdccb>



Just Toyin’ Witcha – By: Bryan Toy



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From left to right: Monica Lewis, Kayti Stadler, Taylor Herbstritt.

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Music Fashion

By: Lili Morton

I think we all can agree that one of the best parts of living in Erie is the summer. After being corralled indoors for months, all we want is to breathe the fresh, warm air, feel the sand between our toes, and listen to music – outside! Erie is fortunate to have an abundance of talented musicians and vocalists. Many of these performers not only entertain with their songs, but with the distinctive style they bring to the stage.

I recently met with three female entertain-

Erie is fortunate to have an abundance of talented musicians and vocalists. Many of these performers not only entertain with their songs, but with the distinctive style they bring to the stage.

ers whose style exudes personality while conveying an authenticity true to each. Kayti Stadler (Key West Express, Lucky Dog), Monica Lewis (Stiletto, Ruby Port), and Taylor Herbstritt (Taylor Maid, Sunday Sound) took a break from their jam-packed schedules to tell me what inspires their fashion choices and how fans can emulate their respective looks.

Although Kayti's style tends to be different for each band, she has her look down to a science. Regardless of whom she is singing with, you can bet she'll be donning some type of fun and flirty ensemble!

Lili Morton: How would you describe your style?

Kayti Stadler: I would say Flirty/ Girly. I love bright colors, flowers, lace, bows, and sparkles.

LM: A performance is scheduled last minute and you haven't thought about what to wear; what do you do? What is your go-to look?

KS: A cute, flirty sundress, and a bow or flower in my hair to match. I tend to only wear flowers when I sing with Key West Ex-

press. With Lucky Dog, I accessorize more with my jewelry.

LM: When shopping for your gigs, what are your favorite stores? Online retailers?

KS: I Love Charlotte Russe. Their clothes are fun, bright, trendy, and they are super affordable!

LM: Favorite lipstick color?

KS: I can't live without my Buxom lip gloss from Sephora. My shade is Zoe. I am not a huge lipstick gal, but I always have my gloss on!

LM: Best fashion advice ever received?

KS: "Just be yourself." I find myself questioning my fashion sense all the time and I have to remember that if I like the way I look, that is all that matters! Who cares if someone else doesn't like it!

Monica Lewis created the female-fronted, powerhouse band Stiletto in 2010. She is also a vocalist for the ten-piece horn band, Ruby Port. Donning killer stilettos (of course) and an impressive set of pipes, no one would know she is a latecomer to music.

LM: How would you describe your style?

Monica Lewis: I would describe my style as Edgy/Pretty. I like to be a little dressy, but always try to incorporate a little rock edginess to it. Sometimes, I have to create this by cutting clothes apart and totally rebuilding them on my sewing machine. The right accessories can also accomplish this combination.

LM: For fans who love your style, how can they "copy" it?

ML: Fans of Stiletto just have to follow the band name: Super. High. Heels. I have a pair of black, strappy sandals studded with big, chunky clear rhinestones at the toes and ankles. A fan once described them as "designed by the devil himself." So far, I have written down the brand name and website of these shoes for no less than three people.

LM: What are some of your current fashion obsessions?

ML: Boots! In Stiletto, I bend the rules a little and wear very high stacked heels instead of stilettos. And when I sing in my acoustic show with Julio Quezada, I love wearing a pair of western knee-high boots with three-

inch stacked heels, a skirt, and a casual top.

LM: Where do you go to seek inspiration?

ML: I actually watch the vocal competitions on TV. They have great fashion stylists on those shows with some unique ideas.

LM: Best fashion advice you're ever received?

ML: My doctor told me to wear flats, but he knew I wouldn't listen so he said to take two Tylenol after the first set so my feet won't hurt. He was right.

After wearing a uniform all day at her 9-5, Taylor's creativity has the opportunity to shine on stage, both through her music and her laid-back, rocker style.

LM: Tell us about your style.

Taylor Herbstritt: I'm kinda all over the place when it comes to my style [laughs]. I guess it depends on my mood that day. I love skulls and black clothing, but sometimes I like sporting a cowboy hat.

LM: How can fans emulate your style? What is a style or article of clothing you typically always wear?

TH: I love wearing crazy outfits, and I also like making my own shirts! I like to cut up plain shirts and make my own style. I get a lot of compliments on them and people ask where I got them. When they find out I made them myself, they ask me to make them one!

LM: '90s Grunge or '60s Glam?

TH: Definitely '90s Grunge!

LM: Heels, Booties, Wedges, or Flats?

TH: Definitely flats.... Or barefoot!

LM: Most memorable look?

TH: Probably on my 30th birthday gig at Oasis last year. It was an awesome, red and black lace corset top with shiny, black jeans. My friend Julie styled my hair with red spikes; it looked so cool! Best. Birthday. Ever!!

LM: Best fashion advice ever received?

TH: Don't try to be like everyone else... Create and be proud of your own style. And I do!

Lili Morton can be contacted at LMorton@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter on Twitter @SatinAndScotch.



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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.

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Summer In The City

Jobs Program Steers At-risk Youth Toward A Better Path

By: Jim Wertz

In the shadow of Erie's industrial east side, a community is in peril. The public housing projects surrounding GE Transportation and the rental wasteland to its south are among the city's most desperate communities.

People who live in these neighborhoods pass the gates and fences of some of the region's most successful businesses with little understanding of what goes on inside, little knowledge of what products are being manufactured, and little hope for the promise held in each job that lay just past the pavement.

The GE entrance along Franklin Avenue, including the guard station which punctuates the miles of chain link fence that surround the property, serves as a nagging reminder that the opportunity inside that east side oas-

is and throughout once thriving neighborhood enclaves.

Erie's population has remained relatively stable since the 1980s, leaving the city with a dearth of employment opportunities for Erieites who chose to stay despite the impending struggle.

City leaders were sure that manufacturing would return. But that nostalgia was toxic and it prevented the city from moving forward.

Herb Fiss, who promised 400 jobs in a prospective juice factory, swindled both the city and the county governments before walking off with hundreds of thousands of dollars without leaving so much as an apple in his wake in 2006.

A new Dollar General on the city's east side prompted a celebratory tone in local media

are looking to city and county officials to develop employment opportunities, which would, in theory, stave off crime in the city this summer and steer at-risk youth toward a better path.

"There's no better time than the present to show unity and solidarity," says Gary Horton, director of the Urban Erie Community Development Corp.

Horton co-lead a march of 125 community members with Bishop Dwane Brock, leader of the Victory Christian Center, from the Martin Luther King Center on Erie's lower west side to the front steps of the Erie Community Foundation on West Sixth Street. The march took place on April 21.

"Bishop Brock had authored a letter to the Erie Community Foundation and he asked us to go with him. We decided that if we were

strategy," Batchelor says.

Horton wasn't invited to that first meeting on April 8, but he was invited to a subsequent meeting to discuss a summer jobs plan.

"I thought it was a constructive meeting. It was to the point," says Horton. "Mike Batchelor said he was going to do certain things and I see in the announcement of the county jobs program that he kept his word about what he said he was going to do at that meeting."

The Erie County program, Erie Summer Jobs and More, or J.A.M., includes a summer jobs and job training program for one hundred 16 to 21 year olds from both the city and the county that will begin with a \$100,000 contribution from county government and additional support from county gaming revenues.

The Erie Community Foundation will commit \$50,000 to develop a web portal for job seekers and fund a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the program.

"What we're hoping is that we can change the culture in Erie so that the nonprofit sector, along with business and education providers, rally around our community with a sense of inclusiveness, particularly during the summertime, and we want to sell hope and opportunity as opposed to despair and

It makes sense that community leaders are looking to city and county officials to develop employment opportunities, which would, in theory, stave off crime in the city this summer and steer at-risk youth toward a better path.

hopelessness," Batchelor says.

Dividing J.A.M. resources between the city and the county is a point of contention for advocates of a youth jobs program in the city. But without financial support from the city, the expansion of J.A.M. to include more city youth is unlikely.

"The city's role is different," says Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott. "Our core competencies are public safety and public services. Job training is not one of our core competencies or one that we would normally fund. Those programs are funded with state and federal dollars and those dollars are available."

Federal dollars, however, are in high demand and short supply.

Horton, his brother, Erie County Councilman Andre Horton, and Brock believe that there is a correlation between violence in the city and the lack of employment opportunities here. In their view, a jobs program creates an alternative to criminal activity and the more widespread the program, the more sweeping the results.



Summer jobs help keep young folks off the street and out of trouble.

sis remains, for the most part, inaccessible.

But this isn't about GE Transportation or the vast opportunities it once held and continues to hold for this community. It's a metaphor for the paradox of success that continues to challenge this region.

An industrial employment vacuum began to impact the entire Great Lakes region in the late 1960s. Between 1977 and 1987 Erie lost more than 9,000 jobs in the auto and steel industries alone. The residual effect of that loss can be seen along the city's main arteries

last year for the six part-time jobs its opening promised to bring. Cities across the United States search for sustainable, living wage paying jobs as people clamor for any opportunity.

Erie is no exception.

What results, however, is more akin to underground tradecraft than legitimate business. This begins to explain the number of makeshift junk stores masquerading as downtown retail. It explains the parade of Fred Sanford-esque pickups that lead the late night garbage truck routes. And for some, it explains the rise in violent, often drug-related, crime in the city.

So it makes sense that community leaders

to go with him, to the Erie Community Foundation, it would be in the spirit of unity and solidarity," says Horton

Brock's letter, addressed to Erie Community Foundation president Mike Batchelor, requested \$315,000 from the Erie Community Foundation for a summer jobs program that would support 150 inner city youth in addition to \$3 million to support three local community centers.

The march, and Brock's letter, came two weeks after the Erie Community Foundation hosted a meeting of community leaders to discuss a summer jobs program. The meeting was planned around Brock's schedule, but "Bishop Brock chose to pursue a different



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This is a classic description of the economic theory of crime. The theory emerged during the 1960s when policy makers and academics searched for an explanation of rising crime on the heels of America's greatest economic boom. Basically, it says that if the consequences of committing a crime are less than not committing the criminal act, then crime rates will increase. In other words, if you have no job, no money, and few options for supporting yourself or your family, the prospect of going to prison doesn't carry much weight. You have nothing to lose.

In the 1970s, law and order Republicans argued that the correlation between crime and the economy was spurious, at best. Instead, state and federal resources were marshaled for increased police presence and higher arrest rates in at-risk communities. Politicians believed that these initiatives were better deterrents of crime than trying to solve the problems that the New Left identified as the root causes of the problem.

To their credit, increased incarceration rates in the 1970s also paralleled an increase in prisoner education and psychological treatment that went by the wayside in the decades that followed. The result of diminished rehabilitation efforts was the mass incarceration of millions of people, mostly poor people of color with little prospect for success on the outside if and when they were released. Recidivism rates skyrocketed and incarceration rates were measured more like commodities than uncapped debts to society.

This debate continues to frame Erie's ongoing struggle with crime and unemployment.

But Horton is concerned that the long-term benefits of a jobs program – creating young citizens with a sense of independence and responsibility to their community – are not lost in the ideological divisions that separate city leadership and community advocates.

"I think the whole community misses the point because the community characterizes our efforts without really understanding what they are," Horton says. "As a non-violence initiative, we talk about violence because violence is a factor in the community. Our original proposal for summer jobs for youths was for the ages 14 to 18. The bad guys are older than that and they're out here for real. The police know that. Most resources go toward fighting them and catching them. And the city is determined to keep trying that plan."

Erie may or may not be interested in a debate about root causes and the best way to address them. But when the Erie J.A.M. program launched in the beginning of June, 144 of the 157 applicants were from the city, demonstrating both an interest and a need for such a program.

Failure to communicate exacerbates the problems that plague the Erie community and the region. Maybe we think too much about the past instead of working toward a safer, more prosperous tomorrow. Or maybe we have yet to ask the right questions.

Jim Wertz can be contacted at jWertz@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @InclineMedia. To follow this story or comment, scan



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Fine Art and Erie Economics

Can the Erie market support paintings with high price tags?

By: Pen Ealain

Before we get too far into this review, let me elucidate my overall opinions of Thomas McNickle and Glass Growers Gallery: I like them. Really, I do!

If the previous statement sounds like I'm trying to atone in advance for a somewhat snarky and negative review, that's because I am. See, Thomas McNickle is a very talented painter and Glass Growers is one of my favorite places to explore, but the show currently hanging there has something wrong with it. But this problem has more to do with the state of art in America and Erie in particular and less about the art itself or the gallery.

McNickle is a nationally-known landscape painter. In 2012, he held a one-man show at The Butler Institute of Art in Youngstown, Ohio. To give you an idea of how prestigious that is, The Butler is currently showing retrospectives by photographer William Wegman and recently deceased children's book illustrator Maurice Sendak – both legendary figures at the very top of their fields. McNickle even had a solo show at the Erie Art Museum in 2003. He's prolific, popular, and he's local (his studio is in the Newcastle area).

So, we have a successful, local painter who makes beautiful landscapes – what's not to like? Sticker shock, that's what. This is Erie, Pa.: unfortunately the land of \$1 happy hour draft beer and a place where you can't go for a walk in the county without tripping over a Walmart.

As beautiful as his landscapes are, four grand for a 28" x 30" oil painting in this market is hard for me to comprehend. There is a forty-inch wide canvas titled *Releasing the Day*, which uses warm fuzzy late-day light

to illuminate a cool summer marsh shoreline. It is evocative and bewitching. It is also \$8,500. That's the price of a decent used car.

For the sake of Glass Growers, I hope a couple of these paintings sell. The commissions would be great for them, allowing a gem of a local business to stay open and pay their wonderful employees.

But who here is going to buy works in this price range? There are plenty of rich people in Erie, but precious few collect art – at least original paintings or sculptures created by professionals who make their living as artists. Many of the supremely-skilled artists in the Erie area are just scraping by because of a general lack of appreciation for their work by those who can afford to pay them what it should be worth. Many of the owners of the million-dollar McMansions that seem to constantly spring up in Millcreek are perfectly happy to decorate their walls with schlock they bought at the furniture store when they picked out their couch. Or they put a "limited-edition print" of a whitetail buck over their mantle, thinking that they've made a great investment because what is essentially just a mass-produced poster has a low edition number and an artist's signature. The few people who actually buy original art in Erie can't possibly have any wall space left.

Economics 101: There is a direct relationship between the demand for a product and the price. As sad and pathetic as it is, the demand for original paintings in Erie, Pa. is low. Therefore, the price of said art is also low. If one wants to buy a beautifully-crafted oil landscape, there are several lesser-known painters locally that are every bit as accom-



Thomas McNickle's *Into a Clearing*. Oil on canvas; 18" x 18".

plished by a master craftsman. McNickle's sense of composition is never flawed. The atmospheres he creates are often lush and vibrant. I particularly love the biggest painting in the show, *The Foot Bridge*. Four-feet wide, this cool forest tableau offers an opportunity to experience an evening's stroll through the evening woods without ever leaving the gallery. It has a particularly strong allure because of the limited pallet that McNickle utilized: All the colors and tonalities harmonize into a calming scene of quiet beauty.

Other paintings in the gallery are less impressive though – and again, not worth the exorbitant price. Having been familiar with McNickle's work for years since taking a workshop from him in the '90s, I

know what he is capable of, especially when he lets loose with his watercolors. Many of these oil paintings lack the conviction and delicacy he is famous for bringing to a canvas. Smaller canvases titled *Pink Evening*, *Storm*, and *Pale Turquoise Sky* all feel like studies for larger paintings he may be producing later. One gets the sense that after McNickle finished a couple major paintings for this show; he scrounged around the studio for some finished rectangles just to fill the rest of the wall space.

Kudos should be given to Deb Vahanian and Glass Growers for hanging a local Master's work downtown for us all to see and enjoy, but I'm afraid that is all that will be happening. It would be nice to think that someone in our town will drop the cash to take home one of Thomas McNickle's paintings, but with these prices, I'm not holding my breath.

That's more Econ 101: prices here are low because that's what people are willing to pay. Merchants in New York City charge four dollars each for bottles of tap water and four grand a month for a one-bedroom flat because that's what the market will bear. The market in Erie is just not the same. Those quarter-million dollar condos on Peach Street are a great example of cost exceeding perceived value in our market: in many other cities, they'd be snapped up in a heartbeat. In Erie, they are priced way above their market value and will remain unsold and empty until their prices come down. If, from my perspective, all of McNickle's paintings are overpriced for our market, many of them still are wonderful examples of what can be ac-

complished by a master craftsman. McNickle's sense of composition is never flawed. The atmospheres he creates are often lush and vibrant. I particularly love the biggest painting in the show, *The Foot Bridge*. Four-feet wide, this cool forest tableau offers an opportunity to experience an evening's stroll through the evening woods without ever leaving the gallery. It has a particularly strong allure because of the limited pallet that McNickle utilized: All the colors and tonalities harmonize into a calming scene of quiet beauty.

The Fields, the Woods, & the Marshes -Recent Landscape Paintings by Thomas McNickle runs from June 6 to July 22 at Glass Growers Gallery, located at 10 E. Fifth St., open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays noon until 4 p.m.



Pen Ealain can be contacted at PenEalain@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or to comment scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/8vjo3>

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wed 6.25 Party on the Patio: Bollywood Style

The Erie Art Museum patio may be located on Fifth Street in downtown Erie, but on Friday, June 27, the folks will look to help you celebrate like you were located on the other half of the world during pARTy on the Patio: Bollywood Style.

The annual fundraiser returns for a night promising the charms of India and the Himalayas. Cinephiles can enjoy the films of Bollywood in the indoor lounge before wandering the galleries to view bronze and stone sculptures, Tibetan paintings, and other visual wonders of southern Asia. You can even become a part of the art exhibit yourself, with onsite henna tattoo artists and stations where you can create your own bindi, a traditional forehead decoration.

Of course, it wouldn't be a true pARTy on the Patio without dancing, so the Art Museum is bringing in DJ Rehka to keep the party thumping, fusing together Bhangra, an upbeat genre drawing from India's Punjabi region, and international hip-hop.

In addition to the aforementioned entertainment opportunities, Make It Fabulous Catering will provide tasty fusion foods to go along with complimentary craft brews and a cash cocktail bar, all available for \$35 advance or \$45 at the door, a small fee for the Bollywood red carpet treatment. - Alex Bieler

7 to 11 p.m. Friday, June 27 // 20 E. Fifth St. // erieartmuseum.org



DJ Rehka (above) will spin Bhangra fused with hip-hop at the Party on the Patio.

Snyder, Two Stoopid Dogs, and Josh Travis.
6 to 11 p.m. // 1505 State St. // pacal505.com

Fortis Institute-Erie Hosts Trade Expo

Open to the public at no charge - with food and beverages to be served! - Fortis Institute welcomes any and all to a Trade Expo it's hosting. The showcase of trade programs includes Construction Management, Electrical, and HVAC-R, and Welding. Plus, if you've ever had the urge to test your skills on a VRTEX 360 Virtual Arc Welding Training Simulator, consider that urge satisfied. Also included - still at no charge to you - is the opportunity to meet vendors, supplies, and employers, as well as tour campus labs and learn more about new career opportunities.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. // 5757 W. 26th St. // 838.7673

sun 6.29

TREC Through Our Eyes Photography Exhibit

TREC's *Through Our Eyes* Photography Exhibit features the work of four local photographers who have captured the beauty of Presque Isle through the lens of their cameras. The exhibit is located on the second floor of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center until Sept. 1 and is free and open to the public.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. // 301 Peninsula Dr. // trepci.org

mon 6.30

Cruise the Bay

Calling all rodders! Please join, rain or shine this Monday for this fun family oriented event. DJ Bill Mason will be spinning tunes, there will be 50/50s, door-prize giveaways, and other great contests - and the event is free & open to all classic, custom and specialty vehicles & spectators.

6 p.m. // Erie Bayfront Parkway Park 'n ride // 474-5183

NPAA 15th Annual Art Scholarship Awards and Lottery

What do you get when you combine talented artists, spirited cocktails, good friends and great eats in one room? Join the North-western PA Artists Association for their 15th Annual Art Scholarship Awards and Lottery tonight to find out! Harry Miller will be catering, talented local artists will be showcasing their works for a chance to win or purchase, and awards will be given. Tickets can be purchased online at npaaonline.org, in person at Bayfront Gallery or Glass Growers Gallery or at the door.

5:30 p.m. // 811 State St. // npaaonline.org

Br'er w/ Barlow, Jack Stauber, and Wave Trails

You never know what you're going to hear next from Philadelphia recording artist Benjamin Schurr, who performs as Br'er. Take a listen to 2011's *City of Ice* and you'll hear dark electronic rockers, orchestral pop pieces, and ominous experimental tracks. Br'er will team up with local shoegaze group Barlow, synth-rockers Jack Stauber, and experimental outfit Wave Trails for a four-band night at Basement Transmissions well worth the \$7 admission price.

5:30 p.m. // 1501 State St. // basementtransmissions.com

thurs 6.26

Block Party at the Plymouth Tavern

Tonight's Block Party is at the Plymouth Tavern featuring local bands The Romantic Era and Ron Yarosz, and benefits the Autism Society of NWPA. As always, Block Party is a free event, excluding drinks. Remember to arrive early to secure a street table!

6 to 10:30 p.m. // 1109 State St. // eriedowntown.com

fri 6.27

Eric Brewer & Friends w/ Bronson Euard and The Essentials

You don't want to just be a pawn in the game of life. No, you want to take control, so start your march to happiness at the King's Rook when jammy rock bands Eric Brewer & Friends and Bronson Euard and The Essentials help you transform from Mongo to a king (or queen) of the weekend.

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

sat 6.28

Buffet on the Bay

There's feel-good music and there are causes that also make you feel good. Buffet on the

Bay has both. The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania will be hosting a fundraiser featuring live music from roots rockers Big Leg Emma and gypsy 'tonkers Potwhole to go along with vendors, a farmer's market, and a Chinese auction. Entrance costs either \$5 or an equivalent amount of nonperishable goods to help feed the hungry in northwest Pennsylvania.

4 to 10 p.m. // Liberty Park // eriefoodbank.org

Acoustic Solstice at PACA

Presented by local indie arts promoter New Era Artists Revolution (N.E.A.R.), and featuring a string of Erie-based, and string-based, underground acts, it's an Acoustic Solstice tonight at PACA Performing Arts Center & Theater. The shining lineup includes performances by Optimistic Apocalypse, Heather DeVore, Jerry Gaff, Bill Jasper Acoustics, Clay

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Basement Transmissions Grand Reopening Show

The new location for Basement Transmissions may only be situated a few blocks away from the former haunt on State Street, but the switch to the old Roadhouse Theatre property at 145 W. 11th St. is a big move for the all-ages venue.

"Not only am I excited, but you feel the excitement from all of the kids," says Basement Transmissions Owner Bob Jensen. "I've enjoyed my time at the old location and I have a lot of memories there, but this new spot is exactly what I've been aiming for from day one. [The Roadhouse property] nails every need that I have, and it's just a gorgeous historical building."

Appropriately, Jensen and company will hold a special event to kick off the end of the past and the beginning of the future with the Basement Transmissions Grand Reopening Show. Apart from a couple of teaser shows at the new location - hence the "Re-opening" - the event show will be the first of many displays of local and national musical prowess. Fittingly, Basement Transmission favorites Instead of Sleeping will make the trip up from Pittsburgh to headline the festivities, with hardcore group Sea of Teeth, progressive hard rock act Jivan, the ambient Humble Braggers, and a yet-to-be-named band.

The future is bright for Basement Transmissions, as the venue heads to a bigger space with plenty of possibilities, and on July 5, you can meet the new Basement Transmissions, with the same heart and soul as the old Basement Transmissions. - Alex Bieler

5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 5 // 145 W. 11th St. // basementtransmissions.com



Contributed Photo

Instead of Sleeping headlines the upcoming July 5 show at BT.

tues 7.01

Erie SeaWolves v. Akron RubberDucks

Gather up the whole fam and take 'em out to a ball game, as the SeaWolves look to take a bite outta the Akron RubberDucks tonight at Jerry Uht Park. The first 500 kids (12 and under) through the gate will get a voucher for a free Smith's hot dog, Utz chips, and a fountain drink. And its Two Buck Tuesday, so fans (of baseball, and beer) can also get in on brew specials through the sixth inning.

7:05 p.m. // 110 E. 10th St. // 456-1300

wed 7.02

UPMC Sunset Music Series featuring The Bigness w/ SYMBA

It's hard to beat a Presque Isle at dusk and great tunes, so the UPMC Sunset Mu-

sic Sevries makes all kinds of sense for a Wednesday night destination. Jamestown folk duo SYMBA will start off the night at 5:30 p.m., with Philadelphia bluesy Americana band The Bigness to step in at 7 p.m.

5:30 p.m. // Presque Isle Beach
One // discoverpi.com/events

FILM presents Teenagers

Teenagers didn't always exist - they were invented, a new generational concept born of a changing, world-over tide some generations ago. Exploring that concept's coming-of-age by blending rare archival materials, portraits and re-enactments based on found diary entries from the early-20th Century, Teenage - nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival - makes its northwestern Pa. debut tonight. It's the latest great installment of FILM at the Erie Art Museum, and, as always, tickets are just \$5.

6 p.m. (doors), film at 7 // 20 E. Fifth St. // erieartmuseum.org

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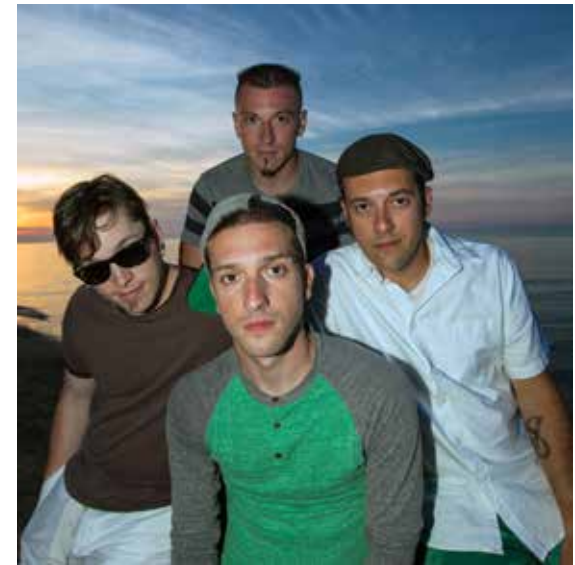
MoChester at Dockside's

Since 2001, Rochester pop-rock band MoChester has taken pieces of Motown, reggae, and infectious catchy hooks and shaped them into their signature sound. Yet even today, the quartet still tries to tweak their style and push new boundaries while retaining their distinctive vibe.

"We're just trying to get out of our comfort zone a little bit and travel to some new places and keep pushing out," MoChester keyboardist Jon Sheffer says over the phone. "Our general direction right now is to stay true to our sound that we've already created but to still grow with it."

Erieites will have a chance to see the continued evolution of Sheffer and his bandmates when they play a free show Friday, June 27 at Dockside's, the first time the band has played at the State Street establishment. Fans of O.A.R. and Sublime will like MoChester's West Coast style, while pop purists will get drawn in by tracks like "Crackerjack Tattoo." The band will also be playing new tracks for fans that may have caught past shows at Sherlock's and the Crooked i.

It's always exciting to see a good band make some adjustments and push their own sonic boundaries, and it's even better when you can witness the continued evolution all for free. MoChester has got the goods — now you just need to witness them in person. — Alex Bieler
7 p.m. Friday, June 27 // 1015 State St. // 459.0099



Contributed Photo

Motown-influenced, Rochester-based MoChester takes to the stage at Dockside's.

fri 7.04

Great Blue Heron Music Festival

The Great Blue Heron Music Festival returns for the 23rd year in a row, ready to provide a whole weekend's worth of Americana and jam bands. The long-running summer bash provides plenty of options for people of all ages, with kids and teen tents, as well as the brand new healing tent, which allows people to partake in yoga, meditation, and other relaxing activities.

July 4-6 // 2361 Waits Corner Road, Sherman, N.Y. // greatblueheron.com

sat 7.05

Chasing Moira

In just four short years, Chasing Moira has put its own stamp on Erie's alternative

scene, earning fans with a rocking mix of jammy riffs and jazzy sax rips. The local sextet returns to Sherlock's this Saturday night for a chance to catch more Moira.

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

Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series

Head back (or, go for the first time) to the piazza of this celebrated Erie confectionery to delight in the return of NYC Latin jazz masters, as Romolo Chocolates serves up the next installment of its Summer Music Series with sweet sounds dished out by Bill O'Connell and the Latin Jazz All-Stars. The show, sure to be delectable, is free and open to the public.

6 p.m. // 1525 W. Eighth St. // 452.1933

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A summer's worth of free Tuesday nights on the Bayfront kicks off July 8.

8 Great Tuesdays All Stars

On July 8, an Erie tradition turns 15 years old, so it's appropriate that the first outing for 8 Great Tuesdays will bring together a team of local favorites to kick off the summer series.

While your typical Tuesday might include laundry or binge-watching the latest hit Netflix series, 8 Great Tuesdays turns the weekday into an event, and this year's opening night includes local guitar maestro Eric Brewer, multi-talented Erie music veteran Doug Phillips, and several more yet-to-be-named artists, as well as an opening performing by Los Angeles indie-folk act The Evening Guests.

We may be celebrating a special birthday for the summer series, but 8 Great Tuesday is the one providing all of the gifts, with free shows at the Burger King Amphitheater featuring local and national artists and several vendors. It's all of the fun of a Friday night affair, packed into a wonderful Tuesday night. – Alex Bieler

6 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8 // Liberty Park // porterie.org

some great local wine while enjoying the sights and sounds of East Ave rock band. Admission and parking is free, just bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy!

5 p.m. // 10225 East Lake Road North East // pennshore.com

Baumgardner play as part of the Edinboro Lake Resort Sunset Patio Concerts.

5 p.m. // 12690 Edinboro Rd., Edinboro // 434.3307

mon 7.07

"Sounds of Summer" Music Series

We know very well that summers in Erie come with live music, and lots of it. The City of Erie presents yet another opportunity to see live tunes this summer, every Monday night, at the "Sounds of Summer" Music Series. So liven up the beginning of your week by swinging by Ostrow Apartments for the Bugle Boy Swing Band. Next week the Dixie Doodlers play at St. Mary's Home. The series is a free event and open to the public.

7 to 8 p.m. // 4220 Davidson Ave. // erie.pa.us

sun 7.06

Edinboro Lake Resort Sunset Patio Concerts

Picture this: you, spending a (hopefully) beautiful Sunday evening lakeside listening to some great live tunes, cold beer in hand, the wind playing with your hair as you admire the sun's reflection off of Edinboro Lake. Sound appealing? Yes? Then make the short drive to the Sunset Grill to see Jay

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- Sat. Jul. 5** Chasing Moira

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Music Reviews

Strands of Oak

HEAL
Dead Oceans

★★★★★



Strands of Oak's Timothy Showalter's always had a knack for creating raw, captivating songs with fantastical premises – a post-apocalyptic world here, a vengeful Dan Aykroyd seeking out James Belushi's drug dealer there – but the Philadelphia storyteller turns the camera on himself on the unflinching *HEAL*. For his musical autobiography, Showalter turns up the volume, eschewing his stripped-down Americana of past works with roaring '70s-style rock. The change hits immediately, as opener "Goshen '97" roars along with help from Dinosaur Jr's J Mascis on guitar while Showalter gives us a glimpse into his teenage years. "I was lonely but I was having fun," he sings, a youth depending on music for solace. The theme of music as a life raft in a sea of tough times sticks out in the album, particularly on the excellent slow-burner "JM," a tribute to the late Jason Molina. Now Showalter uses his own music to overcome his personal struggles, providing excellent source material for others looking to *HEAL*. – Alex Bieler

The Antlers

Familiars
Anti-

★★★★★



While some bands would often try to recreate a breakout album, The Antlers have drifted away from *Hospice*, a devastatingly sad and absolutely wonderful collection. "The reality is that we're not going to make that record again and there'd really be no reason to; we already did it, it already exists" said Antlers frontman Peter Silberman in an interview with the *Erie Reader*. True to form, latest album *Familiars* extrapolates on the dreamlike haze of their 2012 EP *Undersea*, offering up a set of nine slowly evolving atmospheric tracks. Opener "Palace" sparkles from the start, ambling forward as the melody is overtaken by soothing horns. "Doppelganger" finds Silberman singing from a lower register, moving away from his emotive falsetto to create a brooding ambience. Elsewhere, tracks meander sleepily, pleasant sonic landscapes that feel more inquisitive than "sad," a label that The Antlers have born since *Hospice*. No, the new album won't be as familiar to *Hospice* diehards, but it's an excellent effort for an evolving band. – Alex Bieler

The Last Hombres

Odd Fellows Rest
Final Man Music

★★★★



It's been almost a decade since influential roots rockers The Last Hombres produced anything of note; but on their latest release, *Odd Fellows Rest*, the addition of Chris James on the Wurlitzer and Tom Ryan on drums to original members Mike Meehan, Paul Schmitz, and Russ Seger shows that this band's been doing everything but resting. At times rollicking and at other times introspective, *Odd Fellows Rest* knocks the rust off that trademark folk twang while simultaneously polishing up their weepers, like the aptly titled track, "Testify" and the Tom Waits-esque "Streetlights." Granted, there's some serious guitar-slangin' goin' on throughout the album, augmenting the Americana vibe reflective of their long intermingling with now-deceased members of The Band, Rick Danko and Levon Helm. Sad and sweet yet stimulating and reassuring, *Odd Fellows Rest* will certainly please fans of *Redemption*-era Hombres, but more importantly, will introduce these unsung heroes of roots rock to a whole new generation of listeners. – Cory Vaillancourt

F--ed Up

Glass Boys
Matador

★★★★★



It's not quite fair to compare F--ed Up's new album *Glass Boys* to their last release, the sprawling and excellent *David Comes to Life*. In fact, the Canadian hardcore group seems quite content to not try and duplicate the highly conceptual work, instead trimming down on the overall length of and focusing on a hard-hitting, more straightforward album. It's understandable that Damian Abraham, Mike Halietchuk, and the rest of the F--ed Up crew have moved on from the ambitious concept idea, as they've already nailed it with *David*, but *Glass Boys* just doesn't seem nearly as interesting as its predecessor. That's not a major slight on *Glass Boys*, however, as the latest album has plenty to like, notably the ringing walls of guitar on opener "Echo Boomer" the fuzzy outro of "Warm Change," and Abraham's ferocious growls on "Led By Hand." *Glass Boys* may not be the epic that fans might expect from F--ed Up, but it sure is a rocker in its own right. – Alex Bieler

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The Soulful Sounds of Summer

Gloria Reuben kicks off Romolo Chocolates Music Series

By: Ryan Smith

I'll admit it right upfront: At first, I had a notion that the Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series (this year's recent kickoff performance my first taste) coulda been, well, maybe a little on the vanilla side.

Sweet goodness, was I off on that.

The sounds of Gloria Reuben and her band – hanging in the air at the Romolo piazza, mingled with a perfect perfume of fine, craft chocolates galore – were smooth as silk, nice and light, and served up neat and tight, to be sure.

But that June 21, sun-kissed summer evening performance was a good, long sight from being flat on the palate.

I wasn't surprised – I've heard good things about the great music at Romolo's in the summertime, a treat of a series started in 2010 by owner Tony Stefanelli that brings world-class performers out to play — for free, for everyone — on the classy West Eighth Street confectionery's pretty patio.

And R&B/jazz singer Reuben, a first-timer to the series, started what's sure to be another stellar year off just right. She has serious chops, and a sultry presence to match (it just so happens she's a pretty famous actress, too – known for her work on the TV series *ER*, and more recently in major films like *Lincoln* and *12 Years a Slave*), and she was most expertly supported by the Ashby Brothers Quintet, a returning series favorite featuring jazz notables Marty Ashby on guitars, Tom Wendt on drums, Tony DePaolis on bass, and Shay Pierre on piano.

The performance was made all the sweeter, too, when it became the backdrop for a low-key, but widely felt, off-the-cuff tribute from Stefanelli to Erie's own Bob Protzman, the long-storied national jazz writer and local authority on the subject who, the very day after that show at Romolo, unveiled a big, beautiful gift – 'Everything Jazz by Bob Protzman' – to the region.

Protzman's 'Everything Jazz' – a 6,000-CD collection amassing the now-77-year-old's decades of interest in, and intrigue with, that most truly American form – is all its name suggests, and, now housed at Erie County's Blasco Library, it belongs to all of us.

Deepest thanks for that, Bob. At this year's Romolo Series debut, Stefanelli said Protzman is among those who've taught him a lot of what he knows about jazz, and music in general. He's one of the people Stefanelli thanks for making the series what it's become – and what it's still becoming.

Interviewed by the Erie Times-News' Kevin Flowers for an article published June 22, the



Top: Gloria Reuben kicks off Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series. Bottom: Erie's own Bob Protzman was given props for his decades-long contributions to the musical community during the Romolo Chocolates Summer Concert Series kickoff performance June 21. That same weekend, Protzman presented a 6,000-plus-volume gift of music – 'Everything Jazz by Bob Protzman' – to Erie County's Blasco Library.

day of the collection's unveiling, Protzman said this of jazz:

"It's about feeling. ...Don't worry about understanding it. See if you can feel it. And if you can feel it, try listening to it some more."

At Romolo, when the music's playing, that feeling's there.

To find out all about the next sweet sounds being served up at the Romolo Chocolate Summer Music Series, visit the confectionery at 1525 W. Eighth St., online at romolochocolates.com, or by phone at 452.1933. Ryan Smith can be contacted at RSmith@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or to comment scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/ndvev>



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Gilbert Gottfried

A Wonderful Hypocrisy

By: Cory Vaillancourt

‘Subtlety’ is a word not oft associated with comedian Gilbert Gottfried – his jarring delivery and his unwillingness to adhere to the “too soon” convention have fashioned him a reputation as one prone to shocking people with jokes about Sept. 11 and the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami (for which he was fired from a duck-helmed Aflac ad campaign) in a nasally grating tone.

However shocking this may be to those who don’t understand that “too soon” is the punch line, Gottfried’s actually been talking to your kids for years now, most notably as the parrot Iago from Disney’s *Aladdin*.

When he talked to me – at 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning – we reflected on such duplicity, as well as getting arrested in drag, The Beatles, hand lotion, and old-school show business.

Cory Vaillancourt: So we’re early risers today. Why do you let your people do this to you?

Gilbert Gottfried: Yeah, it’s just inhumane what we have to put up with, waking up before noon.

CV: I hear ya. Have you ever been to Erie before?

GG: It’s a weird thing – I never remember places that I’ve worked or cities I’ve been to; there are places, entire cities where I swear I’ve never been before and then I get to the club and I’ve signed their wall. So for all I know I was in Erie, Pennsylvania, working, just three days ago.

CV: Well, we’re glad to have you back, regardless of whether or not you’ve been here before.

GG: [Laughs] So when I’m on stage I’ll just scream out, “It’s great to be back!”

CV: I really enjoy your material, and I wanted to ask you a little bit about that creative process. How do you write your jokes?

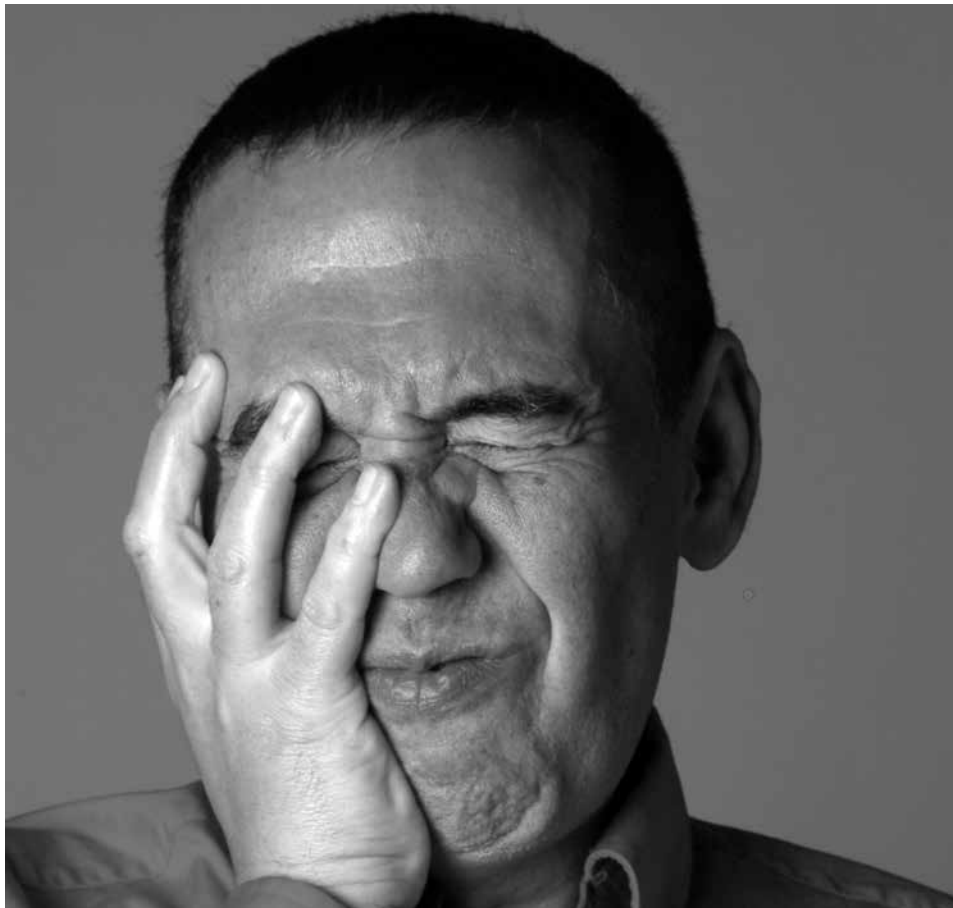
GG: [Laughing] I certainly don’t plan very well. Anything in my act is something that came to me at one time or another, or over a period of time. But the actual sitting down – I’ve written some articles; I have an article that’s coming out in *Playboy* next month – with articles or the book I wrote, I had to sit down and write, but as far as my act, I never had that good work ethic.

CV: Let’s talk about tragedy and comedy – tsunamis and schools shootings, you know – hilarious stuff.

GG: Yes!

CV: What can you say about a media that survives by pushing this shit to the front page but then crucifies you for saying it?

GG: It’s a wonderful hypocrisy. The whole media world loves tragedy – I’ve heard it referred to as “tragedy porn.” And it really is. It’s something everyone gets turned on by and everyone wants to have the next big tragedy story, as long as you do it with an



Contributed Photo

arched eyebrow and looking like you’re really sad and personally affected by it. But if you look at it as anything other than that, then you’re being the bad-taste one.

Another thing that also got me about the media is that if something is said that they think is in bad taste, or something is shown that they think shouldn’t be shown, they show it and they repeat it, and it’s okay for them because they’re just reporting on it.

I think people like the idea of being offended.

CV: Even going back to a guy like Don Rickles.

GG: Oh yeah! But now, especially with the Internet, it’s like you could say, “I like jelly beans” and you’ll get people outraged.

CV: With all that being said, how much duck do you eat each year?

GG: [Laughs] Yeah, no, I’ve crossed that off. I do enjoy walking through Chinatown seeing the ducks hanging on the hooks though.

CV: Your professional life has not been without scandal, but your personal life – as far as I know – has been remarkably scandal-free. If you were to be involved in some sort of personal scandal what kind would it be?

GG: I think finding dead bodies buried under my floorboards, and I’d be arrested in full drag.

CV: While running for U.S. Senate.

Comedian Gilbert Gottfried will perform live at Jr’s Last Laugh June 26 to 28.

GG: And chicken blood all over my walls. I’ll be writing, “Praise Satan.”

CV: That brings up another good point; there’s amazingly little information about your private life out there. How have you been able to keep it so private?

GG: Well, the reason there’s very little about it and I’ve been able to keep it private is that there’s nothing really all that interesting. That’s the problem. If I had a more interesting private life, it’d probably be all over the place.

CV: So what do you do when you’re not working? How do you keep yourself happy?

GG: Oh... [laughing]

CV: Or is this going back to your personal scandal?

GG: I keep myself happy by always having a good supply of hand lotion.

CV: Smooth. Now, you’ve been around a while, you’ve seen a lot of people and worked with a lot of people. Who do you think are the up-and-coming or the next generation of comedians in your style?

GG: Wow, I don’t know [pauses]. See, it’s hard for me to watch comedy, like stand-up comedy – for me, watching comedy is like going to work on your day off. When I watch a comedian, at the very best I can go,

“Oh, that’s clever.” You’re more critical of it, not like an audience member.

CV: So who have been some of your favorite people to work with over the years?

GG: No one in particular. I hate all of them. [laughs]

I mean, I remember like a thousand years ago when I did the scene in *Beverly Hills Cop 2*, working with Eddie Murphy was fun. We had a lot of laughs during that scene, because we were ad-libbing. There’s been a lot of people... John Lenn... Oh, I was going to say “John Lennon,” like, yeah, back when we wrote *Sgt. Pepper* together [laughing]. No, I meant John Ritter. John Ritter was nice to work with.

CV: And what have you got going on now? You mentioned *Playboy*. Books, TV, Internets?

GG: Well, I still have a book and DVD on my website, gilbertgottfried.com, and my Twitter @realGilbert, but right now I have a podcast called *Gilbert Gottfried’s Amazing Colossal Podcast* that you can subscribe to on iTunes. And that’s been doing well, ratings-wise, at least from what I can make of the numbers. I interviewed Dick Cavett, Jeff Ross, a bunch of people. And mainly, I like finding out more of the connections to “old” Hollywood, so I interviewed Sara Karloff, Boris Karloff’s daughter. And that was interesting, like whenever you feel like you can get some connection with classic showbiz... and this comedian Marty Allen...

CV: Of [seminal 1960s comedy team] Allen and Rossi?

GG: Allen and Rossi! Yeah! You know them?

CV: I do! My dad lives in Vegas, and he used to bump into Rossi out there all the time. What’s interesting is that they were there when the Beatles made their first appearance on Ed Sullivan.

GG: That’s right! Allen and Rossi followed the Beatles on Ed Sullivan!

CV: Supposedly Rossi’s good friends with Paul. They hang out.

GG: Yeah, and Marty Allen, here’s this 90-year old funny looking Jew with frizzy hair and bulging eyes, and he’s going “As my friend John Lennon used to say...”

And to me that’s just jaw-dropping. I would love to have eavesdropped on some of the conversations those two had.

CV: Well, let’s wind this up so we can both get back to bed.

GG: [laughing] Yes!

CV: What can people expect from your show here at Jr’s Last Laugh at the end of June?

GG: They can expect to sit there for about five minutes, look at each other, and say, “Who’s idea was it to see Gilbert Gottfried?!”

Gilbert Gottfried is scheduled to perform at Jr’s Last Laugh on June 26, 27, and 28. For tickets, visit jrslastlaugh.com.

Cory Vaillancourt can be contacted at cVaillancourt@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/8ea7x>



Geeked Out

Action Toy Man: Erie's locally-owned toyshop

By: John Lindvay

Action figures are small armatures of pressed plastic glued together with points of articulation. They run the gamut of pop-culture and typically we remember them from our youth. Action Toy Man is Erie's locally owned toyshop that makes us all regress to our six-year-old selves and be washed with waves of nostalgia.

Action Toy Man is a three-story store on the corner where Elmwood Avenue meets 26th Street. Inside are dioramas galore of all your favorite memories of childhood. Groupings of *Star Wars*, *Superman*, *Legos*, and *Transformers* are set around the store. Walls are covered floor to ceiling in boxed action figures. Outside, I was a self-proclaimed grown-ass man; inside, I'm 10 years old again, attempting to resist every urge to sit down cross-legged and play with the set of *Street Shark* figures.

Yes – *STREET SHARKS!* I bet you forgot about them, just like I did until I saw a set of them sitting on a shelf, begging to be taken home.

Patrick Short is the owner-operator of Action Toy Man. Did you know that this store has been around since 2010? I didn't – and for that, I am ashamed! Patrick, after losing his job at KB Toys while still finishing up his college degree to become an electrician, decided he wanted to open his own store selling action figures – something he was predestined to do.

"Figures have just been my whole life; between having a brother who is ten years older [and his collection of *Star Wars* toys]... it just never stopped." His older brother loved *Star Wars*, and so Patrick spent the majority of his childhood peddling *Garbage Pail Kids* cards to bank money to purchase *Star Wars* figures. When talking to Patrick, it becomes clear that he not only loves these figures, he loves sharing that love with his customers.

When he first opened, he thought that his store would only attract others just like himself (read: collectors, geeks, nerds, etc.). Except that wasn't the case at all. He gets everyone from kids, to grandparents, and everyone in-between.

He is a father himself, and it's no surprise that his son loves the same types of toys as he did. Except in their house, it breaks down like this: In one corner is Patrick's old small *Wrestlemania* ring and in his son's, is the newer larger *Summer Slam* ring.

This carries over to all the genres, and it's something Patrick says the toy manufacturers got right. Patrick commented that every-



one has at least a few great memories from their childhood, and more likely than not, those memories can be unlocked by seeing the toys of their youth.

Modern toy makers are always looking to find a way to recreate the toys from our youth today. While it may seem very basic and capitalistic, it still allows us to look back at those good memories. "It's the subconscious that's chasing after those good memories," Patrick added.

Patrick spent the majority of his childhood peddling *Garbage Pail Kids* cards to bank money to purchase *Star Wars* figures.

Currently the store is an impressive sight to behold. With a recently opened third floor where board games and *G.I. Joes* are displayed, the store is massive and will allow Patrick to continue to grow. As of now, he estimates that he has over hundreds of thousands of individual pieces, but there are probably over a million pieces for sale, as he has over 130 consignment partners that he works with.

Erie tries very hard to behave as a large city but stores like this struggle to survive here. Action Toy Man is the only action figure store we have, and it has been a long road to get to his modest level of success Patrick enjoys today. The secret he said was one

Patrick Short, owner-operator of Action Toy Man, stands amidst the vast collection of collectables, including – yes! – *Street Sharks*.

part listening and one part responding to what the customers want.

"I built this store one customer at a time," Patrick admits. Which isn't too surprising, because after I left having talked to him for 30 minutes about his store, I immediately wondered when I could get back there to look and talk some more. This is old-school small-business 101: make sure each customer leaves with a great impression, then they will sell the store for you through recommendations. He does admit, however, that the first year was nearly impossible. Looking at his numbers, many would have thrown the towel in and moved on to the next project. But he persevered.

The future is looking bright for this little toyshop that could. Recently, Patrick has begun the works of creating a membership program. "Customers kept asking me, 'Hey do you have a place where I could get a coffee and sit and read or just hangout?'" Patrick



Photo by John Lindvay

told me. In response to this, he turned half the upstairs into an apartment for future potential members-only Pay-Per-View events or perhaps weekend classes on building cosplay outfits. While most of those details aren't hammered out yet, I have to admit I'll be waiting in line to sign up.

John Lindvay can be contacted at jlindvay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @FightStrife. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/oyua5>



Sudoku

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

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

Answer to Last Issue's Sudoku Puzzle

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Compass direction
 - 4 Caviar
 - 7 To be announced (abbr.)
 - 10 Other (Sp.)
 - 11 Yale student
 - 12 Heat
 - 14 Charged lepton
 - 15 Apt
 - 17 Aid to Dependent Children (abbr.)
 - 18 Flexible wood
 - 19 Noun-forming (suf.)
 - 20 Ironwood
 - 22 Nose (pref.)
 - 24 Fort
 - 27 19th century rifle bullet
 - 31 Blue (Fr.)
 - 32 Stool pigeon
 - 34 Estrade
 - 35 Showy flower
- DOWN**
- 1 Detachable button
 - 2 Upholstery fabric
 - 3 Eternity
 - 4 Roe (2 words)
 - 5 Strong-scented

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 6 Iron (Ger.)
- 7 Brace
- 8 Low
- 9 Son of Zeus
- 10 Tumor (suf.)
- 13 Physicians, for short
- 16 Carriage
- 18 Old times
- 21 Seal with oakum
- 23 Ancient Syrian port
- 24 Can. Broadcasting Corp. (abbr.)
- 25 Bantu language
- 26 Shellac
- 28 4th incarnation of Vishnu
- 29 3 (Rom. numeral)
- 30 Compass direction
- 33 Palm
- 36 Russ. inland sea
- 38 Swed. county
- 40 Bastard wing
- 42 Abnormal (pref.)
- 43 Pledge
- 44 Aoudad
- 46 Mosque in Jerusalem
- 48 Bedouin headband cord
- 49 Benedictine title
- 51 Television channel
- 52 Thus (Lat.)

	1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	
10					11				12			13
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- July 9 Sam Hyman classic pop & blues
- July 16 Eric Brewer & Friends jam infused with jazz & classic rock
- July 23 Get Your Phil at Noon Erie Philharmonic Brass Quintet
- July 30 the heliotropes wanderlust-inspired originals & re-imagined classics
- Aug 6 The Breeze Band classic R&B, soul, blues
- Aug 13 Get Your Phil at Noon Erie Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet
- Aug 20 Zack Orr ambient future folk
- Aug 27 Members of Gannon University's Erie Chamber Orchestra music from the Silent Film Era

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ER Sports

Recognizing the Plethora of Local Talent

By: James R. LeCorchick

I FELT FOR many years that athletes from the Erie area have been overlooked by colleges when it comes to recruiting, but it appears that is starting to change. I have to give credit to the coaches as well as the media for helping get the word out on our talented youngsters.

It is becoming more and more apparent that schools in all sports, and all divisions, are aware of the top-quality athletes we are producing, many excelling at a high-level. Just this past season, a few examples include Villa Maria's **Kayla McBride** (Notre Dame) and General McLane's **Val Majewski** (Edinboro University) who garnered national honors in basketball.

Here is a quick look at a couple of Erie's finest who recently accepted Division I offers:

ISAAC MATTSO (HARBOR CREEK)

This future University of Pittsburgh Panther had a tremendous season for the Huskies, starring on the mound, in the field, and at the bat. At Pitt, however, he will concentrate on pitching, and his senior stats show why Panthers coach **Joe Jordano** is excited about that.

While pitching HC into the District 10 semi-finals, the right-handed hurler compiled a 7-1 record with an ERA of 0.85, striking out an incredible 93 batters in just 491/3 innings. It's no wonder Jordano, a former standout at Tech High School and Westminster College is delighted to have the Huskies ace on board.

Mattson was also a star at the plate as he batted a gaudy .537 with seven doubles, seven home runs, and 28 runs batted in.

At Pitt, Mattson will be playing for former Mercyhurst College coach Jordano, who is the all-time winning-est baseball coach in Panthers' history in his 15 seasons. The ex-Centaur great had led his Pitt team to 10 post-season appearances and developed a dozen All-Americans, 49 of his players signing professional contracts.

In 2010, the Erie native was named the Chuck Tanner Collegiate Manager of the Year.

When queried how he heard about the HC standout, the Pitt mentor explained, "His coach **Tim McQueeney** first emailed me and then Prep coach **Dave Hess** called me." Hess, who teaches at Harbor Creek, said, "Coach,

you have to see this player at Harbor Creek. He could be special."

Jordano added, "I thought that was cool that a coach from another team took the time to call. So I added that to what Coach McQueeney described and thought we better get up there and see him."

Jordano and his staff travelled to Ainsworth for a playoff and game and came away impressed. "He just looked very athletic and carried himself like a pitcher," he added. "He has good size and will definitely get bigger and stronger. We're excited to get him."

The Pitt coach also pointed out he thought Erie high school baseball was very good and

It is becoming more and more apparent that schools in all sports, and all divisions, are aware of the top-quality athletes we are producing, many excelling at a high-level.

that there are other players they are keeping their eyes on.

There's no doubt the Panthers landed a good one by signing the Huskies star.

JAMES TRUCILLA (CATHEDRAL PREP)

The highly-regarded defensive tackle has established himself as one of the top defenders in the high school ranks, the Rambler ace ranking as a three-star prospect by Rivals.com. Three stars is an extremely high-rating for someone entering his senior season, as an example Notre Dame just signed a pair of three-star defensive linemen.

The 6-2, 270-pound prospect will play in the Atlantic Coast Conference for the University of Virginia Cavaliers.

Trucilla, a rugged performer, who is known for his quickness and power, will take a winning attitude to UVA, as he has played in just one losing game as a two-year starter for the Ramblers, CP posting a 28-1 mark in his sophomore and junior seasons while capturing one state title and going to the state semis his

other season.

It was a banner junior year for Trucilla, as he had 11 tackles for loss, five-and-a-half sacks, forced three fumbles, and recovered three loose balls. His prowess on the defensive side of the ball earned him first-team all-state honors on several squads.

Trucilla had 11 D-I offers when he made his decision, and many, many more were still knocking on the door. When asked why he made his decision before his senior season, the articulate performer told the *Erie Reader*, "The University of Virginia was one of the first schools to offer," adding that, "their coaching staff believed in me, and I felt it was a perfect fit from the time I walked on the campus. I felt immediately it was a perfect balance of academics and athletics for me."

Trucilla added, "I am interested in majoring in business and they have a great school for this."

Regarding his first three years at CP, the Rambler ace explained, "I feel blessed to be part of such a successful program. Winning a state championship and playing with the great upperclassmen was something I'll never forget.

"Their leadership was so important, and it made me realize how important it is to lead by example. I hope I can follow in their footsteps. Also, the direction and support I have received from Coach **[Mike] Mischler** and his staff are incredible."

Speaking of Coach Mischler, the Rambler boss told the ER about Trucilla, "First of all, when I think of James, I think of a young man with great character and great desire.

"His work ethic is incredible, and he has done things in the weight room I've never seen done by a high school player. He can bench 245 pounds 21 times and this really impressed the college scouts."

The highly-successful Rambler coach added, "James is very athletic for his size and really understands the game. He provides great leadership on and off the field."

As far as committing to the University of Virginia and sticking with it, Trucilla pointed out, "Coach and my parents have a rule about making a commitment and sticking with it. I



believe you don't go back on your word."

ON A DOWN NOTE, I was a bit taken aback - actually I was totally stunned - when the General McLane School Board opened the coaching position for boys basketball, first-year coach **Brian Schulz** being forced to reapply if he so wishes.

Schulz, the son of legendary GM coach **Andy Schulz**, who he replaced, posted a 15-8 record in his initial season with an inexperienced squad. The Lancers were eliminated in the District 10 playoffs by Oil City High School.

I have no idea what the reasoning was to open this job, especially at such a late date, but I do know it's not fair to the basketball players. By the time the GM board gets around to naming a coach, summer camps and workouts will be over, and this is when winning programs make the most progress.

However, this is the same district that had its football team move from Class AAA to Class AAAA for the playoffs, for whatever reason. And this isn't exactly fair to that squad, as the Lancers struggled in the post-season in the lower class as it was.

There is no doubt in my mind the opening of the basketball job was political and until the board releases a reasonable explanation, I will continue to believe that. I'm guessing the little "Skipper," or "Chipper," didn't get enough playing time and the board took matters into its own hands.

A grave mistake!

Ironically enough, Andy Schulz was fired 30 years ago by a GM School Board after his first season, but got the job back after a firestorm of public opinion. He went on to coach 29 years, posting a sizzling overall record of 600 wins and just 179 setbacks while capturing numerous D-10 crowns and a state title. Will history repeat itself?

James R. LeCorchick can be contacted at JRLSportsReport@gmail.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @JRLSports. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/cn74f>



Photos Courtesy of Ramblers Football

Top: CATHEDRAL PREP wide receiver Charley Fessler has committed to play his college football at Northwestern University in the Big 10. Left: CATHEDRAL PREP defensive tackle James Trucilla picks up sack against Lake Catholic. Right: Trucilla sacks the Buffalo St. Joseph quarterback.

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