

ERIE READER



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Editors-in-Chief:

Brian Graham & Adam Welsh

Managing Editor:

Ben Speggen

Contributing Editor:

Rebecca Styn

Editor -at-Large:

Cory Vaillancourt

Copy Editor:

Alex Bieler

Contributors:

Alex Bieler

Mary Birdsong

Pen Falain

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

The Erie Reader is Erie's only free, independent source for news, culture, and entertainment. The Erie Reader is a forum for ideas and discussion, and seeks to drive two-way communication with its readers. At the Erie Reader, we endeavor to highlight the best of Erie by providing in-depth, magazine-style journalism that cuts to the heart of the issues that matter to Erie. The Erie Reader is published every other week at The Corry Journal, 28 W. South St., Corry, Pa. 16407. The Erie Reader is distributed at over 250 high foot traffic locations in Pennsylvania from North East to Girard to Edinboro. The Erie Reader is also available by mail subscription; one year (26 issues) for \$49.99. Send check or money order payable to Flagship Multimedia, Inc., to the address below. In addition to appearing in print, Erie Reader adds new content daily at ErieReader.com as well social media sites. All rights reserved. All content © Flagship Multimedia, Inc. 32 W. Eighth St., Suite 302, Erie, Pa, 16501. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission. The opinions of our columnists and contributors are their own and do not always reflect that of the editorial board or organization. Direct inquiries to 814.314.9364 or contact@ErieReader.com.

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FROM THE EDITORS

Erie – like many other cities – has its fair share of woes. And like other Rust Belt cities, it's experiencing the growing pains that come with shedding its former industrial skin to blossom anew as industries evolve and times change.

But Erie – like many other cities – has much to celebrate. We have a vibrant arts scene, a robust population of talented musicians, and a dynamic food and drink landscape. Erie – we've argued time and again in these very pages – is capable of greatness because greatness exists here in its people, its places, its establishments, and its businesses.

Now it's time for you, Reader readers, to help us celebrate that, and to celebrate Erie.

We're proud to announce the launch of the official Best Of Erie: A collection of the best and brightest Erie has to offer – a list populated and voted on by you.

From Aug. 6 to Sept. 2, visit ErieReader.com and click the Best of Erie link to tell us who and what you think is worthy of being on the Best Of Erie Ballot for everyone to vote on. There, you'll find

four main categories ranging from Goods & Services to Culture & Nightlife to Food & Drink to People & Places.

To nominate a business, establishment, person, or place, click the category and enter some simple information. So if you have a favorite Erie tattoo parlor or local place to buy books or music, nominate that place under the Goods & Services tab. Think you know the best place to catch a flick or know the best place to enjoy happy hour? Head to Culture & Nightlife. Enjoy drinking a local craft beer that you think is better than the rest or find that there's only one place to get Erie's best stuffed pretzel? Nominate them under the Food & Drink category. Want tell everyone who you think they should follow on Twitter in Erie or who should be crowned as our region's sustainability champ or where the best place in Erie to catch a sunset is? Head to the People & Places tab and nominate them.

These are just a few examples of the many things you'll find for which we're looking for your insight. To make things convenient, you can return to the nomination form at anytime before

the nomination period ends without having to start over by simply entering the same email address you started with.

Once nominations close on Sept. 2, we'll open the voting polls and leave them open until Oct. 10 so that you can then vote for who you think is the Best Of Erie of all the nominees. We'll then feature the top three vote-getters in alphabetical order in our Best Of Erie Issue Oct. 15. As the voting process nears, we'll provide you with more details – just like we'll tell you about the party we'll be hosting in October to celebrate the Best of Erie, as well as the Best Of Erie winners issue, which we'll publish Oct. 29.

We get to have our say in each issue we publish and 24/7 at ErieReader.com, so this is your chance. Tell us who you think should win the title of Best Of in our inaugural Best Of Erie issue by making your nominations now, because without you, Reader readers, none of this – especially all of these great people, businesses, and establishments – wouldn't be possible and we'd have little to celebrate.

Best Of Luck, and happy nominating, Erie!

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Street Corner Soapbox

The Senseless War in Gaza Rages On

Jay Stevens

To the outside world, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza is a dirty, senseless war marked by lies and vitriol and atrocities. Its origins, confusing. Its end, impossible. And what makes it especially frustrating for those of us here, safe and comfortable in our American beds, thousands of miles from Hamas rockets or Israeli artillery shells, is that both sides seem utterly confident that they're in the right. We don't understand why they fight, especially as a peaceful solution seems so near and so obvious, and we're puzzled by the insatiate hatred and quenchless bloodlust. We're paralyzed even as we're drawn in.

But are we so far removed from the insanity of Gaza?

Whom to blame for the beginning of the current conflict depends on which side you sympathize with. You could say it began with the June kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers. Or you could say it began with the Israeli reaction to the kidnappings, the crackdown by the Israeli Defense Forces with the Palestinian Authority on Hamas, the protests by Israeli hardliners,

We don't understand why they fight, especially as a peaceful solution seems so near and so obvious.

or the July kidnapping by Israeli settlers of a Palestinian teen, who was burned alive in the Jerusalem Forest. You could say the conflict began with a rocket offensive by Hamas against Israel – or you could say it began when Israelis started shelling Hamas positions in Gaza, killing hundreds of civilians while doing so.

And who's at fault in the conflict is similarly difficult. Is it Israel, for its harsh treatment of Palestinians? The continued occupation of Palestinian land? The restriction of travel for Palestinians? Their lack of access to water, sewage systems, and other basic utilities? The building of permanent Israeli settlements in occupied territories? Or the Palestinians, for their continued use of terrorism against Israelis? The suicide bombings, kidnappings, the riots, the rockets and mortars, the tunnels into Israel used to sneak Hamas fighters across the border? And then, after all, the occupied territories were won as the result of aggressive wars forced on Israel by its Arab neighbors in 1948, 1967, and 1973. Or maybe it's Israel's fault for expelling Palestinians from their own land after the 1948 war. But then today's Palestinians are



The children of Gaza are getting caught in the crossfire.

ROBERT CHROMA

more liberal organizations – like, say, Fatah. Likud abandoning its Jordan River border. Access for Palestinians to water, roads, markets.

Of course, it won't happen. Too many want more. Some Israelis are talking about reoccupying Gaza and expelling all Palestinians. Hamas gains popularity with every Israeli bomb, and too many Pales-

tinians will fight until all of Israel is gone. Neither side trusts the other. Extremists are created by war, not diminished. With every shot fired, permanent peace becomes less likely.

And compromise looks so easy to us here. The hatred so foreign and distant. But is it?

Forget about our direct involvement – the U.S. gives aid to Israel to the tune of nearly \$50 billion a year and supplies Israel with arms and munitions, which makes us allies of Israel and essentially co-participants in the conflict – and think about our own mistrust and anger and irrationality.

Like the xenophobia and racism that pens thousands of children in refugee camps on our border. It's "an invasion of our nation," said Texas Republican Steve Stockman. "We are a country, we have borders," said Ann Coulter, "and Netanyahu enforces them. Why can't we do that in America?" Protesters draped in American flags and toting assault rifles block teenage refugees fleeing from drug gangs from entering the U.S.

Like the fear that drove the U.S. invasion of Iraq. That caused Americans to collectively shrug when our government passed the Patriot Act, spied on its own people, kidnapped, and tortured in our name. Like the state governments that refuse federal funding of the expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare, leaving millions of their own citizens to dangle without healthcare for no other reason than raw spite. Like evangelical Christians who support Israel because they see a Jewish state as a prerequisite for End Times, which they want to hurry along.

We shouldn't view the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an aberration, or someone else's problem, as a mysterious, distant war. Instead, it is a warning. That the passion and cruelty and senselessness there also lives here at home, as well.

Jay Stevens can be contacted at Jay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Snevets_Yaj. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/xu4kd>.



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TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING,
IS STILL A GOOD THING.

The Way I See It

Are we safe from the Ebola outbreak?

By: Rebecca Styn

In 1994, a non-fiction book published by author Richard Preston hit the stands. The thriller, titled *The Hot Zone*, reported a highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appearing in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

The book speaks of an incident that occurred back in 1989 in which a mutated form of the Ebola virus was discovered at a primate quarantine facility in Reston, Va. Once this was realized at an Army research facility outside the nation's capital, a SWAT team of soldiers and scientists wearing bio-hazard space suits was organized to stop the outbreak. The grim operation went on in secret for eighteen days, under unprecedented, dangerous conditions. The facility was subsequently torn down sometime in the mid to late '90s.

However, the Ebola virus is still very active today.

The virus is exceptionally dangerous to hu-

From April 1 through July 27, this outbreak has infected over 1,300 and taken the lives of 730 individuals – and is still active.

mans because it has a high fatality rate, [on average, killing between 50 and 90 percent of its victims] is very infectious, and there's no known treatment or cure.

While the book would go on to reach No. 1 on the best-seller list shortly after it hit the stands, I must have read only about ten pages and never looked at it again. The book opens with the lead character, Charles Monet and his visit to a cave during a camping trip to Mount Elgon in Central Africa. Not long after, he begins to suffer from a number of horrific symptoms – described in vivid detail in such a horrifying sequence. He had contracted the disease, and it was the description of his symptoms that put me at such unrest, returning to the story seemed impossible to me.

The origins of Ebola go back far before the book was published. The first reported case of the deadly virus came in 1976 and was named after the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of Congo where it was discovered. At the time, the area where the disease was spotted was officially recognized as Zaire. Since that year, the World Health Organization has kept tight records each time there has been an outbreak of the virus. Many of the outbreaks that occurred were

contained in remote parts of West Africa, and aside from the incident that occurred in Reston, no known case of the virus entering the U.S. has been reported.

Until now.

American aid workers – physicians and nurses – have been over in the remote parts of Africa, helping to treat those who have contracted the disease. From April 1 through July 27, this outbreak has infected over 1,300 and taken the lives of 730 individuals – and is still active.

Within the last few weeks, two of the American missionaries that have been abroad fighting the disease now have Ebola. While these individuals have been receiving treatment from afar, it has been determined they would both receive better care at home. Saturday, Aug. 2 one victim, Dr. Kent Brantly, found haven at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, and the other American is most likely en route – if not already there, by the time of this printing. The hospital houses a specially built isolation unit equipped to treat patients exposed to diseases like this. While many of us are concerned about the disease creating a home base in our nation, the truth is, there is very little cause for alarm.

Unlike our perception at times (the ongoing debate about universal healthcare), the U.S. offers a highly developed healthcare system. Even the most basic of hospitals stateside have the capacity to isolate patients simply with an intensive-care unit (ICU) – something we Americans take for granted, that many of our neighboring countries still do not have. And while the disease is highly contagious, it is not airborne; someone would have to come in direct contact with an infected person's blood, secretions, or organs in order to be susceptible to infection.

In West Africa, the rapid spread of the virus can be blamed on weak health systems and traditional burial rituals (including washing the bodies of loved ones after death). The individuals being brought here will also be transported via a private medical charter plane outfitted with an isolation pod with doctors and staff that are highly trained in treating and containing the virus. In addition, should someone contract the disease during a flight, the Centers for Disease Control (which happens to also be based in Atlanta) has 20 isolation stations at major air-



EU HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Medical facilities in Guinea treating the infected.

ports around the country. These are staffed 24/7 and are fully equipped to deal with such circumstances.

In addition, this is not the first time a highly lethal virus like this has surfaced in the U.S. The CDC has stated that there have been five instances in which people came to the United States carrying the Marburg virus and Lassa fever virus, which are in the same family of the Ebola virus. The health system correctly identified the disease in every case, and the virus didn't spread.

As for why they're being transported here at all – first and foremost, they are United States citizens who have a right to come home. Of the 729 deaths abroad, 60 of them have been healthcare workers – but none of those have been Americans. Our aid agencies apply stringent precautions for all healthcare personnel – and have never lost members of their teams to Ebola. And I'm sure they don't want to start now.

Markedly, back at home, there's a far better chance of survival. Even though there's no known cure or treatment, our facilities are far better equipped with the latest equipment and techniques.

Is it unsettling? Yes. However in the end, it is in our best interest to not have our irrational fears trump our far-reaching compassion for others, especially when it comes to taking care of our own.

Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Email me at rStyn@ErieReader.com, and follow me on Twitter @rStyn. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/9ejp7>.



Secrets of the Dead

Dick Cavett's Watergate
August 8 at 9pm on WQLN-TV 54.1

AUSTIN CITY LIMITS

New Time
Saturdays at 11pm on WQLN-TV 54.1

Upfront

CelebrateErie: Trick'd by the Mayor

By: Cory Vaillancourt

Here in Erie, when we're not demolishing historic buildings, running rail terminals out of town, converting our Bayfront bluffs into billboards, conducting futile feasibility studies, manufacturing clinical depression, utilizing each other for target practice, watching our largest employers leave town, or giving ourselves awards for doing nothing, we hold really sad little low-brow festivals.

CelebrateErie runs from Aug. 14 to 17. There's a country act (Sawyer Brown), a crappy cover band (Michael Jackson), and fireworks. And, oh yeah, there's also a Saturday night headliner - the centerpiece of the whole shebang - that I've skewered Mayor Joe Sinnott for every single year I've had the pleasure of writing this column. Which now is four.

I've previously expressed my displeasure at the fact that he's subjected us to washed-up C-list acts that haven't been relevant since long before pogs were cool; their artistic integrity has been questionable at the very least, laughable at worst, and the majority of you, dear Reader readers, have agreed with me on that point.

There have, though, been rumblings that Mayor Sinnott has been less than pleased with my critique of this festival, even though I feel like I've given him a pretty fair shake overall.

Sure, CE sucks, but I've said this



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

before, and I'll say it again: I think Mayor Sinnott has done a fairly decent job keeping the good ship Erie afloat during stormy weather, and in a town where progress is measured by how little we've lost — not by how much we've gained — he's ably captained that ship into that same warm and comforting cove of mediocrity that most of the mouth-breathers in town have come to know and love over the past 40 years.

So as I sat down — for the fourth year in a row — to sling my arrows at him for choosing yet another fossilized Crap-Rock band, I figured it'd be a turkey shoot.

And damned if he didn't trick me. He tricked me with a treat.

Cheap Trick will headline this year's four-day festival on Saturday, Aug. 16.

I learned months ago that Kansas is at the Indiana State Fair the weekend of CE, Ace Frehley is safely sequestered somewhere in outer space, and Brett Michaels is in Virginia, which is where I'd like him to stay; however, my money was still on .38 Special or Night Ranger or possibly even Creed making an appearance, so I thusly prepared my screed.

But he tricked me. He tricked me with Cheap Trick. Which is a band I happen to enjoy.

Not only are they from Illinois like me, but unlike me, they're an extremely significant rock act with a 40-year history of producing great music and influencing, oh, just about every band you probably love, if you love bands like Everclear, Foo Fighters, Green Day, Hüsker Dü, Jet, Kings of Leon, Pearl Jam, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Slipknot, Smashing Pumpkins, Soundgarden, Stone Temple Pilots, Urge Overkill, or Weezer, just to name a few.

So this year Mayor Sinnott snatched that arrow out of my quiver and broke it over his knee and in all likelihood said, "Ha! Take that! A relevant and influential act! Muhahahahaha!"

While I'd like to pretend that he actually gives a rip about my opinion, I'm pretty sure he doesn't, because the fest hasn't been a financial failure and it does what it's supposed to do, which is make you look at Highmark and Erie Insurance banners for four straight days.

However, I do have at least one more arrow in my quiver, so let me bring you to the point.

By definition, CelebrateErie should be the biggest thing this town does every year. And it is. And that's really sad.

The purpose of the thing is not only to show our city to the rest of the country but also to remind ourselves why we still live here, even though we value parking lots over architecture and we value peace and quiet over the comforting hum of industry and we value topiary advertisements over natural beauty and we value groupthink over real action and over on the east

side — over on the east side, every night is fireworks night.

And if this is the best that Erie can do, it's no wonder our population's been flat since the 1970s. You see, brain drain is still very real, and the majority of young people in this town have no idea who Robin Zander, Rick Nielsen, Tom Petersson, and Bun E. Carlos even are. Most of these kids with Master's and Bachelor's weren't even born when pogs were cool.

Granted, I can probably convince them that this is an aberration in the grand march of crap-rockery we're used to seeing, and probably persuade them that, as an extremely discriminating music connoisseur who is nearly 40 and who also does a fair bit of music writing, Cheap Trick is worth their time. Bigtime.

What I can't convince them of, however, is that — based on the sordid history of this entire event — it will be this good next year, and every year, and that they should consider putting down roots here because our "bread and circuses" approach to crime and drugs and jobs and sprawl and blight is better than anywhere else's. If I convinced those pre-pog post-pubescents that this year's CelebrateErie was the norm, next year, they'd walk away feeling, well... Tricked.

Cory Vaillancourt is a brilliant writer/complete hack and can be complimented/heckled at cVaillancourt@eriereader.com. Follow him on Twitter @VLNCR. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/sbvti>.



Just Toyin' Witcha by B. Toy



News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepard

Cat Nanny

Facial recognition software, increasingly important to global anti-terrorism operations, is being brought to ... cats. Taiwanese developer Mu-Chi Sung announced in July plans for marketing the software as part of a cat health device so that owners, especially those with multiple cats, can better monitor their cats' eating habits. Sung first had to overcome the problem of how to get the cat to stick its head through a slot in the feeder so the software can start to work. The device, with mobile apps for remote monitoring by the owner, may sell for about \$250. [CBS News, 7-22-2014]

Government in Action

The Environmental Protection Agency is already a News of the Weird favorite (for example, the secret goofing-off "man cave" of one EPA contractor in July 2013 and, two months later, the fabulist EPA executive who skipped agency work for months by claiming falsely to be on secret CIA missions), but the agency's Denver Regional Office took it to another level in June. In a leaked memo, the Denver deputy director implored employees to end the practice of leaving feces in the office's hallway. The memo referred to "several" incidents. [Government Executive, 6-25-2014]

The federal food stamp program, apparently uncontrollably rife with waste, has resorted to giving financial awards to the states that misspend food stamp money the least. In July, the Florida Department of Children and Families, beaming with pride, announced it had won a federal grant of \$7 million for having blown only \$47 million in food stamp benefits in 2013 (less than 1 percent of its \$6 billion in payments). Vermont, the worst-performing state, misspends almost 10 percent of its food stamp benefits. [Fox News, 7-8-2014]

The Way the World Works: The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration came down hard in July on West Virginia's Freedom Industries for violations of chemical safety standards in January 2014 that resulted in the 10-day contamination of drinking water for 300,000 residents. OSHA issued two fines to the company — one for \$7,000 and the other for \$4,000. [West Virginia Gazette, 7-7-2014]

Great Art!

Mrs. Milo Moire, a Swiss performance artist, startled (and puzzled) fairgoers at Germany's Art Cologne in April by creating a painting while standing on two ladders, nude and expelling "eggs," filled with paint and ink, from her vagina. Each "PlopEgg" canvas made what she called a powerful feminist statement about women, fertility and creativity. (In June, she attempted to tour Switzerland's Art Basel fair "wearing" only the names of clothing

items written on her nude body, e.g., on her leg, the word "pants." Officials told her to go get dressed if she wanted to see the show.) [Huffington Post UK, 4-22-2014]

Update: Critics praised bad-girl British artist Tracey Emin's 1998 furniture-and-effects exhibit, "My Bed," supposedly representing a failed romantic relationship, featuring mused sheets and, littering the room, empty vodka bottles and used condoms. Prominent collector Charles Saatchi turned heads when he bought the piece for the equivalent of about \$200,000, and in June, almost 15 years later, he sold "My Bed" at auction for the equivalent of \$4,330,000. [BBC News, 7-1-2014]

In July, the large cement "Humpty Dumpty" at the Enchanted Forest in Salem, Oregon, created by Roger Tofte in 1970, was destroyed when two intruders tried to climb the wall Humpty was sitting on. However, the wall crumbled and Humpty suffered a great fall, and Tofte said he doubted he could put Humpty back together again, but would try instead to make a new one. [KOIN-TV (Portland, Ore.), 7-5-2014]

That's Entertainment!

Sheriff's deputies in Salina, Kansas, arrested Aaron Jansen, 29, but not before he put on quite a show on July 5. Jansen, speeding in a car spray-painted with derogatory comments about law enforcement, refused to pull over and even survived a series of tire-shredding road spikes as he turned into a soybean field, where he revved the engine and drove in circles for 40 minutes. As deputies set up a perimeter, Jansen futilely tossed items from the car (blankets, CDs, anything available) and then (with the car still moving) climbed out the driver's door and briefly "surfed" on the roof. Finally, as deputies closed in, Jansen shouted a barrage of Bible verses before emerging from the car wearing a cowboy hat, boots and a woman's dress. [KAKE-TV (Wichita), 7-7-2014]

The surveillance video in evidence in England's Wolverhampton Crown Court in July captured the entire caper of two young men comically failing to open a parking lot's automated cash machine five months earlier. Wearing hoods, they tried to batter the secure machine open, then tried to pull it away (but learned that it was rooted to an underground cable). Plan C involved getting in their Peugeot and ramming the machine, which did knock loose the money-dispensing part — but also shredded part of the car's body. The dispenser (with the equivalent of \$1,500 in coins) fit in the front seat only after some exhaustive pushing and cramming, but finally the men drove off — with sparks flying as the weight of the coins made the crippled car scrape the pavement. Police arrived on the scene, and a brief chase ended when the car crashed into a wall. Final score: car totaled, money recovered and Wesley Bristow, 25, sentenced to two years in prison. [Express and Star (Wolverhampton, England), 7-5-2014]

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Erie's Best Summer Night with Steely Dan

Walter Becker and Donald Fagen bring their iconic blend of jazz and rock to the beaches of Presque Isle

By: Cory Vaillancourt

More than two years ago, on Saturday, June 23 2012, the Presque Isle Partnership shocked much of Erie by doing something that, up until that day, had never before been done – they constructed a colossal stage that rose from the shifting sands of Presque Isle State Park's Beach 11 like a mirage, where legendary folk rockers Crosby, Stills & Nash went on to provide a magical performance for a mesmerized audience all as the sun set behind the trees and cast a purplish glow on the waters of Lake Erie.

On Saturday Aug. 9, the Presque Isle Partnership will do it again – with the equally legendary Grammy Award winners and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Steely Dan.

"That 'buzz' is still there two years later," said Erie native and Cathedral Prep graduate Jon DeMarco, executive director of the Presque Isle Partnership. DeMarco's only been on the job since June, but his history with the organization dates back to 2010, when he interned with PIP as a sophomore at Penn State University Park, where he earned an accounting degree before taking his MBA from Gannon.

"People are still talking about it," he said of

2012's *Best Summer Night*, which was largely envisioned by the late Steve McDermott, longtime executive director of PIP and DeMarco's predecessor.

One group of people still talking about it is the majority of music lovers in Erie; the concert was unlike any other in Erie's history – a remarkably energetic performance in an unbelievably startling place. It also proved that, contrary to popular opinion, there are enough people in Erie willing to spend \$100 or \$150 to see a top-notch act in a completely unique setting.

Another group of people still talking about it are the majority of PI lovers in Erie. The proceeds from 2012's event – around \$125,000 – were, as promised, used to make some noteworthy improvements to an important area of the park.

"The Perry monument area has great significance, and it was a site in dire need of restoration and renovation, particularly the lighting," said DeMarco of the obelisk near the eastern edge of Presque Isle State Park. "And if you go out there now and see what we've done, it's an upgrade. It's solar LED lighting, which can project any color of the spectrum – it's certain colors for certain times of the year, and it's all computerized."

DeMarco went on to add that PIP also purchased 25 recycled aluminum picnic tables, and erected a new pavilion. "This summer is the first summer the pavilion's been open, and we see people using it all the time," he said.

Thankfully, both groups – music lovers and PI lovers – have something good to look forward to this year.

Steely Dan is an internationally respected, loosely collaborative group of jazz and rock musicians, anchored since the late 1960s by Walter Becker and Donald Fagen. These guys are serious perfectionists, skilled composers, and proficient instrumentalists of the highest order who've woven a soft, mellow, melodic tapestry of tunes through many of our lives, and procuring them for such a small market is a remarkable feat.

DeMarco said that the planning of this event started before Christmas, adding, "We met with Casey Wells [executive director] of the Erie County Convention Center Authority because the first time around, he was such a huge help." DeMarco opined that Wells' expertise, in addition to the ECCCA's assistance with ticketing and labor made him an essential partner.

"So we met with Casey first, went though

our options, and we all thought that Steely Dan really fit the demographic. They were available, we made them an offer, they accepted, and I don't think they realized that they were going to be out above the sand, on the beach. I think they'll be blown away, just as Crosby, Stills & Nash were."

And indeed they were – one of the first lines uttered from the stage that night was, "Where are we?!"

The crowd answered, in unison, "Why, Presque Isle State Park, of course! Where the proceeds from your appearance tonight will help enhance the visitor experience for millions of people for generations to come!"

Okay, so the crowd didn't all say that, in unison, but in anticipation of someone in Steely Dan asking the same question, please memorize the following quote supplied by DeMarco:

"Proceeds from this event will go toward restoration of the Presque Isle Lighthouse."

The Presque Isle Lighthouse – more than 140 years old – is iconic in a weird sort of way because although it's served as one of Erie's most enduring symbols for locals and visitors alike, very few people have ever been inside of it. And that's about to change.

"It will eventually open to the public once the restoration is complete," DeMarco said. "It's going to be restored to 1890s vintage; there were additions that were made in the 1980s, and those are going to be torn down. It's going to be a huge project, and in the end, it's going to be museum-quality."

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

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

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Donald Fagen (left) and Walter Becker headline the Presque Isle Partnership's second Best Summer Night Saturday, Aug. 9.

Despite the double-benefit of Presque Isle Partnership's *Best Summer Night* series, DeMarco doesn't think it will ever become a yearly occurrence.

"As a primarily volunteer organization, it's a lot of work, and it's a lot of risk. And you have to give people some time to recuperate – not only the volunteers, but also the organizations that are putting up the money."

This year, the total cost of the production is nearly half a million dollars, with Steely Dan accounting for almost half of that. So, with people still "buzzing" over 2012's event, will 2014's *Best Summer Night* be worth all the work, and the risk?

"This goes back to our mission, which is to enhance the visitor's experience at Presque Isle State Park while protecting the natural environment," said DeMarco. "We certainly enhance the visitor's experience by being able to provide these one-of-a-kind concerts every two years, because it showcases the beauty of the park, and it also brings a

lot of people into town, which should be the mission of every organization. I think this event, in particular is sort of our shining star."

For more information on *Best Summer Night*, visit www.DiscoverPI.com. As of press time, a limited amount of tickets remained; visit www.ErieEvents.com or call (814) 452.4857 to purchase yours.

Cory Vaillancourt can be contacted at cVaillancourt@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @VLNCRT. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/u1g4d>.



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Strand of Oaks Q&A

Indie rocker Timothy Showalter talks about his new sound, Dan Aykroyd, and taking the critically-acclaimed album *HEAL* on the road.

By: Alex Bieler

It's been a good summer for Timothy Showalter. The man who performs as Strand of Oaks released his new album *HEAL* in June to critical acclaim, including a five-star review in the *Erie Reader*. However, times haven't always been easy for the Philadelphia-based musician, a topic that comes up often on *HEAL*, a personal account of Showalter's struggles. Gone are the folk-leaning fantastical stories from past albums, like the tale of *The Blues Brothers* star Dan Aykroyd seeking revenge on John Belushi's dealer on *Pope Killdragon's* "Daniel's Blues," replaced with honest assessments of Showalter's struggles set to electric guitars and synths. Still, *HEAL* doesn't completely dwell in depressing territory, instead focusing on how music helped Showalter persevere during troubled times. Strand of Oaks played at Cleveland's Beachland Tavern July 31 and will be at Pittsburgh's Club Café Tuesday, Aug. 12 as part of an international tour, but Showalter had the time to chat with the *Reader* about *HEAL*, Dan Aykroyd, and what he's listening to.

Alex Bieler: How has life been since *HEAL* came out?

Timothy Showalter: It's been shockingly awesome. I'm always cautiously optimistic about stuff. I knew I loved the new record – I loved the way it sounded, and I'm super proud of it, but there's no guarantees, especially in music, that people are going to like it and embrace it. I think that's why it feels so good right now, because I wanted people to like this record, and I put everything that I had into it and to see it return with not only critical acclaim but also record sales and all of that, it felt validating. It's been a really good month.

AB: *HEAL* is such a personal album. How does it feel playing these songs for the public?

TS: I hate to sound cliché, but it feels like its helping this journey of healing. I was nervous and thinking about if I was going to be able to play these songs live every night. Every time I play them, I feel better, like I'm getting closer to whatever I'm looking for. The songs are very emotional to play, but not in a depressing way. It's triumphant, like I'm going to play through this and



DUSIN CONDORIN

I'm going to play my guitar as loud as I can. With people in a room, it's – I love playing live – but now it feels even more important. I think it translates to the audience that we're all trying to do something together. I'm always so humbled whenever anybody buys a ticket. This is their Tuesday or Friday or whatever night of the week and people are deciding to pay their hard-earned money to come and see my band. If I ever find myself taking advantage of that, I welcome anybody to come punch me in the face and kick my ass for it.

AB: I love that while *HEAL* is so personal and has a sadness to it, it's triumphant and about how music helps you overcome struggles in life.

TS: That wasn't necessarily my plan, but it just naturally happened. The record had sad elements to it, but – and you nailed it on the head – it's about music and the fact that it does save people. It's almost like a love letter to music. That's the reason why I got through my struggles, whether it was listening or playing or recording.

AB: There's a Jason Molina tribute on the album called "JM," which was one of the musicians you listened to. When you listen to music

Strand Of Oaks' Timothy Showalter caught up with Alex Bieler at a recent Cleveland Show

now, do you typically go back to Molina and Smashing Pumpkins, or do you listen to a lot of newer releases?

TS: When I'm not playing music, I constantly have music on. I was just listening to this new album by a band called Hiss Golden Messenger. It's fantastic. It hasn't come out yet; I'm lucky enough to have an early copy. I'm constantly impressed by music. I still listen to Songs: Ohia and I still listen to Pumpkins, all that classic stuff, but I really made the conscious effort to listen to music happening now. If I ever have kids some day, I want to preserve the legacy of my peers and to have them know that classic rock is not just relegated to the past. I think there are records being made now that will be classics in 20 years that people will look at like masterpieces.

AB: Any other favorites so far this year?

TS: I love Sharon Van Etten's new record; that's got to be favorite of the year. I'm blown away by it. I love the new Sun Kil Moon record

Benji.

AB: Yeah, that's up there as one of my favorites.

TS: It's just a powerful record. Damien Jurado did his best record this year. I know it came out last year, but I still can't stop listening to The National's latest record. That to me is one of the best records made in recent memory.

AB: Speaking of people who have been doing great work recently, you worked with John Congleton on your new record.

TS: He actually mixed it. It was an honor. I've been aware of his work forever and this record would not have been what it is without his touch. He does things with drums and guitars that I have no idea how he did it. I know a lot about recording, but I'm not that good. He has this ability with a lot of his releases to just pull something out of songs that most people can't. What he did with my record that I was most impressed by was it was a more dense record when we sent it to him and there were a lot of different parts, and his vision was to strip it away to its bare essentials and then turn it up as loud as it could go. Take away all of the unnecessary things and just push what's left.

AB: When you say it like that, I immediately think of the beginning of "JM" when it uses silence to its advantage before it just explodes.

TS: I play the guitar parts and mostly everything on that record, but could not have guessed how big it could have sounded. The first that I heard it on headphones, I probably screamed "holy f—" so loud that the neighbors called the cops because they thought I was getting robbed. It was like "this is the most incredible thing I've ever heard!"

AB: I have to ask, have you ever gotten any feedback from Dan Aykroyd for "Daniel's Blues?"

TS: You know, I don't know how it happened and I wish I had more information, but a bottle of wine from Dan Aykroyd's vineyard showed up at my house once with his signature on it. There was no note, no explanation, and no way to contact him, but I got it, so he must have heard or somebody did. I feel kind of bad and I want to talk to him, because ["Daniel's Blues"] is such a sad song and I didn't want to sensationalize anything. I was probably doing too many drugs at the time, but I'm very emotional about it. I love the *Blues Brothers* and it was this sympathetic song for something that obviously didn't happen. I don't

know where that song came from but somewhere deep in the weird recesses of my mind.

AB: I love the song because it has heart and there humor in it. I'm not sure if you did this on purpose or not but the line "Oh, who do I call?" immediately made me think of *Ghostbusters*.

TS: Yes! I always have little bits that I throw in that if people want to dig deeper, they can have fun. I've actually gotten emails from people criticizing me that my timeline is off in the song. Obviously it's off, it's a fantasy! You just have to listen to the song and appreciate it.

AB: It's interesting because *HEAL* was so autobiographical and real, but a lot of your other work deals heavily in fantasy and symbolism. Do you know what you're going to be sticking with next?

TS: I honestly have no idea. I didn't intend for *HEAL* to be this autobiographical, it just kind of happened. It's always a matter of what happens next that excites me. I have an idea for the music style, but my mind changes four times a day for what I like, so there's no way to tell at this point.

AB: So, are you sticking with a louder sound then?

TS: Oh, yeah. I don't think I'm going to be going back to the acoustic guitar for a while. If anything, I think the next record of mine will be louder if possible.

AB: Maybe get some more keys like in "Same Emotions."

TS: That was the most fun song to record. That keyboard solo at the beginning was basically me losing my shit on a keyboard for three or four minutes.

AB: I am pumped to hear the new album in concert.

TS: I can't wait. I want to take it on the road so bad I want people to experience this with me.

AB: Excellent, man. Thanks for your time.

TS: It was great talking with you. I'll see you in Cleveland!

AB: It shouldn't be too hard to spot me, I'm 6'5" and big, so I tend to stick out in crowds.

TS: I kind of stick out, too. I look like the Hell's Angel who's playing rock 'n' roll, so we'll see each other for sure.

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ Catch20Q. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erindr.com/ptt4y>.





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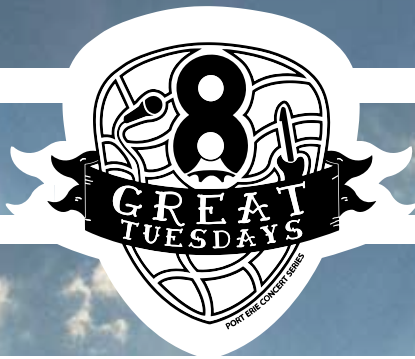
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CALENDAR

CelebrateErie: 96 hours of music, food, and art

You don't always need an event to celebrate the city you call home, but when you do, it might as well be a four-day street festival. Erieites will flock to State Street for CelebrateErie: 96 hours of music, food, art, and everything else to show off just what The Gem City has to offer the denizens of Northwest Pennsylvania and any out-of-towners curious to see just what this corner of the state can do for four days.

Of course, CelebrateErie will host some notable acts during its run, with Saturday night headliner Cheap Trick, known for hit songs, like power ballad "The Flame" and the rock radio staple "Surrender," leading a group of closing acts that include Michael Jackson tribute act Who's Bad and Sunday's country finale Sawyer Brown. Leading up to the aforementioned trio, however, is a list of local musicians, with the likes of Julia Smolka and the Erie All Stars featuring Eric Brewer, Doug Phillips, Ron Sutton, and other area favorites on Friday, Chasing Moira, Daybreak Radio, Ron Yarosz and The Vehicle, and Jackson Station on Saturday, and the Ruby Port Band, Lucky Dog Band, and Small Town Revolution on Sunday. And those are just the bands playing on the Main Stage at Fourth and State streets, as other acts will perform on stages at 11th and State, 10th and State, and the Perry Square gazebo.

In addition to live music, CelebrateErie attendees can visit a Taste of Erie to sample some of the top dishes in The Gem City and wander through the Artist Colony in Perry Square. If you venture south on State Street, you'll come across the Chalk Walk featuring colorful murals right on one of Erie's main drags, and a Kids Zone for the little ones.

You can celebrate The Flagship City any day, but with CelebrateErie, you'll have four days of free fun to give you even more incentive. – Alex Bieler

August 14-17 // Downtown Erie // celebrateerie.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MUSIC

Erie Art Museum Mid-Day Art Break featuring The Breeze Band

Aug. 6 – Noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

Lori Burke

Aug. 6 – 11 a.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. GoodellGardens.org.

All Musicians Acoustic Jam Night with Claire Stuczynski

Aug. 7 – 9 p.m.
Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. OasisPub.net.

Arts at the Arboretum Concert Series featuring Stephen Trohoske's Art Groupies

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

Big Dog Acoustics

Aug. 7 – 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, Pa. SleepingChainsaw.com.

The Brewerrie Open Mic

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

Park Place Block Party featuring French Kiss and Geek Army

Aug. 7 – 7 p.m.
Park Place, North Park Row. 455.3743.

Picnic in the Park featuring Mike & Marie Acoustics

Aug. 7 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Gibson Park, Main St. and Route 20, North East. NEChamber.org.

Tommy Link

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

Boyd Baker

Aug. 8 – 9 p.m.
Wet Willy's Tiki Bar, 3122 West Lake Road. OasisPub.net.

The Dock Boys

Aug. 8 – 6 to 9 p.m.
The Ugly Tuna, 1010 Peninsula Drive, uglytunatavern.com.

Doug Phillips Acoustic

Aug. 8 – 6 p.m.

Erie Ale House, 1033 State St.
facebook.com/eriealehouse.

French Kiss
Aug. 8 – 10 p.m.

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

The Groove
Aug. 8 – 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Highway.
PresqueIsleDowns.com.

Mayflower Hill
Aug. 8 – 10 p.m.

Doc Holliday's, 7425 Schultz Road.
DocHolidays.net.

Picks & Hammers String Band

Aug. 8 – 6:45 p.m..
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. GoodellGardens.org.

Randall & The Late Night Scandals

Aug. 8 – 9 p.m.
King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Salmon Frank

Aug. 8 – 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, Pa. SleepingChainsaw.com.

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CALENDAR

Best Summer Night with Steely Dan and Bobby Broom
Aug. 9 – 8 p.m.

Presque Isle, Beach II, discoverpi.com

Big Eyed Phish (Dave Matthews Tribute Band)
Aug. 9 – 10 p.m.

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

Geek Army
Aug. 9 – 10 p.m.

Doc Holliday's, 7425 Schultz Road. DocHolidays.net.

Jerry Gaff
Aug. 9 – 5:30 p.m.

Pie-in-the-Sky Cafe, 463 W. 8th St. 459.8638.

Potwhole
Aug. 9 – 7 p.m.

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

Roots Collider
Aug. 9 – 9 p.m.

King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution
Aug. 9 – 9 p.m.

The Empty Keg, 129 Erie St., Edinboro. 734.1221.

Tennessee Back Porch
Aug. 9 – 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Highway. PresqueIsleDowns.com.

Jack Stevens
Aug. 10 – 9 p.m.

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

8 Great Tuesdays featuring One World Tribe and Plato's Cave
Aug. 12 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Burger King Amphitheater, Liberty Park. PortErie.org.

Erie Art Museum Mid-

Day Art Break featuring Get Your Phil On at Noon (Woodwind Quartet)
Aug. 13 – Noon to 1 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. ErieArtMuseum.org.

Jerry Gaff
Aug. 13 – 6:30 p.m.

Max & Erma's, 2078 Interchange Road. 860.3332.

Lori Burke
Aug. 13 – 11 a.m.

Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. GoodellGardens.org.

TANTRIC, Emperors & Elephants, Potwhole, Court of Mayhem
Aug. 13 – 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. BasementTransmissions.com.

All Musicians Acoustic Jam Night with Claire Stuczynski
Aug 14 – 9 p.m.

New Roots Festival Debuts in West Springfield

When it came to music festivals, Dan Biscoff saw an unoccupied market that needed to be filled, one that didn't focus on just one genre, but a variety of styles that could be represented in one space for people to come and discover something new or enjoy something familiar. He saw an opportunity to create Gallaboo, an event that could bring together psychobilly, country, and any other roots-driven sounds.

"I figured that there was a void for these types of music," Biscoff said of the one-day festival to be held on Saturday, Aug. 16 in West Springfield, Pa. "Most music festivals seem to pigeonhole genres. You've got metal fests for metal and jam fests for jam bands, but a true music festival with roots music mixed in with some psychobilly, a little bit of punk-rock, and some bluegrass hasn't been really done in this area. It gives everyone an opportunity to see a vast array of very high-caliber bands and be exposed to different styles of music that they might not know that they like."

Gallaboo – with a bit "gala" and some "hullabaloo" – will feature 10 talented acts, including the Blue Pike Award-winning Potwhole, bluegrass troupe Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution, and rip-roaring The Misery Jackals in its first year. In fact, Biscoff said that he wanted to cut it off at one day in the first year and grow Gallaboo over time, despite heavy interest from performers.

"To be honest, I actually turned bands away [for this first year]," he said. "When word got out, we got these 10 acts rather quickly."

In addition to the music, there will be a performance from professional belly dancers and barbecue will be available for those feeling a bit peckish. For the most part, Gallaboo will be an opportunity for people to enjoy, and learn, about music, featuring 10 rockin' bands on one special Saturday. – Alex Bieler

Saturday, Aug. 16 // 14301 West Ridge Road, West Springfield, Pa. // www.eventbrite.com



Erie's Potwhole will play Saturday, Aug. 16.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ERIE'S HOME OF SHERLOCK'S PARK PLACE ROCK & ROLL

Fri. Aug. 8 French Kiss

Sat. Aug. 9 Big Eyed Phish (Dave Matthews Tribute Band)

Thu. Aug. 14 Freaks on a Leash (Korn Tribute Band)

Fri. Aug. 15 Jessie & The Greyhounds

Sat. Aug. 16 I-90s (90s Tribute Band)

Thu. Aug. 21 Sean Patrick & The New Grass Revolution

508 State Street 18-20 North Park Row 814-453-7760

Sounds of the Sunset South of the City

The stage at Edinboro Lake Resort – situated, as its name suggests, right beside the ‘Boro’s beautiful little lake – has become an ongoing host to a bevy of local musicians over the past couple of years, regularly featuring a nicely mixed bag of talent for our listening enjoyment.

The next coupla weeks are no exception, as the resort continues its Sunset Patio Concerts series with a sweet lineup.

Here’s what’s happenin’ (and when) at the resort a little ways south of the city in coming days:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Clay Snyder (pictured above) will perform at the Edinboro series Sunday, Aug. 10.

Strangers & Liars — “Original, electrified, music in the American tradition” – they take the stage at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8.

Potwhole — Local gypsy-tonk favorites perform at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9.

Clay Snyder — The singer/songwriter plays an acoustic set at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10.

Special Guest — The brawny, free-wheelin’ rock quartet hits it at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 15.

The HighLife — The band will bring out rockin’ covers and crowd-pleasers at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16.

Jesse Weston — The singer/songwriter plays at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17.

So, folks, there you have what’s happening over the next coupla weeks.

To find out more about Edinboro Lake Resort’s Sunset Patio Concerts series, visit edinborolakeresort.com, or give ‘em a call at 434.3307. – Ryan Smith

Edinboro Lake Resort, 12690 Edinboro Road // 434.3307 // edinborolakeresort.com

Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. OasisPub.net.

Arts at the Arboretum Concert Series featuring Selah Praise Band
Aug. 14 – 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Frontier Park Outdoor Amphitheater, off W. 8th St. LEAFerie.org.

The Brewerrie Open Mic
Aug. 14 – 7 p.m.

The Brewerrie, 123 W. 14th St. Brewerrie.com.

Freaks on a Leash (Korn Tribute) w/ Octane
Aug. 14 – 10 p.m.

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

Jesse Weston
Aug. 14 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, Pa. SleepingChainsaw.com.

Picnic in the Park featuring Lydia Marks Duo
Aug. 4 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Sacred 13, Deadiron, Purveyors of Action, Saevitia, and more TBA
Aug. 14 – 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. BasementTransmissions.com.

Tommy Link
Aug. 14 – 7 p.m.

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

Doug Phillips Acoustic
Aug. 15 – 6 p.m.

Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/eriealehouse.

The Dock Boys
Aug. 15 – 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Highway. PresqueIsleDowns.com.

Falling Hollywood w/ Daybreak Radio
Aug. 15 – 7 p.m.

The Brewerrie, 123 W. 14th St. Brewerrie.com.

The Highlife
Aug. 15 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, Pa. SleepingChainsaw.com.

Jessie & The Greyhounds
Aug. 15 – 10 p.m.

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

Monica & Julio
Aug. 15 – 9 p.m.

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

Next of Kin
Aug. 15 – 10 p.m.

Doc Holliday’s, 7425 Schultz Road. DocHolidays.net.

The Colt Wilbur Band
Aug. 16 – 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Highway. PresqueIsleDowns.com.

I-90’s
Aug. 16 – 10 p.m.

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

Junction PA
Aug. 16 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, Venango, Pa. SleepingChainsaw.com.

Next of Kin
Aug. 16 – 10 p.m.



GIVE BACK ON ERIE GIVES DAY

AUGUST 12, 2014

8AM to 8PM

The seniors we serve at Presbyterian homes need your financial support. Your gift will help renovate the physical therapy and dining spaces at Elmwood Gardens on Elmwood Avenue in Erie. As we make progress raising \$329,000 and getting renovations underway, you can visit MyErieGift.org and see the impact of your donation.

Any donation will impact our seniors’ physical therapy needs.

Any donation will impact the personal control our seniors have over daily living.

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www.MYERIEGIFT.org

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*Based on Published Tuition and Fees for the 2014-15 academic year.

¹Cost includes a yearly grant of up to \$3,340 per full-time Erie County student with a completed FAFSA and after all other gift aid is applied. Pro-rated grant funding available for part-time students based on credit hours. Cost as of August 2014. <http://www.edinboro.edu/departments/porreco/tuition.dot>

²<http://www.fortis.edu/portals/0/compliancefiles/netprice-calc/np-calc-fortis-erie.htm>

³http://tuition.psu.edu/tuitiondynamic/rates.aspx?location=aa_bk_bd_cl

⁴<http://northeast.mercyhurst.edu/admissions-mne/cost%20and%20aid/tuition-and-fees/>

⁵<http://gannon.edu/Financial-Aid/Tuition-and-Fees/>

CALENDAR

Doc Holliday's, 7425 Schultz Road. DocHolidays.net.

Unordained

Aug. 16 – 8 p.m.

Last Shot Bar & Grill, 3064 W. 12th St. 833.7106.

Skypilot

Aug. 16 – 9 p.m.

King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Claire Stuczynski

Aug. 17 – 9 p.m.

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

8 Great Tuesdays featuring The Groove and Man's Room Band

Aug. 19 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Burger King Amphitheater, Liberty Park. PortErie.org.

DANCE

Mid-Day Dance Breaks

Aug. 7 – Noon to 1 p.m.

Perry Square, State St. ArtsErie.org.

Swing Dance

Aug. 7 & 14 – 9 p.m.

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

FOOD & DRINK

Goodell Gardens Farmers Market

Aug. 6 & 13 – 3 to 6 p.m.

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

Sampling at Erie Art Museum

Aug. 6 & 13 – 6 to 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. ErieBrewingCo.com.

Quaker Steak & Lube Bike Night & Cruise-In

Aug. 6 & 13 – 6 p.m.

Quaker Steak & Lube, 7851 Peach St. VisitEriePA.com.

Buffalo Wild Wings/Harley Davidson Bike Nights

Aug. 6 & 13 – 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Buffalo Wild Wings, 2099 Interchange Road. BuffaloWildWings.com.

Crazy Hat Party

Aug. 7 – 5:30 p.m.

Courtyard Wineries, 10021 West Main Road, North East. CourtyardWineries.com. Prepayment required.

Erie Downtown Block Party

Aug. 7 – 6 p.m.

Park Place, 508 State St./North Park Row, ErieDowntown.com.

Cocktails & Color: Driftwood Beach

Aug. 7 – 6 to 8 p.m.

The Ambassador, 7794 Peach St. CocktailsandColorErie.com.

Cork Crafting

Aug. 8 – 7 p.m.

Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 West Main Road, North East. PIWine.com.

St. Paul's Annual Italian Festival

Aug. 8 to 10 – All day

St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, 1617 Walnut St. StPaulRCErie.org.

Cocktails & Color: Stained Glass Wine

Aug. 7 – 2 to 4 p.m.

Bootleggers Bar & Grill, 4935 E Lake Road. CocktailsandColorErie.com.

Cocktails & Color: Leukemia & Lymphoma - Light the Night

Aug. 12 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Fox and Hound, 250 Millcreek Plaza. CocktailsandColorErie.com.

Cocktails & Color: Trees

Aug. 13 – 6 to 8 p.m.

The Ambassador, 7794 Peach St. CocktailsandColorErie.com.

Cheese & Wine Pairing

Aug. 15 – 7 p.m.

Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 West Main Road, North East. PIWine.com.

Peach Festival at Burch Farms Winery

Aug 16 & 17 – All day

Burch Farms Country Market & Winery, 9210 Sidehill Road, North East. LakeErieWineCountry.org.

Cocktails & Color: Color from the Heart

Aug. 18 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Quaker Steak & Lube, 7851 Peach St. CocktailsandColorErie.com.

FILM

Obvious Child (2014)

Aug. 6 – 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. FilmSocietyNWPA.org.

Great White Shark

Aug. 6 to 19 – 11 a.m., 1 & 4 p.m.

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

Mysteries of the Unseen World

Aug. 6 to 19 – Noon, 3 & 5 p.m.

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

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Aug. 6 to 19 – 2 p.m.

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

Rich Hill (2014)

Aug. 13 – 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. FilmSocietyNWPA.org.

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One World Tribe Celebrates 20th Anniversary at 8 Great Tuesdays

Over the past couple of decades, One World Tribe's music's been compared to the elemental sounds of groups and performers like Earth, Wind & Fire, War, and Santana – an earthy, funky, and worldly groove, the product of a truly multicultural, multi-musical collective of artists with real, and really diverse, chops.

And, over the years, OWT has been no stranger to Erie stages, having played tons of memorable, colorful, cool-as-can-be shows in and around the Gem City.

Now, to celebrate its 20th anniversary, the Tribe is bringing their musical feast back – for longtime fans and first-timers alike – to Erie's Bayfront for the Aug. 12 installment of 8 Great Tuesdays, where they'll be headlining and joined by special guest rockers Plato's Cave, another longtime area favorite reuniting for the very special event.

For those who've been around Erie's jam scene for some time – say, the last couple decades or so – the players say it's surely gonna be an old-school party not be missed, reminiscent of the Grape Jam days of yore.

And, for everyone who's newer to their sounds, the bands are sure to leave a fresh and lasting impression, a feeling of togetherness, a celebration of diversity, and a sense that we are all One.

The show, like all other 8 Greats, is free and open to everyone, and starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Burger King Amphitheater at Liberty Park.

For more on these bands, upcoming 8 Great lineups, and more on the event – including info on 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, Aug. 12 // Liberty Park, 726 W. Bayfront Parkway // porter.org/8-great-tuesdays

Movies in the Arboretum
Aug. 15 – 8 p.m.
Frontier Park, off W. 8th St. LEAFerie.com.

VISUAL ARTS

Herb Beard: Growing Up in Erie in the '40s and '50s
Through Aug. 31
Bayfront Gallery, 17 E. Dobbins Landing.

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.

Environmental Impact
Ongoing
Erie Art Museum, Main Gallery, 20 E. Fifth St. ErieArtMuseum.org

Richard Sadlier, "It Figures"
Ongoing
Glass Growers, 10 E. Fifth St. GlassGrowersGallery.com

Through Our Eyes Photography Exhibit
Ongoing
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.

GC Myers Alchemy
Ongoing
Kada Gallery, 2632 W. Eighth St. KadaGallery.com.

THEATER

The Andrews Brothers
Aug. 6 to 19 – Noon Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 7 p.m. Fridays; 2:30 p.m. Sundays
Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge

Springs, One Fountain Avenue, Cambridge Springs. TheRiversideInn.com.

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche
Aug. 7 to 9 – 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday
Dramashop, 1001 State St. Dramashop.org.

Pirates of Penzance Jr.
Aug. 8 to 10 – 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday
Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St., Meadville, AcademyTheatre.org.

Young Frankenstein
Aug. 8 to 17 – 7:30 p.m.; 2 p.m. Sunday matinees
Wednesday through Sunday
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. EriePlayhouse.org.

Cirque du Soleil Varekai
Aug. 13 to 17 – 7:30 p.m., 5 p.m. Sunday
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. ErieEvents.com.

Whoseline with In All Seriousness Inc.
Aug. 15
Dinner starts at around 5 p.m.

COMMUNITY

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

Songs of Summer, Acapella
Aug. 6 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.
The Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. 459.8000 or JESerie.org.

Yoga in the Garden
Aug. 6 - 5 to 6 p.m.
Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. GoodellGardens.org.

Wednesday Walks in the Woods
Aug. 6 to 13 – 11 a.m. to noon Wednesdays

Erie Tail-Great

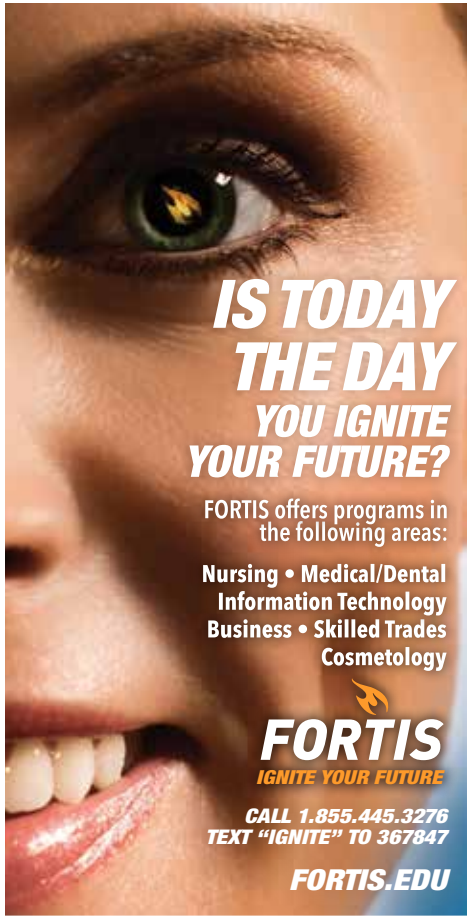
Both baseball – America's pastime – and helping others – not necessarily America's pastime, but still pretty important – are both pretty swell things, but when you combine them, you get something that's pretty awesome. In fact, you could say that it's Tail-Great.

The Ninth Annual Tail-Great takes place Saturday, Aug. 9, allowing people to partake in beer, baseball, and great causes. From 4 to 7 p.m., Tail-Greaters can enjoy a, well, tailgate party with food, refreshments, and friends at the Neighborhood Art House right by Jerry Uht Park. Following the pre-game gathering, you'll be granted entry to the Erie SeaWolves game against the New Britain RockCats, the Double-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins.

In addition to enjoying the aforementioned tailgating and baseball-viewing privileges, you'll be able to feel good about the fact that the proceeds from Tail-Great go to help four different organizations: MECA Inc.'s Adaptive Baseball program; The Neighborhood Art House; Emmaus Ministries' Kid's Café; and Side Project Inc.

Tickets for Tail-Great can be purchased online at tail-great.com, providing you, and various benefactors, a night of baseball with benefits. – Alex Bieler

4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 // 201 E. 10th St. // tail-great.com



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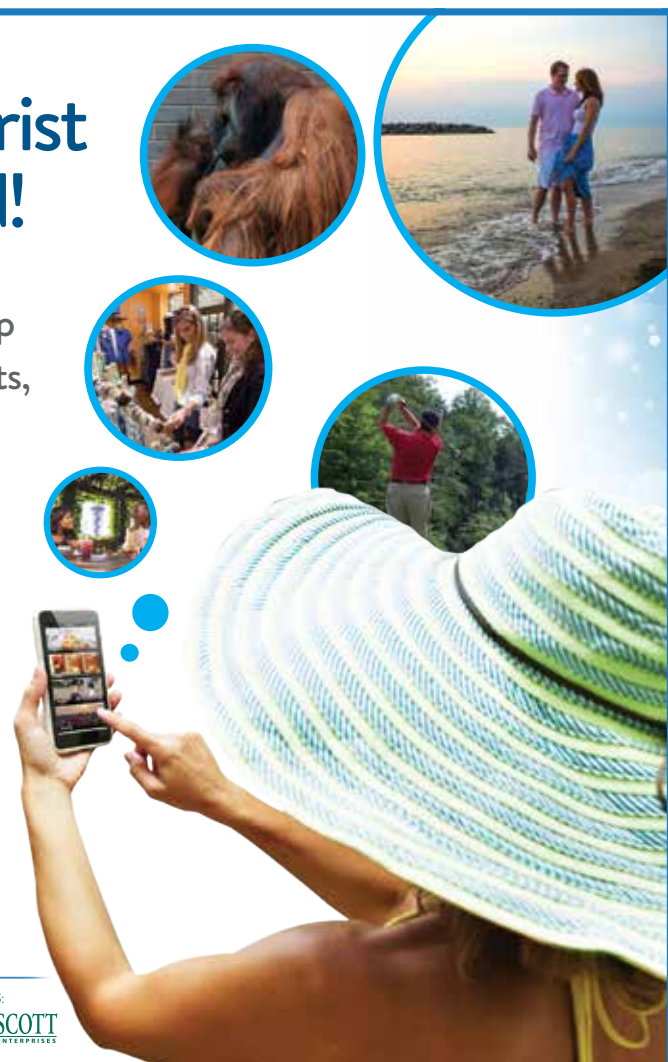
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Cirque Du Soleil brings the tale of Icarus to Erie with Varekai

This ain't your mamma's circus. Cirque du Soleil, known for an otherworldly blend of high-styled acrobatics, exotic costumes, and fairytale story telling, brings to Erie *Varekai*, the story of a young, vulnerable Icarus who finds himself in a lush forest full of fantastical creatures, rather than perishing in the sea after flying too close to the sun.

Varekai takes him, and us, through this world filled with breathtaking aerial displays, death-defying acrobatic stunts, Icarian games (human juggling), a clown act, Eastern European dance, and more, all wrapped up in powerful, world-beat music.

Varekai means "wherever" in the Romany language, and the show, says the creator, is a tribute to the nomadic soul. So go, and channel your inner gypsy at any one of the seven scheduled performances. – Mary Birdsong

Aug. 13 to 17 // Erie Insurance Arena 809 French St. // Box office: 452.4857; CirqueDuSoleil.com/Varekai.



Erie Takes a Tuesday to Give

Ready, Set, Give.

On Aug. 12, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with your donation, your chosen Erie County nonprofits will be eligible for a pro-rated share of a \$200,000 match from the Erie Community Foundation and its philanthropic partners.

Donating is simple. Get out your credit card, visit eriegives.org, and follow the instructions. Only Visa, MasterCard, and Discover cards are accepted. You can support up to 10 organizations in one transaction. The minimum donation is \$25 per nonprofit and there is no upper limit to what you can give. According to the website, the more donations made to a nonprofit, the more matching funds that nonprofit will receive.

The \$200,000 match money is provided by the Erie Community Foundation, as well as contributions from GE Transportation, Erie Insurance, and Presque Isle Downs & Casino.

We may have a reputation in Erieland for being cheap, but when it comes to our favorite nonprofits, that isn't the case. In 2013, the third year for Erie Gives, more than \$1.7 million was donated. Bob Wooler, Director of the Nonprofit Partnership says, "this year the Erie Community Foundation and its partners have raised the match total and are expecting an even more generous outpouring throughout the county."

So get going, and help the people doing the good work get that work done. – Mary Birdsong

8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 12 // ErieGives.org

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

Daytime Lagoon by Pontoon

Aug. 6 to 19 – 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 2 p.m.

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

Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing

Aug. 6 to 19 – 5:25 to 9 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays

Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Highway. PresqueIsleDowns.com.

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

Aug. 6 to 19 – 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Erie SeaWolves vs. New

Hampshire Fisher Cats

Aug. 6 & 7 – 7:05 p.m.

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

Presque Isle After Dark: BATS

Aug. 6 – 8 to 9:30 p.m.

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

Pickup Funsies Frisbee at Presque Isle

Aug. 7, 12, 14 & 19 – 6 p.m.

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

Morning EcoPaddle

Aug. 8 – 9 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Erie SeaWolves vs. New Britain Rock Cats

Aug. 8 to 10 – 7:05 p.m.; 1:35 p.m. Sunday

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

The Color Run

Aug. 9 – All day

Downtown Erie, State St. TheColorRun.com.

Presque Isle Bicycle Tour

Aug. 9 – 10 a.m.

Presque Isle State Park, Cookhouse Pavilion. TRECPI.org.

Clown Day at the Erie Zoo

Aug. 9 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Purple Martin Palooza

Aug. 9, 9, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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

Night at the Races

Aug. 9 & 16 – 7:05 p.m.

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

Hiking at the Erie Bluffs

Aug. 10 – 10 a.m. to noon

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

WQLN Education's JUMP! Back to School Expo

Aug. 10 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, I Sassafras Pier. WQLN.org.

YMCA Pilates in the Garden

Aug. 10 & 17 – 11 a.m. to noon.

Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. 734.5700 or ymcaErie.org/county.

Cruise the Bay Car Cruise-In

Aug. 11 & 18 – 6 to 10 p.m.

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

Campfire on the Beach

Aug. 13 – 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Presque Isle State Park, Beach II. TRECPI.org.

Celebrate Erie 2014

Aug. 14 to 17 – All day

Downtown Erie. CelebrateErie.com.

Picnic in the Park

Aug. 14 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Gibson Park, Route 20, North East. NEChamber.org.

3rd Annual Presque Isle Bay Messabout

Aug 15 & 16 – All day

Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. BayfrontCenter.org/events.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Altoona Curve

Aug. 15 to 17 – 7:05 p.m.; 1:35 p.m. Sunday

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

Presque Isle Bay Paddle

Aug. 16 – 8 a.m. to noon

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org. Registration required by Aug. 9.

5th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta

Aug. 16 – 10 a.m.

Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. BayfrontCenter.org/events.

Coffee House at the Little Church on the Hill

Aug. 16 – 7 to 9 p.m.

16410 High St., Albion. facebook.com/ETCHistoricalSociety.

Discovering Bluebirds

Aug. 17 – 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Vintage Rock Posters

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Art Exhibition Posters

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Erie Playhouse presents: *Young Frankenstein*

It doesn't matter what the subject is, Mel Brooks can make it funny. The beloved writer and director has skewered the wild west in *Blazing Saddles*, musical theater in *The Producers*, and even a galaxy far, far away in *Spaceballs*, but the Erie Playhouse is ready to tackle a more monstrous story when Brooks' *Young Frankenstein* comes to the West 10th Street for an 11-show run starting Friday, Aug. 8.

Brooks' reimagining of Mary Shelley's classic horror novel *Frankenstein* focuses not on the doctor who originally created the lumbering, bolt-headed monster, but his ashamed grandson Frederick. However, after learning of his grandfather's death and the castle he inherited, Frederick must head to Transylvania Heights to face his family history. Of course, in true Brooks' style, nothing ever goes quite to plan, leading to angry mobs, rolls in the hay, and Irving Berlin-assisted dance numbers.

Led by a cast headlined by Ken Falkenhagen as Frederick, Brendan Daugherty as the monster, and Jerry Gill as Frederick's hunchbacked assistant Igor, the Erie Playhouse will look to turn the classic monster tale on its flattened head with *Young Frankenstein* during a three-weekend run showing off some of the best of Brooks. – Alex Bieler

7:30 p.m. August 8, 9, 14-16, and 20-23, 2 p.m. August 17 and 24 // 13 W. 10 St. // erieplayhouse.org



Boats made of cardboard? There's a regatta for that.

Saturday, Aug. 16, the Bayfront Maritime Center (BMC) will host its 5th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta in the East Canal Basin behind the BMC campus – a spirited competition, which allows for only a predetermined number of tools and a fixed build time where families, student groups, and teams of friends or co-workers are invited to pool their creative building skills in an effort to compete for numerous awards.

As for the challenge? Participants' cardboard boats will be put to the test in hopes of not flooding or sinking through a 300-yard race in the East Canal Basin. Boats will race in heats based on the age of the crew and length of the boat from one side of the Basin to the other and judges will pick the winners. There will be a parade prior to the races at 11 a.m. and the races will kick off at noon. Registration is \$35 per boat and proceeds support hands-on maritime programming in Erie. Prizes will be awarded for fastest time, most creative boat, most dramatic sinking, and, of course, the crowd favorite.

Ships Ahoy! – Rebecca Styn
Registration 10 a.m. // East Canal Basin, 40 Holland St. // 456.4077



Albany-based duo Sirsy rocks The Brewerie Beer Garden

For people who are still mourning the dissolution of The White Stripes back in 2011, worry not, as there's another girl-guy rock duo hailing from the Rust Belt to help fill the void that was left when Jack and Meg White parted ways musically. In fact, Sirsy's team of Melanie Krahmer and Rich Libutti have been pumping out prime tracks since 2000, but for those of you not in the know about one of upstate New York's hardest-working bands, you can get a proper introduction when the Albany act visits The Brewerie Friday, Aug. 8 for a free show in the Beer Garden.

Despite the size of the band, Sirsy certainly doesn't skimp when it comes to volume, providing plenty of sonic punch from Krahmer's drums and vocals and Libutti's guitar work on everything from riff-heavy tracks like "Cannonball" to impressive vocal performances on heartfelt numbers like "Brave and Kind," both songs from the band's impressive 2013 album *Coming Into Frame*. The duo have been honing their style for a while now, so don't miss out on a free – once again, free – chance to see a band that can pack in so much rock 'n' roll talent into one duo. – Alex Bieler

9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8 // 123 W. 14 St. // brewerie.com



COMING SOON



Nominate your favorite people, places, and businesses for Erie Reader's Best of Erie 2014. Best of Erie celebrates all the things that make Erie a great place to live. Make your nominations online at ErieReader.com/BestOfErie

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

Aug. 18 & 19 – 7:05 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. Seawolves.com.

Black Jax Sports Bar & Grille, 8040A Perry Hwy. CocktailsandColorErie.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Binghamton Mets

World Orangutan Day
Aug. 19 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The Erie Zoo, 423 W.

WQLN's JUMP! Back to School Expo
Aug. 10 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier. WQLN.org.

French Creek, A Community Treasure, a Tea Time Talk w/ Dave Washousky

FUNDRAISERS

Aug. 17 – 3 to 4 p.m. **Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. 734.6699.**

38th St. ErieZoo.org.

Hip Hop 5k Fundraiser
Aug. 6 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Erie Gives Day
Aug. 12 – 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Donations made online at ErieGives.org.

Owl John

Owl John
Atlantic



★★★★

Even when he's not writing material for Frightened Rabbit, Scott Hutchinson can't help but seem rather glum. That defining characteristic, as well as Hutchinson's general penchant for self-deprecation, has helped define the Scottish quintet's discography, but after 10 years recording with Frightened Rabbit, it was time for Hutchinson to test some solo material as Owl John. The result is a self-titled, 10-track effort that allows Hutchinson to test out some sounds that wouldn't quite fit in with his other band, but allow the mercurial musician another outlet for release. The results are pretty positive overall, despite topics of alienation, growing tired of old loves, and the state of popular music. "Songs About Roses" takes that last subject and sets it in a familiar sonic landscape for Frightened Rabbit fans, whereas "Hate Song" finds Hutchinson embracing more a more abrasive style. *Owl John* has it's missteps, but Hutchinson has plenty of highlights to make his solo effort interesting. – Alex Bieler

King Creosote

From Scotland with Love
Domino



★★★★★

King Creosote (aka Kenny Anderson) uses his warbling tenor and pure falsetto to create melodies that range from raucous to enchanting. The Scottish folk icon collaborated with filmmaker Virginia Heath to create the soundtrack to a stirring film about Scotland using archive footage from the BBC. This is not the Scotland you may be familiar with: There are no queens in castles or warriors in kilts. Instead, regular people lead lives that are often desperate and struggling. Discordant songs about striking leftist trade unions alternate with an upbeat shanty about the beach and a toe-tapper about going out on the town after a week of hard labor. No matter how difficult the lives in these stories are, throughout the album there is always an undercurrent of hope. The line from the song "Miserable Strangers" seems to sum up the Scottish attitude of trying to make the best of difficult circumstances: "I was hoping that I might just get by... try to raise a hearty cheer." – Bryan Toy

Trampled By Turtles

Wild Animals
Banjodad Records



★★★★

Since its inception, Trampled By Turtles has shown off the quick-pickin' prowess of its members, but on their seventh studio album *Wild Animals*, the bluegrass band's pace suits Turtles more than it Tramples. With fellow Duluth, Minn.-native and Low band member Alan Sparhawk serving as producer, Trampled By Turtles slows things down on *Wild Animals*, focusing more on tone and attempting to create a fuller sound instead of simply recording a studio jam. Fans of the band's lightning-fast bluegrass tracks will love "Come Back Home," but the majority of the album might bore speed-'grass junkies. Still, it's not necessarily a bad thing, as the band shows off some rather lovely moments, such as the hypnotic outro of "Repetition" when lead singer Dave Simonett repeats the line "Over and over again" to close out the highlight track. *Wild Animals* almost sounds like a band at a musical crossroads, but the trip is worth the effort. – Alex Bieler

Braid

No Coast
Top Shelf Records



★★★★★

Back in 1998, Braid was a key band in the emerging emo scene after releasing the critically-acclaimed *Frame and Canvas*. One year later, the Illinois-based group disbanded, leaving fans without a full-length follow-up for 16 years. The years have been kind to Braid on new album *No Coast*, a 12-track collection that finds the once antsy boys from Champaign possessing a more mature, polished swagger. Lead singers Bob Nanna and Chris Broach look back upon the past amid hook-laden tracks, imbuing *No Coast* with a sense of nostalgia. "Another drink, another lifetime of regret" sings Broach on the impressively catchy "East End Hollows," plumbing personal perspectives from the past, yet never crossing over to bitterness in their propulsive guitar-led tracks. Braid is not the frantic, high-energy band of the '90s, and they're okay with that. With the results on *No Coast*, their fans should be as well. – Alex Bieler

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Geeked Out

Physical Media

By: John Lindvay

We've been asking ourselves the following question for years: Will physical media be completely replaced by digital media? It is quite the contemplation, and I have found myself on both sides of the argument – for and against going totally digital. Let's jam.

Part of being a nerd or geek is that we love something so much that we want to consume as much of it as possible. Traditionally we house physical shrines to the media or culture we enjoy the most. We all have our thing, whether it is *Star Wars* memorabilia, classic video game collections, vinyl collections, or rows of boxes stuffed with comic books. We love this stuff so much that in some ways it helps externalize how we identify ourselves as individuals. We wear superhero shirts because we want to signal to those around us just what type of nerd they are messing with.

There is a grim fact behind this tradition of collection, though; physical media sales are down and are continuing to decline. Physical copies of movies, comics, and games are dwindling and are being replaced by digital copies that are stored on our tablets or computers.

I used to celebrate the digital age. When I was younger and I saw my massive collection of CDs and all these computer game boxes littered about, I dreamed of a day where I wouldn't need any of it. I dreamed of services like Steam, where my collection of 340 games is just a number on my screen. Pandora, Spotify, and even iPods have helped me alleviate my physical disc woes. Netflix and Am-

azon Prime have hundreds of thousands of movies all at my fingertips, more than a lifetime of movies all just living up in the cloud.

When you look at it all, it is amazing. But as I have grown older and as I look back at the physical media that I sold or simply abandoned, I feel a pang of regret.

I would wage that many of us who identify as geeks and nerds look at

As I have grown older and as I look back at the physical media that I sold or simply abandoned, I feel a pang of regret.

our collection in a specific way. It may be hard to understand for some, but when I look at my collection of video games, I don't just see the games, I see memories. When I look at my DVD copy of *Star Wars* I remember the days of being sick and home from school watching *A New Hope* for the thirtieth time. When I see my copy of Brian K. Vaughn's comic book *Saga* I remember talking to my friend over coffee about it. I don't just see physical media, I see old friends.

This change of heart has been mani-

festing for the past few years and typically it flares up when I am tasked to move. The process of packing and unpacking puts many things in perspective, largest of which is deciding what you are willing to lug around with you. The biggest move I had to do before this past month's cross-country trek was to and from Edinboro and Erie. It is easy to hold on tight to the things you cherish when all it takes is maybe an extra trip or two.

When you expand this process to moving across the country, though, it gets difficult; yet, I've turned the corner, I believe. Being far away from home now has me looking at the mementos I do have from my friends and family in a different respect. I don't just see a giant red d20. I see my old *D&D* group sitting late into the night around my old dining room table.

So I doubt physical media will never die out; if anything, it will get only more precious. When I visited Action Toy Man in Erie recently, it solidified this notion for me. There will always be a market for these artifacts. Just as there will always be a sick kid home from school watching his favorite film, holding his favorite blanket, surrounded by comfort creating memories with physical media that will endure long into the future.

John Lindvay can be contacted at jlindvay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @FightStrife. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/gutg1>.



Tech Bits

The 'Sharing Economy' Goes White-Collar

By: Mike Isaac

Uber's new business initiative will allow employees of participating companies to bill their trips directly to their employers. Credit Justin Sullivan/Getty Images The Silicon Valley scene is often known for its shabby-chicness, like a chief executive clad in a hoodie and sneakers.

But consumer start-ups are setting their sights at the white-collar world.

Uber, the on-demand car service, is the latest company to target the corporate crowd, as the company debuted its Uber For Business initiative on Tuesday morning.

The new program is essentially an appeal to professionals who hate dealing with expense accounts. After a company agrees to participate in the program, employees can use Uber's car service and then bill their rides directly to the companies they work for. Company administrators can keep track of the amount of money employees are spending on Uber rides.

Further, Uber has also formed a partnership with Concur, the expense account and travel booking management company which already has relationships with more than 20,000 corporate clients. This will allow employees who use the car service to link their Uber and Concur accounts, giving them the ability to send e-receipts directly to their expense accounts.

If this sounds familiar, it should. Airbnb, the home-sharing start-up, introduced a similar program this week, complete with a partnership with Concur. And TaskRabbit, the on-demand labor service, has also dabbled in the space.

The move to business class is a natural one for Uber, whose smartphone app-based service has traditionally targeted more affluent demographics with its luxury car service, Uber Black. The company also offers UberX, an entry-level option that Uber touts as "cheaper than a taxi." But for Airbnb, the new focus on businesses takes the company somewhat upstream, because it has typically aimed for world travelers and those going on vacations who want to skip staying at large hotel chains.

In some ways, though, the new focus is a risky maneuver for both Uber and Airbnb, two booming start-ups. Regulators have grown increasingly interested in how the services have upended the hospitality and transportation industries, and how these services may aid drivers and home-owners in breaking state laws.

In May, Airbnb was forced to hand over anonymized data on customers who may be breaking the law to the New York State Attorney General's office. Uber, too, has faced stiff battles with transportation officials in New York and Washington D.C.

And for some, like TaskRabbit, the companies may not see a demand for their services from corporate clients at all.

But it could also serve to bring Uber and Airbnb, which both initially focused on servicing San Francisco, to the corporate mainstream. Both companies, which have raised a combined total of more than \$2 billion in venture capital, are fighting to expand internationally; Uber has recently focused on Southeast Asia, while Airbnb has spent the last two years gaining ground in Australia and Europe.

Both Uber and Airbnb have started their programs by partnering with the cloud-computing company Salesforce, which has been piloting each company's beta software programs for months. The start-ups hope to attract more corporate clients via sign-up forms on their respective sites.

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at the

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AUG 13 Rich Hill (2014)

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ER Sports

Roger Goodell and the NFL's fumbling of the Ray Rice incident, the continuing saga of the Brian Schulz firing, and the start of high school football camps.

By: James R. LeCorchick

ONE OF THE best things about having attention deficit is the fact that many, many things interest you, and a lot of those interesting things can happen at the same time. This is how I feel once August arrives and the excitement starts building for the beginning of all the football seasons — high school, college, NFL — as I actually believe I become a different, more understanding, more patient person.

For example, as I was writing this opening paragraph, two people banged on my door and wanted to talk about the Bible, and I politely told them I was busy. I see this as a major step forward, as I hate being bothered in my own home by strangers, particularly people wanting to sell me something I don't want, people wanting to talk religion, or politicians wanting to talk anything — this really irritates me.

If this door-knocking had taken place in, let's say May, I probably would've been rude (I know this is sad), but it is what it is.

And "is" means I'm not happy when people intrude on my space. However, this a story for another time and another place, the timing being totally correct for a scattering of different sports' subjects.

The first category can be classified as "Are You Kidding Me?"

Arrogance is a trait I find incredibly disgusting, especially from someone who should be showing some humility and understanding. In this case, NFL Commissioner **Roger Goodell** rushes to the head of the class as one of the all-time pompous morons. His comments defending the handling of the **Ray Rice** situation is almost beyond belief.

In most cases, knocking someone out while on an elevator is a criminal charge, and it's usually compounded when it's on tape and the person punched in the head is a female. While some people would think major discipline is going to be involved in this type of situation, apparently the NFL — and Saint Roger — beg to differ. After reviewing the tape, the one where Rice is shown dragging his wife-to-be out the elevator like a sack of potatoes, the NFL decided a two-game suspension is the appropriate response to this act.

That's correct: the League handed this out to Rice for his part in this disgusting act. But it only gets better when Goodell chimes in with his insane explanation.

Despite the fact the Ravens running back received a standing ovation from the team's fans at summer camp, this wasn't the worst thing I witnessed. I perceive this as beyond horrific as Goodell commented, "We've dealt with this in a serious manner, and we're very confident that this young man understands where he is and what he needs to do going forward."

"I think what's important here is Ray has taken responsibility for this; he's been accountable for his actions. He recognizes he has made a horrible mistake that is unacceptable by his standards, by our standards. And he's got to work to re-establish himself."

Thanks, Rog!

Do you think the fact that the whole world saw him pulling his unconscious then-fiancé off the elevator means he could do anything BUT take responsibility or holding himself accountable for his actions. Geez! What a genius. I would've never thought of this myself.

Goodell isn't the only master of the obvious as Rice acknowledged he has to live with this the rest of his life. No kidding? I thought this was an excusable offense.

The Commissioner also explained that this was Rice's first offense so this helped lessen the penalty. So keep this in mind. If

you're going to murder someone, make sure you don't have any previous charges pending — otherwise you'll be in big trouble.

INTERESTING ITEM No. 2 pertains to the situation regarding the boys basketball program at General McLane High School, the status of Coach **Brian Schulz** after the GM School Board did not renew his contract after it was recommended they do so by a committee.

There are some questions I would like to ask the board just to ease my mind. And I believe these certainly are reasonable ponderings and are for the entire group.

1. Why did you have a committee make a recommendation if you weren't going to accept the outcome?
2. Have you disbanded athletic committees after pretty much rendering them moot?
3. How many basketball games have you attended?
4. How many practices have you observed?
5. You had to be prepared for a large outcry of support for Brian Schulz. What did you do to prepare for this public relations nightmare?
6. Were you aware how unfair this has been to the young people in the program?
7. Were you prepared to resign if it appeared you made a colossal mistake?
8. Why did you wait until June to make this decision?
9. Why has it taken so long to get a basketball coach?
10. Do you consider this an embarrassment to the teachers, students, and athletes in the General McLane School District?

Just asking!

WITH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CAMPS opening soon, there will be plenty of stories to look at, especially in these four programs: New head coaches at Harbor Creek, Iroquois, and McDowell, plus two new coordinators at



(Top) The State Champion MYYAA Nationals (Bottom) The Cleveland Indians unveiled (why?) a statue of Jim Thome recently. Here is the statue and Thome waving, apparently good-bye as he did when he took more money to sign with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Watching this evolve will be an exciting view for high school football fans in the area.

Orlando's Ramblers were among the most explosive teams in the nation, his last two quarterbacks Damion Terry (Michigan State) and Billy Fessler (Penn State) putting up staggering statistics that had them rated amongst the best in the country.

Adding to the interest is the fact former Prep defensive coordinator **Matt Mele** will also be making the switch to Millcreek from West 10 Street.

CATHEDRAL PREP — Head Coach **Mike Mischler**, one of the most successful coaches in Erie history and the owner of two state championship rings, has to replace two strong coordinators, Brad Orlando on offense and Matt Mele on the defensive side of the ball.

It will be tough to find people to step in for these two, but Mischler didn't have to look far for offense, as he will be the OC, and the DC will be highly-regarded Mike Krahe, a stand-out defensive player at Prep and Mercyhurst University, as well a top college coach at Lake Erie.

The Ramblers' mentor always favored a strong running game, but look for his squad to continue to air it out while implementing a powerful rushing attack.

CONGRATULATIONS to the MYYAA Nationals, the Millcreek team capturing a state championship in the 10-11 year-old Little League Division, Millcreek beating defending state champion Red Land 6-4 in the finale.

Red Land threatened to win the game in the final inning as they had the bases loaded with two outs and their best hitter up. However, a line-drive out to right field enabled the Nationals to bring home the crown.

Team members include: **Gavin Snyder, Caden Farr, Brandon Boehm, Sam Crowley, Luke Natemeier, Jared Bielamin, Matthew Shepard, Matt Strong, Chris Juchno, Luke Jackson, Jackson Hower, and Nathan Hayes.** The coaching staff is made up of **Mike Shepard, Bob Juchno, and Robert Beckman.**

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





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