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

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

504 State St | Erie, PA 16501
814.874.0558
www.rickfilippi.com

Editors-in-Chief:
Brian Graham & Adam Welsh

Managing Editor:
Ben Spегgen

Contributing Editor:
Rebecca Styn

Editor -at-Large:
Cory Vaillancourt

Copy Editor:
Alex Bieler

Contributors:
Alex Bieler
Mary Birdsong
Pen Ealain
Rick Filippi
Iggy Imig
James R. LeCorchick
John Lindvay
Lili Morton
Dan Schank
Jess Scutella
Ryan Smith
Jay Stevens
Rebecca Styn
Bryan Toy
Cory Vaillancourt
Tim Welsh
Jim Wertz

Cover Design:
Liz Venuto

Photographers:
Ryan Smith
Brad Triana

Designer:
Leah Yungwirth

Design Intern:
Liz Venuto

Writing Interns:
Jessica Courter
Khadija Djellouli
Will Taylor

32 W. Eighth St. #302
Erie PA, 16501
contact@eriereader.com

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FROM THE EDITORS

If you work, live, or play in downtown Erie, you noticed a change the morning of Monday, July 21.

An overwhelming wave of quiet enveloped the streets, signaling that the Roar had been hushed to a whisper, as the throngs of motorcyclists departed the Gem City after the now-five-day festival.

While that festival was peaking over the weekend, a conversation was gaining momentum online at ErieReader.com — one started by Reader contributor Jim Wertz with a story titled "Tickle's Pickle."

You know the place, the modest, no-frills squat deli, known for the "Big Freddy," situated on Fourth Street between Peach and State streets, the place that often has a line spilling out its door during lunchtime on any given day of the week.

But as Jim wrote, not Tuesday, July 15 — the day before the Roar on the Shore officially began and the day the City blocked off Fourth Street between Peach and French streets, posting 'Road Closed Ahead' signs, as the mammoth mainstage was erected therewithin and orange plastic fencing lined the sides of State down to Third Street.

"We're small business. Small businesses can't afford this kind of disruption," Tickle's owner Sue Wyant told Jim. "This used to just happen during Celebrate Erie because they put the stage down here. Now it's Roar on the Shore and Celebrate Erie, so we lose twice during the year."

"I work downtown," someone wrote in the comment section shortly after the article posted, "I can tell you for sure that Roar on the Shore has deterred my regular clientele from my place of business, and I do not benefit from this event as everyone seems to think."

Another person followed up just a little over an hour later explaining that she had closed her busi-

ness downtown. "Ghost town for sure!" she wrote. "We learned our lesson last year."

But Roar on the Shore is *anything* but a ghost town. Several folks from the Reader crew strolled down State Street Friday to take in the event, observe the happenings, and gauge the festivities the day after the parade wound its way through the region.

To call it bustling and booming would be an understatement. While the final numbers have yet to be reported as of the time we sent our pages off to the printer (we'll be posting updates online, as Jim continues his coverage), one couldn't help but notice the droves of bikers, bike enthusiasts, non-bikers, and non-bike enthusiasts all pushing up and down the sidewalks, crowding in to see stunt bikers, inching closer to admire the two-wheeled machinery, and jostling about to get a jumbo turkey leg or fried mozzarella, fried zucchini, or fried pickles — and that was just Friday afternoon.

But therein lies the real pickle — at least from a small-business's perspective. If you're a first-timer to a city, why venture into somewhere foreign, strange, and alien — somewhere where you know not what awaits you — when you can settle for something that universally tastes the same?

Fried mozzarella — or pickles — will always taste like fried mozzarella, or fried pickles.

That is, you know what you're getting before your order is handed to you. To someone not in the know, a "Big Freddy" or even a "Two Much Freddy" can be daunting, frightening even. And that's only if you were bold enough to stray slightly from the congestion and open the door to a local deli, walk in and snag a menu, and place your order, which doesn't have to be something as distinctive — as "Erie" — and could just be a damn good turkey and cheese

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sandwich.

But what's more — and if those quotes above tell us anything — is that local businesses seem to have seen a drop off in their regular clientele during the event, forcing them to shutter their doors and await a return to normalcy. A return of their faithful customers once the action's died down.

Like it or not, there's no denying that Roar on the Shore stimulates Erie's economy — people visit our city, stay here, buy here, and enjoy the entertainment here — and that's a good thing. But perhaps most importantly with events like these — if we're truly looking to use them as fundraising efforts for the Erie region — we want those visitors to depart as ambassadors of the city, of the region, to tell others that something special is happening here, something worth returning to.

So why not highlight our small businesses — the restaurants and the shops, the people and places that make us what we are: Erie. That is, why marginalize what makes us distinct when we can capitalize on it?

As we watch Roar on the Shore conclude its ninth year, we can safely assume that the planning for a tenth year is already underway. In that planning, a better dialogue between those running the event and the small businesses in our area needs to be had so that we're not having the same conversations come July 2015, because if the past is any indication, people will return to the Gem City for this event.

"Man, I love this place," one out-of-town biker, who was back for his third time, told someone in the Reader crew that Friday. "You guys have cool restaurants and shops — really."

It'd be hard to believe he's simply talking about the jumbo turkey legs and fried pickles.

Schedule Highlights

wqln's summer music series

sounds around town




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Considering the City

Urbanizing Gas Stations

By CIVITAS members Lisa Austin and Stephen Sonnenberg

Today, Erie drivers can pull in to a Country Fair to “Drink Up, Chow Down and Fuel Up.” At any Giant Eagle GetGo folks can “Get In, Get Out and Get Going.” Thanks to the “Kicked Up Convenience” of a new Sheetz on Peninsula Drive, motorists will be able to buy gas right next to Presque Isle’s gateway.

Yes, Erie needs gas stations – but their aggressive, suburban designs must be tamed. Urban critic Dhuru A. Thadani notes that gas stations demonstrate “little regard for pedestrians” by locating the “garage, cashier, and store in a structure at the rear of the property.” Unfortunately, given the loss of Sanders Market and other downtown grocery stores, car-less residents are often left to shop for food at gas stations. City gas stations should be “walkable.”

Thadani reports that the majority of U.S. stations “are located on corner properties” where they “have the greatest negative impact.” Thankfully, Thadani offers a solution: Leave the existing gas station in place and “insert a corner building.” Galina Tachieva’s *Sprawl Repair Manual* provides a diagram outlining this kind of improvement.

We need gas stations, but the ones we have are, simply put, unattractive. Does this matter? Yes.

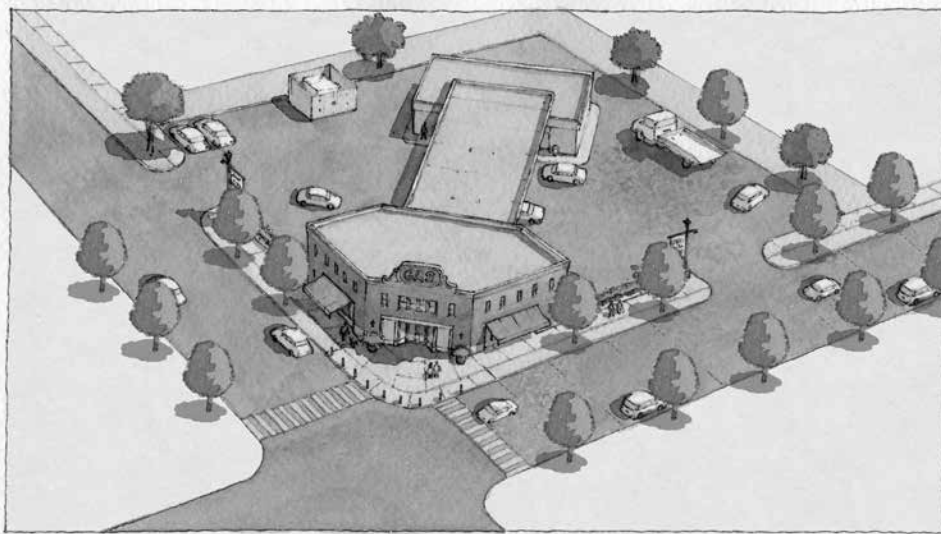
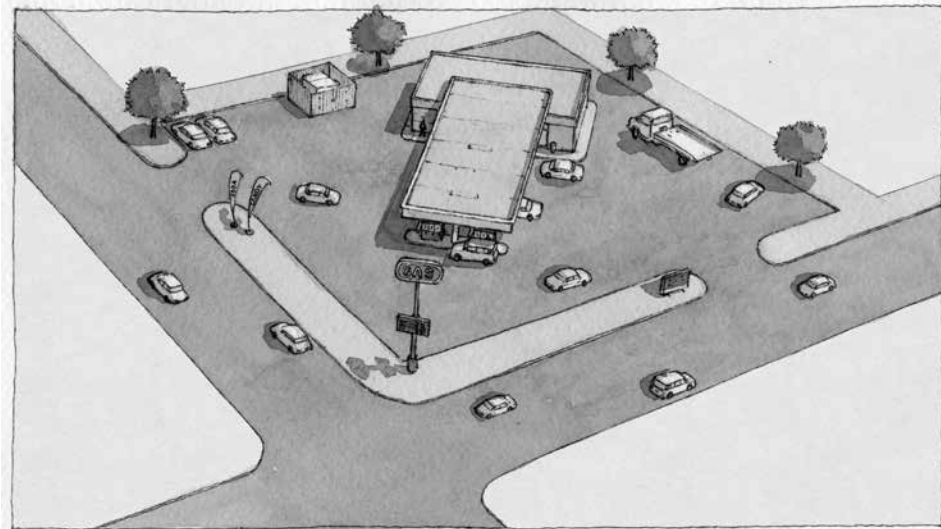
Prime Minister Winston Churchill believed Britain’s people would be diminished if the grand buildings damaged in WWII were not reconstructed. He claimed “we shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.” More recently, Duncan Stroik, a University of Notre Dame Professor of Architecture, commented that people are negatively impacted by “mechanistic facades” that do not “elevate the spirit.”

Clearly, people behave differently in a wide-open baseball stadium, in a stately courtroom, and in a chapel with stained glass windows. This is because we are all being shaped by architecture and our built environment.

Since a recent (controversial) experiment documented that even fleeting Facebook posts can be orchestrated to direct our moods, shouldn’t we be taking more care with the built environment that surrounds us 24/7?

The Victoria Transport Policy Institute (VTPI) reports that the built environment or “public realm” can “feel safe and inviting” or dangerous and unwelcoming. When places feel safe and inviting, people will walk. And, when people walk, traffic is reduced, public health is improved, the economy is strengthened, and numbers of “residents and visitors” increase. The design of our built environment – gas stations included – will determine Erie’s future.

Gas stations can have style. The Art Deco Dunkle’s Gulf, built in 1933, still stands



© DUANY PLATER-ZYBERK & CO. / SPRAWL REPAIR MANUAL

in Bedford, Pa. Matt Shaw’s essay, “Get Pumped: Eight Filling Stations Fueled By Great Design” features examples from Los Angeles to Tel Aviv, including the Slovakian chain, GAS. Featuring white concrete columns merging with a canopy outlined in orange neon, GAS is gorgeous.

According to the StartUpBiz site, gas stations are designed for visibility. They try to have a station at every major intersection and use bright lighting and “tall signs” to attract customers with their “familiar brand logo.” Street setbacks provide speedy entrances and exits from each traffic direction. Familiar layouts comfort regular shoppers and maximize profits. But these dollars leave the community and diminish long-term neighborhood stability by creating a noisy corner lot with non-stop, transient traffic.

Let’s imagine that instead of building the “world’s largest GetGo” on the vacant lot at West 12th Street, Lincoln Avenue, and the Bayfront, Giant Eagle decided to bring the world-class architecture of GAS to Erie.

Galina Tachieva’s Sprawl Repair Manual illustrates the differences between suburban- and urban-designed gas stations, in locating pumps either at the front or back of the property.

Unlikely. But it is crucial to ask for something better than the usual corporate construction.

Ed McMahon, who spoke at the Preservation Erie Awards in May, said that developers “evaluate locations based on their economic potential. When developers are asked to address local design, historic preservation, site planning, or architectural concerns, they will usually do so.”

Due to public pressure (and legal action) McDonald’s has modified their franchise design dozens of times. They’ve built successful restaurants inside a historic building and another in a riverboat.

A leading development consultant, Bob

Gibbs, said that chain developers usually have several design options “ranging from Any-where, USA to Unique (sensitive to local character).” Gibbs says that “which one gets built depends heavily upon how much push-back the company gets from local residents and officials about design and its importance.”

Can Erie’s leaders urge Giant Eagle to hire a New Urbanist design firm (for instance, Duany Plater-Zyberk) to design a GetGo complex that is “sensitive” to our Bayfront? Will our leaders ensure that pedestrians from the south and north (off Lincoln Avenue) and the East (Landmark Square Apartments and Boulevard Park) will have tree-lined sidewalks and bike paths connecting the city? Giant Eagle will be lauded if they stop their plans to install a huge “sprawl”

Developers “evaluate locations based on their economic potential. When developers are asked to address local design, historic preservation, site planning, or architectural concerns they will usually do so.”

development” at the city’s “main entrance.”

Thadani suggested that new gas stations be guided by legislation requiring that, “(1) the convenience store be placed on the front property line ... (2) fuel dispensers be located toward the rear of the site... and (3) the architectural character of the building be compatible with the context, or the visual impact of the station be kept to a minimum.”

It’s time that we advocate for legislation embracing Thadani’s suggestions.

And yes, you can help Erie’s built environment. Stop by the “Preservation Happy Hour” at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24 at the Plymouth Tavern to find out more.

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://erirdr.com/ha51g>.



The Way I See It

The Book of James

By: Rebecca Styn

What was seemingly the biggest event to occur since the resurrection of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [at least according to the *Wall Street Journal*, which ran a cover story with a headline reading “Cleveland Cheers the Second Coming of LeBron James,” showcasing with it a photo of a man carrying “The King has Returned” sign just below it], on Friday, July 11, LeBron James announced his return to his once beloved – and hometown – team: Cleveland Cavaliers.

LeBron announced this decision through an essay he penned himself, on the *Sports Illustrated* website, allowing an opportunity to break the news to the public uninterrupted. He spoke of his decision to leave and his reasoning behind it, but more interesting, he explained his reasons for coming home – ones less focused on championships and more on creating a greater impact to the people of Ohio.

To say Cleveland fans rejoiced is an understatement. Fans took to Twitter with hashtags such as #thekingisback and #welcomehome. Others carried LeBron signs, wearing No.23 jerseys or other LeBron related gear and strolled the mobbed city streets. And even though he slighted the team and the city in free agency four years ago – few, if any, seemed to hold a grudge.

And this is just the emotional impact.

Since LeBron announced, “I’m coming back to Cleveland,” economists everywhere started drawing up numbers on the economic impact he may have on the city. A Cleveland-area professor, LeRoy Brooks, drew up a plan suggesting that the “LeBron effect” could add \$500 million annually to the local economy, while Cuyahoga County Executive Ed Fitzgerald offered up a more modest number of only \$50 million [a man who is also now running for Governor].

Brooks believes more fans will flock to the arena to see James play, more staff will need to be hired to handle larger crowds, and more money will be spent during games at local bars and restaurants – in essence all feeding into the local economy, which is, simply put, in the gutter.

Cleveland’s unemployment rate is at a staggering 8.5 percent; poverty levels are more than double the national average; and there’s a bleeding job market and a rapidly declining school system.

To Brooks’ and Fitzgerald’s points, LeBron did write that he was not only coming back to play basketball, but to help make a difference to the community he grew up in.

But can one individual truly create this level of impact?

To start with, Cleveland fans are diehard individuals. They stay loyal no matter the outcome of the situation – even when play-



KEITH ALLISON

Two-time NBA-champ and Akron-native LeBron James returns to the Cleveland Cavaliers, the time that first drafted him, after a four-year stint with the Miami Heat.

land’s “leisure economy” lost \$48 million in the aftermath of his departure. But if the fans start spending money on the Cavs now, it most likely won’t be new money but rather funds they were spending elsewhere. Yes, some will travel from outside Cleveland to see a game now – but it remains doubtful that this will create immense financial gain and make great strides for the city economically.

The fact that the return of LeBron was likened to the resurrection of

Jesus Christ speaks to even a sadder state of affairs. Unfortunately, more often than not, we as individuals place athletes on high pedestals. We worship at their altars and rejoice when they choose to build their temples in our cities. And in making them holy, we expect miraculous and immediate results from them.

But when these athletes fail – or leave – we in turn crucify them as if they’ve promised us eternal life and then simply begin searching for our next savior.

Can one individual truly create this level of impact?

LeBron will be the first to say he isn’t God-like in any respect. And he’s not out proclaiming himself to be a savior – rather, it is the media – with headlines like that one in *WSJ* – that ascend him to this level. And while he may have given hope to a city looking for something to cheer about, perhaps we should stop short of heralding his [most recent] written word as holy gospel.

After all, he is only human – and merely one mortal man.

Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Email me at rStyn@ErieReader.com, and follow me on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/kph5>.

And I don’t even live in Cleveland.]

So, although they experienced a great loss with the departure of LeBron in 2010 – and while ticket sales and prices did drop – the Cavs still drew 17,000 fans a game during the 2014 season.

They also didn’t stop spending money just because The King took his talents to Miami. One estimate suggests that Cleve-

After all, he is only human – and merely one mortal man.



News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepherd

LEAD STORY

Toilet Training

Enric Girona recently donated his prototype pet commode to the town of El Vendrell, Spain, hoping to spark worldwide interest. Conscientious owners would train their dogs on the station — a hole in the ground with a flush handle — which is connected to the sewer system, as is the drain grid next to it (for tinkling). The platform, which appears to occupy about 20 square feet of surface, is self-cleaning (although not too clean, said Girona, because dogs are more easily lured with a lingering scent). Spain is already one of the world's toughest on lazy owners who fail to scoop up after their pets, with fines in El Vendrell as high as the equivalent of \$1,000, and in Madrid and Barcelona, \$2,000. [The Guardian (London), 7-2-2014]

Took It Too Far

The New York customer service company United Health Programs of America provoked a federal lawsuit in June by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over its employee esprit-de-corps policy of requiring workers to pray to God on the job and to say "I love you" to their managers. According to the EEOC, the feel-good, work-harder campaign was suggested by an aunt of United's owner and named for an obscure "truth and compassion" movement called "Onion-head." [Reuters, 6-11-2014]

After two third-graders wet their pants on May 15 at Mill Plain Elementary School in Vancouver, Wash., they blamed teachers for too-strictly enforcing their classroom's "rewards" system, in which good behavior earns students points redeemable for, among other prizes, restroom breaks. A teachers union investigation concluded that the girls were never "denied" toilet access (but the girls' mothers pointed out that using restroom breaks as a "reward" might be confusing to 8-year-olds). [Columbian (Vancouver), 5-22-2014]

The Japanese snack company Calbee recently staged a promotion around popular singer Nana Mizuki, giving away 10 backstage passes to her Aug. 3 concert in Yokohama to the purchasers of 10 lucky bags of secretly marked potato chips. Her perhaps-hugest fan, Kazuki Fukumoto, 25, was so determined to win one that by the time he was arrested for littering in May, he had bought and dumped 89 cartons of potato chip packages, weighing over 400 pounds, that were found at six locations around the cities of Kobe and Akashi. Police estimate he had spent the equivalent of about \$3,000. [Mainichi News via Kotaku.com, 6-10-2014]

Took It Way Too Far: Britain's news website Metro.co.uk, combing Facebook pages, located a full photo array from prominent 23-year-old German body art enthusiast Joel Migglar, whose various piercings and implants are impressive enough, but whose centerpieces are the portholes in each cheek that expose the insides of his mouth. (With customized plugs, he can seal the portholes when soup is on the menu.) The holes are currently 36mm wide, but he was said to be actively cheek-stretching, aiming for 40mm. Migglar assures fans that his mother likes "most" of his modifications and that the worst aspect so far is merely that he is forced to take smaller bites when eating. (News of the Weird has reported on researchers creating portholes in cows' stomachs, but still...) [Metro, 5-21-2014]

Can't Possibly Be True

Until the New York governor and legislature addressed the problem recently, it was legal in the state for narcissistic animal owners to force their dogs and cats to endure permanent, decorative tattoos and piercings. At press time, Gov. Andrew Cuomo was poised to sign legislation abolishing the tattooing. (2) Kayla Oxenham, 23, was arrested in Port Charlotte, Florida, in June and charged with using a stick to burn "brands" into the skin of her two children, ages 5 and 7. Among her explanations to police: so she could identify them as being hers and because she "forgot how much she loved fire." [NPR, 6-19-2014] [WZVN-TV (Fort Myers), 6-18-2014]

A Davenport, Iowa, jury convicted terminal-cancer patient Benton Mackenzie, 48, in July on four marijuana-growing felonies, even though his purpose was to harvest cannabis oil to treat his bloody lesions and the grapefruit-sized tumor on his buttocks. The judge had barred Mackenzie and his lawyer from even mentioning the illness in court — because of a 2005 Iowa precedent (even though the Iowa legislature has subsequently allowed medical marijuana to treat seizures). Mackenzie's wife, his 73-year-old parents, his son and a friend were also charged with assisting Mackenzie's "operation" (though Mackenzie was almost surely the only "customer"). Mackenzie, who testified and was, of course, sworn to tell "the whole truth," said he was "flabbergasted" to learn that "the whole truth" excludes anything about his illness. [Des Moines Register, 7-10-2014; Quad City Times, 5-30-2014]

Municipal engineers in the town of Melton Mowbray, England, were called out in June to fix a lingering sewer overrun caused by, they discovered, "hundreds" of tennis balls that had apparently each been flushed down toilets. Said the project manager, "We expect (blockages from) fats and baby wipes, but...." [BBC News, 7-3-2014]





IVO SHANDOR

Disease and Distrust in the Allegheny National Forest

Gov. Corbett unlocks potential timber grab with new Federal Farm Bill

By: Mary Birdsong

In late May, with little publicity, 504,000 acres within the Allegheny National Forest, which spans parts of Warren, Forest, Elk, and McKean Counties, was designated as an “insect and disease treatment area” by the USDA Forest Service (USFS). Gov. Tom Corbett successfully petitioned the USFS to do so under a provision in the 2014 federal Farm Bill, giving governors nationwide new authority to make the request.

Section 8204 of the Bill called “Insect And Disease Infestation,” which amends the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, also allows for a streamlined review process, meaning no new or site-specific environmental assessments or impact statements typically required by the National Environmental Protection Act in the areas so designated. It also suspended the public appeal process for projects as they occur in certain instances.

The 8,836-acre Hickory Wilderness Area, located east of Tidioute at the western edge of the forest, is the only area exempt from this designation in the 513,000-acre forest.

In all, the USFS approved a total of 45.6 million acres of national forest land in 35 states. Each forest restoration project, as it is called in the bill, can consist of up to 3,000 acres, and is eligible for all “treatment,” as defined by foresters and the logging industry, such as the use of pesticides and herbicides, as well as tree thinning and timbering.

Supporters are hailing the designation as an unprecedented opportunity to expedite projects to control invasive insects, like the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Emerald Ash Borer. Others, however, see it as a potential timber grab.

Ryan Talbot, executive director of the Allegheny Defense Project (ADP), a forest advocacy organization claims: “They didn’t

relax the regulations so they could do the same amount of timbering.”

Paul Burroughs, conservation committee chair for Presque Isle Audubon, questions the process by which the designation occurred. “The bill more or less put the cart before the horse, allowing the governors of those states with a national forest to make the designation before any balanced input, making it more or less necessary to review the designation after the fact, a difference from many other projects where input is provided before the decision.”

But Andrea Hille, a USFS silviculturist, explains that it made sense to designate the entire forest because of the way tree species co-mingle across the Allegheny Plateau. “Low-density pockets of hemlock and ash occur across the plateau; to address each area in the designation application would have been too difficult.” Nadine Pollock, an ecosystem staff officer of the ANF, agrees, adding, “this designation allows the ANF to treat infestations of insects more expeditiously in order to reduce impacts from insects and disease.”

Talbot of the ADP requested documents and emails pertaining to the issue through the Freedom of Information Act as the designation process was underway. The emails document the timber industry’s involvement in discussions with USFS personnel leading up to the recommendation to Gov. Corbett’s office that the entire forest be designated.

Sue Swanson, executive director of the Allegheny Harwood Utilization Group (AHUG), confirms that. “In fact, I was the one who brought this to the attention of the ANF because the designation looked like an opportunity for the ANF to access funds to better maintain the health of the forest. I ex-

Pennsylvania’s Mead Run (left), a stream located in the Allegheny National Forest, is one of the areas now affected by the Federal Farm Bill.

pect very little timber harvesting as a result of this designation. Honestly, I didn’t think this would be controversial.”

Peter Wray, conservation chair of the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club, found it to be just that. He is quoted in a June 14 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article saying that: “the Forest Service and Corbett administration worked behind closed doors with the timber industry to decide how much of the Allegheny National Forest should be designated as ‘insect and disease treatment areas.’ The Allegheny is a national forest and Gov. Corbett and the timber industry should not be allowed to drown out the voices of citizens who have an equal right to guide the management of the Allegheny.”

Pollock says that little will change despite the streamlined process offered with the designation, saying, “the requirements for the National Environmental Policy Act are not removed by this designation. The designation means a more expedited process may be used for specific projects to address insects and disease where the environmental consequences are well understood and limited in scope. Collaboration and public

involvement is still an integral part of this process. We invite any and all members of the public (individuals & interest groups) to participate with us through this process to help arrive at the best possible project proposal.”

Conservation groups are distrustful of the USFS’s offer of collaboration and transparency. Talbot, citing the fact that the ANF is just 3 percent of Pennsylvania’s forests, thinks it is much more important to manage the ANF for clean water and air, habitat for species that depend on mature forests, and public recreation, adding, “today, the Forest Service manages the Allegheny as an industrial tree farm for black cherry and other valuable timber species.”

No one, not the conservation groups or loggers, who depend on timber for their livelihood, want to see the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid or logging decimate the ANF. We all want a healthy forest. As everyone learns more about this new designation and projects are proposed and unfold, the transparency — or lack of it — will become clearer.

Remember, the ANF is the only national forest Pennsylvania has. It is worth fighting for.

Mary Birdsong can be contacted at mBirdsong@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @Mary_Birdsong. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/x8dst>.



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Building Community from the Main Street Outward

ECGRA awards seven local organizations grants to spur job creation, tourism, and community pride

By: Dan Schank

Does anything exemplify the unique qualities of a community better than our town centers? Erie County is fortunate to feature several of these “main streets” – places where foot traffic still fuels small businesses and our history is visible in the architecture. In our era of strip malls and social media, these home-grown commercial corridors are often neglected and fall into disrepair.

Thankfully, some exciting upgrades are in store for our local community.

On June 26, seven local organizations were awarded \$77,530 in funding from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Association (ECGRA). The money comes through an ECGRA initiative created to encourage commerce, job creation, tourism, and community pride in our downtown corridors. It’s called the Mission Main Street Program, and it specifically targets the walkable town centers that “give you a sense of civic identity,” according to ECGRA’s Executive Director Perry Wood.

Here’s how it works. ECGRA, a grant-making organization that supports local nonprofits, is funded through a small portion of the gross revenue of Presque Isle Downs and Casino set aside for community investment by the PA Department of Revenue. The Mission Main Street Program allots financial support to qualifying nonprofit organizations and municipalities through a 1:1 cash match for proposed projects. The funding can be used for many purposes, including construction, marketing, outcomes measurement, and insurance. It can’t be used to pay off debt, to account for travel expenses, or for memberships or subscriptions. But enough about rules and regulations – let’s explore where the money is going.

A \$15,000 grant was awarded to Erie Downtown Partnership Inc. to help renovate existing structures through its Facade Grant program. According to Assistant Director Christina Katen, the program is “designed to allow any property owner or business owner within the downtown the ability to obtain matching funds for work that they do to improve the street-facing side of their building.” The Facade Grant Program was originally set to fund 10 projects, but with

support from ECGRA, they can increase that number to 13. In addition to preserving historic buildings in need of repair, Katen hopes that the renovations will create “a feeling of cleanliness and safety” in downtown Erie, which will encourage more foot traffic for small businesses. The applications are currently under review, and according to Katen, there are plenty of “qualified, excellent projects” awaiting implementation.

Downtown Erie isn’t the only place expect-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Local artist Ehren Knapp signs the mural he painted on the side of the Grape Country Marketplace in North East. The Mural celebrates the local grape culture.

ing a facade facelift – another \$15,000 will go to Downtown North East Inc. for similar purposes. The organization is implementing

a facade renovation program through which eligible businesses can receive up to \$2,000 in funding for exterior improvements along Main Street.

The program is part of a much larger vision for the North East community. In 2010, with support from Mercyhurst University, Downtown North East, Inc. opened the Grape Country Marketplace, which offers everything from locally made jewelry to original works of art. To see what ECGRA funding looks like in action, one simply needs to gaze upon the beautiful mural by local artist Ehren Knapp on the side of the building, which was unveiled on June 21 and produced with money from last year’s Mission Main Street grant.

According to Charlene Kerr Piper, chair of Downtown North East, Inc., “the main goal of these efforts is to increase traffic in the downtown so that all the businesses can be a bit more profitable, that we can fill empty storefronts, and that we can provide the goods and services that the residents of North East require.”

The Union City Community House Association has a wider variety of plans for their \$15,000 in Mission Main Street funding. They’re working with several local organizations to make small-scale improvements (lamppost banners, window improvements) as well as larger ones (a portion of the funding will be used to help create a recreational pavilion). Some of the money will go to marketing for Union City’s “Buy Local” program, an initiative designed to increase revenue for small businesses.

According to Treasurer Sherri Huntley, the program follows the National 3-50 project, in which “consumers spend \$50 in three local stores each month and receive incentives for doing so.” Later in the year, Union City’s “Christmas on Main” event will highlight the importance of small businesses as well.

In 2013, a Mission Main Street grant helped the Union City Community House Association implement its “Union City in Bloom” project, which brought more than 70 flower planters to the downtown area. According to Huntley, this year’s funding will encourage more progress in the future: “This spring we have once again planted the planters, replaced 13 windows in the facade of two of our downtown buildings, and we are working on new ‘Welcome to Union City’ signs... we are using the momentum of these projects to preserve, promote and enhance Union City’s Downtown.”

In 2013, the Waterford Borough Council’s Parks Committee used Mission Main Street funding to build a traditional gazebo in the main park along High Street. This year, the borough will use its \$7,000 grant to extend the park’s makeover through attractive landscaping designs from contractor J.J.

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- Pedro Rodriguez

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GEORGE BURTON QUINTET

SUNDAY • AUGUST 3 • 6 PM



JANE BUNNETT & MAQUEQUE

SUNDAY • AUGUST 3 • 8 PM



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Wurst. Two large arbors will be installed at each of the entrances leading into the park to welcome visitors.

Presently, memorial bricks honoring Waterford's heritage are scattered throughout the grounds, where they are vulnerable to damages. To maximize strong connections to the community's past, these stones will be consolidated and directly incorporated into the design of the walkways. More work is on the way for the gazebo as well.

When I spoke to her about the plans, Waterford Borough's Vice President Karen Molitor joked that the gazebo is like "a mannequin that's got no clothes on it yet," but that it will soon be "dressed up" with new plant life and a repaved central octagon. Molitor hopes that the transformation will be complete before August. The improvements are part of the Borough's five-year landscaping plan for Waterford's town center, which includes a number of other community improvement initiatives sponsored by the Greenways Trail and Recreation project, an Erie County Greenways program grant and other organizations.

Speaking of Waterford, the Fort LeBoeuf Historical society received \$3,180 for upgrades to the historic Eagle Hotel. You might know the hotel because of Sugar 'n Spice, the Amish-style restaurant located on its premises. Since the hotel was constructed in the 1820s, it requires occasional maintenance. Accordingly, iron handrails are scheduled to be installed on its front steps and improvements will be made to its roof and gutters.

In 2013, McKean Borough began implementing a five-year plan to address sidewalks in the region by replacing 500 feet of aging pavement. This year, they'll use Mission Main Street funding to double that amount, with space along Route 99 as the primary focus. Many of McKean's sidewalks have not been upgraded since the seventies, long before the Americans with Disabilities Act. The new sidewalks will be ADA compli-

ECGRA recently awarded grants totaling over \$77,000 to seven organizations throughout Erie County.

ant, which will come in handy on McKean Community Day, Aug. 23rd. According to McKean Borough Zoning Officer Tim Weaver, "the purpose of this day is to help raise funds for beautifying the McKean Community. We are planning a golf tournament, car show, craft show, kids events, bands, and fireworks."

Finally, \$9,850 has been allotted to the Corry Community Development Corporation for a variety of projects. They will partner with the Corry Area Historical Society to create interpretive sidewalk panels highlighting Corry's heritage during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Executive Director Steve Bishop hopes to "make the downtown more user-friendly" through additional benches, waste baskets and flower planters. He is also excited about a lamppost banner project that will highlight Corry's "Try Local, Buy Local" initiative, designed to "make cash registers ring a little bit more" at small businesses.

At ECGRA's Mission Main Street Workshop on May 16, Preservation Erie Board Member Melinda Meyer introduced the idea of the "storyscape" as a way to think about urban and suburban renewal. She encouraged the audience to think about "all of the stories of a location," in addition to its commercial or aesthetic potential. Community investment can support fading memories in addition to aging structures. With grassroots support and a lot of hard work, Mission Main Street helps us connect to our past while investing in our future.

Dan Schank can be contacted at DSchank@ErieReader.com. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/p3mha>.





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Your Guide to Getting the Most Out of the Erie Art Museum's Blues and Jazz Festival

The 22nd annual Erie Art Museum Blues and Jazz Festival kicks off in Frontier Park on Saturday, Aug. 2, and if you're like many people around the region, you consider this event the peak of Erie's summer entertainment season; it's free, it's BYOB, it's clean, it's green, it's family-friendly, and it's fun – plain and simple. Ten performances will take place over two days, but aside from the music, there's a lot to get excited about.

This year, you'll find many of the same things that make this festival a hit year in and year out – there's a bicycle corral, and recyclable utensils, and the *Erie Reader* tent – where you can compliment/heckle your favorite/least favorite *Reader* writers and editors – however, one exciting addition you *will* find is that Three B's Saloon will join established food vendors Bite By the Bay, Connie's Ice Cream, Little Caesars, Lombardo's Pita Place, and Sadie's Concessions.

You'll also find many of the same do's and don't's as in previous years – don't start any fires, don't attempt to set up your tent before 9 a.m., don't attempt to sleep in the park overnight, and don't bring your cat, dog, pigeon, lion, llama, lizard, turtle, or any other creatures or they (and you) will be asked to leave.

In order to best budget your time and ensure you don't miss a minute of all the weekend's action, check out the performance lineup below and plan accordingly!

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

Old Songs New Opportunities

Saturday, August 2 at Noon

This one's for the kids. While not the most heavily-attended act of the fest, the OSNO project puts Erie's cultural diversity on full display and shares traditional Bhutanese, East African, Eastern European, and Middle Eastern songs with the children of Erie.

Duke Sherman Blues Band

Saturday, August 2 at 2 p.m.

Influenced by blues guitarists so famous that they need no last names – Buddy, Jimi, and Stevie Ray – Duke is one hell of a guitarist. Joined by Otis James on the harp, Rik Cass on the skins, and Mark Murphy on the low end, Duke always puts on a gritty, vigorous performance that leaves the audience sweaty and spent. Don't miss this one.

Vernon Jones Blues Cartel

Saturday, August 2 at 4 p.m.

Speaking of blues royalty, the immortal Robert Lockwood, Jr.'s longtime drummer – Vernon Jones – brings his formidable Cleveland-based cartel to the park this year to present you with their polished brand of party blues.

Heritage Blues Quartet

Saturday, August 2 at 6 p.m.

If polished ain't your thang, the Heritage Blues Quartet certainly is. Authentic and engaging, this rootsy ensemble brings the blues back to where it began with their gospel-and country-influenced stylings featuring electric, acoustic, and dobro guitars.

The Lee Boys

Saturday, August 2 at 8 p.m.

So-called "sacred steel" has done well in recent years both nationally and local-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ly – buoyed by releases from international superstar Robert Randolph as well as a 2011 Blues and Jazz Fest appearance by the Campbell Brothers; if you've not yet experienced the power and grace of this unique style, now's your chance.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

Misery Bay Big Band

Sunday, August 3 at Noon

If you make it back to the park by noon, ease that hangover with your yearly dose of American jazz orchestra. This one has over 400 years of combined playing experience, and a bunch of saxophones, trombones, and trumpets.

Cheryl Hodge Trio

Sunday, August 3 at 2 p.m.

The label "female jazz singer" is often misapplied to warbling wannabes – but not in this case. Cheryl Hodge is the real deal. Backed by local heavies Frank Singer and Joe Dorris, Hodge's performance is one of the more highly-anticipated of this year's lineup.

Stephen Trohoske's Jazz Gypsies featuring Roby "Supersax" Edwards

Sunday, August 3 at 4 p.m.

Speaking of highly anticipated, local music maven Steve Trohoske's assembled yet another intriguing project featuring well-known and beloved local players Eric Brewer, Stix Thompson, and Allen Zurcher, all of whom will set the stage for Pitts-

Clockwise from left: Jane Bunnett, The Lee Boys, George Burton, and Roby "Supersax" Edwards are some of the great musicians playing the 2014 Erie Art Museum Blues and Jazz Festival at Frontier Park.



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burgh-based alto sax player, the phenomenal Roby "Supersax" Edwards. Make sure you're front and center and watered and fed before this one starts.

George Burton Quintet with Terell Stafford and Tim Warfield
Sunday, August 3 at 6 p.m.

Young pianist George Burton's complex-yet-accessible brand of bop has been turning heads across the eastern seaboard and beyond for some time now; rooted in jazz's proud past but reaching for jazz's bright future, Burton's work is astonishing, so you better catch this guy

while you still can.

Jane Bunnett & Maqueque
Sunday, August 3 at 8 p.m.

In the early '80s, Canadian Jane Bunnett visited Cuba and returned with Afro-Cuban influences that would go on to define her career. Luckily for us, she'll bring those island rhythms - and her all-female, all Cuban band, Maqueque - to the stage as the sun sets on another fine festival. Whether that stage remains standing when she's through with it is something you'll just have to find out for yourself.

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Fri. Jul. 25

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Thu. Jul. 31

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Old School

I-90s

Sherlocks / Molly's Block Party

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Discover Erie's Gem with Discover Presque Isle

Ladies and Gentlemen, don your swimwear! It's time to make sand sculptures, try your hand at paddleboards, listen to live music, and dance around a beach bonfire.

Also on tap for your outdoor pleasure are tours of the Presque Isle Lighthouse tower, family yoga, an expanded children's area, and the area's largest arts and crafts show.

And, really, that's just the beginning. If you like a lot of action, participate in the Smith's Volleyball Challenge or the fifth annual Beach Brawl. If you don't, there's always Presque Isle Rotary's pancake breakfast and a serene tour of the lagoons on a pontoon boat.

See a special nighttime kites and windsock illumination at Sunset Point on Friday night and on Saturday, the live music starts on Beach 8 at 3 p.m. and runs through 10 p.m. Bands include East Ave., Dual Identity, Six Years After, and Taylor-Maid. The later ones come with a side of bonfire.

Frog Buttons will be sold throughout the weekend for a \$3 donation that helps fund park projects and programs. And as always, one button owner walks away with a \$1,000 prize.

— Mary Birdsong

July 25 to 27 // Various locations at PI // See the full schedule of events at www.discoverpi.com.



ROBERT GRUBBS

MUSIC

Erie Art Museum Mid-Day Art Break featuring Get Your Phil On at Noon (Brass Quartet)

July 23 – Noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

Lori Burke

July 23 – 11 a.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. GoodellGardens.org.

All Musicians Acoustic Jam Night with Claire Stuczynski

July 24 – 9 p.m.
Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. OasisPub.net.

Arts at the Arboretum Concert Series featuring Bangerzz

July 24 – 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Frontier Park Outdoor Amphitheater, off W. 8th St. LEAFerie.org.

Brandon Santini

July 24 – 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, Pa. SleepingChainsaw.com.

The Brewerrie Open Mic

July 24 – 7 p.m.
The Brewerrie, 123 W. 14th St. Brewerrie.com.

Funktapuss

July 24 – 7 p.m.

Docksider, 1015 State St. 459.0099.

Picnic in the Park featuring Jim Moore as Elvis

July 24 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Gibson Park, Main St. and Route 20, North East. NEChamber.org.

Sean Patrick & The Newgrass Revolution

July 24 – 10 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Slugger's Block Party featuring Midlife Crisis and French Kiss

July 24 – 7 p.m.
Slugger's, 14 E. 10th St. SluggersErie.com.

Tommy Link

July 24 – 7 p.m.
Edinboro Lakeside Resort, 12690 Edinboro Rd., Edinboro. EdinboroLakeResort.com.

The Dock Boys

July 25 – 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Highway. PresqueIsleDowns.com.

East Ave

July 25 – 9 p.m. to midnight
The Brewerrie, 123 W. 14th St. Brewerrie.com.

Jack Stevens

July 25 – 9 p.m.
Wet Willy's Tiki Bar, 3122 West

Lake Road. OasisPub.net

Jake's Blues

July 25 – 7 p.m.
Docksider, 1015 State St. 459.0099.

Jay Baumgartner

July 25 – 9 p.m.
King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Mid-Life Crisis

July 25 – 10 p.m.
Doc Holliday's, 7425 Schultz Road. DocHolidays.net.

Old School

July 25 – 10 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Rodger Montgomery

July 25 – 6 p.m.
Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/eriealehouse.

Small Town Rollers

July 25 – 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, PA. SleepingChainsaw.com.

Broke, Stranded, & Ugly

July 26 – 9 p.m.
King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

I-90's

July 26 – 10 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

M-80's

7.26 – 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Highway. presqueisledowns.com

Mid-Life Crisis

July 26 – 10 p.m.
Doc Holliday's, 7425 Schultz Road. DocHolidays.net.

MJT

July 26 – 9 p.m. to midnight
The Brewerrie, 123 W. 14th St. Brewerrie.com.

Perdition, Manokin, Beyond Silence, Saevitia, Pathos Departure, and Agathist!

July 26 – 5:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. BasementTransmissions.com.

The Bleeder Project w/ Toy Oyster and Hatred Overload

July 27 – 2 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Scrap Kids, Gottem, Pocketmouse, and Bummed: Acoustic Show

July 27 – 6 to 9:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. BasementTransmissions.com.

Steel Hollow

July 27 – 3 p.m.
Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. 455.9840.

Suzi & The Buzz

July 27 – 6 p.m.
Wet Willy's Tiki Bar, 3122 West Lake Road. OasisPub.net.

8 Great Tuesdays featuring Here Comes the Mummies and Falling Hollywood

July 29 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Burger King Amphitheater, Liberty Park. PortErie.org.

Wild Throne, Of Shadows, and Jivan

July 29 – 5:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. BasementTransmissions.com.

Erie Art Museum Mid-Day Art Break featuring The Heliotropes

July 30 – Noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

The Groove

July 30 – 4 to 8 p.m.
Rumrunners, 133 Dobbins Landing. 455.4292.

Lori Burke

July 30 – 11 a.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. GoodellGardens.org.

All Musicians Acoustic Jam Night with Claire Stuczynski

July 31 – 9 p.m.
Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. OasisPub.net.

Arts at the Arboretum Concert Series featuring The Heliotropes

July 31 – 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Frontier Park Outdoor Amphitheater, Off W. 8th St. LEAFerie.org.

Glenn Rankin

July 31 – 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, PA. SleepingChainsaw.com.

Picnic in the Park featuring Jungle Terry

July 31 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Beer on the Bay Brings Local, Regional, and National Brewers to Erie

Having options is a wonderful thing, but for the casual beer fan, it can also be intimidating. Craft beer enthusiasts can have a blast picking out different India pale ales, deciding between dortmunders, and seeking out saisons, but some may be afraid to shell out dollars for a fancy-named fermented beverage without trying it first. Fortunately, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership caters to both crowds with the seventh annual craft

brew festival Beer on the Bay, bringing together over 40 brewers for two tasting sessions Saturday, July 26 to the Burger King Amphitheater at Liberty Park.

"People can get out and try all of the different beers in one place" Southern Tier Brewing Company Head Brewer Dustin Hazer says of the event held less than an hour from the brewery's Lakewood, N.Y. location. "Erie's right in our backyard. A lot of people have come up and told us stories about coming to the brewery."

Now people can try the tasty brews of not only Southern Tier, but also a delicious Two Hearted Ale from Michigan's Bell's Brewery, a refreshing Commodore Perry IPA from Cleveland, or some creative concoction from one of the dozens of breweries – and the numerous vendors appealing to those looking for non-alcoholic treats – represented without having to travel elsewhere in Pennsylvania or out of state.

The two sessions will be held from noon to 3 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m., with regular tickets available at eriepa.com and discounted options for designated drivers as well as VIP tickets for those looking for some rarer brews, food tastings, and hookah privileges. EMTA shuttles will be available for parking purposes, and if the beer tastings get a little out of hand, Erie Yellow Cab can provide a safe travel choice for those taking advantage of all the craft beer options. — Alex Bieler

Saturday, July 26 // Liberty Park // 454.7191 ext. 123, eriepa.com/beer-on-the-bay



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HOWIE GLOVER

FILM: 12 O'Clock Boys and local filmmaker Howie Glover

Since its inception in 2012, FILM at the Erie Art Museum has been exposing Erieites to exciting filmmakers both new and old. The ongoing cinematic series will showcase two more dazzling directors Wednesday, July 23 when it presents Lotfy Nathan's 12 O'Clock Boys along with a special selection of short films and music videos from local filmmaker Howie Glover.

If you checked out the previous issue of the Reader, you very well might recognize Glover. The recent cover subject went from being a tough kid from Brooklyn to a digital dreamer, and his impressive range will be on display to start off FILM tonight, with a Q&A session with the man himself to follow. After Glover's cinematic experience, Nathan's documentary 12 O'Clock Boys will present the real story of a young boy from Baltimore finding a connection with a group of illegal dirt bike riders, despite efforts by the local authorities to prevent the thrill rides of the adrenaline enthusiasts.

In addition to providing visual pleasures, FILM will pair the cinematic duo of Glover and Nathan with the excellent craft brews of Lavery Brewing Company, which will provide tastings in the hour leading up to Glover's showcase, adding another local twist on the latest edition of FILM at the Erie Art Museum. — Alex Bieler

6 p.m. Wednesday, July 23 // 20 E. Fifth St. // facebook.com/FILMErieArtMuseum

Gibson Park, Main Street and Route 20, North East. NEChamber.org.

Sherlock's and Molly Brannigan's Block Party featuring Jake's Blues and Bastard Bearded Irishmen
July 31 – 10 p.m.

Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Tommy Link
July 31 – 7 p.m.

Edinboro Lakeside Resort, 12690 Edinboro Rd., Edinboro. EdinboroLakeResort.com.

Bronsen Euard & The Essentials
Aug. 1 – 7 p.m.
WQLN, 8425 Peach St. WQLN.org.

Jon Halmi
Aug. 1 – 6 p.m.
Wet Willy's Tiki Bar, 3122 West Lake Road. OasisPub.net.

Jerry Gaff
Aug. 1 – 6:30 p.m.
Casablanca Grill, 2174 W. 8th St. 452.4544.

The Soul Crackers
Aug. 1 – 9 p.m.
King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Blues and Jazz Festival
Aug. 2 – Noon to 10 p.m.
Frontier Park, 1501 W. 8th St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

Eric Brewer and Friends
Aug. 2 – 4 to 8 p.m.
Rumrunners, 133 Dobbins Landing. 455.4292.

Fourth River Revival
Aug. 2 – 9 p.m.
King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Jerry Gaff
Aug. 2 – 5:30 p.m.
Pie-in-the-Sky Cafe, 463 W. 8th St. 459.8638.

Oneida
Aug. 2 – 7 p.m.
The Beer Mug, 1108 Liberty St. 454.4753.

Blues and Jazz Festival
Aug. 3 – Noon to 10 p.m.
Frontier Park, 1501 W. 8th St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

The Dock Boys
Aug. 3 – 6 p.m.

Wet Willy's Tiki Bar, 3122 West Lake Road. OasisPub.net.

Even Craftier featuring Heather DeVore, Tyler Smilo, Zach Chylinski, and Jason B. McCann
Aug. 3 – 9 to 11 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. PACA1505.com.

Mike Edgerly
Aug. 3 – 4 to 8 p.m.
Rumrunners, 133 Dobbins Landing. 455.4292.

Salmon Frank
Aug. 3 – 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, Pa. SleepingChainsaw.com.

Tyler Smilo
Aug. 3 – 7 p.m.
Edinboro Lakeside Resort, 12690 Edinboro Road., Edinboro. EdinboroLakeResort.com.

8 Great Tuesdays featuring The Gathering Field and East Ave
Aug. 5 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Burger King Amphitheater, Liberty Park. PortErie.org.

COMMUNITY

Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing
July 23 to Aug. 5 – 5:25 to 9 p.m.
Sundays through Thursdays
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Highway. PresqueIsleDowns.com.

Daytime Lagoon by Pontoon
July 23 to Aug. 5 – 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 2 p.m.

Presque Isle State Park, Pontoon Boat Station. TRECPI.org. Registration required.

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon
July 23 to Aug. 5 – 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays & Fridays

Presque Isle State Park, Pontoon Boat Station. TRECPI.org. Registration required.

Goodell Gardens Sing-A-Long
July 23 & 30 – 11 to 11:50 a.m.
Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. GoodellGardens.org.

Yoga in the Gardens
July 23 & 30 – 5 to 6 p.m.
Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. GoodellGardens.org.

Fishing for Kids
July 23 – 9 a.m. to noon
Presque Isle State Park, Pontoon Boat Station. TRECPI.org. Registration required.

Picnic in the Park
July 24 & 31 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Gibson Park, Route 20, North East. NEChamber.org.

Wild Wednesdays at the Zoo
July 23 & 30 – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
The Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. ErieZoo.org.

Walks in the Woods
July 23 & 30 – 11 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Road. AsburyWoods.org.

Harley Davidson Erie Bike Nights
July 23 & 30 – 6 to 9:30 p.m.
Buffalo Wild Wings, 2099 Interchange Road. BuffaloWildWings.com.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bronsen Euard and The Essentials Rock the Sounds Around Town

They're described as being kinda like the Three Musketeers – only louder, and they yield axes (like, guitars), sticks (of the drumming sort), and chords (the musical kind) instead of muskets and mustaches ... you know, more blues than bombast.

We hear they love those instruments, too, and also dig playing chess, and – the young guys that they are – have fun just wastin' time between gigs.

But these days, time to waste is getting shorter for Bronsen Euard and The Essentials, because the gigs keep coming fast for the local up-and-comers. And, along with other stops on some of the Erie area's main circuits for live music, they'll be featured (on the radio – and the TV, too!) as the stars of the next, and final, installment of WQLN's Sounds Around Town summer concert series.

The show – free and open to all – starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1, pond-side at the pavilion on WQLN's campus. If it rains, no worries – they'll be taking it indoors.

And, like this summer's previous Sounds Around Town events, craft beer and coffee samples from Erie Beer and McMormick Coffee will be on hand for enjoying.

Sounds Around Town (all of which are being recorded for airing both on WQLN radio and TV stations) are emceed by WQLN Radio's own groovy Gary Finney, host of "The Third Set."

In short, it's good, local music (and other good, local stuff) presented by people in the know about such things. Definitely sounds like some blues worth getting on Aug. 1. – Ryan Smith

6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1 // 8425 Peach St. // WQLN.org

Erie SeaWolves vs. Reading Fightin' Phils

July 23 – 12:05 p.m.

Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. Seawolves.com.

Fairy Gathering at Asbury Woods

July 23 – 7 to 8 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Road. AsburyWoods.org.

Pickup Funsies Frisbee at Presque Isle

July 24, 29, 31 & Aug. 5 – 6 p.m.

Presque Isle State Park, Ranger Station field on Tuesdays; Beach II on Thursdays. VisitEriePA.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels

July 24 to 27 – 7:05 p.m.

Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. Seawolves.com.

Morning EcoPaddle

July 25 – 9 to 11 a.m.

Presque Isle State Park, Lagoon Launch. TRECPI.org.

YMCA Camp Sherwin Annual Fishing Derby

July 25 – 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Shaper Pond, 8600 W. Lake Road, Lake City. YMCAErie.org/camp.

Millcreek Mall's Party on the Promenade

July 25 – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Millcreek Mall, 5800 Peach St. MillcreekMall.net.

Discover Presque Isle Days

July 25 to 27 – All day

Presque Isle State Park. DiscoverPI.com.

Healthy Zoo, Healthy You Family Fun Days

July 26 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. ErieZoo.org.

Paranormal Super Con Expo

July 26 – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn, 2225 Downs Drive. ParanormalSuperCon.com.

Erie Land Lighthouse Tours

July 26 & 27 – Noon to 4 p.m.

Erie Land Lighthouse, 2 Lighthouse St. 454.2852 x0.

Day Sails Aboard the U.S. Brig Niagara

July 26 – 1 to 7 p.m.

Erie Maritime Museum docks, 150 E. Front St. FlagshipNiagara.org.

Night at the Races

July 26 – 7:05 p.m.

Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Drive, North East. LakeErieSpeedway.com.

YMCA Pilates in the Garden

July 27 & Aug. 3 – 11 a.m. to noon

Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. GoodellGardens.org.

Cruise the Bay Car Cruise-In

July 28 & Aug. 4 – 6 to 10 p.m.

Bayfront Park n Ride Lot, Liberty Park and Bayfront Parkway. 474.5183.

31st Annual Lake Erie Fanfare

July 29 – 7 p.m.

Veterans Stadium, 26th & State St. LERegiment.org.

150 Years of Kane: A Student Journey

July 29 – 7:30 p.m.

Kane Family Drive-In, 6627 Route 6 E., Kane, Pa. ArtsErie.org.

Beach Campfire Outdoor Cooking

July 29 – 7:30 to 9 p.m.

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 3-6 pm - Farmers Market - Free Admission

Friday, July 25 - Live music by The Scenic Route (Americana)
 7-9 pm, \$5 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 kids

Sunday, Aug. 3 - Herbal Aromatherapy, a Make & Take Tea Time Talk
 \$15 or \$7 for members, register: (814) 734-6699

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CALENDAR

II. TRECPI.org.

Senior Citizen's Day at the Erie Zoo
 July 30 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 The Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. ErieZoo.org.

Healthy Home, Healthy You!
 July 30 – 6:30 to 8 p.m.
 Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Road. AsburyWoods.org.

The Erie Economy: How Do We Move Forward?
 July 30 – 7 to 8:30 p.m.
 Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. JESerie.org. Registration required.

Dan Rice Days
 July 30 to Aug. 3 – All day
 Downtown Girard. DanRiceDays.com.

Project Icebreaker: Unlocking the Offshore Wind Potential of the Great Lakes
 July 31 – 7 to 8:30 p.m.
 Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. JESerie.org. Registration required.

First Fridays at Five
 Aug. 1 – 5 to 8 p.m.
 Downtown North East, Route 20. NEChamber.org.

Presque Isle Adopt-A-Beach Clean-Up
 Aug. 2 – 9 a.m.
 Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.

McDonald's Day at the Erie Zoo
 Aug. 2 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 The Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. ErieZoo.org.

Millcreek Mall Bounce Back to School Carnival
 Aug. 2 – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Millcreek Mall, 5800 Peach

St. MillcreekMall.net.

Cruise Town Erie Car Show
 Aug. 2 – 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.
 Downtown Erie, State St. ContemporaryMotorCar.com.

Crash-A-Rama
 Aug. 2 – 7:05 p.m.
 Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Drive, North East. LakeErieSpeedway.com.

Widget Turns One... Come Join the Fun!
 Aug. 3 – Noon to 3 p.m.
 Millcreek Mall, 5800 Peach St. MillcreekMall.net.

Mushroom I.D. at TREC
 Aug. 3 – 2 to 3 p.m.
 Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.

Aromatherapy Tea Time Talk
 Aug. 3 – 3 to 4 p.m.
 Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. GoodellGardens.org. Registration required.

Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! The Evolving Artistry of the Beatles
 Aug. 5 – 7 to 8:30 p.m.
 Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. JESerie.org. Registration required.

Erie Seawolves vs. New Hampshire Fisher Cats
 Aug. 5 – 7:05 p.m.
 Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. Seawolves.com.

DANCE

Mid-Day Dance Breaks
 July 24 & 31 – Noon to 1 p.m.
 Perry Square, State St. ArtsErie.org.

Swing Dance
 July 24 & 31 – 9 p.m.

Rocco's Tavern, 4040 W. 12 St. 833.7127.

FOOD & DRINK

Goodell Gardens Farmers Market
 July 23 & 30 – 3 to 6 p.m.
 Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. GoodellGardens.org.

Quaker Steak & Lube Bike Night & Cruise-In
 July 23 & 30 – 6 p.m.
 Quaker Steak & Lube, 7851 Peach St. VisitEriePA.com.

Erie Downtown Block Party
 July 24 – 6 p.m.
 Sluggers Sports Bar & Grill, 14 E. 10th St. ErieDowntown.com.

Pizza and Wine Pairing Event
 July 25 – 7 p.m.
 Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 West Main Road, North East. PIWine.com.

Christmas in July
 July 25 – 6 p.m.
 The Brewerrie, 123 West 14th St. Brewerrie.com.

Vino & Vinyasa, Wine+Yoga+Food
 July 26 – 9 a.m.
 Courtyard Wineries, 10021 West Main Road, North East. CourtyardWineries.com. Prepayment required.

Beer on the Bay
 July 26 – Noon to 3 p.m. & 4 to 7 p.m.
 Burger King Amphitheater, Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier. ErieBrewingCo.com.

Tasting in the Wilds
 July 26 – Noon to 7 p.m.
 Firemen's Carnival Grounds, Route 219, Ridgway, PA. TastingintheWilds.com.

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Earth Crisis to headline Gem City Festival at Basement Transmissions

With the opening of the new Basement Transmissions, owner Bob Jensen promised the independent Erie music community a drastic change for the better in the quality of shows in the local scene. And he wasted no time delivering on that promise, as less than a month after the grand re-opening at the new location, the venue will be hosting one of the biggest hardcore shows to hit Erie in years.

On August 2, the mighty Earth Crisis will once again be taking the stage in Erie as the headliner of the first Gem City Festival. For those not familiar with the band, they were extremely influential in spreading the messages of straight edge, veganism, and animal rights all throughout the hardcore scene in the 1990s, and their heavy metal/punk hybrid sound has been seminal in shaping modern hardcore music.

Aside from locals being stoked for shows like this coming back to Erie, this festival is certain to draw attention to Erie from surrounding scenes like, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and more – not only because they all have their own locals on the bill (Buffalo's Wreckage and Pittsburgh's Killing Thing) – but because Earth Crisis has a fan base that stretches all across the globe. And so far this year, Erie is one of their only shows booked.

“They are a legendary hardcore band that rarely plays shows [anymore], and has a huge following” says Matt and Mark Schang, the promoters of the festival. “Whether you like them or not, they are a huge part of hardcore history.”

But Earth Crisis isn't the only band to be excited about. Seventeen other bands including Dead End Path, The Banner, and Soul Control will be playing, as well as Erie locals Smoke and Mirrors and Counterfeit.

It's unlikely that anyone in Erie or the surrounding areas who has listened to hardcore anytime between 1991 and now will want to miss out on this festival. And if anyone is just getting into metal or hardcore music for the first time, now is your chance to see it at its finest. – Tommy Shannon

Doors at noon // 145 W. 11th St. // GemCityFest.BrownPaperTickets.com

Dan Rice Days: A Celebration of Erie's Circus Man

He's a renowned American figure who is celebrated annually through a three-day celebration in a township that he once considered home - just west of the city of Erie - in Girard.

And his celebration – Dan Rice Days – is an affair that recognizes the innovator, political candidate (he ran for Senate, Congress, and President) and most importantly – entertainer.

While Rice was mainly preeminent before the American Civil War, he is responsible for changing the circus into what it is today by mixing animals, acrobats, and clowns [something apparently unheard of long ago]. Unfortunately his talents slipped somewhat into obscurity – so much so, he's even been coined as “the most famous man you've never heard of.”

Except locally, that is.

The festival features artisans, craft sellers, community booths, and live entertainment - all free of charge. There are a number of activities for attendees of all ages – everything from magic shows and live music (Tennessee Backporch, Gem City Big Band, and O'Needers to name a few), to a Saturday morning parade, crafts, great food, and wine tastings. The three-day celebration officially kicks off July 31 at 6 p.m. with an opening ceremony on the main stage. For a complete listing of events, go to: DanRiceDays.com/schedule.php – Rebecca Styn

July 31 – August 2 // 34 Main Street West, Girard // 774.9863

Paint Your Pet

July 27 – 5 to 8 p.m.

Fox & Hound, 250 Millcreek Plaza. CocktailsandColor.com. Registration required.

July 31 – 6 p.m.

Molly Brannigans, 506 State St. ErieDowntown.com.

Cocktails & Color: Wine Bottles

July 31 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Quaker Steak & Lube, 7851

Peach St. CocktailsandColor.com. Registration required.

Cocktails & Color: Starry Night

Aug. 4 – 6 to 8 p.m.

The Brewerrie, 123 West 14th Street CocktailsandColor.

Erie Downtown Block Party



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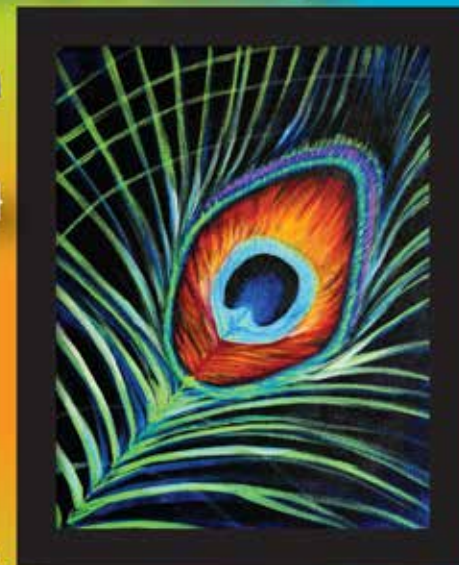
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Erie Playhouse Presents Mark Twain's *Is He Dead?*

Vincent van Gogh. Edgar Allan Poe. Emily Dickenson. These are just a few members of a large group of artists who didn't earn their critical acclaim and overall fame until after they ceased to exist on this mortal plane. Mark Twain, however, was not one of them, but the success-after-death stories helped inspire *Is He Dead?*, a two-act play by the famous American artist formerly known as Samuel Langhorne Clemens that will finish off its local run at the Erie Playhouse from July 23 to July 27.

Is He Dead? focuses on the talented, but struggling artist Jean-Francois Millet and his inability to sell his work and pay off his debts. After a run-in with a potential buyer at an auction, the artist's pupils proceed with a plan to fake Millet's death so that his art would suddenly be in demand, all while Millet masquerades as his widowed twin sister "Daisy." Twain packs the play with his trademark witty satire, although *Is He Dead?* wasn't actually released until nearly 100 years after his own death when a Twain historian read the manuscript and had it published in book form.

Unlike van Gogh, Poe, and Dickenson, Twain experienced success during his lifetime, but *Is He Dead?* offers a glimpse at one of his works that, appropriately, slipped through the cracks until long after his living days. Even 104 years after Twain's death, we're still getting treated to more material from one of the greatest American humorists at the Erie Playhouse. - Alex Bieler

7:30 p.m. July 23-26 and 2 p.m. July 27 // 13 W. 10th St. // erieplayhouse.org



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

8 Great Tuesdays

A group of folk-rockers with hearts deep-rooted in their Rust Belt home will be teaming up with the world's premier undead funk ambassadors to bring one heckuva show - for free - to Erie's beautiful Bayfront.

Sound like some kinda great Tuesday?

It's sure to be - one of 8 Great Tuesdays, that is - when Erie's own Falling Hollywood and Nashville's Here Come the Mummies (who describe themselves as "terrifying funk from beyond the grave") take the stage at Burger King Amphitheater July 29 for the next installment in the ever-popular summer music series.

And your very own *Erie Reader* (that's us) is serving as one of the evening's event sponsors, so you know we'll be there, for all the folk, all the funk, and all the fun. Stop by the *Reader's* tent, too, if you wanna share any thoughts, just hang out, or find out everything you've always wanted to know about the region's premier free, independent news publication (that's us).

So, in a nutshell, there it is: Falling Hollywood. Funky mummies. And us, your friendly *Reader* staff and contributors, all in one place, on one night.

That's a great Tuesday, alright.

The show starts at 6:30 p.m. For more on the bands, other upcoming lineups, and more information - including how to take advantage of shuttle services to and from the Bayfront - visit porter.org/8-great-tuesdays. - Ryan Smith

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 29 // Liberty Park // PortErie.org

com. Registration required.

Cocktails & Color: Kitties and the Moon

Aug. 5 - 6 to 8 p.m.

Black Jax, 8040A Perry Highway CocktailsandColor.com. Registration required.

FILM

12 O'Clock Boys

July 23 - 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. FilmSocietyNWPA.org.

Great White Shark

July 23 to Aug. 5 - 11 a.m., 1 & 4 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.

Mysteries of the Unseen World

July 23 to Aug. 5 - Noon, 3 & 5 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

July 23 to Aug. 5 - 2 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.

Maidentrip

July 30 - 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. FilmSocietyNWPA.org.

Movies in the Arboretum

Aug. 1 - 8 p.m.

Frontier Park, off W. 8th St. LEAFerie.com.

COMEDY

Jim Breuer

July 30 - 7 p.m.

Jr.'s Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. Jrslastlaugh.com.

VISUAL ARTS

Sanctuary of Illumination, An Installation by Lucy Slivinski

Ongoing

Erie Art Museum, McCain Family Gallery, 20 E. Fifth St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

Exposed: Recent Gifts to the Photography Collection

Ongoing

Erie Art Museum, Bacon Gallery, 20 E. Fifth St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

The Art of Patricia

Kearney: Selected Work 1975 - 2013

Ongoing

Erie Art Museum, Ronald E. Holstein Gallery, 20 E. Fifth St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

InnovationErie Design Competition

Ongoing

Erie Art Museum, Hagen Family Gallery, 20 E. Fifth St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

Through Our Eyes Photography Exhibit

Ongoing

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula

Drive. TRECPI.org.

Between the States: Photographs of the American Civil War from the George Eastman House

Closing Aug. 3

Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture, Cummings Art Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. MIAC.Mercyhurst.edu.

GC Myers Alchemy

Ongoing

Kada Gallery, 2632 West 8th St. KadaGallery.com.

Richard Sadlier,

Gathering at Chaffee's

Imagine a backyard party, but one with awesome jam bands that lasts two days. Now, head to the Gathering at Chaffee's in Girard to make your vision a reality.

The Erie Country tradition enters its 34th rendition of the two-day music festival, with jam masters Aqueous and Eric Brewer and Friends headlining Friday's festivities and Spiritual Rez and Jimkata starring on Saturday, alongside a dozen other bands ready to entertain. In addition to providing a killer atmosphere, the Gathering will also help benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and The Bradley H. Foulk Children's Advocacy Center, adding some good karma to your mini vacation right in Erie's backyard. — Alex Bieler

Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26 // 8296 Mill St., Girard, Pa. // thegatheringatchaffees.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

InnovationErie Design Competition

When you look up the word "innovation" in the dictionary, you'll find "the act or process of introducing new ideas, devices, or methods" printed within the confines of a trusty Merriam-Webster. The InnovationErie Design Competition has highlighted fourteen teams who have taken the definition to heart and are trying to advance economic development in the region.

For entrants to be considered in the Design Competition, all submitted ideas must be able to be manufactured right in Northwest Pennsylvania and will be reviewed by an InnovationErie panel of judges on aesthetics, marketability, and its Pennsylvania connection for a final four of local innovations. They won't be the only judges, however, as you, and everyone else who goes to see the InnovationErie Design Competition exhibit in the Hagen Family Gallery at the Erie Art Museum, can vote on your favorite idea until the exhibit ends Aug. 31, whether it be a design for a strategic game involving Vikings and H.P. Lovecraftian creatures, a locally-crafted makeup kit, or one of the other 12 semifinalists on display.

In an age where plenty of material goods are shipped in from overseas, the bright minds nominated in the Design Competition are trying to bring some innovation to Erie, Pa. at the Erie Art Museum. — Alex Bieler

Exhibit open during regular Erie Art Museum hours from now through August 31 // 20 E. Fifth St. // innovationerie.net

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- Bring
 - Lady's title
 - Uncle (Scot.)
 - Scientific name (suf.)
 - Recorded proceedings
 - Totem pole
 - In (Fr.)
 - Your (Ger.)
 - Citizen (abbr.)
 - Sound perception
 - Movies
 - Legal action
 - Apart (pref.)
 - Mulberry of India
 - Dance company (abbr.)
 - Bedouin headband cord
 - Rosebud, e.g.
 - Constrictor
 - Pattern
 - Guido's note (2)

- words**
- Concerning (2 words)
 - Latite
 - Television channel
 - Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)
 - Yarn measure
 - Golf ball holder
 - Medieval helmet
 - Suggestion
 - Universal product code (abbr.)
 - Pointed (pref.)
 - Challenge
 - Shelter
 - Afr. tree
 - Down with (Fr., 2 words)
 - At the age of (Lat.)
 - Earth
 - Created

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

M	E	D	E	A		I	C	I		T	A	V			
A	D	I	O	S		C	O	D		A	M	A			
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A	L	S				E	R	A		E	A	G	E	R	
M	E	T				T	E	D		M	O	O	R	E	

DOWN

- Youngster
- Wood sorrel
- Denary
- Assuage
- Shepherd's song
- Sharpshooter
- Of the kind of (suf.)
- Madness
- Prime
- Mutilate
- Feminine (suf.)
- Wife of Esau
- Nose (pref.)
- Noted physicist
- Black
- Pane (2 words)
- Palmetto
- Ember (2 words)
- River into the North Sea
- Carplike fish
- Afrikaans
- Water (Fr.)
- Accumulate
- Haw. dance
- Sword
- Spoken alphabet letter
- Cheese
- Portuguese coin
- Sleeveless Arab cloak
- Energy unit
- Compass direction

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13					14			
15					16					17			
			18	19		20		21					
22	23	24		25		26		27					
28				29				30		31		32	33
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46	47				48		49		50				
51				52		53			54	55	56	57	
58				59					60				
61				62					63				

Recent Paintings

Opening July 25

Glass Growers, 10 E. 5th St. GlassGrowersGallery.com.

Jane Kleszczowski

Closing July 31

D'Hopkins Denniston Gallery, 5 W. 10th St. 455.1616.

THEATER

Shakespeare Summer Nights: Romeo & Juliet

July 23 & 24 – 7 p.m.

Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. For more information contact Rev. Shawn Clerkin at clerkin001@gannon.edu or Jax Kubiak at kubiak004@gannon.edu.

Mark Twain: Is He Dead?

July 23-27 – 7:30 p.m.; 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. Performances run Wednesday through Sunday

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. EriePlayhouse.org.

The Carol Burnett Variety Show

July 23 to Aug. 5 – Tuesdays & Wednesdays noon; Saturdays 5:30 p.m.; Sundays 2:30 p.m.

Station Dinner Theatre, 4940

[Peach St. CanterburyFeast.com](http://PeachSt.CanterburyFeast.com).

Shakespeare Summer Nights: Rosencratz and Guildenstern are Dead

July 25 & 26 – 7 p.m.

Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. For more information contact Rev. Shawn Clerkin at clerkin001@gannon.edu or Jax Kubiak at kubiak004@gannon.edu.

Medium Mayhem Murder Mystery Train Ride by In All Seriousness Inc.

July 26 – Dinner starts at around 5 p.m.

Oil Creek and Titusville Rail Road, 7 Elm St., Oil City. InAllSeriousness.com.

The Andrews Brothers

July 29 to Aug. 5 – Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon; Fridays at 7 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, One Fountain Avenue, Cambridge Springs. TheRiversideInn.com.

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

July 31 to Aug. 5 – Thursdays through Saturdays 8 p.m.

Dramashop, 1001 State St. Dramashop.org.

Disney Junior Live on Tour! Pirate & Princess Adventure

July 31 – 4 & 7 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. ErieEvents.com.

Youtheatre Summer Play Series: The Snow Queen

Aug. 1 to 3 – Friday 7 p.m.; Saturday 2 and 7 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m.

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. EriePlayhouse.org.

FUNDRAISERS

Back to School Drive

July 23 to Aug. 2 – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Millcreek Mall, 5800 Peach St. MillcreekMall.net.

4th Annual Afternoon for Equality

July 27 – 4 to 6 p.m.

21 la rue dix, 21 W. 10th St. 866.229.1974.

Even Craftier August 2014 Benefiting the A.N.N.A. Shelter

Aug. 3 – Noon to 4 p.m.

PACA Arts Center & Theatre, 1505 State St. PACA1505.com.

Weird Al Yankovic

Mandatory Fun
RCA



★★★★

Weird Al Yankovic has been in the parody business for 38 years. No, that's not a typo, the man known for reworking songs like Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" into an Amish anthem has been changing popular songs into quirky odes to whatever crosses his mind since 1976. Fortunately, the 54-year old musician and humorist is still going strong into 2014 on *Mandatory Fun*, as Weird Al continues to put his own spin on big hits, turning those summer jams that burrow into your mind into a something amusing. Pharrell William's "Happy" becomes "Tacky," a gleeful three minutes that skewers the distasteful with lines like "I will livetweet a funeral, take pictures with the deceased." Elsewhere, Weird Al provides a grammatical lesson via Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" on "Word Crimes." And of course, it wouldn't be a Weird Al album without a polka mash-up of several top-40 tracks. Sure, there are a couple of missteps ("Sports Song"), but *Mandatory Fun* is, well, lots of fun. – Alex Bieler

Manic Street Preachers

Futurology
Capitol Records



★★★★

The Welsh alternative band that has always used its music to rail against war, injustice, and apathy tones down their politics a bit and delivers a catchy and likable album. Frontman James Dean Bradfield's vocals can be soaring, soulful, and gritty, but here are often layered and compressed into an over-processed blandness - especially on the first two tracks which clone each other with the same flat tempo, structure, and style. Get through the beginning and a stylish retro '80s feel pervades the rest of the album - especially on "Sex, Power, Love and Money" and the catchy "Misguided Missile" that drive hard with punk rhythms and ringing guitars. Within a very European sounding album is some pop fare, which has potential to hit the charts in the USA - especially "Between the Clock and the Bed," which got some legs when it was pre-released and the introspective ballad "Divine Youth" that features vocalist and harp player Georgia Ruth. – Bryan Toy

Lefty Williams

All In
Tree Leaf Music



★★★★

For guitarists, excuses can often get in the way of practicing - I'm tired, I have a job, I have kids, pets, problems, a comfy couch, and I've been playing for 20 years and I still suck anyway, so what's the use? Well, after listening to Lefty Williams' latest release *All In* (available Aug. 21), I picked up ol' blackie and woodshedded for about eight hours straight. Williams is *that* inspiring because he has a handy excuse not to play, but he hasn't let it stop him from becoming a smokin' guitarist: HE WAS BORN WITH ONLY ONE ARM. Anatomy aside, Williams is more on the "rhythm" side of "rhythm and blues," but can still bring the fire when necessary as well as belt out soulful, heartfelt vocals to boot, especially on the powerful track "Coming Apart." So the next time the couch is calling, give this album a spin and get to practicin'. You've no excuse. – Cory Vaillancourt.

Every Time I Die

From Parts Unknown
Epitaph Records



★★★★

The Buffalo metalcore band Every Time I Die have released their seventh album in their nearly two decades of existence. *From Parts Unknown* is a great expression of their nearly flawless hardcore, lyrically diverse, and pulsating formula, hitting hard in the first 30 seconds with "The Great Secret" blasting away at a breakneck tempo. From there, lead vocalist Keith Buckley screams through his life from the last three years. Each song has distinctive guitar riffs, as per usual for ETID, but some standout tracks are "Exometrium" and "Decayin' With The Boys." Some experimental tracks include "Moor" and "El Dorado," where the band balances indie-rock and southern rock 'n' roll into the album's list. Overall, any ETID fan will be extremely pleased with the July 1 release, and new listeners will get a good idea of how this cornerstone hardcore band produces great music. – Jess Scutella

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Geeked Out

Summer Board Game Fun

By: John Lindvay

The sun is shining, the beach is calling, and we have been enjoying rather pleasant temperatures as of late – yep, it's summertime! However, when the heat is just too much or the rain forces us indoors, board games are always there keep us company. And while we all have our go-to favorites and classics from which we'll never part, I have two fantastic games to share with you – one is a blitz and the other fulfills the dream of being a mega monster wreaking mayhem in a major metropolitan area.

Dutch Blitz is "A Vonderful Goot Game!" Perhaps you've heard of this particularly frantic card game since it was designed in our home state of Pennsylvania in Bucks County. So the tale of inception goes, German immigrant and optometrist, Werner Ernst George Muller, designed the game as a means to help his children easily learn about colors and numbers – and it's an incredible all-ages game you ought to give a try.

I have two fantastic games to share with you – one is a blitz and the other fulfills the dream of being a mega monster wreaking mayhem in a major metropolitan area

The *Dutch Blitz* allows for two to four players, and the easiest way to describe it is that it takes key aspects of other popular card games, like spoons, war, and solitaire. In wonderfully Pennsylvania Dutch style, the game has four player decks of cards that are distinguishable by the icons of water pump, plow, pail, and a carriage. Each player deck is constituted of ten red, blue, green, and yellow cards each having cards going from 1 to 10.

The setup is similar to solitaire in that you have piles that you need to clear, and you do that by creating new piles that go in order of least to greatest by color in the center. You draw cards similar in style to solitaire, three at a time as you fish for a card to play. Where it gets crazy is those piles in the middle are playable by all your opponents. This is



where the Spoons and War analogy comes in. The game is fast and frantic, and often times you'll end up slapping hands racing to place your card.

Although the game's designed for players of all ages, when I play it, it becomes a heated contest full of cursing and laughter as we all race to clear out the "Blitz Pile." This is a perfect game to play since rounds are quick and anyone older than eight years of age can understand the concept. I was introduced to this game on a train ride, and I have been hooked ever since.

The other game I wanted to talk about has been my go-to party game when friends are over. Weeks ago I wrote about my love for all things *Godzilla*. *King of Tokyo* is a board game that allows my fantasy of being a massive mega monster like *Godzilla*, or even a hulking kaiju from *Pacific Rim*, come to life.

King of Tokyo was designed by creator Richard Garfield, who just so happened to make a well-known table-top game called *Magic: The Gathering*. Unlike *Magic*, this game doesn't require countless booster packs of cards. *King of Tokyo* is a dice-rolling game with some interesting strategic elements that give you just enough to contemplate as you wait for your turn to come around. With easy to understand rules and a natural way to force quick play, this game is great for ages 8 and up.

For me, *King of Tokyo* is the best game to play with players who tend to take forever on their turns. You know who I am talking about – that friend or family member of

Invented by right here in Pennsylvania, Dutch Blitz is a must-play card game.

yours when you are playing *Risk/Scrabble/Sorry/whatever* and takes thirty minutes to make the simplest move. I, for one, hate those people, and *King of Tokyo* solves that problem by being a dice game where you only have so many rolls before the chaotic nature of luck and chance decides what you can or cannot do. All the while you can pretend to be a Gigazaur fighting against a Mega Krakken!

Designed for two to six players, you roll dice and attack each other, heal your wounds, or charge up and collect energy cubes to unleash special attacks or mutate into a stronger monster. All the while you fight to be king of the hill – err, I mean *King of Tokyo*!

While it may seem silly, this game has depth and multiple ways to win which makes each play session exciting. *King of Tokyo* is also a great game because while it does have that strategic depth and a wonderful theme, the dice rolling helps keep it lighthearted and fun. Also who hasn't dreamt of being a *Godzilla*-like monster trudging about a city knocking down all challengers!

John Lindvay can be contacted at jlindvay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ [FightStrife](https://twitter.com/FightStrife). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/dgxne>.



Tech Bits

Controlling the Home, Google Style

By: Quentin Hardy

A diagram from Thread, a new consortium for Internet-enabled devices, illustrates how a so-called mesh network could enable various gadgets and appliances to communicate easily with one another. Credit When Google goes after the home, it goes big. And maybe it goes after control, too.

On Tuesday, Nest, a Google-owned company that makes Internet-connected thermostats and smoke alarms, was one of six companies that announced a consortium to promote the easy online connection of other devices.

How many devices per home? "Two hundred and fifty products per home network," said Chris Boross, the president of the consortium, known as the Thread Group, and also the head of technical marketing at Nest. "That should provide ample room for growth in the future."

Considering that now just a handful of home devices, like televisions and video cameras, connect to the Internet, the ceiling of 250 devices certainly seems ample. But the big number of items is not as interesting as how the group seems to be thinking about how the so-called Internet of Things will function.

"Devices will talk to each other in subtle ways," Mr. Boross said. "If a thermostat thinks no one is home, it might be nice to turn out the lights. If a lock opens, maybe the lights will come on."

Sounds futuristic. It also sounds like one of the oldest realities in the networking business: To control the profit margins, control the management layer, the thing that tells other things what to do.

What Thread proposes is a so-called mesh network, in which devices are easily brought online, and communicate with each other as much as they do with the home Wi-Fi router that sends signals about personal and device behavior to and from the Internet.

This makes Thread different from recently announced efforts by an Intel-led group, and another one featuring technology from Qualcomm, for a standard between routers and devices. Thread is more likely a way to connect everything, then have all those household products reach the Internet via the Intel or Qualcomm communications standard or some other standard.

Another difference is that both the Qualcomm and Intel groups propose to open-source their communications standards. To date, Thread's standard is proprietary. Mr. Boross said member companies might choose to open-source their technology later on.

The promise of Thread is that household devices can easily and securely be configured for home use, and people can enjoy this kind of home intelligence that comes of certain devices (like Nest thermostats, which are designed to learn about their owner's habits) assisting other objects that have less machine intelligence. In a network of equals, these would effectively become key control points.

Other members of the Thread Group include ARM, Freescale Semiconductor and Silicon Labs, all makers of lower-power semiconductors that tend not to have a lot of processing power. That makes them more power-efficient and less complex than, say, chips from Intel or Qualcomm, and more dependent on Nest-type products to connect to the cloud, where in this version of the connected home most of the computation is likely to take place.

Besides Nest, consumer product companies in the group are Big Ass Fans, Yale Security and the appliance arm of Samsung. Other large makers of home products, like Westinghouse, Philips, Honeywell or General Electric, were not included. "We can't discuss all our communications," Mr. Boross said, adding that "there are lots of reasons" why a company might not join.

Among technology companies, representatives of both Intel and Qualcomm said there was little contact, if any, with the Thread Group before the announcement. Apple was not invited to join, said Sujata Neidig, a business development manager at Freescale and a member of the Thread board. Apple has a framework for home device communications known as HomeKit.

"Time to market was a priority," she said. "Things they are doing around HomeKit could be complementary; we don't know."

Applications to join the Thread Group will be available later this year, the group said. Product certification should begin in 2015.

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Street Fashionista

Summer Festival Fashion

By: Lili Morton

As summer begins to wane, we can be grateful that the season's music festivals continue to jam on. Yes, live music is the draw, but fashion is an accompaniment all its own. Over the years, festivals have developed their own style, so much so that retailers have gotten in on the act. Many of the crochet, bandeaus, lace shorts, free-flowing floral frocks, and tanks on the racks likely got some of their inspiration from summer festivals.

But what exactly is festival fashion? And how can you make it work for you?

Festival fashion is all about creating a funky, boho look that you could rarely get away with on a typical day. A good place to start is to seek inspiration from serial festivalgoers like Kate Bosworth or Vanessa Hudgens (Google them for images galore).

Then, consider what I tell my clients and tailor to fit you.

Pick one trend: Too often I see festival-goers trying to work every trend into one look – which is a huge faux pas. Unless you're a super successful stylist, pick one trend and work with it. Great examples would be: A tribal-print dress with a cross-body fringe bag; printed maxi skirt with a solid-color crop top, and flower crown; distressed, cut-off denim short with a graphic tee/tank, cool hat (fedora), and cross-body bag.

What exactly is festival fashion? And how can you make it work for you?

Bathing suits are not clothes – just as leggings are not pants. Yes, it's hot, but strutting around a field in a bikini in the midst of tons of people is not an option. On the contrary, wearing shorts over a one-piece suit totally works. (Disclaimer: If you're attending one of the many pool parties at a festival, the bathing suit rule does not apply).

Be practical: Most of us won't be attending those celebrity-studded, festival pool parties, so our garb needs to be a bit more functional. Heels or even wedges are not the best footwear when it comes to parading around a field all day. Opt for trendy, gladiator flats, espadrilles, cool sneakers (huge trend this season), booties or cowboy



boots.

Face the facts: Unless you want to endure frequent touch-ups at the first break of sweat, keep your makeup to a minimum. You want to look fresh and easygoing, so wear a tinted moisturizer instead of a liquid foundation. Go ahead and play around with your eye makeup – just be sure to wear no-smudge eyeliner and waterproof mascara. Oil absorbing blotting paper is also a great (and cheap) item to keep nearby (a pack of Clean & Clear Oil Absorbing sheets are less than \$5 at Target).

No Bra, No Prob: I don't suggest losing the support, but, if possible, opt for a bralette (which could take the form of a training bra or cropped cami) or bandeau with straps. After hours in the sun, a normal bra will become sticky and uncomfortable. A bralette will keep you comfy and fits into festival fashion perfectly. Pair with crochet top or an over-sized tank and cut-off shorts or a maxi skirt. If you have a comfortable, cotton-type bra, this is the one time in your life you won't be judged for showing your colored bra straps. Flaunt those straps with pride.

Braids for Days: Braids are the season's sensation. Milkmaid, waterfall, messy side-braid bun, classic French, and – my personal favorite – the fishtail. Keep cool and look cool by sporting one of these styles this summer.

Headgear: Flower crowns, wide-brimmed hats, fedoras, baseball cap, single-flower hair piece, embellished headbands – take your pick!

Festival fashion is all about creating a funky, boho look that you could rarely get away with on a typical day.

Denim: Head-to-toe denim or a simple pair of denim cut-offs scream All-American festival icon.

Rompers: Easy, effortless style. Top with a flower crown and you're all set.

Now that you have some ideas, here are suggestions for where to build your look. *Free People* and *Nasty Gal* are two of my favorite retailers for summer festival fashion. *Free People* offers a more boho, hippie style while *Nasty Gal* is more rock and cutting-edge. Both have online shops.

UK company ASOS also has some great options. I recently styled my client, Miki, in a daisy print, crochet top for her trip to the Governor's Ball. ASOS has been my go-to for years.

While Coachella, Governor's Ball, and Bonnaroo have come and gone, there is still time (if tickets are available) to catch Lollapalooza in Chicago, Hopscotch in Raleigh, Austin City Limits, and Electric Zoo in NYC, and around these parts, you can still sport your festival best at our local outdoor scenes at the Gathering at Chaffee's, 8 Great Tuesdays, Erie Art Museum's Blues and Jazz Fest, and Penn Shore Winery's Concert Series – just to name a few.

Lili Morton can be contacted at LMorton@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @SatinAndScotch. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/24t42>.



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ER Sports

The inappropriate statue of Jim Thome, The Return of the King, and an impending meeting with the General McLane School Board.

By: James R. LeCorchick

MANY, MANY PEOPLE will think I am being totally shallow on this subject and some Cleveland Indians fans might think this borders on sacrilegious, but it is a something I am passionate about, and I am not about to switch my feelings. Not for anyone.

Most everybody understands how I feel about this disgusting **Derek Jeter** "Farewell Tour," and how sick it made me when my team – the Cleveland Indians – honored him at a recent game at Progressive Field. As far as I'm concerned, teams should fete their own. So this next statement may surprise a lot of Cleveland fans, but it needs to be said.

On Aug. 2, the Indians front office is going to unveil a statue – a STATUE, I say – of former Indian great **Jim Thome**. Let me shout from the rooftops, "I would go see Derek Jeter honored in Cleveland before I would think of viewing this ceremony."

Greed is helping destroy sports and Thome left Cleveland for one reason, and one reason only: more money – which he found in Philadelphia. I don't deny the right to do this, and it's easy for me to sit in Erie, Pa. and say someone should take less money for doing a job. But the difference wasn't extreme, and the Indian slugger would've more than made up for this with endorsements and a few other things.

To me, this was a greedy move and someone who lets money rule the day should not be honored – not with anything, let alone a statue. He opted to take the money and run – to Philadelphia. Let Philly do something to honor him. Maybe they could name a cheese-steak sandwich after him. It could be advertised, "Buy your JT sub here. We make them in Cleveland, but you have to pay for it and eat it here in Philadelphia."

I must say Thome was one of my all-time favorite Indians, but he turned his back on an entire city – and all of its fans, like me – for money, and this is despicable. The slugger made his decision, a decision that was governed by greed and the last thing that needs to be done is honor him with a statue near the great **Bob Feller**, a player who played his entire career in Cleveland.

It would be different if Thome was traded and had no say in the matter, but the final decision was his. And his alone.

I can honestly say: I have no idea why the powers-to-be opted to honor him in this way. What about **Albert Belle**, **Kenny Lofton**, **Omar Vizquel**, **Early Wynn**, **Bob Lemon**, **Al Rosen**, **Herb Score**, or, my favorite Indian of all-time, the great **Rocky Colavito**?

I would love to see a huge "Don't knock the Rock" granite rock outside the old ball yard.

There is one reason, and one reason only, I would stop at the Thome statue, and that's if my dog Gypsy had slurped down three bowls

of water before we left Erie and this was the first chance she had to relieve herself.

As far as I'm concerned this well-paid athlete – and he did earn his money – urinated on Cleveland, and I would be proud to have my dog reciprocate.

The statue is going to depict Thome at the plate, pointing his bat forward. I hope it's pointing towards



Philadelphia. That would be perfect.

You may think I'm a bitter, non-forgiving sports fan – and you would be entirely correct!

Let's honor the ones that wanted to stay in Cleveland.

With all this being said, let's move on to another subject, an opinion that may surprise some of you after my preceding outburst. And that being the case of the Prodigal Son **LeBron James**.

Let me give you some background so you know where I'm coming from, and why I'm headed in the direction I chose. This will eventually lead to my opinion of King James.

I am very loyal to the teams I rooted for from childhood, including St. Andrew (before it was shut down) Cathedral Prep, Gannon College/University, University of Notre Dame, Chicago Blackhawks, Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Indians, and the Boston Celtics.

And I was a true fan of all these teams. True, as in obnoxious.

I was a fan of the Cleveland teams, but I became a Celtics fan in the NBA for two reasons. First, I saw **Bill Russell** play on television (very few college basketball games were on the tube back then) when he was at the University of San Francisco, and I was mesmerized by his grace and athletic ability. So, when he became a Celtic, I became a Celtic – fan. And number two, there was no NBA team in Cleveland at the time, so I was already a Boston follower when the Cavs were formed.

Please bear with me through somewhat trivial history lesson, as there is actually a reason



Clockwise from left: Progressive Field (in Cleveland) will soon feature a Jim Thome statue; LeBron James returns home (to Cleveland!); The Football Officials always donated their time for the Save-an-Eye football game. Included in this photo are Chubbles DeFazio, John Bradford, Huck Lininger, Frank Ropelewski, Joe Sivak, Tom Fuhrman, Babe Harkins, and others.

this info is somewhat important, at least in my mind. You can make your own decision to the pertinence in a few minutes.

The fact is, I have remained loyal to all these teams except one – the Boston Celtics. But it wasn't as much I quit being a Celtics rooter, I just didn't enjoy the NBA style of basketball that the league evolved into approximately 20 years ago, a style that appeared to be more roller derby played in sneakers, and not the game I fell in love with.

And that brings me to a destination I was striving to get to – my point being: When LeBron James made his decision to leave Cleveland, I didn't have a rooting interest in it.

I will admit I was critical of the way he handled it, but I wasn't emotional over The Decision at all. James always impressed me on and off the court, and I did admire him, especially compared to a lot of today's athletes.

So, looking back as a semi-interested bystander, I can honestly now say the four-years hiatus the Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary grad took from the Ohio city is the best thing that

could've happened for everyone – for James, the Cavs, the fans, and the city of Cleveland itself.

Now I know hindsight – especially in athletics – is a wonderful, wonderful thing, but let me give my reasoning.

First of all, if James had played the past four seasons in Cleveland, the Cavaliers would not have won a championship, and the blame would fall solely on the his broad shoulders. The Cavs just weren't good enough to win an NBA title no matter what the Akron native did on the court.

He would've basically worn out his welcome, the fans acting as most fans do – they would've showered him with boos and heaven knows what else. Now, they will appreciate his presence and applaud his efforts.

It will be a place to be when the Cavs play at home.

Secondly, James now has a pair of championship rings to wear, so there will be absolutely no pressure on him, the fans now unable to scream, "He can't win the big one." He has won the BIG ONE. As a matter of fact, he has now won two BIG ONES.

I don't care who you are, it's a lot easier to perform when there is little or no pressure.

It's easy to over-analyze in sports, but I feel these are two reasonable ideas as to why James and the Cavaliers could be ultra-successful very quickly.

With all this being said, I am proud to announce that I now have an NBA team to root for. Because of LeBron James, I am now a Cleveland Cavaliers fan. You can call me a bandwagon jumper, but it's not about winning and losing. It's about showing some loyalty and concern for your hometown. Happy to exclaim, I respect that immensely.

Happy to exclaim, "Thanks, LeBron!"
Go LeCavs!

Did you ever think LBJ would be the face of what's right in Cleveland and Thome

would be the face of greed?

ONE FINAL NOTE that may interest local sports fans.

On Wednesday, Aug. 6, there will be a special General McLane School Board meeting. This get together will enable the public to comment on the boys' basketball situation – the well-documented boys' basketball situation.

The meeting will be held in the James W. Parker Middle School North cafeteria. Attendees are asked to enter through the gym lobby.

Public comments will be allowed at this session.

I do hope people keep it civil, but it should be extremely interesting.

I'm planning on attending, and I definitely WILL NOT be speaking.

James R. LeCorchick can be contacted at JRLSportsReport@gmail.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ [JRLSports](https://twitter.com/JRLSports). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/kc1hd>.



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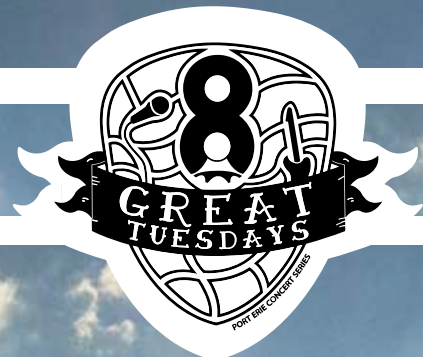
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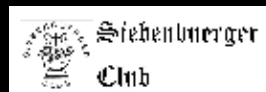
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