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# ERIE READER

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## FROM THE EDITORS

We all have our favorites. From the kindergarten days of picking a favorite color to the first time we tell friends that a particular season – in our opinion – is the better than the other three, we take joy in expressing ourselves and letting our opinions be known.

As adults we continue the tradition of arguing over our favorites. Around the watercooler, we'll debate what the best show on TV is. Over beers, we'll try to convince each other that a particular band beats all over bands that came before or will come after it.

And we all apply this to the places in which we live.

Favorite place to get a slice pizza? Best lunch joint? Only place where you'd buy music? The place to hear live music? The spot to be seen on a Saturday night?

We host these debates for several reasons. First, they're fun – because we're passionate about what we like and we like to see if people agree with us. Second, there's the chance we'll learn about something new and be challenged to try something different, to step outside of what we know and like. Old favorites can be affirmed, new favorites can be made.

In our Aug. 6 issue, we announced the launch of the Best Of Erie, *Erie Reader's* official reader-driven voting competition to find out what you think is the best the Gem City has to offer in 2014. It's our way of taking the conversation from the watercoolers, the bars, and streets and centralizing it at one common place for everyone to have their say: ErieReader.com.

Since launching our first-ever Best Of Erie, the nominations have been pouring in. But there's still time to make sure your favorite whatever – the things you think Erie does best – makes the cut for voting. Remember, this is a reader-driven experience, and if you don't nominate what you think is the Best Of Erie in any of the more than 180 categories, there's no guarantee that it'll make the voting ballot.

From now until Sept. 2, head to ErieReader.com and click the Best Of Erie logo. You'll be prompted to tell us – through the four main headings of: Goods & Services, Culture & Nightlife, Food & Drink, and People & Places – who and what you think deserves a chance to win the title of Best Of Erie through the voting process.

That voting process will begin Sept. 3. So when our next issue hits, nominations will be closed

and only the people, places, and things nominated will appear on the ballot.

And nominating a business, establishment, person, or place is easy: Just click the category and enter some simple information, like the name of that business, establishment, person, or place and voila – it'll appear on the official Best Of Erie ballot, which you can return to ErieReader.com to vote on Sept. 3.

Don't have time to fill out the 180-plus categories at one time? No problem; you can return to your nomination form at any time. Don't have answers for seven of the categories? That's fine, too. Just put "I don't know" or Leave it blank. Just make sure you do so by Sept. 2.

After that, the voting will begin – and we guarantee that it'll be just as easy as nominating. Voting will take place – just as nominations did – at ErieReader.com. Check back here in this very column for details on that process next issue.

Like we said before, we get to have our say in each issue and 24/7 on our site. The Best Of Erie is your chance to tell us what your favorites are and what you think Erie does best. And so far, it's been an awesome and fun process – let's keep it going, Erie.

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## Exile on State Street

The \$90 Million Runway to Somewhere, We Hope

By: Rick Filippi

In my recent inaugural articles for *Exile*, I wrote of the Erie Region's lack of a comprehensive and coordinated economic development strategy, which has had serious consequences. The near demise of the KLM Family Brand chip factory in Waterford and the failure of the Inland Port Project are the two most vivid examples I cited.

These are, and were, to be projects of the future. But what about projects that have already been completed? How are they contributing to economic opportunity? Who is monitoring these projects to ensure that the anticipated impact is being achieved? Without an economic development strategy and an organization charged with overall responsibility, how do we, as citizens and taxpayers, know that we are gaining or losing ground?

In terms of such projects, one that comes to mind immediately is perhaps Erie County's most significant public works project in history: The Erie Regional Airport Authority's \$90 million runway extension project – which in November, is nearing the two-year anniversary of its completion. As we approach the anniversary, the public should be asking several important questions.

First and foremost, what has been the economic impact of the runway extension? In terms of this, remember that the runway was to allow for larger planes, including cargo operations. Second, who is monitoring the impact? Third, what exactly are the standards or criteria to gauge the success of this hugely expensive investment in an arguably geographically obsolete airport? And finally, from a City of Erie perspective, how has giving away the airport to a new “regional” authority benefitted the City of Erie?

Since there is no regional organization currently charged with advocating and monitoring economic development projects on a macro scale, one must presume that the Erie Regional Airport Authority must be doing so since this was their baby. Since I have not been able to find any data or public statements that provide that information, I can only hope the information will be forthcoming from the Authority in the near future. I am not even sure I can comment on the fourth question I posed as to how the runway project has benefitted the City. I do believe, however, that I am able to comment on the enormous contribution the City made to the project and how its citizens got a raw deal and don't even know it.

A quick history lesson is necessary. The airport was originally founded by private interests in the 1920s. In 1936, the City announced that it would obtain funds through the Works Projects Administration to develop the airport as a Class A1 Municipal Airport, which would meet all government flying regulations. The goal was to make the airport a commercially viable operation as

opposed to one of limited private use.

In April 1936, the City and County contributed funds to buy additional land in furtherance of the project. The project was thereafter undertaken and became quite successful, the Erie Airport receiving national recognition for its improvements. Along the way, the County ended its collaboration, resulting in the City establishing the Erie Airport Authority in 1950. The Authority was composed of five members, all appointed by City Council. The following year the City purchased the airport and all of its assets, which in turn were leased to the Authority. This arrangement continued for the next 50 years or so until the Runway Extension Project was initiated.

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**The City contributed assets to the runway project valued at approximately \$51 million and got \$2 million in return for a net loss of \$49 million.**

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The critical point of this abbreviated history is that the Airport belonged to the City, as it had made the initial investment to develop the airport for the entire region and, through its Authority, managed and continued to develop the airport through the years.

This all changed in 2008 when the Authority and the County of Erie entered into an “Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement.” The gist of the Agreement was that the County, through its power to levy and collect taxes, would guarantee the debt of the Authority's contribution to the construction of the runway extension. The cost of the project was estimated to be \$88 million. In turn, the City (which is not even a signatory to the Agreement), would add four appointments to the Authority, which were to be given to the County. In addition, since the new runway would require the use of several of the golf holes at the Millcreek Township Golf and Learning Center, the City agreed to transfer ownership of the Erie Golf Course to Millcreek Township, with the County agreeing to assume the Erie Golf Course's existing debt of approximately \$2 million.

On the surface, few members of the public, let alone taxpayers of the City, realized what was being given up by the City for the sake of hoped-for economic development for the region. Prior to my exit from office, my administration was working with then-Sen. Jane Earll to enact state legislation to authorize the creation of a regional airport authority.

In addition, Sen. Earll had obtained state funds to allow the City to conduct an appraisal of the Airport. The purpose of the appraisal was to determine the present value of the City's initial investment in the Airport. Once that was determined, the idea was to transfer the Airport and its assets, either by sale or long-term lease, to the new regional authority.

The estimated value of the City's investment was as high as \$45 million. The new regional authority would issue bonds to pay the City, which could be funded through, among other things, a several dollars per ticket surcharge. With the proceeds of the sale or lease, the City would create several funds to undertake infrastructure improvements, neighborhood revitalization, public safety, economic development, and real estate tax relief. This would have had a direct and visible impact on the City.

Instead, what happened? The City essentially gave the Airport away to the new Regional Authority. It also threw in a golf course valued at \$6 million.

What did it get in return? The assumption by the County of about \$2 million in debt on the Erie Golf course.

By my calculations, the City contributed assets to the runway project valued at approximately \$51 million and got \$2 million in return for a net loss of \$49 million! Imagine what kind of improvements the City could have undertaken with those funds. These would have been real investments that citizens would have seen in their neighborhoods.

So as we approach the two-year anniversary of this expensive project, citizens should be asking the Regional Airport Authority for results. How has this project directly benefitted the region? And from my perspective as a City taxpayer, what direct impact has there been to the City?

I hope that there is some positive data, although I believe it will be difficult to show that the City got anything to offset what it gave up. The fundamental problem with our region's economic development strategy is that we really don't have one, at least one that is collaborative and considers regional development and local impact together. We spent \$88 million on the runway. We are soon to spend millions more on a County-funded hotel.

Who is ensuring that these projects are meeting expectations, or are they just expensive boondoggles? One thing I know for certain: The City of Erie cannot afford another one.

Rick Filippi can be contacted at [rFilippi@ErieReader.com](mailto:rFilippi@ErieReader.com). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://eridr.com/scf1q>.



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## Street Corner Soapbox

### The Militarization of Police

By: Jay Stevens

On Saturday, Aug. 9, at about noon, Michael Brown was shot by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis. Brown, 18, was stopped for walking in the street. He was unarmed at the time. The police claim Brown assaulted the officer and tried to wrest his gun from him, but witnesses say Brown was trying to pry himself from the officer's grasp, who had him by the neck. Chaos ensued. There were protests, a riot, and a police response with military camo, assault rifles, and armored personnel vehicles.

Brown's slaying is not an isolated event. The police are heavily armed and aggressive, especially towards young African-American men. The results are dismaying. Young men are killed almost daily in police stop-and-frisk operations and during home raids or routine stops. According to the FBI, police kill young black men on average of twice a week in the United States – in a very limited study to which only four percent of law enforcement agencies contributed. Other studies show that African Americans are disproportionately targeted by police violence in every major city.

What's to blame? For starters, police forces are more often using the "broken window" approach to policing. Following the idea that cleaning up minor damage or decay in a neighborhood – a broken window, for example – prevents criminal activity because it shows that people in the neighborhood care about their surroundings and are vigilant, police are going hard after minor criminal activity in the hopes of discouraging more serious crime. The result is that petty criminals – illegal vendors, people with small amounts of drugs, teens walking down the middle of the street – are bearing the brunt of police aggression.

For another, New York mayor Rudolf Giuliani's infamous stop-and-frisk policy spurred other departments to do the same, causing forces across the country to target young black men for questioning and searching. In Florida, according to a May *Atlantic* report, a man in Miami Gardens, Fla., was stopped and questioned 258 times and arrested 62 times for trespassing – at his place of employment. That was part of that city's police policy of stopping and questioning all African-American men between 15 and 30.

So now we have police constantly stopping and searching young black men and arresting them, sometimes multiple times for little or no cause, creating an atmosphere of conflict, and instigating violent responses.

And the police have developed into paramilitary forces. Funded by assets seized in America's "War on Drugs," police forces have been snapping up surplus military equipment and have been too eager to use it. According to an Eastern Kentucky University study, SWAT action has risen 1,500 percent



**Following the shooting of Michael Brown, protests broke out in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Mo. and were met with heavily armed police officers.**

poor suburb of Oakland and San Francisco, the city of 30,000 recently had the fourth-worst crime rate in the U.S. But in 2013, the city experienced no murders for the first time in over 30 years, thanks in large part to increased foot and bike patrols in the city. Police officers there were rewarded not for arrests, but for positive interactions with everyday people. Nearby Richmond, Calif., also reduced its murder rate by identifying the men most likely to shoot and be shot and giving them assistance for education and work – effectively removing their reasons for resorting to violence.

In Kevin Flowers' excellent *Erie Times-News* June 29 report on 2014 gun violence, he noted that over 200 shootings were reported in the city by mid-June, the majority of which occurred in the eastside neighborhood between Parade and Wayne streets from East Fifth to East Ninth – an "impoverished" section of the city that's predominantly non-white. The Erie police, to their credit, have responded by using federal grant money to increase patrols in the area and understand locals' concerns.

Still, area residents remain suspicious of the police – and maybe rightfully so. It hasn't been that long since Erie police patrolman James Cousins mocked a black murder victim ("one less drug dealer!" he said of a man with no history of drug violation) in a drunken rant posted on YouTube for which he received only a 10-day suspension. Three years later, only four of Erie's 173-officer force are African American. And Erie County's community-police anti-violence initiative – UnifiedErie – has no African Americans on its steering committee.

Ferguson's Michael Brown was shot for walking down the middle of a street. Hopefully Erie's police can avoid the cycle of conflict and violence that has marked too many other police forces.

Jay Stevens can be contacted at [Jay@ErieReader.com](mailto: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/ej9xi>.



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## The Way I See It

### Making Sense of the Death of Robin Williams: It's time to talk about the stigma of suicide

By: Rebecca Styn

American comedian and actor Robin Williams died just weeks ago on August 11, 2014.

Revered by many in Hollywood and beyond, Williams received his big break when he showed his eccentric portraying of an extraterrestrial on the television show *Mork and Mindy*. Throughout his career, he not only provided many laughs during his stand-up routines, but also offered several Oscar-worthy performances in many leading roles. He was not just remembered for making people laugh – but also for inspiring them.

While news of death always deals a heavy blow to those closest to it, in this particular instance, it seemed the entire world stopped to mourn. Not only was he loved by friends, family, and fans globally – he even had other primates, like Koko the gorilla, mourning his unexpected and unanticipated death.

After the news broke, fans far and wide began sharing their grief across various social media outlets. Some offered tribute, posting video clips featuring lines from films like *Patch Adams*, *Good Will Hunting*, or *Dead Poets Society*.

Others took to the streets, toasting amongst friends and chanting “Oh captain, my captain,” Whitman’s famous lines that Williams inspired a generations with, in local bars. And even others took to openly discussing his actual cause

of death – suicide.

Because of this, his death affected many of us far deeper than we expected it to.

Part due to stigma, part due to being uninformed, often as a society, we can’t seem to be able to fully grasp the *whats* or the *whys* when an individual takes his or her own life. And it seems especially difficult to comprehend when it’s someone who brings so much joy and happiness into others lives – who, in the end, couldn’t find it personally.

We all knew Williams had suffered from drug addiction and depression. We learned as of late that he had also been diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease. But what we don’t really know is ultimately why he felt he could no longer stay in this world – that he was so overwhelmed by depression, that he couldn’t fathom taking another breath. And the truth is, he most likely didn’t know why he felt that way either.

Depression is a very real disease. It has very real physical ailments – and very real pain. Sometimes the disease doesn’t manifest in visible signs and symptoms to others – but to the sufferer, the pain is just as real.

When it comes to death, we find solace – or at least better understanding – when we can blame something tangible. Deaths that result from heart disease and cancer

are easier to grasp because we see them coming and we know the reason, the enemy, the object to which we can affix our blame, hate, and frustration. When someone suffers from depression, visible signs aren’t always as apparent – and unfortunately many still believe those suffering from it should just be able to “snap out of it.”

But unlike sadness, depression is a serious mental illness characterized by intense hopelessness and worthlessness. Still, we neglect to realize that depression is just as real and physical a disease as the others – because we don’t know or understand the it.

According to the World Health Organization, 350 million individuals from around the world suffer from depression – these are just the reported diagnoses. What’s more, over 80 percent of individuals showing signs of clinical depression are not receiving treatment.

Suicide takes the lives of nearly one-million individuals worldwide every year and research has consistently shown a strong link between suicide and depression, with 90 percent of the people who die by suicide having an existing mental illness or substance abuse problem at the time of their death. And yet, for whatever reason, there is still great stigma surrounding this disease.

We talk about suicide being the ultimate act of selfishness or the cow-

ard’s way out. We talk about suicide being a choice. But I don’t believe this to be wholly true. Personal demons, whatever they may be and whenever they may be faced, are just that – personal. As such, they can be hard to communicate and even harder to understand.

And the truth is, not one of us can

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**According to the World Health Organization, 350 million individuals from around the world suffer from depression – these are just the reported diagnoses.**

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fully experience the way another feels. Try as we may, we truthfully can never “walk in another’s shoes.” Life is what makes us who we are – from our unique physical makeup, to the circumstances within and out of our control – all of which help to create the mind of the person we are today. It’s what makes life beautiful and tragic all at the same time.

Depression isn’t defined by the life you lead. It doesn’t matter how much money you make, how many

people love you, and the happiness that may surround you. Many people forget that the brain, like all organs in our body, is just as vulnerable to illness and disease. Depression is a clinical disease – one for which we have treatment but no cure.

Those that suffer are not weak. In fact, they are stronger than most. But they are affected by something that nobody fully understands, and tragically, in the end, they see no other way out. Perhaps if we all took time to judge less and care more, then our world might start to shift. We must educate others so that they understand that this illness can affect anyone – and that treatment can manage the symptoms so that those of us who suffer mental illness do not hesitate to seek treatment and help.

Because many will not ask.

I can only hope that when Williams arrived in heaven (which I believe he did) that God looked at him and said...“You got the lucky ticket home, baby.”

And with that, I bring you the final Adrian Cronauer broadcast... Goodbye, Vietnam.

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



**Just Toyin' Witcha by B. Toy**



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News of the Weird

By: Chuck Shepard

LEAD STORY

The May 28 US Airways flight from Los Angeles to Philadelphia had to be diverted to Kansas City after a passenger's service dog did what dogs do, in the aisle, twice (an hour apart). One passenger used the terms "lingering smell," "dry heaving" and "throwing up" in describing the situation. (2) On a recent (perhaps July) Delta flight from Beijing to Detroit, a Chinese couple apparently nonchalantly laid down paper on their toddler's seat and encouraged him to address his bowels' needs despite numerous pleas from nearby passengers to take him to the restroom. According to Chinese news reports, social media sites erupted in criticism of the family for its embarrassing behavior. [KCTV (Kansas City), 5-30-2014] [Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 7-28-2014]

Democracy in Action

Steve Grossman, Massachusetts' state treasurer, who is running for governor, performed heroically at a candidate forum in March. The Boston Globe reported that Grossman "fervently answered questions on everything from transgender rights (to) sex education (and) issues facing (the) aging members of the (gay/transgender) community" while simultaneously passing a kidney stone (which most victims rate as "level 10" pain — the highest on the medical scale, described by some as comparable to childbirth). [Boston Globe, 3-26-2014]

Steve Wiles gathered only 28 percent of the vote in his North Carolina state senate race in May after revelations that he — lately an opponent of gay rights — was until about four years ago a gay male who worked as the female impersonator "Mona Sinclair" at a gay nightclub in Winston-Salem. As recently as April, however (three weeks before a newspaper's revelation), Wiles was categorically denying that he used to be Mona Sinclair. "That's not me," he said. "That's him," said a man who worked with him at the club. Said the club's then-co-owner: "I have no ax to grind against him. I just think he's a liar." [Winston-Salem Journal, 5-3-2014]

The Alaskan government is scrambling to fulfill its obligation to welcome native communities' votes on a state tax resolution in August. That means paying translators (at up to \$50 a hour) to set out the measure for communities using the languages Yup'ik, Inupiak, Siberian Yupik, Koyukon Athabascan and Gwich'in Athabascan. (The tax measure must also be available on audio — for those communities that rely on the "oral tradition.") For example, the yes-or-no tax question in Yup'ik is "Una-qaq alerquun ciuniumanrilli?" [Washington Times, 7-29-2014]

Tough Love: Missouri state Sen. Rob Schaaf (who is a medical doctor) was credited in a July New York Times report with leading the resistance to the state's establishment of a database of controlled-substance prescriptions.

(Sen. Schaaf champions "patient privacy" over curbing the wanton overuse of pain medications, even though the other 49 states have such databases.) In an earlier debate, Dr. Schaaf suggested drug abuse is self-regulating: "If (drug abusers) overdose and kill themselves, it just removes them from the gene pool." [New York Times, 7-20-2014]

Not My Fault

Tom Lakin is challenging State Farm in a St. Clair County, Illinois, courtroom, claiming that the sexual abuse he was convicted of was "unintentional" and that therefore his homeowners' insurance ought to have covered any claims by the victim. (State Farm, and other insurers, generally pay out for "negligent" events.) He said he had no idea that serving minors alcohol and drugs and encouraging them to have sex with each other would lead to their later sexual exploitation by other adults. [Madison-St. Clair Record, 6-19-2014]

The Redneck Chronicles

Has to Be Tied Down: A man was hospitalized in Shreveport, Louisiana, in June after being carried away by a wind gust as he held onto a mattress in the back of a pickup truck on Interstate 49. He suffered road burn and fractures. (2) Jenna Ketcham, 25, was arrested in Sebastian, Florida, in July after exacting a bit of revenge against an ex-boyfriend, whom she encountered squiring another woman in his pickup truck. According to police, Ketcham hit the man in the face and the genitals, and emptied his "dip spit" cup on him. [KSLA-TV (Shreveport), 7-3-2014] [TCPalm.com (Stuart, Fla.), 7-29-2014]

The New World Order

Among the foods "you wouldn't even eat if trapped on a desert island" in a May London Daily Mirror feature: canned cheeseburger (Germany), canned whole chicken (Sweet Sue brand of USA), canned peanut butter and jelly sandwich (Mark One Foods of USA), canned bacon (Hungary), Squeez Bacon (in a plastic jar like ketchup, from Vilhelm Lilleflask of Sweden), whole peeled lamb tongues (New Zealand) and Elephant Dung Beer (from excreted coffee beans by Japan's Sankt Gallen). Also mentioned: Casu Marzu (cheese containing live maggots that the food's few fans swear make its taste irresistible — and which News of the Weird reported in 2000). [Daily Mirror, 5-29-2014]

The first "pheromone party" is said to have been staged in New York City in 2010, but the concept was revived recently in London, with men and women bringing three-each used, unwashed, un-fragranced T-shirts in plastic bags as the price of admission (along with the equivalent of \$25). Guests sniff the coded bags one after another until genes kick in and signal the sniffer that a certain shirt belongs to Mr. or Ms. Right. At that point, the sniffer projects a cellphone selfie on the wall, and whoever brought that shirt sees the sniffer, at which time things return to normal, i.e., deciding if the sniffer is sufficiently good-looking. [Agence France-Presse via AsiaOne.com (Singapore), 7-24-2014]


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MAITHAM BASHA

# Dispatches from Iraq

Erie Man Returns to Troubled Homeland to Document Crisis

By: Jim Wertz

There's an unraveling in Iraq. That's how many media reports begin these days. But it doesn't begin to describe the level of divisiveness, corruption, and bloodshed facing the nation that once held the cherished heart of the Muslim world. "This is not my country," says Maitham Basha. "It's not the country I left."

He left Iraq twice before coming to the United States in 2000.

Maitham was twelve when he arrived in the United States with his mother and brother for the first time. He hadn't seen his father since 1991.

Maitham's father had been conscripted into the Iraqi Army for the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Struggling with the debts of the Iran-Iraq War, Saddam Hussein believed that conquering Iraq's oil-rich neighbor would free Iraq of its financial strain. He assembled the world's fourth largest army – and one of the most unprepared – to carry out his plan.

Because the army was largely composed of Shi'a and Kurdish conscripts, Hussein was mistrustful of them. Many Iraqi soldiers surrendered to American forces during the first

Gulf War. Many others deserted.

In March 1991, sensing the weakness of the dictator in the wake of the Gulf War, Shi'a Muslims in southern Iraq and Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq led an uprising against the Hussein regime. At one point, the rebels held fourteen of Iraq's eighteen provinces.

U.S. President George H.W. Bush went on *Voice of America* radio to encourage the revolution.

"[It] is for the Iraqi military and the Iraqi people to take matters into their own hands, to force Saddam Hussein, the dictator, to step aside," Bush said.

But the President's call was largely superficial. Hussein cracked down on the Kurds and Shi'ites in the same way he had hoped to conquer Kuwait. Tens of thousands of Iraqis were murdered and tens of thousands more fled the country as refugees of a humanitarian crisis.

Maitham's father had been unable to return to Iraq after the Gulf War for fear of what the Hussein regime would do to a Shi'a soldier and his family. He fled to a refugee camp in Saudi Arabia, where he lived until 1995.

Maitham, with his mother and older brother, remained in Najaf, their hometown. For

more than two years, they didn't know if the patriarch of their family was dead or alive.

Maitham's father came to the United States in 1995 and filed the paperwork to bring his family here.

The family fled from Iraq to Jordan where they stayed with an uncle and began the formal process that would reunite them with their expatriate husband and father.

But something was wrong with the paperwork and their visas were denied. They had to return to Iraq.

When they returned to Najaf, seven-year-old Maitham became the head of the house-

---

**For more than two years, they didn't know if the patriarch of their family was dead or alive.**

---

hold. His nine-year-old older brother had been blinded in a grenade attack that killed his cousin during the brutal retaliation on Shi'ites following the Gulf War.

Maitham sold garbage bags in the market and moved concrete blocks for construction workers, trying to make extra money for his family. There was no more school, no more soccer, only work.

In 1999 the family tried again. They fled Iraq

**With the rise of ISIS, the nation of Iraq continues to experience an unnerving unrest.**

---

for Jordan. They filed for American visas. And weeks later, in early 2000, they arrived in the United States where twelve-year-old Maitham was reunited with his father.

Now a young man in his mid twenties, Maitham returned to Iraq this summer for the first time since leaving at age 12.

"I was overcome by the lack of progress, not just the devastation of war, but the fact that nothing had changed. People still live backwards. When I got out of the car in my old neighborhood, I recognized my old school, my grandparents' house, the field where we played soccer, it was all the same," he says. "Only the field was filled with trash."

Litter in the streets and the devastations of war have reshaped the aesthetic landscape of Baghdad, Najaf, and other prominent Iraqi cities.

"To see Baghdad and to see people living in sectors – that hurt. Baghdad was so diverse, so open. Christians no longer exist. Jews, if they exist, are in hiding. And now there's the Shi'a - Sunni situation. I was very hurt to see my home country going downward in turmoil," says Maitham. "I was not expecting a lot of improvements. However, I was expecting some kind of improvement. Maybe more diversity. Maybe more acceptance. Things like that."

Socially and politically, much has changed



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During a recent trip to Iraq, Maitham Basha was intent on photographing and capturing the stories of refugees.

stories of refugees, some Iraqi and some Syrian, who have been displaced from their homes and are forced to survive in refugee camps in Iraq.

"I was lucky," he asserts. "I never had to live in a refugee camp like my dad. But many people are not so lucky. I wanted to share their stories."

in Iraq since 2000.

Most of the politicians in Iraq are out of touch with who the people are and what the people need.

The country is largely run by expatriates who lived either in Europe or the United States for the better part of the past twenty years.

"The mayor of Najaf used to live in Detroit with my uncle," says Maitham when we met in Erie shortly after he returned from Iraq.

And people are voting based on religious alliance rather than practical secular need.

"There is no democracy. You don't pick a politician based on what you think they will do for Iraq. You pick a politician based on what religion you are," Maitham observes.

But even that criteria has become tenuous in recent months, as Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced his resignation Aug. 14. Sunni, Kurds, and even some Shi'ites seemed skeptical about the future of a Maliki-led Iraq. The skepticism manifests violence.

For Maitham, the sectarian violence is the most disturbing facet of the ongoing unrest in Iraq.

On his trip home, Maitham Basha was intent on photographing and capturing the

He met an old farmer who lamented that he once owned acres of land and now can't afford shoes.

He met a young man, about his age, who remembered the diversity of Baghdad and sharing tea and cake in the homes of Sunni friends.

**"There is no democracy. You don't pick a politician based on what you think they will do for Iraq. You pick a politician based on what religion you are."**

"No one does that anymore," the man told him.

"What hurt me the most on this trip," Maitham says, "is seeing how Iraqis can't live among themselves because of religion. This is not what religion is all about. This is not what God wants people to do to each other."

A man from Mosul told Maitham a story of the Islamic State – the Sunni-led terrorist



group formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS – coming into homes in Mosul, counting the number of women in the home and spraypainting that number on the outside of the house so its soldiers would know how many women to search for and rape under the cover of night.

Another man told him of a woman who took her daughters to her balcony and shot them so they wouldn't be raped and killed by the insurgents, as had been the experience of her neighbors.

Back in Erie, more than 6,000 miles from the struggles he saw and the tragic narratives he heard in Iraq, Maitham Basha met me in a local coffee shop just days after returning to Pennsylvania and less than 24 hours before he departed on the next great chapter of his young life.

He brought with him an electronic tablet filled with pictures and stories from his journey home.

He captured ISIS rebels in the streets waving Soviet-era AK-47s in the air as they marched through Kurdistan.

He captured old couples and elderly men struggling to maintain in refugee camps.

But there was also a pattern that emerged from his photos. There were series of photographs that featured children.

He photographed kids who made a makeshift bicycle park next to a construction site. Other kids played behind the shanties set up by the United Nations refugee assistance organization, UNHCR.

In their faces, there's a sense of hope, a sense of optimism – kids being kids, and unlike the adults who averted their eyes from his lens, the kids stared directly at the camera, many of them smiling.

One young boy, wearing a Spider-man T-shirt, had a plastic crate around his neck selling goods on a camp street.

So I asked Maitham if those kids reminded him of himself, the seven-year old who traded soccer to sell garbage bags and push blocks in Najaf.

Although he never lived in a refugee camp, he says that when he sees them, "the struggle hits home."

The day after we met, Maitham left for Botswana, Africa, where he will spend the next two years as a Peace Corps volunteer educating young Africans about AIDS and AIDS prevention.

After 27 months in Botswana, I wondered to which of his homes – Erie or Iraq – he would return.

"My plan is to take the Foreign Service exam. But who knows, maybe I'll just travel the world and take pictures." Then he paused and chuckled, "I could be the next Anthony Bourdain."

Jim Wertz can be contacted at [jWertz@ErieReader.com](mailto:jWertz@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @InclineMedia. To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/h5n9k>.





# Remembering the Adams Brothers

Seventy years ago, three Erie brothers gave the ultimate sacrifice

By: Dan Schank

**A**ugust 14, 1948 was a solemn day of homecoming in Erie County. The remains of three brothers – Charles, Donald, and Clarence Adams – were laid to rest at Erie Cemetery following full military services at the Salem Evangelical Church, formerly located at 11th and Myrtle. In 1944, mere weeks after U.S. forces stormed the shores of Normandy on D-Day, Charles and Donald died within a month of each other while serving their country in France. About a year later, their younger brother Clarence would also give his life during combat on the island of Luzon in the Philippines.

In addition to acknowledging the sacrifices of the Adams brothers, the 1948 service also paid tribute to their mother, Anna Mentley Adams. The scale of this tragic loss made her the only triple Gold Star Mother in the region.

The Gold Star Mothers club was formed in the wake of World War I to honor the women whose children died while defending their country. The name refers to the Service flags that became a familiar sight in the front windows of American homes in the 1940s. The flags contained a blue star for each family member actively serving in the armed forces. When a soldier passed away, the blue stars were covered over with gold ones, indicating that the family had made the ultimate sacrifice.

By the end of the war, the flag adorning the Adams' home on East 24th street was an ominous reminder of the conflict's devastating toll. After the war, Anna Adams helped form an Erie Chapter of the Gold Star Mothers, which was named the Adams Chapter in her honor. She even briefly served as its first president prior to her death in 1949, only a single year after the service to her sons.

Nearly 70 years later, the legacy of World War II and its casualties still resonates in the local community. For the past fifteen years, retired accountant Don Adams (no relation to the brothers) has been tallying the impact of the war in Erie County with help from his brother-in-law, Ray Fitzgerald. Adams, who served as a cryptographer in Alaska during the war, established an online database to tally the total number of lives lost in our community. There are 727 deaths according to his records.

I asked him why remembering local people like the Adams brothers is so important, and he answered with an interesting analogy: "Today, World War II is as distant in history for the youth of today as the Civil War was to the youth of the World War II era." That's no exaggeration – the comparison makes mathematical sense. A nine-year-old child in 2014 will grow up with exactly as much distance from the invasion of Normandy as a twenty-

year-old on D-Day had from the Gettysburg address.

In addition, the veterans of the Second Great War are disappearing rapidly. According to figures recently compiled by the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, just over one million of the estimated sixteen million Americans who served are still living. In Pennsylvania, that number is 55,853.

As time passes and the war becomes more distant, the need to remember becomes more urgent. So who were the Adams brothers, exactly?

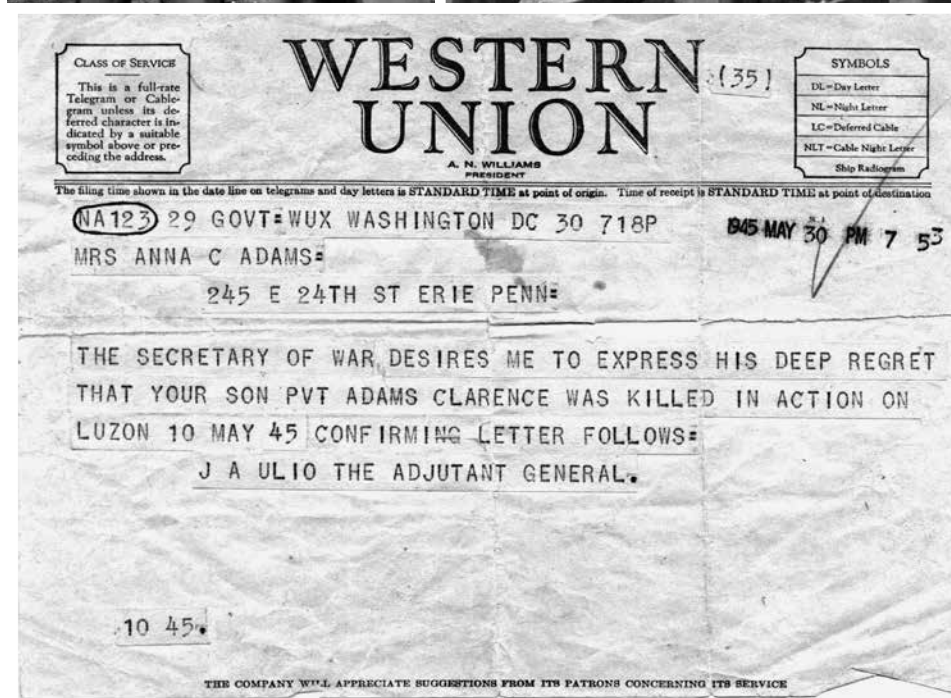
Donald E. Adams was the oldest of the three who gave their lives, a veteran of the National Guard Service who left Erie in November of 1941. He was an Academy High graduate who attended Norwich University prior to leaving for war with the 112th Infantry. He was a talented football player in his school days, which helped him earn a scholarship for college. In the Army, he rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant and was awarded a posthumous Bronze Star for valor. On Aug. 10, 1944, during fighting near the town of Gathemo in France, Donald lost his life at age 26.

Charles H. Adams, a graduate of Technical High School, was also called to duty with the 112th infantry in 1941. Soon after, he volunteered for the 101st Airborne Division and was trained to be a paratrooper. In the service, he rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. While stationed in England, he briefly met up with his brother Donald prior to heading for France to take part in the Allied invasion of Normandy. He lost his life in the conflict on June 21, 1944, just fifteen days after D-Day. At 22 years old, he was the first of the brothers to give his life in service.

Clarence was the youngest of the eight siblings that made up the family. His friends called him "Honey," which was a shortened version of "Honey Schlau," a nickname used affectionately by his German mother. Ray Fitzgerald attended Academy High at the same time as Clarence and remembers him as a track-and-field star, one who "had long hair before long hair was in style."

A few weeks after the death of his brother Donald, 18-year-old Clarence decided to enlist. According to family accounts, he did so voluntarily – despite the fact that the Adams' losses qualified him for a deferment. By the spring of 1945, he was on the island of Luzon in the Philippines, helping to stabilize cities seized by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces.

In mid-April, he was assigned to the 32nd division of the 128th Infantry, also known as the "Red Arrow Division." The unit was working to secure the Villa Verde Trail from attacks lead by the Japanese Fourteenth Area Army.



Clarence had little combat experience – and insubstantial time to develop bonds with the other soldiers. On May 10, 1945, he was shot and killed while his platoon was on patrol. The event occurred about a month after his 19th birthday, and only a few months prior to Japan's official surrender.

Donald, Charles, and Clarence had four older brothers, all of whom served in the National Guard. Harold Adams joined in the 1930s and was, according to family records, one of the responders to the Great St. Patrick's Day flood of 1936 in Pittsburgh. He was drafted for the war at age 35, but was eventually discharged due to a heart murmur. Richard Adams also served during the war, but was never stationed overseas. Arthur Adams was the only brother who didn't actively serve, due to a deferment prompted by a problem with his legs.

Two members of the family lived into the 21st century. Leona (Adams) Hunt, the only daughter of Anna Adams, passed away in 2005 at the age of 95. Robert K. Adams also passed away in 2005, a few years after he became the subject of a feature in the *Erie Daily Times* about his service in the war and his

brothers' legacy.

Reporter Bill Welch became fascinated by the story of the Adams brothers while conducting research prior to the dedication of the Erie County WWII Memorial in 1999. During his tenure as a city editor for the paper, he conducted multiple interviews with Robert K. Adams, who spent his final years at the Pleasant Ridge Manor nursing home. During their conversations, Robert recalled his own unique war experiences as a rifleman in the European theater.

In the interviews, Robert recounted active duty with two regiments. With the 112th he served in Le Havre, France. Later, when replacements were urgently needed during the Battle of the Bulge, he was transferred to the 110th. With the new regiment, he endured a bitter cold winter at a smaller bulge known as the Colmar Pocket in the Alsace region of France. As the winter thawed, they pushed forward to Germany.

Though these experiences may sound heroic, when Robert returned home from the war he was overcome with grief, not pride. According to Welch, "he felt so guilty because



## Rites Saturday for 3 Brothers Killed in War



FUNERAL SERVICES for three Erie brothers who were killed in action in World War II will be held Saturday at 1 p. m. in the Salem Evangelical Church, 11th and Myrtle Sts. The youths, sons of Mrs. Anna Mantley Adams, 245 E. 24th St., are shown in the photos above. Left to right are: Pvt. Clarence J. Adams, 18, killed in action May 10, 1944, while serving with the 128th Infantry Regiment in France; Sgt. Charles H. Adams, 22, a paratrooper,

killed in action June 21, 1944, at Luzon, and T/Sgt. Donald E. Adams, 23, who lost his life Aug. 10, 1944, while serving with the 112th Infantry in France. Erie Purple Heart veterans will meet with the Commodore Perry Chapter, Military Order of the Purple Heart, at 12:30 p. m. Saturday, in the Salem Evangelical Church, 11th and Myrtle Sts., for special services for the three Erie veterans.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



STORM CRYPT

he survived and his brothers didn't." During their conversations, Robert spoke frankly and eloquently about that guilt, which prompted the reporter to make an extended version of his moving story available online. The article adds substantial intimacy to the Adams brothers' story, and features many intimate details pertaining to everyday life during combat.

When I spoke to Welch, he noted the degree to which testimonials like Robert's are disappearing because "every day you're losing people that could have helped you." Though the consequences of age are inevitable, we can still play an active role in preserving and remembering our history.

The story of the Adams brothers is often recalled by genealogist Caroline Reichel, who leads guided walking tours through the Erie Cemetery throughout the summer and early fall. The family's remains are located in Section 8 of the cemetery, and the three brothers who lost their lives are honored at the Erie County World War II Memorial, located at the corner of State Street and Glenwood Park Avenue. Finally, though service Flags are no longer a familiar sight in Erie neighborhood

**Clockwise from bottom left: A heartbreaking telegram, Donald and Charles Adams, Clarence Adams (right,) an old clipping from the Erie Times News, Omaha Beach today.**

windows, the Gold Star Mothers – Erie's Adams Chapter included – are still honored each year on the last Sunday of September.

*Bill Welch's extended interview with Robert K. Adams is available online at the following address: <http://tinyurl.com/odymj5m>*

*To access Don Adams' database of World War II casualties in Erie County, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/oz7avvh>*

*To learn more about Caroline Reichel's walking tours of the Erie Cemetery, contact her at 814.868.4423, or at [caroline.reichel19@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.reichel19@gmail.com)*

*Dan Schank can be contacted at [DSchank@ErieReader.com](mailto:DSchank@ErieReader.com). To follow this story or comment, scan the QR code or visit <http://erirdr.com/1xg4n>.*



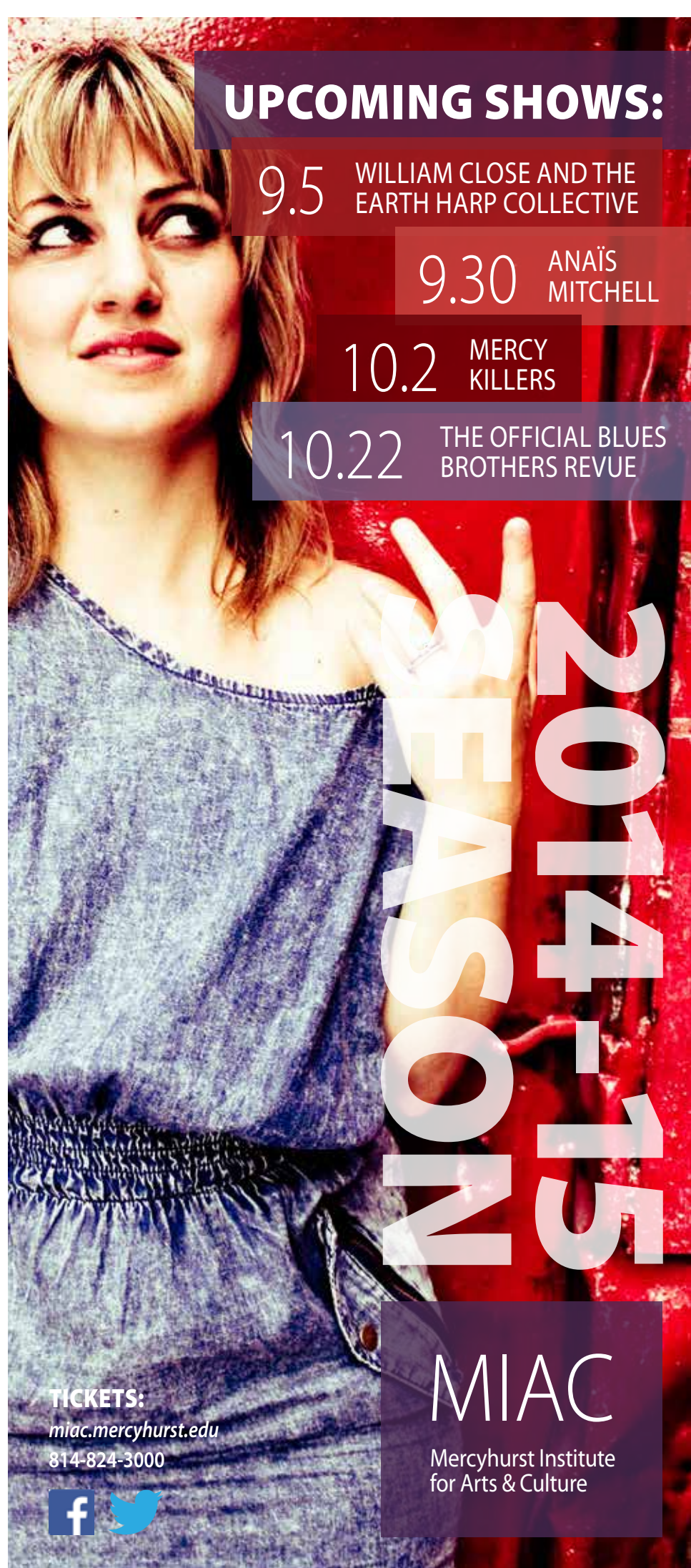
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**CALENDAR**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Upcoming Mid-Day Art Break performers include Zack Orr and The Erie Chamber Orchestra**

Typically, people working in Downtown Erie spend their lunch breaks chowing down delectable edibles at any of the numerous eateries situated on or around State Street. On Wednesdays, however, the Erie Art Museum offers up healthy servings of entertainment during the noon hour.

The Mid-Day Art Break gives people a chance to enjoy some music along with their lunch, either from the Art Museum's Wave Café or brought from elsewhere. On Wednesday, Aug. 20, sonic craftsman and *Erie Reader 40 Under 40* alum Zack Orr will provide some musical thrills, playing songs from albums *Francisco the Man* and *The Unstoppable Lift*, in addition to whatever cover(s) Orr feels like treating us to.

A week later on Aug. 27, the Mid-Day Art Break will shift from the modern works of Zack Orr to the music of J.S. Zamecnik – known for silent film scores including that of *Wings*, the first-ever winner of Best Picture at the Academy Awards – from the early-to-mid 1900s during Sounds of the Silents. The Erie Chamber Orchestra will be the first to perform some of Zamecnik's pieces in decades after Executive Director Steve Weiser happened upon a box containing Zamecnik's work and used Kickstarter to fund the production of an album. After a successful performance at the Art Museum last year, the Erie Chamber Orchestra will return to treat Erie's lunch crowd to the sounds of Zamecnik.

"The outdoor reception – especially for this type of music – sort of blew everyone's mind," Weiser says.

"To have the audience as big as it was last year and to have these clearly identifiable movie scenes was fantastic, especially in an outdoor venue when you could be walking down State Street and hear what sounds like villain music."

Lunch breaks provide opportunities to fill more than just your stomach, so let your ears feast with Zack Orr and the Erie Chamber Orchestra during the Mid-Day Art Breaks this month. – Alex Bieler

**Noon Wednesday Aug. 20 (Zack Orr) and Noon Wednesday, Aug. 27 (Erie Chamber Orchestra) // 20 E. Fifth St. // [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org)**

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### Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution Bring New Take on Bluegrass to Sherlock's

It's been decades since Appalachian, country-leaning string music got the name "bluegrass," derived from Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys after they were founded in 1939. Eventually, the name stuck and applies to the rootsy style even today. However, sometimes even traditional favorites can get a makeover.

That's where Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution, who will be performing at Sherlock's on Thursday, Aug. 21, come into play, with emphasis on the Newgrass. What exactly is Newgrass? Well, other than a fancy portmanteau of "new" and "bluegrass," the local quartet's Facebook page defines the term as "a collision of rock structure, alternative lyrical concepts, and bluegrass instrumentation." In other words, meet the Newgrass, a bit different than the bluegrass.

Not convinced? Well, check them out for yourself when Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution play at Sherlock's to show off their own particular brand of Appalachian tradition with songs like the heartfelt "Surrounded by Pines." The Blue Grass Boys may have started the tradition decades back, but the Revolution is on in Northwest Pennsylvania. – Alex Bieler

9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21 // 508 State St. // facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace

#### Big Dog Acoustics

Aug. 21 – 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, sleepingchainsaw.com

#### Obelus, Sarsen, and Bravura

Aug. 21 – 9 p.m.  
Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. 455.9840

#### Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution

Aug. 21 – 9 p.m.  
Sherlocks/Park Place, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace

#### Tommy Link

Aug. 21 – 7 p.m.  
Sunset Grill, 12690 Edinboro Road. edinborolakeresort.com

#### Basket Eddy

Aug. 22 – 6:45 p.m.  
Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org

#### The Breeze Band

Aug. 22 – 9 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Highway. presqueisledowns.com

#### Chris Mathers

Aug. 22 – 6 to 9 p.m.  
The Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Drive. uglytunatavern.com

#### Erie Ale House Acoustics with Two Stoopid Dogs, Aaron Forsyth and Julia & Pablito

Aug. 22 – 8 p.m.  
Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/eriealehouse

#### Jake Banta

Aug. 22 – 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, sleepingchainsaw.com

#### Justin Moyer Trio

Aug. 22 – 9 p.m.  
King's Rook Club, 1921

Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub

#### Mid-Life Crisis

Aug. 22 – 8 p.m.  
Doc Holliday's, 7425 Shultz Road. dochollidays.net

#### Mike Edgerly

Aug. 22 – 8 to 11 p.m.  
Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. oasispub.net/willys-acoustics

#### Potwhale with Junk Shop Failure and Matt Texter

Aug. 22 – 10 p.m.  
The Beer Mug, 1108 Liberty St. 454.4753

#### Return of Attack of the PACA (Day I)

Aug. 22 – 6:30 p.m.  
PACA, 1505 State St. pacal505.com

#### Shameless Hex Duo

Aug. 22 – 7 p.m.  
Sunset Grill, 12690 Edinboro



Thu. Aug. 21

Sean Patrick & The New Grass Revolution

Fri. Aug. 22

Whiplash & Immoral

Sat. Aug. 23

Hammerd

Thu. Aug. 28

Glow Paint Party presented by thebox814

Fri. Aug. 29

New Wave Nation

Sat. Aug. 30

Old School

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

### Return of the Attack of the PACA! (hide the kids)

Bent on creating a sequel to the sold-out inaugural event in 2012, PACA returns to its youngish roots with a two-day festival of all things arts. Expect some high times.

On Aug. 22 and 23, Attack of the PACA will serve up a smorgasbord of music, theater, and visual arts as only it can – filling two stages at its 1505 State St. home with as much music, drama, poetry, monologues, and one-act comedies – not to mention a couple drag acts for good measure.

Theater lovers can dig in to plays by Christopher Durang, David Lindsay-Abaire, Eric Bogosian, Tennessee Williams, Shel Silverstein, and others. Music enthusiasts can catch Justin Moyer, If/Then, Jerry Gaff, and Jo Hyatt, to name a few. Local art will adorn the walls of the gallery and craft vendors will offer up their wares.

This event is a fundraiser for the Center, but according to organizer Jeff Rodland, it is also a chance to offer local artists the opportunity to express themselves, which is at the heart of their mission.

There's never a shortage of parties at PACA, and this event is a great way to help them celebrate two successful years and to see what may be in store for the next years to come. – Mary Birdsong  
6:30 p.m. each night // Performing Arts Center and Theater, 1505 State St.  
// Tickets are \$10 per person, per night, or a two-day pass for \$15





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Music Flows at the Riverside Arts Weekend

In venturing to and fro the local music and arts events, there are sweet spots aplenty to be found, all throughout the nooks and crannies of northwestern Pennsylvania.

One of the sweetest spots sits right about where the southern tip of Erie County meets the northern point of Crawford County: In good 'ol Cambridge Springs, at the big, beautiful, historic Riverside Inn.

Over the years, I've caught a plethora of players – locals and big names alike – doin' their things up on that Riverside stage, from folk, to funk, to rock and country, to funky-folksy-country-rock.

And in recent years, one man, local musician and show-maker Justin Moyar – with a little help from his friends – has been the guy behind alotta the events there, bringing out and putting up eclectic blends of some of the best music around.

Moyar and gang are at it again in Cambridge Springs around the Labor Day holiday, when they'll present Riverside Arts Weekend – a two-day, family-friendly affair featuring lotsa worth-seeing live acts, arts displays, good grub, and other cool stuff at the Inn from Saturday, Aug. 30 through Sunday, Aug. 31.

This time around, the Riverside's playing host to performers like "The HurdGurdler", Brian McCoy, the Seattle-based guitar legend Baby Gramps, Seann P. Clark (of Basket Eddy), The Armitan Hand, Jessi & the Grayhounds, the Justin Moyar Group, and others.

That's one solid – and sweet – lineup, and a helluva nice way to put summer to bed.

And no worries if you need to do the same for yourself – the Riverside's got rooms for that, too. – Ryan Smith

**Aug. 30 to 31 // Riverside Inn, 1 Fountain St, Cambridge Springs // TheRiversideInn.com or 398.4645**

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### Taylor Maid

Aug. 22 – 9:30 p.m.

Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. oasispub.net

### Whiplash with special guest Immoral

Aug. 22 – 9 p.m.

Sherlocks/Park Place, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace

### Falling Hollywood

Aug. 23 – 8 p.m.

Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. oasispub.net

### Hammered

Aug. 23 – 9 p.m.

Sherlocks/Park Place, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace

### Hatch Hollow Gathering

### Music Festival

Aug. 23 – Noon

8483 Hatch Hollow Road, Union City. facebook.com/hatchhollow-gatheringmusicfest

### Hollow Boys, Barlow, Spud Dog, Flock of Walri, and Optimistic Apocalypse

Aug. 23 – 5:30 p.m.

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

### Jerry Gaff

Aug. 23 – 5:30 p.m.

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

### Liquid Nixon with Special Guest

Aug. 23 – 9 p.m.

King's Rook Club, 1921

Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub

### M-80's

Aug. 23 – 9 p.m.

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

### Mid-Life Crisis

Aug. 23 – 8 p.m.

Doc Holliday's, 7425 Shultz Road. dochollidays.net

### Mike Edgerly

Aug. 23 – 6 to 9 p.m.

The Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Drive. uglytunatavern.com

### Return of Attack of the PACA (Day 2)

Aug. 23 – 6:30 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. pacal505.com

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The program, hosted at Gannon University, begins **September 16** and will include lecture, discussion and interactive exercises.

There is **no cost** for this program, a formal diagnosis is not required. **Please register** using the contact information below.



[NAMIerie.org](http://NAMIerie.org) | 814-456-1773

## CALENDAR

### It's the Last 8 Great Tuesday of the Year: What Are You Waiting For?

August 26 is your last chance to get a summer groove on (at least) one more time when legendary local band Jake's Blues close out the 2014 8 Great Tuesday season along with Rick Magee and the Roadhouse Rockers, and Six Years After.

"It's a big party, and I love it," says Jake Banta, who's brought his blend of blues and rock to every one of the past 14 Eight Great seasons. "Over the years, fans have become friends, so this concert is filled with a lot of fun and energy."

Banta says he also loves the beautiful setting and the sound of the amphitheater, and he's stoked about sharing the stage with his childhood friend, Rick Magee, who fronts the Roadhouse Rockers, that bills itself as "America's Favorite Biker Band."

Newest to the stage is Six Years After, just getting its feet wet on the local scene. To get the evening started, they'll offer up a mix of metal covers and original tunes.

What can we expect? Banta says that Jake's Blues plans to exceed anything they've ever done in the past 14 years. And, oh - he hinted that there may be a little jam at the end.

So last chance, folks - grab those lawn chairs and get your summer on while it's still (sorta) hot. - Mary Birdsong

**6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26 // Liberty Park, 726 W. BayfrontParkway // [porterie.org/8-great-tuesdays](http://porterie.org/8-great-tuesdays)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

#### Unkle John

Aug. 23 - 6 to 9 p.m.

**Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 2213 U.S. 6, [sleepingchainsaw.com](http://sleepingchainsaw.com)**

#### Bob Ferragine

Aug. 24 - 5 p.m.

**Sunset Grill, 12690 Edinboro Road. [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com)**

#### Gospelfest

Aug. 24 - 2 p.m.

**Burger King Amphitheater, Liberty Park, [willard790@aol.com](mailto:willard790@aol.com)**

#### One Love: A Bob Marley Tribute featuring The Ark Band and Chaka

Aug. 24 - 4 p.m.

**Shickalay's on the Bay, 2860 W. 6th St. [facebook.com/shickalaysonthebay](http://facebook.com/shickalaysonthebay)**

#### [com/shickalaysonthebay](http://com/shickalaysonthebay)

#### Suzi & The Buzz

Aug. 24 - 8 to 11 p.m.

**Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road [oasispub.net/willys-acoustics](http://oasispub.net/willys-acoustics)**

#### Rick Magee and the Roadhouse Rockers with Jake's Blues

Aug. 26 - 6:30 p.m.

**Burger King Amphitheater, Liberty Park, [porterie.org](http://porterie.org)**

#### Mid-Day Art Break with Members of Gannon University's Erie Chamber Orchestra

Aug. 27 - Noon to 1 p.m.

**Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [ErieArtMuseum.org](http://ErieArtMuseum.org)**

#### All Musicians Acoustic Jam Night with Claire Stuczynski

Aug. 28 - 8 to 11 p.m.

**Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road, [oasispub.net](http://oasispub.net)**

#### Downtown Erie Block Party at Scully's Pub, with Malpractice and Key West Express

Aug. 28 - 6 to 10:30 p.m.

**Scully's Pub, 408 State St. 454.0067**

#### The Flapjacks

Aug. 28 - 6 to 9 p.m.

**Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 2213 U.S. 6, [sleepingchainsaw.com](http://sleepingchainsaw.com)**

#### Glow Paint Party presented by The Box 814

**8th Street & Delaware 455-9001**  
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Aug. 28 – 9 p.m.  
**Sherlocks/Park Place, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace**

**Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution**

Aug. 28 – 5 p.m.  
**Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 11th St. 456.1300**

**Tommy Link**  
 Aug. 28 – 7 p.m.  
**Sunset Grill, 12690**

**Edinboro Road. edinborolakeresort.com**

**Chrome Moses with Daybreak Radio**  
 Aug. 29 – 9 p.m.  
**King's Rook Club, 1921**

**Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub**

**Geek Army**  
 Aug. 29 – 9 p.m.  
**Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Highway. presqueisledowns.com**

**Jerry Gaff**  
 Aug. 29 – 6:30 p.m.  
**Casablanca Grill, 2174 W. Eighth St. casablancagrill.net**

**Justin Moyar**  
 Aug. 29 – 8 to 11 p.m.  
**Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. oasispub.net/willys-acoustics**

**Mid-Life Crisis**  
 Aug. 29 – 6 to 9 p.m.  
**The Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Drive. uglytunatavern.com**

**New Wave Nation**  
 Aug. 29 – 9 p.m.  
**Sherlocks/Park Place, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace**

**Ralph Chamberlain**  
 Aug. 29 – 8 p.m.  
**Doc Holliday's, 7425 Shultz Road. dochollidays.net**

**Sands of Time**  
 Aug. 29 – 7 p.m.  
**Sunset Grill, 12690 Edinboro Road. edinborolakeresort.com**

**Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution**  
 Aug. 29 – 8 p.m.  
**Crossroads Dinor, 101 W. Plum St., crossroadsdinor.com**

**This American Song**  
 Aug. 29 – 7 p.m.  
**The Brewery, 123 W. 14th St. brewery.com**

**Tom Stine**  
 Aug. 29 – 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6,**

**sleepingchainsaw.com**

**The Burning River Ramblers**  
 Aug. 30 – 9 p.m.  
**King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub**

**Claire Stuczynski**  
 Aug. 30 – 10 p.m.  
**Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/eriealehouse**

**Earle Sweeney and the Dirty Diamond Boys with Cosmic Rhythm and Sunday Sound**  
 Aug. 30 – 4 p.m.  
**Shickalay's on the Bay, 2860 W. 6th St. facebook.com/shickalaysonthebay**

**Geek Army**  
 Aug. 30 – 9 p.m.  
**Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Highway. presqueisledowns.com**

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

**Jesse Weston**  
 Aug. 30 – 6 to 9 p.m.  
**The Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Drive. uglytunatavern.com**

**Max Schang**  
 Aug. 30 – 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22113 U.S. 6, sleepingchainsaw.com**

**Old School**  
 Aug. 30 – 9 p.m.  
**Sherlocks/Park Place, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace**

**Ralph Chamberlain**  
 Aug. 30 – 8 p.m.  
**Doc Holliday's, 7425 Shultz Road. dochollidays.net**

**#ROSBOX CD Release**

**Party: A Black and White Affair**  
 Aug. 31 – 7 p.m.  
**Docksider, 1015 State St. 459.0099**

**Jessi & Dicky**  
 Aug. 31 – 8 to 11 p.m.  
**Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road oasispub.net/willys-acoustics**

**Justin Moyar**  
 Aug. 31 – 7 p.m.  
**Sunset Grill, 12690 Edinboro Road. edinborolakeresort.com**

**DANCE**

**Swing Dance**  
 Aug. 7 & 14 – 9 p.m.  
**Rocco's Tavern, 4040 W. 12th St. 833.7127.**

**FOOD & DRINK**

**Goodell Gardens Farmers Market**  
 Aug. 20 & 27 – 3 to 6 p.m.  
**Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. GoodellGardens.org.**

**Quaker Steak & Lube Bike Night & Cruise-In**  
 Aug. 20 & 27 – 6 p.m.  
**Quaker Steak & Lube, 7851 Peach St. VisitEriePA.com.**

**Buffalo Wild Wings/ Harley Davidson Bike Nights**  
 Aug. 20 & 27 – 6 to 9:30 p.m.  
**Buffalo Wild Wings, 2099 Interchange Road. BuffaloWildWings.com.**

**Cocktails & Color: The Niagara**  
 Aug. 20 – 6 to 8 p.m.  
**The BrewerIE at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. CocktailsandColorErie.com.**

**Cocktails & Color:**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO - BURNING RIVER RAMBLERS

**Big Weekend of Shows Hits King's Rook Stage**

Music fans can feel like royalty at the King's Rook Club at the end of August – that is, if your idea of royalty is participating in killer shows on back-to-back nights, with Chrome Moses and Daybreak Radio performing Friday, Aug. 29 and The Burning River Ramblers taking the stage Saturday, Aug. 30.

Pittsburgh trio Chrome Moses specializes in pumping out brawny rock 'n' roll with a bit of soul, as lead singer Joe Piacquadio vocals rise above a bevy of hard riffs and crashing drums. While Chrome Moses is electric, local quartet Daybreak Radio has an earthy quality to them, providing a no-frills fusion of Americana and Southern rock.

If you still need more musical goodness after Friday's show – and who could say no to another great concert – Cleveland's The Burning River Ramblers will highlight Saturday night's festivities. The Ohio quintet blends elements of folk, reggae, and college rock into in free-flowing sound that helped the band place 37th out of a whopping 12,000 bands in the Hard Rock Rising Competition.

Three distinct styles of rock 'n' roll will be on display at the King's Rook over the course of two days, a one-two punch that can leave your ears ringing and yourself smiling for the rest of the week. – Alex Bieler

**9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29 (Chrome Moses w/ Daybreak Radio) and 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30 (The Burning River Ramblers) // 1921 Peach St. // facebook.com/kingsrookclub**

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**Butterflies**  
 Aug. 21 – 2 to 4 p.m.  
*Black Jax Sports Bar & Grille, 8040A Perry Highway. CocktailsandColorErie.com.*

**Cocktails & Color: Sparrow Pond's Event**  
 Aug. 22 – 6 to 8 p.m.  
*Sparrow Pond Family Campground, 11103 Route 19 N., Waterford. CocktailsandColorErie.com.*

**Hawaiian Luau**  
 Aug. 23 – 6:30 p.m.  
*Courtyard Wineries, 10021 West Main Road, North East.*

*CourtyardWineries.com.*

**Cocktails & Color: Erie City Lights**  
 Aug. 25 – 6 to 8 p.m.  
*Black Jax Sports Bar & Grille, 8040A Perry Highway. CocktailsandColorErie.com.*

**Cocktails & Color: AJO Forever Fundraiser**  
 Aug. 28 – 6 to 8 p.m.  
*Black Jax Sports Bar & Grille, 8040A Perry Highway. CocktailsandColorErie.com.*

**Pizza & Wine Pairing**  
 Aug. 29 – 7 p.m.

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

**Vino & Vinyasa**  
 Aug 30 – 9-11 a.m.  
*Courtyard Wineries, 10021 West Main Road, North East. LakeErieWineCountry.org.*

**FILM**

**I Believe in Unicorns (2014) with Skype Q&A**  
 Aug. 20 – 7 p.m.  
*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. FilmSocietyNWPA.org.*

**Great White Shark**  
 Aug. 20 to Sept. 2 – 11 a.m., 1 & 4 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.*

**Mysteries of the Unseen World**  
 Aug. 20 to Sept. 2 – Noon, 3 & 5 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.*

**Mysteries of the Great Lakes**  
 Aug. 20 to Sept. 2 – 2 p.m.

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

**Movies in the Arboretum**  
 Aug. 20 to Sept. 2 – 8 p.m.  
*Frontier Park, off W. 8th St. LEAFerie.com.*

**Sanctuary of Illumination, An Installation by Lucy Slivinski**  
 Ongoing  
*Erie Art Museum, McCain Family Gallery, 20 E. Fifth St. ErieArtMuseum.org.*

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

**Environmental Impact**  
 Through Aug. 31  
*Erie Art Museum, Main Family Gallery, 20 E. Fifth St. ErieArtMuseum.org*

**Richard Sadlier, "It Figures"**  
 Through Sept. 1  
*Glass Growers, 10 E. Fifth St. GlassGrowersGallery.com*

**Through Our Eyes Photography Exhibit**  
 Through Sept. 1  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. TRECPI.org.*

**VISUAL ARTS**

**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.*

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

**Apples & Oranges**  
 Opens Aug. 22  
*Urraro Gallery, 135 W. 4th St., 814.455.6240*

**THEATER**

**InnovationErie, Design Competition**      **The Andrews Brothers**



**Film at the Erie Art Museum Closes Summer Season with: *I Believe in Unicorns* and *Only Lovers Left Alive***

Another series of FILM at the Art Museum will come to an end this August, but not without showing a pair of critically acclaimed movies from 2014 to close out their latest string of high-quality productions.

The first film to be shown is Leah Meyerhoff's *I Believe in Unicorns*, the story of an imaginative teenager named Davina who finds solace in an exciting new relationship to take her mind off of having to care for her disabled mother – but not everything turns out to be as magical as she had hoped. In addition to presenting Meyerhoff's debut feature film, FILM will hold a Skype Q&A with lead actress Natalia Dyer after the movie.

While *I Believe in Unicorns* shows us a hopeful and imaginative life of a normal girl, FILM's final showing of the year is a grounded look at more fantastical characters. Jim Jarmusch's *Only Lovers Left Alive* focuses on a pair of vampires observing humanity in Detroit and Tangier, the duo's thirst for knowledge – and, y'know, blood – and a peaceful love story is interrupted by the disruptive sister of one of the undead.

Both movies start at 7 p.m., but doors will open at 6 p.m. for those interested in food, drinks, and pre-film conversation. Another FILM series will start in September, but you still have two chances to see some stellar new movies at the Art Museum before then. – Alex Bieler

**7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20 (*I Believe in Unicorns*) and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27 (*Only Lovers Left Alive*) // 20 E. Fifth St. // filmsocietynwpa.org**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## It's a Trifecta of Summer Festivals, All Happening Over Two Weeks.

The German Heritage Festival, Zabawa Polish Festival, and Wattsburg Erie County Fair are all back to help close the summer season – but not without one last Gemutlichkeit!

### German Heritage Festival

Running Aug. 30 to 31, this family favorite kicks off with Bob Hamilton, better known as the “Mad Bavarian,” opening on the main stage – and only gets better from there. Guests can enjoy authentic German cuisine, other live music, a petting zoo, pony rides, historical and genealogical research, and of course, a bräu or zwei. This event is rain or shine – as all activities are held under tents. Cost is \$5.

**St. Nick's Grove, 5131 Old French Road // <http://dank-erie.org/festival/> // Hours vary**

### Zabawa Polish Festival

The weekend of Aug. 22 be sure to explore this annual Polish fest and feast. No matter your heritage, Zabawa (which means “great fun”) is an instant fan-favorite once you partake in the live Polka music from nationally renowned bands alongside plenty of dancing, authentic Polish cuisine, baked goods, and spirits. This family-friendly event held at Holy Trinity Church will also boast a children's area and several games for all-ages. Free admission.

**456.0671 // East 23rd Street**

### Erie County Fair

The 2014 theme – Treasure the Memories – will host a variety of family-friendly activities, rides, and attractions, including Buffo, the world's strongest clown, and the Black Cat Hell Drivers stunt show. Running Aug. 22 to 30, a county fair wouldn't be a county fair without a truck and tractor pull of course. Ride-a-rama tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 the week of the fair – but to get through the gate, you'll only need \$6. — Rebecca Styn

**13993 Route 8 & 89 Wattsburg // 739.2232 // [wattsburgeriercountyfair.com](http://wattsburgeriercountyfair.com) and Reed streets // Hours vary**



CLARK MAXWELL

Aug. 20 – Noon  
**Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, One Fountain Avenue, Cambridge Springs. [TheRiversideInn.com](http://TheRiversideInn.com).**

**Young Frankenstein**  
Aug. 20 to 24 – 7:30 p.m.; 2 p.m. Sunday matinee; Wednesday through Sunday  
**Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. [EriePlayhouse.org](http://EriePlayhouse.org).**

**A Canterbury Feast**  
Aug 23, 30, 31 – 5:30 p.m. Saturday; 6 p.m. Sunday  
**The Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. [CanterburyFeast.com](http://CanterburyFeast.com)**

**Matriarch Mayhem with InAllSeriousness Inc.**  
Aug. 23 – Dinner starts at around 5 p.m.  
**Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, 409 Perry Street, Titusville. [InAllSeriousness.com](http://InAllSeriousness.com).**

### VARIETY

**Presque Isle Daytime**

**Lagoon by Pontoon**  
Aug. 20 to Sept. 2 – 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
**Presque Isle State Park, Pontoon Boat Station. [TRECPI.org](http://TRECPI.org).**

**Goodell Gardens Farmers Market**  
Aug. 20 and Aug. 27 – 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro. [GoodellGardens.org](http://GoodellGardens.org)**

**Purple Martin Palooza**  
Aug. 21 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
**Presque Isle State Park, Pontoon Boat Station. [TRECPI.org](http://TRECPI.org).**

**Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing**  
Aug. 20 – 5:25 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Presque Isle Downs and Casino, 8199 Perry Highway. [CasinoErie.com](http://CasinoErie.com)**

**Erie Seawolves vs. Binghamton Mets**  
Aug. 20 – 7 p.m.

**Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. [Erie.Seawolves.milb.com](http://Erie.Seawolves.milb.com)**

**Downtown Erie Block Party**  
Aug. 21 and Aug. 28 – 6 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.  
**Scully's, 408 State St. [ErieDowntown.com](http://ErieDowntown.com)**

**Pickup Funsies - Frisbee at Presque Isle State Park**  
Aug. 21 and Aug. 28 – 6 p.m.  
**Presque Isle State Park, field next to the ranger station. [DontGiveUpTheDisc.com](http://DontGiveUpTheDisc.com)**

**Presque Isle Purple Martin Palooza**  
Aug. 21 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
**Presque Isle State Park, Pontoon Boat Station. [TRECPI.org](http://TRECPI.org)**

**Presque Isle Purple Martin Roost Kayak Tour**  
Aug. 22 – 7:30 p.m.  
**Presque Isle State Park, Vista 3. [TRECPI.org](http://TRECPI.org)**

**Zabawa Polish Summer Festival**

Aug. 22 to Aug. 24 – All Day  
**Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, E. 23rd and Reed St.**

**Great Lakes Tackle Summer Invitational**  
Aug. 23 to Aug. 24 – 6 a.m.  
**Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [TRECPI.org](http://TRECPI.org)**

**Presque Isle Triathlon**  
Aug. 23 – 8 a.m.  
**Presque Isle State Park, cookhouse pavilion. [DiscoverPI.com](http://DiscoverPI.com)**

**Creek Stomp at Elk Creek**  
Aug. 23 – 9 a.m. to noon  
**Erie Bluff State Park, Elk Creek Boat Launch. [TRECPI.org](http://TRECPI.org)**

**Erie Land Lighthouse Tours**  
Aug. 23 – Noon to 4 p.m.  
**Erie Land Lighthouse, Two Lighthouse St. [EriePlayhouse.org](http://EriePlayhouse.org)**

**5th Annual Cruise In**  
Aug. 23 – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**First Alliance Church, 2939 Zimmerly Road, [facerie.org](http://facerie.org)**

**Erie Bluffs First Time Archery**  
Aug. 24 – 10 a.m. to noon  
**Erie Bluff State Park, Route 5 near Lake City. [TRECPI.org](http://TRECPI.org)**

**Erie County Fair**  
Aug. 24 to Aug. 28 – All Day  
**Wattsburg Erie County Fairgrounds**

**Millcreek Mall Party on the Promenade**  
Aug. 25 – 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
**654 Millcreek Mall. [MillcreekMall.net](http://MillcreekMall.net)**

**Cruise in the Bay - Car Cruise In**  
Aug. 25 – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
**Liberty Park/ Bayfront Parkway**

**Buffalo Wild Wings/ Harley-Davidson Erie Bike Night**  
Aug. 27. – 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
**Buffalo Wild Wings, 2099 Interchange Road.**

**Quaker Steak and Lube Bike Night & Cruise In**  
Aug. 27 – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
**Quaker Steak and Lube, 7851 Peach St.**

**Downtown Erie Bike Nights**  
Aug. 29 – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
**Downtown Erie State St. from 3rd to 14th. [ErieDowntown.com](http://ErieDowntown.com)**

**Presque Isle Annual Family Camping Event**  
Aug. 29 to Aug. 30 – 6 p.m. to noon  
**Presque Isle State Park, Beach II. [TRECPI.org](http://TRECPI.org)**

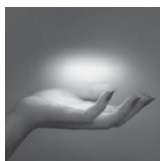
**German Heritage Festival**  
Aug. 29 to Aug. 31 – 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
**St. Nick's Grove, 5131 Old French Road, [dank-erie.org](http://dank-erie.org)**

**Fireworks at Waldameer Park**  
Aug. 31 – 9 p.m.  
**Waldameer Park and Waterworld, Peninsula Drive, [Waldameer.com](http://Waldameer.com)**



**Spoon**

*They Want My Soul*  
Loma Vista



★★★★☆

Britt Daniel and Jim Eno are two of the best puzzle solvers in the music business. The sole founding members of Spoon have mastered the art of piecing together separate sonic parts to create a memorable whole, carefully constructing songs with basic elements (guitar, drums, piano, etc.) before adding special touches through audio engineering tricks to dazzle all of the headphone listeners out there. Spoon's latest finished puzzle is the excellent *They Want My Soul*, the band's first new full-length album since 2010's *Transference*. Daniel and Eno teamed up with notable producers Jo Chiccarelli and Dave Fridmann to create the sonic tableaux, adding in a slightly spacey sound on tracks like the dreamy "Inside Out," a gentle gem of a song. Despite the outside help, *They Want My Soul* is still very much a Spoon record, highlighting Daniel's sense of casual alt-swagger to Spoon's rock 'n' roll over 10 memorable tracks. – Alex Bieler

**The Albrights**

*The Albrights*  
Independent



★★★★☆

After releasing their debut album back in 2011, Buffalo-quartet The Albrights return with their self-titled sophomore release, and the results are as catchy as ever. Album opener "Gotta Be Your Own Friend" is an appropriate introduction to the band's pop-rock mix, offering up a blend of harmonies, guitar riffs, and plinking piano keys to set the tone. Single "Soundwave" draws you in through Joe Donahue's vocal lines soaring over keys and horns before stripping everything away when Donahue sings "You say you want to be the center of attention" – a rather nice touch. Elsewhere, The Albrights provide some chill-worthy "oohs" on "Wolf Gang Blues" and a lovely string-supported harmony on Brandon Barry's "Over and Over." Sometimes the band adds some unnecessary extra touches that tend to distract rather than enhance, such as the karate-like "Hyah!" on "Virgin," but The Albrights' self-titled album makes for an enjoyable experience. – Alex Bieler

**The Gaslight Anthem**

*Get Hurt*  
Virgin



★★★

If you are an inveterate fan of New Jersey pop-punk quartet The Gaslight Anthem, you will likely be disappointed or at least befuddled by their latest release, *Get Hurt*, which sounds like an entire album of bonus tracks. There are a few songs hidden in the middle of the album that tend toward their traditional hard-driving chants like "Rollin' and Tumblin'" and "Helter Skeleton," but as a group, the compositions are all over the place. The opening track, "Stay Vicious," is a heavy-hitter, harkening back to a '70s-metal sound reminiscent of Black Sabbath, while the sappy-sweet "Break Your Heart" does its best to sound like any of the thousand ballads you might hear playing during dinner at a bar mitzvah. The second half of the album is particularly disjointed, as if the band had been saving up a bunch of songs they couldn't fit into any other album so they threw them all together here. – Bryan Toy

**Neiman**

*No Second Guessing the New Depression*  
Self-released



★★★★★

Casual hip-hop fans may already know that Erie's the kind of place where you really have to put in a lot of effort to find live performances; hardcore grinders, however, know just how rewarding that effort is. Erie's hip-hop scene – while under the radar for the most part – may just be Erie's most creative and energetic music scene. Take local rapper Neiman, for example. His newest solo album (you may remember him from collaborations with Dommy Doo under the nom de guerre Random Union) starts with circus-like fanfare, but there's no funny business after that – only serious rhymes layered upon thick, jazzy samples that don't neglect the booming bottom-end we all appreciate. There's even a spoken-word piece on here that gives listeners a peek behind the curtain and spotlights just how hard Neiman works on his act; so don't be a clown – check this record. – Cory Vaillancourt

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## A Lasting Impression

*The Art of Patricia Kearney: Selected Work 1975-2013*

by Pen Ealain

A person leaves their mark on the world. For a visual artist, those marks are literal ones: A scratch of charcoal on textured paper, a dab of color applied thickly to a board, a swatch of fabric sewn into a quilt. Whatever marks we make in our time here, they stay behind when we leave. Whether those marks changed the minds of our students, the hearts of our friends, or the shape of the landscape, we cannot help but make the world a different place while we live. That is the creative spirit of mankind. We rearrange the universe, and that change is the legacy we leave.

The visual legacy of Patricia Kearney is on display at the Erie Art Museum's Ronald E. Holstein Gallery through mid-September with *The Art of Patricia Kearney: Selected Works 1975-2013*. You will likely get only one chance to see many of the diverse pieces of art which are displayed in this show. To see the representation of a lifetime's work in one place is a rare privilege, and no future work from Pat Kearney is coming. The marks she was making on the world ended in March of last year. Shortly after Pat passed away, the Erie Art Museum made plans to gather together paintings, drawings, and sculptures to add to the four they already held in their collection. The resulting show gives an enticing snapshot of the creative legacy of this multi-talented artist.

Pat left the Erie art scene in the early '90s for the warm dryness of Arizona to be closer to her family. While she had no children of her own, her nieces and nephews loved their Aunt Pat like a mother. In Northwest Pennsylvania, she left behind close friends and adoring students. While here, she helped

found The Lake Erie Fiberarts Guild, which is still going strong and has such luminary member-artists as Carol Posch Comstock and Deborah Sementelli.

Pat taught drawing, design, and painting classes at Edinboro University for 18 years. Her art fundamentals classes always gave her students a solid grounding in visual observation. According to Mary Jane Kidd, a friend and fellow teacher, she went out of her way to give each student what they needed to be successful and impressed her students with her proficiency in every medium she taught.

"Inlet," a moody and gestural landscape from 1992, shows a Winslow Homer-like mastery of watercolor. Though highly abstract and impressionistic in the extreme, the picture accurately expresses the light of the day and the feel of the place. One of her former students, artist Dianne Boone, remembers watching her demonstrate the technique to her class: "She had a wadded up paper towel in one hand and a brush in the other, and she'd be painting and blotting and painting and blotting, and all you could say was 'wow!'"

Henri Matisse said that, "creative people are curious, flexible, persistent, and independent with a tremendous spirit of adventure and a love of play." This is especially true with art teachers. The spirit of adventure and independence shows up in every corner of this retrospective. Pat worked in so many

**Top-right: "Strawberry Pies," 1978;**  
**bottom-left: "Inlet," 1992-1995.**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

media and so many styles that one wonders how she managed to become so proficient in all of them. There are quilts and oil paintings and charcoal drawings – all of which show a deft hand. Mary Jane Kidd speaks of how productive Pat was: When they worked together at Edinboro, she saw Pat work in her sketchbook every day.

There is a collection of sketchbooks in the gallery placed in a case and left open to pages that pertain to finished pieces in the show. It is a rare treat to see the thought process come alive like this. By looking at the studies in her journals, one can get a sense of why Pat rejected some design ideas and included others, how she picked colors, and why her draftsmanship was so good. It is a shame that a visitor to the show can't peruse deeper into these treasures. They are, of course, true treasures: one-of-a-kind records of a great artist's working process – and hundreds of grubby fingers tearing at their pages would be ruinous. If a viewer wants to delve deeper into Pat's work, there is a catalog available in the Art Museum gift shop that includes work that is not in the show.

There are a few pieces in this show that are for sale if a collector wants to own a bit of Patricia Kerney's legacy. One of those is an extremely cute papier-mâché sculpture of cats climbing up walls, chasing string, and causing general mayhem called "Inside Cats/Outside Cats." Pat was known for her love of cats, and always had at least one rescue animal in her home and was a supporter of The Humane Society. Her sketchbooks, too, are filled with cats, both gestural studies and finished colored pencil drawings and all of which seem to capture the essence that is feline.

Pat found magic in the ordinary. Everything in her domestic world seemed to fascinate her. The visual interest of overlapping leaves on a houseplant or the texture of a pie crust were as worthy subjects as Greek mythology or Biblical narratives. Her acrylic painting "Strawberry Pies" is as well-crafted and simple as any work by Wayne Thiebaud but lacks the irony. In fact, there is a refreshing lack of anything ironic in her life's work. You can tell that Pat was genuinely enamored with the process of observing the visual environment and then interpreting it as a design in paint, charcoal, colored pencil, or whatever medium she felt was the right one for the job.

Pat never got famous. She never got rich. Her success was measured in that she made it through life as a professional artist and teacher doing what she loved. Ultimately, she made her art for the joy of creation and for the joy it brought to others. This show gives hope to all of us who live creatively that each of our life's works will not be in vain.

When we are gone, people who love and respect us may gather together many of the marks we made on the world and display them for all to see. At the Erie Art Museum, Patricia Kearney's legacy is still making marks on the world.

*The Art of Patricia Kearney: Selected Works 1975-2013, Ronald E. Holstein Gallery, Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St., June 20 to Sept. 13.*

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Geeked Out

### Something Good Doesn't Last Forever

By: John Lindvay

Big changes are happening in the cottage industry of game streaming. Weeks ago, I wrote about Twitch.tv, a website that features thousands of live streams of people playing video games, and how there are streamers who make a living wage off of playing their favorite music while playing games for you to watch. Recently, however, Twitch.tv implemented its latest policy change, affecting audio in VODs, short for Video On Demand.

In the streaming business, this term refers to live broadcasts that are recorded for later viewing. A perfect example is a few weeks ago the largest DOTA 2 tournament was live-streamed across the world. I was driving for most of this, so as soon as I got home, I went to the Twitch.tv channel that housed all the past broadcasts of the tournament and watched them to get caught up on what I missed – hours of what would be good tunes and good gaming.

But the new change that Twitch is implementing is an audio algorithm, which looks for copyright infringed music and silences it. Perhaps you missed a really awesome stream of your favorite Minecraft player, who also likes to rock out to AC/DC while he plays. With the new policy change, you can still go watch him on past broadcasts, but you won't hear him or his tunes of choice – just an enveloping silence.

All of this gets particularly sticky with the many video games that feature licensed music throughout the game. Most developers and publishers of games love the free publicity that comes from thousands of people playing their game to market it towards others. However, for example, American game developer and distributor Electronic Arts doesn't own the songs it uses in games like FIFA or Madden. They license them from the RIAA or the musicians themselves.

Twitch.tv's explanation for the change? The official statement pulled from the update change reads, "We respect the rights of copyright owners, and are voluntarily undertaking this effort to help protect both our broadcasters and copyright owners."

To say the least, many streamers and users are not pleased with the latest policy change. And there's more.

Over the past few months, Twitch.tv, which used to house all previously recorded broadcasts for users, changed its safe harbor policy – meaning that users can only save a highlight reel lasting no more than two hours, forcing many users to find ways to preserve their recordings on their own. Two hours may sound like plenty of time, but when it comes to bigger, more significant events – like that DOTA 2 tournament – it simply isn't.

There is now a sense of fear that this is the beginning of many more restrictions and additional watering down of a once fantastic

service. Twitch.tv's growth has been explosive to date, and video game streaming has had huge effects – such as making written game reviews obsolete, allowing development of spectator optimized games, and enabling Electronic Sports to secure a larger viewership – in the gaming industry, something no one predicted. Much of the ire of the latest policy changes is directed to the recent buyout of Twitch by Google for \$1 billion.

I disagree that Google is the villain in this scenario. The most recent audio changes smells of music industry pressuring like it did back in the days of Napster. Once a new service gets large enough and the other parties can see a new stone to squeeze blood from, you bet there will be squeezing. Add in Google and its deep pockets, and you can almost sympathize with Twitch taking these steps in an effort to protect what's been created.

Google and the music lobby have gone back and forth in litigation for years now and this seems like the newest battleground. While it is a bummer that this may force popular personalities who have established huge audiences on Twitch to leave or find safer harbor elsewhere, this all just highlights a larger underlying issue: Copyright law and determining what is fair use.

Twitch.tv has since come out in front of the controversial changes and admitted to its user-base that they botched this and that the original implementation wasn't going so smoothly. In the past when they changed how they stored recordings, they gave the community months to prepare before the rug was pulled out from under them. This audio change was implemented in a day and thousands were left with a poor means of disputing the false positives from the copyright algorithm snaking its way through. Now there is an appeal button to help streamers expedite the appeal process.

While the dust is still settling, it seems like Twitch.tv will continue to be the world's largest game streaming site regardless of the controversy building around the new policy changes. But for those who've watched many Internet startups go from being punk-rock stars into stiff suits in corporate suits, this is just more of the same.

Remember the early days of YouTube compared to today? Or if you are old enough, just remember the beauty that was Napster when it first went live. As was the case then – and remains the case now – nothing good lasts forever.

John Lindvay can be contacted at [jLindvay@ErieReader.com](mailto: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/oqIn6>.



PLANET LABS

## Tech Bits

### A Start-Up Provides a Picture of Our Shape-Shifting Planet

By: Quentin Hardy

The techno-futurist Stewart Brand has said "we are as gods" for the way humans have profoundly changed how the planet works. Now a start-up in San Francisco is offering fresh evidence.

The start-up, Planet Labs, has posted a gallery of images of Earth that illustrate how much people affect the planet, and how rapidly we move, crop, build on and otherwise reshape our world.

"The first thing you notice is the beauty," said Will Marshall, chief executive of Planet Labs, speaking of his company's photos, taken at an altitude of 600 kilometers, about 370 miles. "Then you compare them to older images, and you see that something has changed — a river has been moved, there are new buildings, a reservoir has been built or drained."

Mr. Marshall's point is self-serving as well as philosophical. By mid-September, Planet Labs will have about 40 satellites, each weighing about nine pounds and the size of a shoe box, in a polar orbit over the planet. It aims to have over 100 by the end of the year. After that, the company figures it can deliver a nearly complete photo mosaic of almost all of the planet, every 24 hours.

There is also much to what he says, however. In terms of physical transformation, images of modern China, like the areas around the Beijing airport or the coal mines in Shanxi Province, barely show any natural contours, or even the rounding of age on human structures. Seemingly everything is new or under construction. In a "before and after" image, a dam in Brazil

has over the last year lost much of its water, and the nearby coffee crop has declined.

Even seemingly natural events on these grids, each 11 kilometers by 16 kilometers (about 7 miles by 10 miles), show the human hand. The red of a salt flat at the bottom of San Francisco Bay is concentrated from being penned in, and the water is evaporating. A far tip of Norway seems like rugged mountains, but from the left-hand side of the image there is the angular taming of a road, and a growing farm area. "Humans are having such an impact now," Mr. Marshall said, "one in four of our Earth images shows agriculture. You see evidence of some human activity in almost all of them." Even in a desert image, it's hard to find something that isn't human.

We look at images of Mars, and wonder at the Red Planet, but to some eyes its most singular aspect is its sameness. To Mr. Marshall, an avid hiker, "I usually think of what we'd miss if we ever left Earth. There is this vivid density of life, this rich geography."

Planet Labs is hardly the only company moving into the Earth-viewing business. In June, Google agreed to pay \$500 million for Skybox Imaging, and plans to fly its own constellation of space cameras, regularly updating Google Maps with real-time images. A host of other projects, including tiny satellites so cheap that a school rocketry club could buy one are also being tested.

Next time you look up, remember: There is a new human geography under construction above us, as well.

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## ER Sports

## Subhead

By: James R. LeCorchick

ER NOTES – I stopped by the recent Central Tech-Ashtabula Edge-wood scrimmage at Erie Veterans' stadium, and I couldn't help but be impressed with Falcon Coach **Rob Matz**, a definite no-nonsense guy. He is positively building a program the right way, CT a force to be reckoned with in the near future.

Also, it was great watching the Falcons run a single-wing offense, an offense Matz has gone throughout the country studying. Put the Falcons down as one of the potential surprise teams of the season. There was no doubt who's in charge of this team, but the players were also enjoying themselves and seemed to be gaining confidence with every play.

From the short time I was there, Central Tech unquestionably appeared to be the better squad. And football isn't the only program on the rise there; talking with CT Athletic Director **Greg Holland** was also impressive. He's extremely proud of the number of kids going out for other sports, including soccer, where "World Cup Fever" apparently struck the Cherry Street school, as 60 youngsters showed up for soccer practice.

Holland also mentioned he will be handling the AD duties for East High School. He may be the busiest person in the Erie School District this year.

SOMEONE ASKED me whether Strong Vincent star **Jarred Carlson**, who transferred to McDowell, moved to Millcreek or will attend as an out-of-district student. I didn't know the answer, but Carlson is a standout performer on both sides of the ball, who will be an immense help to first-year coach **Brad Orlando**.

Ironically enough, Orlando made the same move when he became a Trojan for his senior season after starring at SV. And it was definitely a good move for him.

THERE WILL BE a lot of eyes on the Cathedral Prep squad after Offensive Coordinator Orlando and Defensive Coordinator **Matt Melle** made the move to rival McDowell, Orlando as the head man and Melle as the DC. CP boss **Mike Mischler** will run the offense and highly-respected **Mike Krahe** takes over the D.

THE McDOWELL-PREP game is always the top attraction locally, and it's hard to imagine, but there will be even more interest (make that intensity) at the Stadium this season. Circle Friday, Sept. 12 on your grid calendar.

I HAVE HAD a lot of time to think about the General McLane School District mak-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### After a summer's worth of prepping and practicing, local teams are ready to hit the gridiron.

ing its football team play in Quad-A for the post-season, the Lancers actually being a Triple-A team enrollment wise.

At first, this struck me as a kind of a stupid idea, but since I have had time to give it some serious thought, I have concluded it really is one of the dumbest decisions ever made in local sports history. It's a decision that was made by some adults who have had their egos singed and decided to put their injured feelings ahead of what's correct for the actual athletes.

With that being said, kudos to the GM School Board for reinstating boys basketball coach **Brian Schulz** to the head position. I was at the meeting, and it could not have been handled any better by everyone involved.

ERIE LOST one of its best fans recently when **Jimmy DeFazio** passed away. Jimmy D. was a fixture at many, many sporting events following his retirement from the Erie School District, especially Gannon basketball games. He was best known as the groundskeeper at Erie veteran's stadium, pre-artificial turf. It was rumored he knew every blade of grass personally at the Stadium.

Ironically, I knew him for 15 years before I realized we lived within two blocks of each other. I never saw him in the neighborhood because he was always at the Stadium. He was undeniably one of my favorite people of all-time.

He and his brothers made the DeFazio name synonymous with Erie sports. My father said he was one of the best, so that was good enough for me.

UPSET SPECIAL – Central Tech over Warren.

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



## ERIE READER LOOKS AT AREA SQUADS

Football  
2014

## FAIRVIEW

COACH – Jim Brinling  
2013 RECORD – 6-4  
2014: ER SAYS – 7-3

## FORT LeBOEUF

COACH – Jeff Nichols  
2013 RECORD – 7-3  
2014: ER SAYS – 6-4

## GIRARD

COACH – Jim Funk  
2013 RECORD – 8-2  
2014: ER SAYS – 7-2

## HARBOR CREEK

COACH – Ned Bailey  
2013 RECORD – 1-9  
2014: ER SAYS – 3-7

## MERCYHURST PREP

COACH – Jeff Root  
2013 RECORD – 3-7  
2014: ER SAYS – 3-7

## NORTH EAST

COACH – Matt Shesman  
2013 RECORD – 5-5  
2014: ER SAYS – 7-3

## NORTHWESTERN

COACH – D.J. Hough  
2013 RECORD – 8-2  
2014: ER SAYS – 9-1

## SENECA

COACH – Dave Frank  
2013 RECORD – 3-7  
2014: ER SAYS – 4-6

## CORRY

COACH – Adam Walstrom  
2013 RECORD – 3-7  
2014: ER SAYS – 3-7

## CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS

COACH – Clint Rauscher  
2013 RECORD – 8-2  
2014: ER SAYS – 6-4

## IROQUOIS

COACH – Matt Morgan  
2013 RECORD – 3-7  
2014: ER SAYS – 4-6

## MAPLEWOOD

COACH – Bryan Borkovich  
2013 RECORD – 5-5  
2014: ER SAYS – 4-6

## SAEGERTOWN

COACH – Mike Rhoades  
2013 RECORD – 0-10  
2014: ER SAYS – 2-8

## UNION CITY

COACH – Randy Gunther  
2013 RECORD – 1-9  
2014: ER SAYS – 2-8

## CATHEDRAL PREP

COACH – Mike Mischler  
2013 RECORD – 10-0  
2014: ER SAYS – 8-2

## CENTRAL TECH

COACH – Rob Matz  
2013 RECORD – 3-7  
2014: ER SAYS – 6-4

## EAST

COACH – Leonard Ford  
2013 RECORD – 0-10  
2014: ER SAYS – 0-10

## GENERAL McLANE

COACH – Jim Wells  
2013 RECORD – 7-3  
2014: ER SAYS – 7-3

## McDOWELL

COACH – Brad Orlando  
2013 RECORD – 5-5  
2014: ER SAYS – 5-5

## STRONG VINCENT

COACH – Scott White  
2013 RECORD – 2-8  
2014: ER SAYS – 4-6

## PIGSKIN PICKS - WEEK I

There is nothing more difficult than picking games in the opening week of football, but we love challenges – and we love football, so here we go!

## HIGH SCHOOLS (Home Teams in Caps)

FAIRVIEW 34 Meadville 20

Greenville 22 NORTH EAST 21

GENERAL McLANE 26 Fort LeBoeuf 14

OIL CITY 27 Corry 12

West Middlesex 28 CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS 18

Mercer 26 EISENHOWER 20

Hickory 33 STRONG VINCENT 16

MERCYHURST PREP 24 Saegertown 18

HARBOR CREEK 20 Iroquois 19

SENECA 26 Union City 21

FARRELL 34 East 20

GIRARD 28 Maplewood 24

FRANKLIN 16 Titusville 12

LAKEVIEW 35 Youngsville 14

COCHRANTON 25 Reynolds 14

NORTHWESTERN 28 Conneaut 27

Sharon 20 JEFFERSON (Ohio) 19

Slippery Rock 21 PITTSBURG PERRY 16

Sharpsville 26 Otto-Eldred 22

CENTRAL TECH 26 Warren 18

CANTON MCKINLEY 26 McDowell 14

CLEVELAND GLENVILLE 28 Cathedral Prep 20

## COLLEGES:

PITTSBURGH 34 Delaware 27

NOTRE DAME 28 Rice 27

ALABAMA 27 West Virginia 14

Ohio State 35 NAVY 24

GANNON 38 Southern Connecticut 24

## BEST GAMES:

## 1. Iroquois at Harbor Creek:

Battle of first-year coaches. Matt Morgan of Iroquois was considered for HC position.

## 2. Conneaut at Northwestern:

Two teams on the rise.

## 3. Greenville at North East:

This game could go either way.



# WHERE SEVERE WEATHER COMES FIRST

KARA  
COLEMAN

KATIE  
MCGRAW

GEOFF  
CORNISH  
CHIEF METEOROLOGIST

JULIE  
COATES

JOHN  
STEHLIN

## FIRST WARNING WEATHER

[erietvnews.com/weather](http://erietvnews.com/weather) #erie weather





# GET IN YOUR GAME!

## 2014 RACE MEET

**MASTERS WEEKEND**  
**SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2014**

Free T-shirt on Monday, September 8  
to the first 500 fans through the gates at 4:30pm!

**FAN APPRECIATION DAY**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2014**

First 500 fans through the gates  
at 4:30pm receive a free T-shirt and  
Hot Dog! Free popcorn to the first  
500 kids! Food and drink specials  
throughout the night!

*While supplies last.*



© Coady Photography



## CLUCK YEAH, IT'S BACK!

**Beat the Chicken**  
**in a game of Tic Tac Toe**  
**and you could win Free Play**  
**and cash prizes up to**  
**\$1,000!**

**Fridays, Saturdays,**  
**Sundays & Mondays**  
**Now - August 31, 2014**  
**10am - 10pm**



**AARON  
LEWIS**  
**FRIDAY,**  
**SEPTEMBER 12**  
**AT 8PM**  
Ticket Prices \$15 - \$45  
Visit [Ticketweb.com](http://Ticketweb.com)  
or the Gift Shop to purchase tickets.

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**GET *IN* YOUR GAME**

I-90 Exit 27, Erie PA | [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com) | 1.866.ERIE.FUN



If You or Someone You Know Has a Gambling Problem, Help is Available. Call 1-800-GAMBLER.