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**ERIE READER**

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The Erie Reader is the local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and a dynamic resource for news and opinion. With a dedication to long-form journalism and a commitment to provoking thoughtful discussion, the Reader tells the stories of the people and places making and shaping Erie, while highlighting the events and issues influencing life in northwestern Pennsylvania. The Erie Reader is published every other week and distributed at over 250 high foot-traffic locations in Pennsylvania from North East to Girard to Edinboro. In addition to appearing in print, Erie Reader adds new content daily at ErieReader.com as well social media sites. All rights reserved. All content © Flagship Multimedia, Inc, 1001 State St., Suite 901, Erie, Pa, 16501. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission. The opinions of our columnists and contributors are their own and do not always reflect that of the editorial board or organization. Direct inquiries to 814.314.9364 or contact@ErieReader.com.

## From The Editors

**N**eighborhoods define cities. In Erie, both natives and transplants alike often ask what neighborhood you live in.

What rarely follows are questions of what neighborhood do you work in, do business in, and enjoy various recreational amenities in? Perhaps that stems from the definition and origin of the word *neighborhood*, one in which we are near inhabitants — not businesses, not buildings, not development, but rather *people*.

Districts, on the other hand, are defined by particular characteristics not necessarily limited to *people*. And the definition of *districts* is evolving, as placemaking continues to play a more paramount role in where people prefer to live and why they favor one place over another.

Take “innovation districts,” for instance. As defined by Brookings Institution's Bruce Katz and Julie Wagner in “The Rise of Innovation Districts: A New Geography of Innovation in America,” these districts are “geographic areas where leading-edge anchor institutions and companies cluster and connect with start-ups, business incubators, and accelerators. They are also physically compact, transit-accessible, and technically-wired and offer mixed-use housing, office, and retail.”

That is, as Pete Engardio for *Bloomberg Businessweek* put it, “the trend is to nurture living, breathing communities rather than sterile remote, compounds of research silos.”

Places — districts — looking to develop business are now endeavoring to be a fuller community rather than merely a place of business by creating a noticeable link between economy shaping and social networking (which yes, can still happen face-to-face) by offering an all-in-one package to residents — a Swiss Army Knife approach, if you will, instead of focusing on just being a blade or a corkscrew. Rather than solely focusing — as the perception of neighborhoods may have us think — on people in neighborhoods, we now consider places the *things* present in a community, which creates a snowball effect.

City improvement districts find a majority of property owners agreeing to provide services that supplement and complement those typically provided by a local authority. Which is to say, people — if they feel connected to their place — will pool their own resources to both maintain and manage their environment with initiatives ranging anywhere from clean-up projects, like litter collection, to public safety ambassadorial services.

Historical districts, too, can greatly impact communities, and Savannah, Ga. — another

open-container city like ours — shows the proof in the proverbial pudding.

A forthcoming report by *PlaceEconomics* titled “Beyond Tourism: Preservation in the Economy and Life of Savannah and Chatham County,” revealed — you guessed it — that historic districts do much more than simply drive heritage tourism. Additionally, they act as vehicles for economic impact, playing a vital role in how a community defines itself and evaluates itself.

Of note, the *PlaceEconomics* study found that historic districts, like the ones in Savannah, spurred job growth, disproportionately attracted more residents, small firms, and start-ups, and positively impacted the economic region outside the city.

For communities to grow quickly, appreciation of history, pride in place, and investment — private funding or contributions from anchor institutions — must lead the way. Bold contributions — be that in the flow of capital or community-building — inspire communities to dream bigger, to realize change is accomplishable, to think that *better* is possible.

A strong example of that in Erie is the Thomas B. Hagen History Center, a critical part of the new Historical Society of Erie County campus. But Hagen isn't a stranger to community development; one needn't look farther than the outreach of Erie Insurance into the neighborhoods surrounding Erie's only Fortune 500 company, where he's made significant contributions both personally and professionally to the preservation of history in that area.

Does Erie benefit from a new History Campus that will increase heritage-based tourism? Without a doubt. Will people rush to inhabit West Fifth and Sixth streets because of the new renovations and attention being paid to the Historical Society and its growth? Time will tell.

But this should give us hope. Agents of action are preserving and emphasizing Erie's past — after all, the Grand Opening Gala for the Hagen History Center will be an Erie-centric event, featuring local food, local musicians, and even a beer brewed with the old Koehler recipe — in hopes of creating a brighter future because historic districts benefit communities in many proven ways.

And people should be inspired: An Erie son who rose from part-time file clerk to CEO to a champion of preservation and development clearly believes in Erie and believes that this city and region are worth investing in. We should too.

*The Grand Opening of the Hagen History Center will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. More information can be obtained by visiting Facebook.com/ErieHistory.*

### Contents — August 19, 2015

#### What Fell and Rose in a Forest 4

George Washington's Erie connection forever changed the history of the United States of America

#### Erie at Large 5

Sen. Casey calls for more COPS.

#### News of the Weird 6

Gassy protesters, creative diplomacy, and pets that are treated better than you.

#### Considering the City 9

The first-ever Comprehensive City Plan poses challenging questions for Erie and its future

#### Food Truck Freakonomics 11

How Mobile Kitchens are Changing the Culinary Landscape

#### Emerge 2040 readies for action 15

Lake Erie Marine Sanctuary, land bank could help Erie from sinking.

#### Creative Spirits Soar on State Street 19

At the forefront of building the arts community, you'll find PACA — the Performing Artists Collective Alliance.

#### Geeked Out 36

American Squad Wins Top Honors at The International 2015.

#### ER Sports 38

The future of Strong Vincent hoops is the talk of the town.

## What Fell and Rose in a Forest

George Washington's Erie connection forever changed the history of the United States of America



A portrait of a young George Washington wearing a British uniform.

It was none other than George Washington, an ambitious, naïve young colonial aristocrat from Mount Vernon, Va., whose early military career was mostly a series of disasters.

Washington, in spite of his ineptness, was both very brave and very lucky, and before the French and Indian War was over, having survived some dangerous battles, he retired to Mount Vernon to become a farmer, politician, and land speculator.

Although the war pitted the two most avaricious colonial powers in the world at that time, and one of them finally emerged dominant, the outcome of the war was determined by a third party, the Native American tribes who had originally populated this region of North America. Most of these tribes were allied with the French, and this enabled France, with only 85,000 settlers and an army supplied primarily by these settlers, to control Canada as well as much land that is now in the U.S. The British, on the other hand, had one-and-half-million English settlers on the eastern seaboard, and a professional army made up primarily of soldiers from the mother country.

Until the French and Indian War, however, British authorities held most Native Americans in contempt, and had far fewer tribal allies. The largest confederation of Native American tribes, the Iroquois nation, had remained neutral until this time. Missteps by French commanders during the war led many tribes to switch sides, and in the case of the Iroquois, to choose sides with British. Most historians agree that Native American involvement in the war was decisive in the British victory.

In Europe, as the war widened to the continent and beyond, the French and English monarchs increasingly turned their attention away from their North American colonies, and to their rivalry nearer to their home turf, and to the south and east. The growing troublesome relationship between the English monarchy – as well as its parliament – had been exacerbated by attitudes that regarded English colonial settlers as not full English citizens. American colonial settlers initially refused to con-

tribute to the financing of the French and Indian War, but when the new British Prime Minister William Pitt came to power, he showed new respect to the North American colonies, and the colonies became enthusiastic about the war. This further assisted the final British victory.

A series of taxes in the 1760s imposed arbitrarily on North America, however, undid the new colonial enthusiasm, and led to the eventual alienation of the British settlers that culminated in

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### The French and Indian War in North America (1754-60) began as a consequence of a blunder by a 21 year-old British officer who led his men to defeat a French colonial force in western Pennsylvania.

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the 1770s with the American Revolution.

Leading that revolution, of course, was its first and only military commander, the former brash and naïve major who had inadvertently set into motion the world's first global war in a Pennsylvania forest more than twenty years before. George Washington, the unanimous choice of the Continental Congress to be the revolutionary army commander in chief, was now older and wiser. Like so many of his countrymen, his original ambition to be an acceptable Englishman had been replaced with a desire to found not only a new and independent nation, but establish a new form of government that would change the world for centuries.

All that from a failed spy mission and unfulfilling dinner at a frontier fort named Le Bouef near Erie, Pa. George Washington was no James Bond, but he became the indispensable founding father.

By: Barry Casselman

The French and Indian War in North America (1754-60) began as a consequence of a blunder by a 21 year-old British officer who led his men to defeat a French colonial force in western Pennsylvania. The young British major had a year before been sent to spy on the French forts in that region, including Fort Le Boeuf near what is now Erie, Pa., where he dined with a French commander and relayed a message from the British colonial commander asking the French to withdraw from Pennsylvania. The French leader was polite but refused, and the next year, the young major was sent back to western Pennsylvania to join the British mission to expel the French.

In a forest near Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh), the British unit, led by the now 22 year-old major, came upon a French unit that was on a diplomatic mission, and mistakenly perceived

them as a hostile force. The short battle that followed was brutal, and the French commander was savagely killed. The consequence of this event was to begin the so-called French and Indian War that spread quickly from Pennsylvania to the northeast, where the British faced French forces established in Canada. Eventually, triumphing over the French in North America, the British became the largest colonial empire in the world. The North American conflict by 1756 spread to Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and Asia, and is usually called the Seven Years War. Arguably it was the first true "world" war.

And who was the inexperienced British major from Virginia who, following that disappointing dinner in the French fort near Erie, Pa. (which led to his military encounter a year later several miles south in a forest near Pittsburgh), set into motion a cataclysmic global war?

## Erie at Large

Sen. Casey calls for more COPS.



DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**A police officer in Dallas speaks on Career Day at an elementary school.**

By: Jim Wertz

In this, what seems to be, the summer of fear and loathing over gun violence and population decline, a Congressional showdown is brewing over funding for the Department of Justice and its affiliated programs. The conflict pits members of the House against colleagues in the Senate over how the DOJ funds are allocated for what are known as Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

The program, in part, aids the federal government in fulfilling the mission of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, a sweeping piece of legislation signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. In the midst of the turbulent '60s, the omnibus crime control act expanded the FBI, set provisions for wiretapping the "radical chic" of the anti-war and civil rights movements, and attempted to address the real and perceived degradation of communities across the U.S.

COPS has been at the forefront of Sen. Bob Casey's (D-PA) agenda for several years, particularly the provision that disburses federal employment grants to local law enforcement. So his rhetoric sounded familiar when he entered Erie City Hall on Aug. 10 with Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott at his side and a cadre of police brass in the room as part of a campaign in support of Congressional appropriations for COPS hiring grants, which are federal funds awarded to municipalities to cover the salaries of police officers for the first three years of employment. After that, the municipality assumes responsibili-

ty for the officers' salaries.

Casey has also been in Wilkes-Barre and Reading, communities that, like Erie, have faced increasing rates of violence and drug use, both of which COPS is intended to address.

In 2009, the only year since 2000 that the program was fully funded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the City of Erie was awarded \$1.56 million – money it used to hire six police officers.

Sinnott says that the COPS grant was an effective mechanism for the city to hire new officers at a time when it would not have been feasible to do so because of the City's financial state.

"If we were going to seek more grant funding through the COPS program, we would use the funds in the same way – to hire police officers," Sinnott says.

Statewide, nearly 3,700 police officers and sheriffs have been hired with COPS grants since 1995. Program funds can also be used to purchase equipment or to provide training.

But since 2011, cuts to the COPS program have meant less money for the hiring grants, and earlier this summer the House of Representatives passed a bill that earmarked \$237.5 million for the COPS program – including \$11 million for "anti-methamphetamine-related activities" that would be transferred to the Drug Enforcement Agency – but zero of those dollars are for hiring grants.

Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA3) voted for the bill, but Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA5) voted against it. Thompson and Rep.

Joe Pitts (R-PA16) were the only Republicans in the Pa. delegation to vote against the bill. Pitts's district contains parts of Chester, Lancaster, and Berks counties, including Reading. The vote fell along party lines with the exception of just twelve Democrats voting for the bill and ten Republicans voting against it.

The Kelly camp says that cuts to COPS are part of the "House Republican Budget Blueprint," which would purportedly balance the federal budget over a 10-year period.

Funding for the COPS hiring grants has remained flat since 2012, when Congress appropriated \$166 million for the program. The past two years, COPS hiring grants have been funded at \$180 million dollars, comprising the majority of the program's funding. The COPS program has lost \$118 million in funding since 2010.

The Senate version of the appropriations bill would allocate \$187 million of the program's \$212 million budget for hiring new officers.

Sen. Casey is making the rounds looking for support in the House of Representatives, trying to build political will by gathering endorsements and anecdotes from local law enforcement and municipal leadership across the Commonwealth. Two of the ten Republicans to vote against the House version of the funding bill are from Pa., and the fact that they represent regions that have been awarded competitive grants is telling. What's also telling is that the representative for the City of Erie refuses to buck party ideology for the people he represents.

In an era in which municipal credit scores dictate the quality and quantity of municipal services, be it law enforcement or education, the rare hand of the federal government should be welcome in municipal affairs. Otherwise, crime and violence will continue to grow disproportionately to the community's ability to fund and implement strategies of policing and prevention.

Jim Wertz can be reached at [jWertz@ErieReader.com](mailto:jWertz@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @jim\_wertz.

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## News of the Weird

Gassy protesters, creative diplomacy, and pets that are treated better than you.

By: Chuck Shepherd

### Pets of the 1 Percent

**T**he worshipful treatment of pets may be the thing that unites all Americans," wrote an Atlantic Magazine blogger in July, describing the luxury terminal for animals under construction at New York's JFK airport. The ARK will offer shower stalls for traveling horses, "conjugal stations" for ever-horny penguins, and housing for nearly 200 cows (that might produce 5,000 pounds of manure every day) — and passengers traveling with dogs or cats can book the Paradise 4 Paws pet-pampering resort. The ARK is a for-profit venture; said one industry source, quoted in a July Crain's New York Business report, "You hear stories about the crazy money that rich people spend on their (animals) ... they're mostly true." [Crain's New York Business, 7-13-2015] [CityLab.com, 7-20-2015]

### Government in Action

**O**fficially, now, it is "unreasonable" for a federal agency (the Bureau of Land Management, in this instance) to fail to say yes or no for 29 years to a drilling permit application. (Before July's federal court decision, BLM had been arguing that 29 years was not too long.) A company had requested to

drill just one exploratory well in Montana for natural gas in 1985, but the bureau had delayed the proceeding six times since then. The judge ordered the bureau to set a deadline for deciding. [Washington Post, 7-29-2015]

**G**eorgia, one of six states that make taxpayers shell out huge fees to access its databases of public records, tries so relentlessly to control its archive that, recently, in a federal lawsuit, it said opposition to its policy was basically "terrorism." Activists (Public.Resource.org) have been establishing workarounds to free up some databases for citizen use, and Georgia demands that they stop. Georgia even claims "copyright" protection for one category of important legal documents that were initially drafted by state bureaucrats, audaciously calling them "original" and "creative" works. [Los Angeles Times, 7-27-2015]

**M**andatory Inaction: In July, the mayor of the town of Ador, Spain (pop. 1,400), officially enacted into law what had merely been custom — a required afternoon siesta from 2 to 5 p.m. Businesses were ordered to close, and children were to remain indoors (and quiet). [The Local (Madrid), 7-16-2015]

### Police Report

**A**t a traffic stop in Rockingham, Vermont, on July 26, both driver and passenger were charged with DUI. Erik Polite, 35, was the driver (clocked at 106 mph on Interstate 91 and, according to police, with drugs in the car), and while he was being screened for intoxication, passenger Leeshawn Baker, 34, jumped behind the wheel and peeled off in reverse across the highway, nearly hitting the trooper, who arrested him. [WCAX-TV (Burlington), 7-29-2015]

**N**athaniel Harrison, 38, was arrested in July in a Phoenix suburb on several charges, including possession of a deadly weapon during a felony, but he escaped an even more serious charge when a second "deadly weapon" failed to engage. Harrison reportedly intended to retaliate against a "snitch" and arrived at the man's home carrying a rattlesnake, which he supposedly pointed at the man, hoping it would bite him. However, the snake balked, and Harrison's attempted payback failed. [KPHO-TV (Phoenix), 7-28-2015]

**L**ame Defenses in Lake County, Florida: (1) Daniel Baker, 40, and Robert Richardson, 19, were arrested in Altoona, Florida, in August after getting caught loading appliances from a vacant house. According to the arrest report, both men appeared incredulous to learn that items

in a vacant house aren't just "free." (2) Six days earlier about 20 miles away in Tavares, Florida, Corey Ramsey, 23, was arrested for burglary when a police officer caught him sitting on a toilet in a vacant, for-sale house attending to a need. Ramsey's extensive petty-crime rap sheet belied his explanation for being there — that he was contemplating buying the \$299,000 house and wanted to try it out first. [Daily Commercial (Leesburg), 8-4-2015] [Daily Commercial, 7-30-2015]

### Still More "Intelligent Design"?

**Z**oologists at the University of Basel in Switzerland, publishing recently in a prestigious British journal, reported the likelihood that a certain flatworm species has overcome the frustration of not finding a mating partner in its lifetime. The scientists believe the flatworm exploits its hermaphroditic qualities and injects its sperm into its own head, from which the sperm sometimes migrates to its reproductive facilities. (Flatworm researchers are aided on their projects by the species' transparent bodies, facilitating the tracking of the sperm.) [World-Science.net, 6-2-2015]

### Protest!

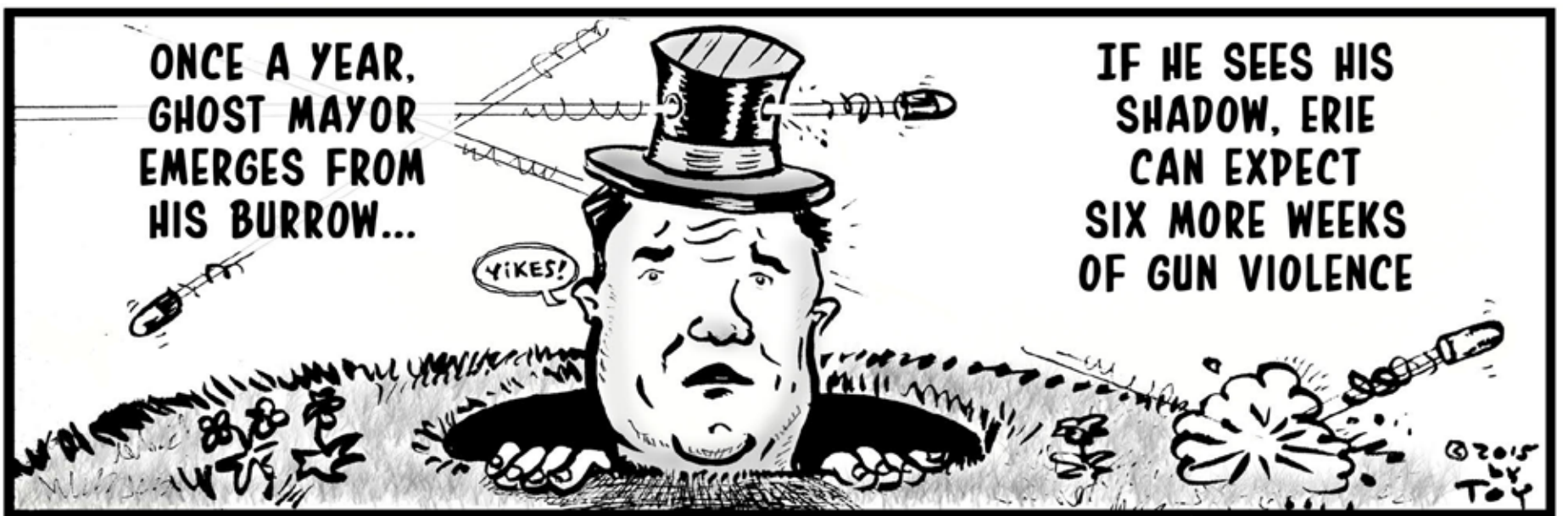
**A**bout 200 protesters gathered in front of Hong Kong police headquarters on August 2 to denounce the 3 1/2-month jail sentence given

to Ms. Ng Lai-ying, 30, who was convicted of assault for shoving a police officer with her chest. Women (and some men) wearing bras as outerwear chanted, "Breast is not a weapon." (Ng was originally protesting the hardly sexy issue of import-export abuses between Hong Kong and mainland China cities.) [South China Morning Post, 8-2-2015]

**T**he Joy of Protest: An August 1 demonstration outside Britain's Parliament protesting legislation to curb until-now-legal psychoactive drugs drew about 100 people — consuming their drug of choice, nitrous oxide. As organizers distributed gas-filled balloons for demonstrators to take hits from, "the group erupted in fits of laughter," according to The Guardian. [The Guardian, 8-1-2015]

### Perspective

**C**onstruction on a \$1.7 million therapeutic equestrian facility in St. Cloud, Florida, expressly for use by wounded U.S. service members, was delayed in August when a bald eagle nest was discovered on the grounds. Federal law requires at least 330 feet of clearance for the nest, plus additional monitoring to assure the birds' tranquility. Said one neighbor, "The very animal that symbolizes freedom is delaying therapy for those who fought for it." [Bright House Cable (Orlando), 8-5-2013]



# Moonlight on the Bay

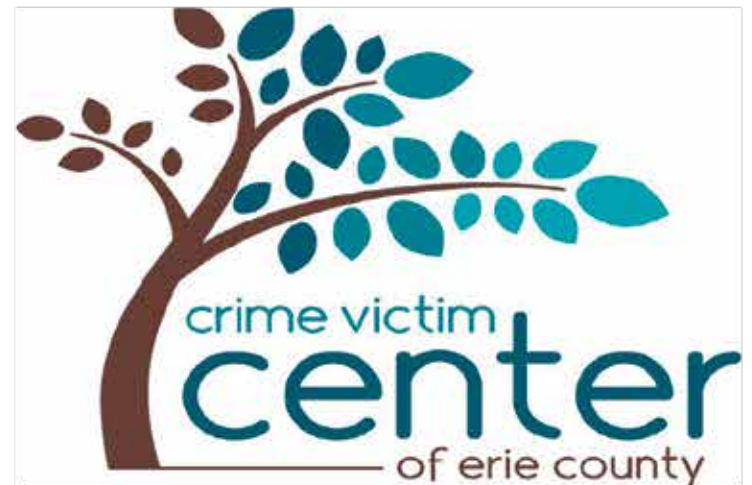


On **Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**, join Crime Victim Center of Erie County from 6:30–10 p.m. for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Moonlight on the Bay Gala—an elegant black tie optional event at Perry Monument at Presque Isle State Park. Proceeds support programs for Erie County children, women, and men who have been victims of crime.

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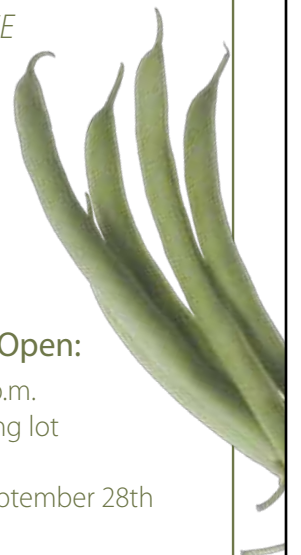
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## Considering the City

The first-ever Comprehensive City Plan poses challenging questions for Erie and its future.



**Blight plaguing Erie isn't a new problem. However, the concern over the spread of blight from Erie's urban core is an issue that must be addressed soon rather than later.**

the monthly payment must be used to cover higher taxes, Lorei notes "there isn't much left to pay for the house, which drives down values."

Though most of the tax-free nonprofit organizations benefit the *entire* county, city residents are being asked to pay much of the tab. Our leaders must revisit the idea of regionalized taxation and need to work at the state level to reconsider the 100 percent tax-exempt status for 501(c)(3)s.

### Residency

Actions speak. Community leader Tammy Roche commented at the August ECP meeting, too many of the City of Erie government employees, and even managers, choose to live outside the City.

While a residency requirement may not work, discussing incentives is a must. Lorei has observed "with the exception of Collegiate," Erie schools are "not what people are seeking." We must improve both the reality – and the perception – of Erie's educational system. With the support of area universities, perhaps we could attract families to the city (and strengthen city schools) by providing college scholarships to public school graduates from Central, East, and Strong Vincent high schools.

### Urban Growth Boundary

Emerge 2040 Project Manager Anna Frantz commented that since 1985, "Erie County has built nearly twenty new units of housing for each net new resident." In other words, of the stable 300,000 residents of Erie County, more and more of them choose to move to new developments in the county. De- [Cont. on page 35]

By: Civitas members Lisa Austin and Adam Trott

Begin by Mayor Joe Sinnott's administration and led by Charles Buki of CZB, a neighborhood planning firm specializing in deep dive analysis, strategy development, and implementation of revitalization plans based out of Alexandria, Va., the City of Erie Comprehensive Plan (ECP) commenced this spring with Parris Baker, Randy Bowers, David Brennan, Jeff Brinling, Barbara Chaffee, Rose Graham, Michelle Griffith-Aresco, David Katovich, Erika Ramalho, Doug Massey, Don Marinelli, Charles Scalise, and James Sherrod serving as its steering committee.

At the first ECP community meeting on Aug. 5, Buki pro-

posed that by closing down and discontinuing city services in low-market-valued areas of the city the glut of city housing will be reduced. Buki says "right-sizing" will encourage stronger real-estate values across the city and that city dollars will be freed for reinvestment in other areas.

A map detailing Erie's assessed market values (which can be viewed at Erie-Comprehensive-Plan.org) presented at that early August meeting revealed that the lowest-value homes, marked in red, are located in the west bayfront. On the Erie's eastside between Front to 26th streets, almost every property was "red." Sounding what some hear as a development wake-up call, Buki asked if the audience was willing to "accept casualties"

to ensure Erie's future – an answer Erie doesn't yet have but must consider.

Well before a plan is finalized, systemic issues promoting decline in the urban core must be addressed. Based on conversations with thousands of home buyers over almost four decades, Realtor Nanci Lorei reports that two issues discourage buyers from Erie City: a negative perception of city schools and a concern about higher taxes.

### Taxes

Higher taxes result because 40 percent of Erie's real estate is owned by nonprofits, which are not required to pay taxes. Yes, some do pay some portion of "non-owed taxes" via a Payment In Lieu of Taxes agreement. And yes, some institutions (for instance, Gannon

University) voluntarily pay 50 percent of the assessed taxes that a for-profit agency would owe. But, the city gets this "missing" portion of tax-money from its landbank from the remaining property owners in order to pay for all the city services.

Lorei explained that Erie's property tax rate (millage rate) is .033; Summit's rate is .017. Translation: over a thirty-year mortgage on a \$100,000 home, Summit residents will pay \$51,000 in taxes while Erie homeowners pay \$99,000.

Additionally, Lorei noted that each homebuyer is approved for a maximum monthly payment. "Once taxes and insurance are subtracted," Lorei says, "what is left pays for the actual house (principal plus interest)." When much of

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## Food Truck Freakonomics

Mobile kitchens are changing Erie's culinary landscape.



JIM WERTZ

By: Jim Wertz

Combine great mobile cuisine with one part historical or pop culture pun and you've got a recipe for success. It's at the heart of a culinary movement not limited to downtown Erie, and with a phone call or a tweet, it could be at a corner near you or maybe even in your driveway.

We're talking about food trucks, of course. And we might consider this Erie's inaugural food truck summer, which is a bit disingenuous because Ernie's has been making great sandwiches and wraps downtown for the better part of six years and Three B Saloon has been making its mark around town for the past few years as well.

Food trucks have been a staple in larger cities for the better part of the last decade. If you've traveled, lived in a major metro, or been to a large music or arts festival, you've likely seen – and hopefully eaten – some of the most innovative cuisine in the U.S.

Many entrepreneurs are opting into food trucks instead of the brick and mortar restaurant busi-

ness because of the comparatively low start-up costs. But that doesn't mean it's inexpensive to carve out your own street corner.

"The truck was pricey," says Tim Grow, who owns and operates The Que Abides, a *Big Lebowski*-themed food truck that specializes in barbecue. "A guy in Georgia builds these and fabricates them to your needs."

Most trucks have a theme or brand that represents the operators and the menu. Grow's giant orange Que Abides trailer features an artist's illustration of the pig, cow, and chicken-rendered main characters from the Coen Brothers' 1998 cult classic, *The Big Lebowski*, which has spawned pop culture festivals, a para religious philosophy known as "Dudeism," and now a food truck.

Nationally, the cost of food trucks can range from \$10,000 to more than \$100,000, plus the equipment, upkeep, and insurance required to protect the investment.

**Above: The Que Abides parked on the west side of Perry Square. Below: Que owner and operator Tim Grow mans the smoker in the back of his food truck.**

The Que Abides has a smoker built in to the back so Grow can slow cook the next day's meat while he sells that day's fare.

"I like to switch it up, especially since barbecue is so versatile. You can do pork one day and then do chicken or brisket. The menu is constantly evolving," Grow says.

Grow's chief lunch hour competition agrees. "We try to change our menu every two to three weeks," says Joe Perino, owner and com-

mander-in-chef of the U.S. Pig Niagara, which he operates with his cousin Anthony Perino. "It's easy for us with a mobile operation to change up the menu a lot."

The Perinos purchased their mobile food unit from a company in Los Angeles. Even though they've put pig in the name, they don't describe their menu in terms exclusive to barbecue. "Tim (Grow) does barbecue really well, so we don't want to compete with him or Three B's on barbecue, and Ernie's does great sandwiches," says Joe Perino. "We started moving toward a more traditional taco menu that should separate us from the other trucks downtown."

Grow and the Perinos usually set up downtown and serve the day's menu somewhere between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. – sometimes earlier, sometimes later. But that's not when and where the day starts or ends.

"I head out by 8am to find a parking spot and get the smoker going," says Grow. "We serve lunch and then we prep for the next day."

You're most likely to find these guys downtown Wednesday to Friday. Preps for the week and the 8 Great Tuesdays concert series usually occupies much of Monday and Tuesday. They also pop up at local breweries, car shows, and larger festivals like the Erie Art Museum



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JIM WERTZ

Blues and Jazz Festival.

"Getting out to festivals like 8 Great Tuesdays and the Blues and Jazz festival has been great for getting our name out and spreading the word," says Anthony Perino.

The City requires mobile food operators to have a vendor's license to operate on public property, like streets and parks. So if there's a crowd, they're cooking.

And that schedule is part of the non-traditional business model that makes the operation unique. Ask just about any brick and mortar business owner and they'll tell you that you have to have set hours, your customers need to be able to find you when they want you, and you need to be reliably available.

But for food trucks, it might be a rainy day, not conducive to waiting in an outdoor line for your lunch, or there might be - I don't know - a biker rally or a celebration that eats up all of the downtown parking. There's a lotta ins, a lotta outs, to this business, and these guys count on their customers to find them through social networks and word of mouth.

"Staying on top of social media and constantly pushing out updates, even if we're not going to be out, brings some consistency and comfort in our minds," Anthony Perino says. "Our basic setup doesn't allow us to operate in heavy storms, or if we can't be out there for some other reason, our customers un-

derstand that we're not just taking the day off."

Grow prefers to set up on the Peach Street side of Perry Square; The Perinos prefer north Perry Square near French Street. They both purchased parking passes from the Erie Parking Authority, so they don't have to feed the meters like food trucks do in Washington, D.C.

Both operators understand the way mobile food works in other cities, and they like the business culture for mobile food in downtown Erie. Grow and the Perinos - all Erie natives - did several years of research by visiting family in cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Austin, where mobile food industries are world renowned, in addition to more traditional research. They also all operate catering businesses on the side, which sustains them during the winter months.

Both vendors have been in operation for less than three months, but the trial run has been successful and tasty for youReader eaters that have been lucky enough to partake. And if you haven't walked downtown at the lunch hour, you should change your routine because, well, it smells delicious.

Jim Wertz can be reached at [jWertz@ErieReader.com](mailto:jWertz@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him @jim\_wertz on Twitter, where you can also find the @QueAbides and @USPigNiagara.

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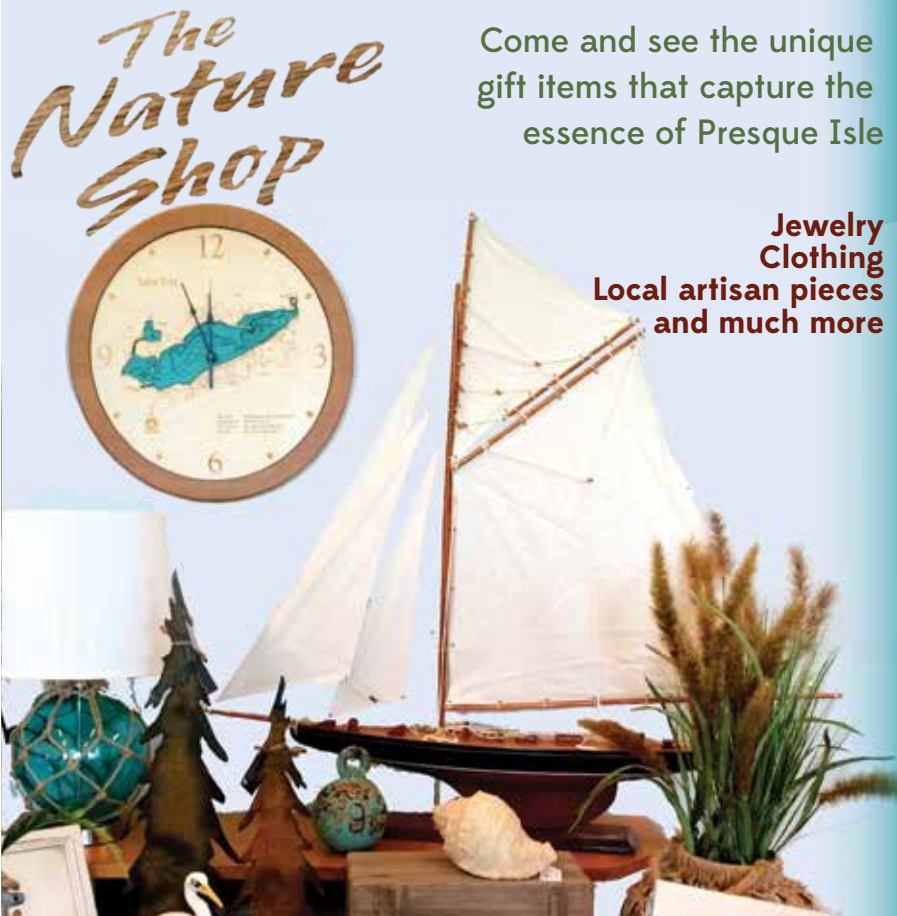
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## Emerge 2040 readies for action

Lake Erie Marine Sanctuary, land bank could help Erie from sinking.



By: Dan Schank

It's difficult to generate excitement about hypotheticals. Concrete results are always more inspiring than proposals and planning committees. In Erie, where we face a declining population, an eroding manufacturing sector, and concentrated poverty, it's understandably difficult to imagine a brighter future – let alone the years of heavy-lifting required to make it a reality.

When the Destination Erie project began in 2012, it faced some unique challenges from a public relations perspective. On the one hand, its plan for sustainable development offered a real opportunity to strengthen connections between the people who live here and our region's top business, nonprofit, and political leadership. On the other hand, the regional plan was three years in the making, outlined a twenty-five year strategy for our region, and required an awful lot of faith and patience on the part of the public.

But the planning stage has finally ended. Destination Erie has transitioned

into *Emerge 2040: A Focused Partnership for the Erie Region's Future*. Instead of identifying local strengths and weaknesses, *Emerge 2040* will face a tougher challenge – making positive change a reality in our community. Since there are a number of important, pragmatic projects currently in motion, this article will focus more on what's emerging currently than what's expected to be done by 2040.

### Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary

One of our region's strongest selling points is undoubtedly Lake Erie. We fish and swim in it. We sail on it. We admire it as we jog through Presque Isle State Park. We enjoy its cool breeze during our idyllic, all-too-short summers.

But we also focus on its surface more than its watery depths. Which is a shame, because 132 identified shipwrecks lie at its bottom in Pennsylvania alone, many of which provide important ecosystems for our marine life. Recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (better

known by its more evocative acronym, NOAA) has begun accepting applications from communities across the country looking for consideration as national marine sanctuaries, and we're about to submit one.

In accordance with the *Emerge 2040* plan, Erie will recommend that “a 759-square-mile area in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie” should become the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary, according to the City Council resolution that approved the measure. The application also has the support of the Erie County Council, Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey, and Gov. Tom Wolf.

So what could a marine sanctuary mean for those of us who live here year round (and whose interest in scuba diving is, at best, limited)? Increased tourism is always welcome – more local businesses could capitalize on the wreckage, and perhaps a few of us might have an underwater adventure ourselves. There's also the historical relevance. In addition to our region's crucial role in the War of 1812, Lake Erie was one of the most active freshwater

fishing sites in the world during the late 19th/early 20th century. Much of that history is still submerged in the lake's bottom – and maintaining its form with far greater longevity than it would find in saltwater.

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper is particularly excited about the sanctuary's potential as an educational resource. She recently traveled to Alpena, Mich., home of NOAA's Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary on Lake Huron, where she discovered that schoolchildren were “starting to do robotics in very, very young grades – and carrying [those experiences] all through high school.” Students near to the sanctuary are making use of remote operated vehicles (or ROVs) that monitor the lake's bottom in search of undiscovered wrecks, artifacts, and other curiosities.

For example, six students at Northern Michigan's Stockbridge High School recently traveled to the Republic of Palau in the South Pacific to help explore the wreckage of WWII-era ships and planes. Using ROV technology, they hope to identify the remains of American soldiers who are still listed as missing in action. Dahlkemper believes that a similar program in Erie could provide our young people with “a skill set that's unique to our region,” potentially paving the way toward careers with companies like Donjon Marine, or with an organization looking to explore offshore wind energy.

Dahlkemper believes that the official application will be submitted to NOAA by the end of August. If NOAA decides that our case is worthy of greater review, they will begin a two to three year process to assess the opportunities, needs, and level of community support in our region more specifically. If approved, according to Dahlkemper, “we become part of a national system,” funded at the federal level, which can bring international focus to our region without draining precious state and local resources.

### Property improvements and blight reduction

Not everything that *Emerge 2040* has in the works will cost a great deal of money. In certain cases, they're working to improve awareness about

## FEATURE

existing resources, rather than devoting time and money to creating new ones.

With that in mind, a working group (with members from the City of Erie, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Erie County Planning Office, and others) has been put together to design a clearinghouse to help property owners “find financial resources to do rehabilitation and make energy efficiency improvements,” according to Emerge 2040 Project Manager Anna Frantz. There are already a number of assistance programs at the state, local, and federal level designed to assist people who need a little help when it comes to home improvements. Too often, property owners aren't aware of them. A clearinghouse would consolidate this information and provide the community with a clear sense of what's available.

Regarding abandoned properties, there is growing support for the establishment of a land bank in our region. Frantz explains the concept concisely: “Right now, when the Erie Redevelopment Authority has a property that has been identified as blighted, it takes a very long time to go through the eminent domain process to obtain legal ownership of the property, and eventually demolish it. A land bank would allow that process to move more quickly.” It should be noted that the bank would only target properties that have been entirely abandoned. This is an effort to rid our community of safety hazards and eyesores – it's not intended to kick anyone out of their homes.

### Regional collaborations

According to Frantz, the planning process that led up to Emerge 2040 was always conceived of as “a public/private/nonprofit partnership” that could maintain independence through collaboration. This meant hearing voices from city and county government, the Jefferson Educational Society, regional business leaders, and the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership – and it also meant avoiding some of the dangers of having one voice drown out all of the others.

One collaborative effort that should generate immediate results is the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority's plan to bring, in County Executive Dahlkemper's words, “regular bus service to Corry before the snow flies this year.” EMTA director Mike Tann was able to reduce some of the use of trollies with-

in the city of Erie and shift some of his resources to Corry without creating additional costs. Now the EMTA “is working with the leadership in Corry to determine where that need is – where people come from and where they need to get to – in Corry,” according to Dahlkemper.

A climate action plan is also in the works. Representatives from Environment Erie, the Sierra Club, the Erie County Department of Planning, and others are looking at the long-term ecological issues facing our community. Keep in mind that climate change may result in *weirder* weather, rather than just warmer weather. Our changing environment may have a real impact

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In accordance with the Emerge 2040 plan, Erie will recommend that “a 759-square-mile area in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie” should become the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary.

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on tourism, fishing, and outdoor recreation. It's essential that we're prepared for the future.

If I've learned anything from writing about Emerge 2040's regional plan over the past several months, it's that long-term planning is as essential as it is unexciting. Change of this sort comes slowly and methodically, through compromise, conflict, and (hopefully) consensus. To move beyond the theoretical purgatory that swallows up too many good ideas in our region, we will need transparency, accountability, and a steady supply of practical achievements. Though things are moving in a positive direction, I'm afraid I don't have a flashy tagline to conclude with. As implementation gathers momentum, I can only hope that Emerge 2040 scores enough early victories to remind us about the value of its larger vision.

Dan Schank can be contacted at [dSchank@ErieReader.com](mailto:dSchank@ErieReader.com).

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The Performing Artists Collective Alliance is located at 1505 State St. in the ArtWorks Building.

year to continue the vital work they do, we need to actually fund them.

What is the radical realignment of thought that Tanenbaum proposes to our civic leaders? Instead of concentrating millions of dollars on building runways and hotels that do little in the long-term but continue to suck away taxpayer dollars, give that money to the underfunded organizations that are right now keeping Erie from falling down around us. It doesn't sound like a radical idea when he says it: "It's not rocket science. Just support the stuff that's already working!"

Despite the lack of funding from City, State, or County governments, the Erie arts community does have sources of support for places like the Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA). Erie Arts and Culture helps fund the important work of building our community from the inside. But restrictions in the geographic limits of their charter keep The Erie Downtown Partnership from throwing their resources behind PACA. EDP Executive Officer John Buchna states that the board of EDP is working on a master plan to help include such important Erie institutions as the Times News, V-Net, and Miller Brothers, as well as PACA, which all fall outside what is currently labeled "downtown," with current boundaries being drawn from Presque Isle to the 14th Street railway and between Sassafras to Holland streets running west to east. At 1505 State St., PACA sits just feet away from the southern-boundary.

If you want to witness firsthand an *[Cont. on page 33]*

**By: Bryan Toy**

**A** lot of hard-working and dedicated people advocate for the arts in Erie every day: board members, patrons, volunteers, actors, politicians, gallery owners. Few of them speak as passionately or eloquently about how to revitalize Erie's art scene as Mark Tanenbaum.

Not only does he hold forth with bombast and fire, he's got great ideas that need to be heard. And it's not just noise. He backs up his plans with real action, putting all of his time and energy into making the City of Erie a better place by buttressing what he sees as the backbone of any city: those he calls "the Creative Class."

Tanenbaum's assertion is that the arts – as represented

by music, theater, dance, painting, sculpting, or writing – are not just a way to make our city a fun and vibrant place to be. Rather, those endeavors actually have the power to save Erie, save our kids from violence, save our venerable architecture from demolition, save our economy from bankruptcy.

He cites Pittsburgh as an example.

"Everyone in Pittsburgh got on board: The banks, the industry, the government. They sank money into the arts – all the arts, big and small – the museums, the orchestras, right down to the tiny neighborhood theaters. Pretty soon," he says, "neighborhoods started to change."

Those industries that invested real, substantial capital started to see a return on

their investment as those arts organizations grew. They took out loans. They bought and refurbished old buildings. They employed people. Maybe even more important, that vibrant art community got a broader community involved in the business of creating. More kids involved in theater or dance means fewer bored kids potentially causing trouble.

"The arts give kids something to do that is larger than themselves," explains Tanenbaum.

Get youth excited about the theater and pretty soon they start caring about their school or their church. And those kids become the next generation of creative minds that help drive the economy and keep the arts alive well into the future.

Instead of watching wave after wave of people leave the

city, the strong creative spirit that Pittsburgh fostered attracted people to actually migrate to the region. In short, Pittsburgh is growing again, and the arts and investment in the arts play a big part.

Meanwhile, Erie continues to bleed population – and many of those leaving are our best and brightest. Tanenbaum contends that "if we allow our Creative Class to leave the city, it makes the situation here even worse. If they can't make a living, they can't stay here."

His solution is simple, logical, and proven: Our city needs to support organizations that build the community from its roots up. And that means with money. Instead of the Erie Playhouse, the Boys and Girls Club, and Little League Baseball all wondering if they will have enough money next

BRAD TRIANA

# CALENDAR

## Wednesday, Aug. 19

### The Heliotropes Perform at the Mid-day Art Break



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Erie Art Museum has been serving up a lunch treat each week since the beginning of June with the Mid-day Art Break. The weekly series comes to a close in August, but you still have two chances left to enjoy a show, starting with a presentation Wednesday, Aug. 19.

The second-to-last Mid-day Art Break of 2015 will feature the jazzy, folk stylings of The Heliotropes, a local group comprised of Katie Christ, Sheldon Peterson, and Abby Badach. Bring a lunch or purchase one from the Museum's Wave Café and enjoy a free show and some sweet music on the Fifth Street patio this August before the Mid-day Art Break closes out its 2015

season. — Alex Bieler

Noon to 1 p.m. // 20 E. Fifth St. // [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org)

## Thursday, Aug. 20

### Laugh/Riot's Bedtime Stories for Adults Kicks Off

When you think of bedtime stories, you probably think of *Goodnight Moon* or of something from the Dr. Seuss canon. The *Bedtime Stories* that are coming to the Diebold Center for Performing Arts at Edinboro are a little bit different. Be warned: These ones aren't so kid-friendly, as they explore what goes on behind closed doors and underneath the sheets.

Actors will be playing multiple roles on different nights, so each night presents a unique experience in its own adult way. Performances begin on Aug. 20, and will cost you \$10. —Lauren Griffith

Begins Aug. 20 // 7:30 p.m. // Diebold Center, 219 Meadville St. // [laughrioterie.com/#!current-production/caq5](http://laughrioterie.com/#!current-production/caq5).

## Thursday, Aug. 20

### Edge of Tomorrow to Show at Porreco College

Sci-fi flick *Edge of Tomorrow* is coming to Porreco College's Movies Un-

der the Stars Series. While Tom Cruise won't be there, his character Major William Cage will be, fighting against an alien invasion. Cage has to learn new



WARNER BROS.

fighting techniques, talents, and tricks in order to make it against the aliens — and all you need to do is watch, as moments of his life repeat, over and over again.

This mind-bender of a film begins at 9 p.m., and closes out the inaugural season of this free summer series. If you haven't had the chance to catch a flick under the stars, Porreco College's *Edge of Tomorrow* is still a good place to start. —Lauren Griffith

9 p.m. // Aug. 20 // 2951 W. 38th St. // <http://www.edinboro.edu/porreco-college/movies-under-the-stars.html>.

## Thursday, Aug. 20

### Rowdy Rockers Jackson Station and Jake's Blues Headline Molly Brannigans and Sherlock's Block Party

A bit of teamwork never hurts, which is why Molly Brannigans and Sherlock's will team up to present the Aug. 20 Block Party. The State Street establishments will present a pair of local acts, as rockers Jackson Station and Jake's Blues highlight a night of cool drinks and rowdy music. Like previous block parties, the Aug. 20 event will also help a local charity, as the night will benefit The Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Erie, giving you a chance to give back to the community while enjoying another fine summer night. — Alex Bieler

6:30 to 10:30 p.m. // 508 State St. // [eriedowntown.com](http://eriedowntown.com)

## Friday, Aug. 21

### Penny's Pin-Up Party Features Classic Cars, Local Music, Burlesque, and More

Enjoy classic cars? Rockin' oldies? Local bands? Pin-up girls? Burlesque? Having that kinda fun in the name of fundraising for worthy causes?

Yeah, you say? Well, then, it sounds

## MUSIC

### Erie Art Museum Mid-day Art Break ft. The Heliotropes

Aug. 19 — 12 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum,  
20 E. Fifth St.  
[erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### Rankin and Shell

Aug. 20 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm and Brew  
Works, 22113 US HWY 6 &  
19, [sleepingchainsaw.com](http://sleepingchainsaw.com).

### Sherlocks Block Party with Jackson Station & Jake's Blues

Aug. 20 — 9 p.m.  
Sherlock's, 508 State  
St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

### 2 for the Show

Aug. 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Ugly Tuna, 1010  
Peninsula Drive.  
[uglytunatavern.com](http://uglytunatavern.com).

### Chrome Moses and

### Proper People

Aug. 21 — 9 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921  
Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

### Dave Callaghan Quartet

Aug. 21 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
Wegman's Cafeteria, 6143  
Peach St. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com).

### The Highlife

Aug. 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm and Brew  
Works, 22113 US HWY 6 &  
19, [sleepingchainsaw.com](http://sleepingchainsaw.com).

### Jake Banta & Rick McGee

Aug. 21 — 6 p.m.  
Sherlock's, 508 State  
St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

### Mayflower Hill

Aug. 21 — 9 p.m.  
Doc Holliday's,  
7425 Schultz Road.  
[dochollidays.net](http://dochollidays.net).

### Rick & The

### Roadhouse Rockers

Aug. 21 — 8 p.m.  
Sherlock's, 508 State  
St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

### Black Widow

Aug. 22 — 9 p.m.  
Sherlock's, 508 State  
St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

### The Goats

Aug. 22 — 5 to 9 p.m.  
Penn Shore Vineyards,  
10225 East Lake Road.  
[lakeeriewinecountry.org](http://lakeeriewinecountry.org).

### Mid-life Crisis Unplugged

Aug. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Ugly Tuna, 1010  
Peninsula Drive.  
[uglytunatavern.com](http://uglytunatavern.com).

### New Direction

Aug. 22 — 9 p.m.  
Doc Holliday's,  
7425 Schultz Road.  
[dochollidays.net](http://dochollidays.net)

### Scarlet Ledbetter

### and Dan Stockwell

Aug. 22 — 9 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921  
Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

### Touch of Gray

Aug. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm and Brew  
Works, 22113 US HWY 6 &  
19, [sleepingchainsaw.com](http://sleepingchainsaw.com).

### Sean Patrick McGraw

Aug. 23 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
21 Brix Winery, 6654  
West Main Road.  
[lakeeriewinecountry.org](http://lakeeriewinecountry.org).

### 8 Great Tuesdays presents Moneyshot 2.0 and The I-90s

Aug. 25 — 6:30 p.m.  
Burger King  
Amphitheater, Lawrence  
Pier. [porterie.org](http://porterie.org).

### Erie Art Museum Mid-day Art Break ft. Erie Chamber Orchestra

Aug. 26 — 12 p.m.

Erie Art Museum,  
20 E. Fifth St.  
[erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### Big Dog Acoustics

Aug. 27 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm and Brew  
Works, 22113 US HWY 6 &  
19, [sleepingchainsaw.com](http://sleepingchainsaw.com).

### Erie Downtown Block Party ft. The Groove and Erie All Stars

Aug. 27 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.  
Calamari's Squid Row,  
1317 State St. [calamaris-squidrow.com](http://calamaris-squidrow.com).

### Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution

Aug. 27 — 9 p.m.  
Sherlock's, 508 State  
St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

### Cruisin' Downtown Car Show

Aug. 28 — 5 p.m.  
Sherlock's, 508 State  
St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

### Dave Callaghan Trio

Aug. 28 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
Chovy's Restaurant,  
18228 Conneaut Lake  
Rd. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com).

### Glenn Rankin

Aug. 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Ugly Tuna, 1010  
Peninsula Drive.  
[uglytunatavern.com](http://uglytunatavern.com).

### Moonshine

Aug. 28 — 9 p.m.  
Doc Holliday's,  
7425 Schultz Road,  
[dochollidays.net](http://dochollidays.net).

### Rick Magee and Jack

Aug. 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm and Brew  
Works, 22113 US HWY 6 &  
19, [sleepingchainsaw.com](http://sleepingchainsaw.com).

### Tropidelic and Vibe & Direct

Aug. 28 — 9 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921  
Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

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 Meet former Tigers All-Star Alan Trammell\*  
 One fan will win a Tigers VIP experience

**SAT, AUGUST 29 • 7:05 PM**

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 Beer Tasting in the Bud Light Beer Garden\*  
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+ JUNK SHOP FAILURE

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**\*\*NO COVER EXCEPT SPECIAL EVENTS\*\***

**FRI 8/21**  
CHROME MOSES [FREE]

**SAT 8/22**  
SCARLET LEDBETTER [FREE]

**FRI 8/28**  
TROPIDELIC + VIBE & DIRECT [FREE]

**SAT 8/29**  
BASTARD BEARDED IRISHMEN + JUNK SHOP FAILURE [DOWNSTAIRS]  
JEFF DULOZ [UPSTAIRS]

**FRI 9/4**  
MISTER F [FREE]

**SAT 9/5**  
SPECIAL GUEST + TWO BIRD STONE [FREE]

**FRI 9/11**  
THIS AMERICAN SONG [FREE]

**SAT 9/12**  
WHISKEY DAREDEVILS [FREE]

**FRI 9/18**  
TROHOSKE + THE REMNANTS [FREE]

**SAT 9/19**  
WHITECHAPLE JACK + POTWHOLE + RYAN ROTH [FREE]



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Friday, Aug. 21, 7-9 pm, \$5

Seed Saving School  
Sunday, Aug. 23, 3 pm, \$7

Farm Market Weds. 3-6 pm  
Visit [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org) for details and full calendar.  
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German food, Beer, "Running of the Weenies" dog race, Opa's store, Church tours on Saturday, Kid's Games and much more.

**FREE Admission.**



like Penny's Pin-Up Party may be the event you've been waiting for.

Saturday, Aug. 21 is the day, and Cambridge Springs' historic Riverside Inn is the place for the Pin-Up Party, which features all of that aforementioned fun and more, including live perfor-



ANGELIC COOK

mances by regional favorites Potwhole and Pale Green Stars, along with live burlesque shows by Eliza Sidecar and Dahlia D'Luxe.

It's all for fun, and all to benefit Purple Purse, a Union City-based division of the Safe Journey organization, which serves victims of domestic violence.

Some of the events are free and open to everyone, while others include an admission cost and are for the 21+ crowd only, so check out some of the Pin-Up Party's further details before you head south to the Riverside. — Ryan Smith

4 p.m. // 1 Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs

**Friday, Aug. 21**

**Pittsburgh-Based Chrome Moses and Proper People Bring Gritty Rock to Kings Rook Club**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Get ready to rock, Erie. Pittsburgh trio Chrome Moses will return to the Gem City in support of the band's new EP *Tamaraine*. The four-song release featured plenty of hard-hitting sonic blasts, with the band showing off a knack for producing bluesy rock jams and sinister-sounding guitar licks.

Joining Chrome Moses is Proper People, another Pittsburgh-based trio that can dish out some gritty blues-inspired rockers that will have you stomping your foot to the beat. This isn't a event for delicate songs, so get ready for plenty of squealing guitars and big, bold sounds. — Alex Bieler

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

**Friday, Aug. 21**

**Sirsy Perform at Brewer's Beer Garden**

Albany-based rock-'n-soul duo Sirsy have become rather familiar with, and well-heard in, our fair city, having played repeat shows at various Erie locales and events like UPMC's Sunset Concert Series.

Fans and newcomers alike will get to see and hear Sirsy (again, or for the first time) when the girl-guy, Rustbelt-hewn rock duo once again performs a free show at The Brewer's Beer Garden on Friday, Aug. 21.

"One of upstate New York's hardest-working bands ... Sirsy certainly doesn't skimp when it comes to volume, providing plenty of sonic punch from (Melanie) Krahmer's drums and vocals and (Rich) Libutti's guitar work," Reader Arts and Culture Editor Alex Bieler wrote before Sirsy performed at The Brewer's in August 2014.

Sounds like plenty good reason to head out to the Garden. — Ryan Smith

9 p.m. // 123 West 14th St. // brewer.com

**Friday, Aug. 21**

**Tiger Maple String Band Performs in Goodell's Historic Space**

Tiger Maple String Band is a group that's long been at home on stages throughout the Lake Erie region, and, at the lush, green Goodell Gardens and

Homestead in Edinboro, they're a perfect fit.

A flagship band of the annual Edinboro Art and Music Festival (and seasoned veterans of the region's live-jam circuit), Tiger Maple has performed in Goodell's historic space numerous times over the years, and they'll do so again when they take the stage as the next featured artists in Goodell's annual Summer Music Series on Friday, Aug. 21.

Their performance rounds out Goodell's 2015 summertime music series, so grab some chairs or blankets and head out to Edinboro for some good, friendly, family fun before it's all done. — Ryan Smith

7 p.m., // 221 Waterford St. (Route 6N), Edinboro // goodellgardens.org

**Aug. 21 to 23**

**Zabawa: Put on Your Polka Shoes and Dance**

Hankering for some authentic pierogi or golabki? Or maybe you want to tip a piwo or two. Holy Trinity's 22nd annual Zabawa is your ticket.

A variety of polka bands will be playing all weekend for your dancing and listening pleasure, including The Knewz, the Polka Country Musicians, and Erie's own Mar-vels. Don't miss the Wiaty Folk Dancers on Sunday.

**Irishmen**

Aug. 29 — 8 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

**BT's Back to School Metal Jam**

Aug. 29 — 6 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. facebook.com/basement.transmissions.

**Duke Sherman Blues Band**

Aug. 29 — 5 to 9 p.m.  
Penn Shore Vineyards, 10225 West Lake Road. lakeeriewinecountry.org.

**Immoral**

Aug. 29 — 9 p.m.  
Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

**Jesse James Weston**

Aug. 29 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm and Brew Works, 22113 US HWY 6 & 19. sleepingchainsaw.com.

**Whiskey Road**

Aug. 29 — 9 p.m.  
Doc Holliday's, 7425 Schultz Road. dochollidays.net.

**MJT**

Aug. 30 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
21 Brix Winery, 6654 West Main Road. lakeeriewinecountry.org.

**Moutin Factory Quintet**

Aug 31 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. erieartmuseum.org.

**FILM**

**Edge of Tomorrow**

Aug. 20 — 9 p.m.  
Porreco College 2951 West 38th St. edinboro.edu/porreco-college.

**Anime: Dragonball Double Feature**

Aug. 26 — 8 p.m.  
Porreco College, 2951 W. 38th St. edinboro.edu/porreco-college.

**Airplanes**

Ongoing to Sept. 7 — 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. trecpi.org.

**James Cameron's Deepsea Challenge**

Ongoing to Sept. 7 — 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. trecpi.org.

**Mysteries of the Great Lakes**

Ongoing to Sept. 7 — 1 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. trecpi.org.

**Rocky Mountain Express**

Ongoing to Sept. 7 — 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. trecpi.org.

**VISUAL ARTS**

**Art and Drag**

Aug. 22 — 3 p.m.  
Urraro Art Gallery, 135 W. 14th St.. facebook.com/urrarogallery.

**Photographic Impressions**

Aug. 7 through Sept. 8 — Daily  
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. Fifth St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

**Erie Open Figure Sessions**

Thursday evenings — 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
1505 Artworks, 1505 State St. erieofs.com.

**Minyao: Chinese Folk Pottery, Imperial Porcelains, and Brother Thomas**

Daily July 17 through November 15, 2015  
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. erieartmuseum.org.

**Holocaust Exhibit**

June 22 through October

28 daily — 8 to 4:30 p.m.,  
Gannon University, 619 Sassafras St. gannon.edu.

**Selected Works from the Mercyhurst University Permanent Art Collection**

Ongoing through Aug. 14 — All Day  
Cummings Art Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

**Higherglyphics: Annex Stairwell Project, Annex Stairwell**

Ongoing — All Day  
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. erieartmuseum.org.

**Ian Brill: Storm, McCain Family Gallery**

Ongoing — All Day  
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. erieartmuseum.org.

**Kristen Cliffl, Ronald E. Holstein**

**Gallery**

Ongoing through Aug. 22 — All Day  
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. erieartmuseum.org.

**The Dimensional Effect**

Ongoing through Sept. 12  
Heeschen Gallery Allegheny College 520 North Main St. artsmeadville.org.

**DANCE**

**Dracula Auditions — Open Call**

Aug. 22]  
Lake Erie Ballet 701 Holland St. lakeerieballet.org

**YMCA Pilates Class**

Aug. 23, 30 — 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

**Nutcracker Auditions (Student**

## CALENDAR

**Saturday, Aug. 22**

### ArborEAT'em at LEAF: Go Party in the Park



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Celebrate high summer with fine food and drink, music, dancing, art, and fireworks all under the verdant canopies of Frontier Park at the fourth annual ArborEAT'em, a fundraiser hosted by Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park.

This casual but luxe evening will give you, for an all-inclusive admission price, the opportunity to sample food and drink from local and out-of-town chefs; appreciate (and buy) nature-based artwork from local artists Joyce Perowicz, Toni Kelly, Jan Lutz, Brian Pardini and others; and enjoy music by guitarist Chuck Buhl and Man's Room Band. Other interesting entertainment — tarot card readings, a henna station, and caricature artist — will also be on hand to amuse. If that's not enough, the fireworks start at 9:30!

Alas, the Aug. 13 deadline for advanced reservations at \$85 has passed, but you can still get in the door for \$95. All proceeds, including a percentage of art sales, goes to helping LEAF maintain the facilities and offer programming to the community.

Helping out may have never been so yummy. — Mary Birdsong

6:30 to 10:30 p.m. // 1501 W. Sixth St. // 453.5323, [leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org)

**Saturday, Aug. 22**

### Folk-Rockers Scarlet Ledbetter and Dan Stockwell Bring Rootsy, Thought-Provoking Jams to Kings Rook Club

"Mind folk." That's how the straight-outta-Erie duo known as Scarlet Ledbetter describes their sound.

That sound will be on full display when bandmates Keith Wilson and Tanner Edwards take the stage at Kings Rook Club for another free show on Saturday, Aug. 22.

Scarlet Ledbetter's being joined for the evening by opener and accomplished stringman Dan Stockwell, so

Polka masses are at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday. New this year is a concert of traditional Polish hymns before each mass (4:15 Friday and 10:15 Sunday) played by organist Jeannie McGinley.

The food is the star of the show for some, and the parishioners pull out all the stops in preparing the kielbasa, bigos, zrazy, haluski, gulasz, kiszka and more. Save room for something from the lavish dessert table, including freshly made paczki.

A free shuttle service is available from the newly expanded parking at 34th and Ash streets and the grounds are handicap accessible. There are prizes to win, games to play and a special kids' area.

If you go and want to really feel Polish, try the *czarnina* this year and then raise your glass to the sky and offer anyone nearby a hearty *Na zdrowie!* (*Naaz Drov-ya*)

See you there. — Mary Piotrowicz Birdsong

Friday 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday 1 to 10:30 p.m., Sunday noon to 6 p.m. // Free Admission // 2220 Reed St. // 456.0671, [holyltrinityrc.org](http://holyltrinityrc.org)

**Begins Aug. 21**

### Inherit the Wind Opens at All an Act Theatre

All An Act Theatre is bringing *Inherit the Wind*, Jerome Lawrence and Robert Edwin Lee's thought-provoking play back to the stage starting August 21.

Set in an unidentified southern town, *Inherit* is a fictionalized account of the famed 1925 Scopes Trial in which a teacher is put on trial for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution in a science class, something then illegal under state law.

"This isn't something that just happened long ago," says director KC McCloskey. "It relates to things going on today. We're still fighting for the rights of all human beings to think freely."

To reflect what she feels the play symbolizes, McCloskey designed the set to have the town wrap around the courtroom. "It's not just the defendant on trial; it is the town and the state legislature. They are all intertwined."

Since its debut in 1955, *Inherit* has always incited discussion, so take your brain and some friends and make it a thought-provoking literary night. — Mary Birdsong

Aug. 21 to Sept. 13; Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 3 p.m. // 652 W. 17th St. // Adults \$12, Seniors and Students \$8 // 450.8553, [allanact.net](http://allanact.net) // One dollar of every ticket sale is donated to Community Shelter Services

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# CALENDAR



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

it's shaping up to be a good night out at the club for folks who like their music a little folksy, a little rootsy, and a little thought-provoking. – Ryan Smith

9 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](https://facebook.com/kingsrookclub)

## Sunday, Aug. 23

### Reggae Rockstars Mosaic Foundation Join Buffalo-Based Preach + Connect at Schickalay's on the Bay

Mashing roots, ska, dub, dance-hall and other influences into a sound all their own, the Mosaic Foundation calls itself "an exploration in reggae that is pushed to the limits — and sometimes spills over."

Show-goers will have the chance to see that exploration at play when the Finger Lakes region-based Foundation

sets up at Schickalay's on the Bay on Sunday, Aug. 23, where they'll be joined by Buffalo-based roots-soul powerhouse Preach + Connect.

It's the next-to-last installment in what's been an outdoor summer concert series chock-full of goodness at



TIM SZABLEWSKI

Schickalay's — and, like all the others, it's free and open to everyone. – Ryan Smith

3 p.m. // 2860 West 6th St. // [facebook.com/SchickalaysOnTheBay](https://facebook.com/SchickalaysOnTheBay)

## Wednesday, Aug. 26

### Mid-Day Art Break Series Comes to an End with ECO Wind Quintet

The Erie Chamber Orchestra's mission hasn't changed since 1978, en-

deavoring to provide music to the community free of charge. On Aug. 26, The ECO's wind quintet will close out the Erie Art Museum's Mid-day Art Break Series — you guessed it: For zero dollars. The upbeat, responsive musical performance will start at noon, with free gallery tours during the hour as well.

Follow the sounds of the flute and the clarinet to the Erie Art Museum's Fifth Street Patio, and enjoy the last of the Mid-day Art Break Series. — Lauren Griffith

12 p.m. // Aug. 26 // 10 E. Fifth St. // <http://erieartmuseum.org/performances/middayart.html>.

## Thursday, Aug. 27

### Dancing at Lughnasa Opens at MIAC

Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture opens *Dancing at Lughnasa* to Erie starting on August 27. Brian Fiehl's play takes viewers to a small village in Ireland, where five unmarried sisters live, and is told through the perspective of one of the sisters' sons.

*Dancing at Lughnasa* will be in Erie for one weekend only, but with five different performances, finding one to fit your schedule shouldn't be a problem. Tickets are only \$10, so finding room in your budget shouldn't be a problem ei-

ther. – Lauren Griffith

Starting Aug. 27 // 8 p.m. // Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. // <http://miac.mercyhurst.edu/events>.

## Thursday, Aug. 27

### Calamari's Block Party Features The Groove and Erie All Stars

It's not an overstatement to say that Calamari's will have an all-star lineup when it hosts the downtown Block Party Thursday, Aug. 27. That's just the benefit of having both the funky, jazzy group The Groove and the Erie All Stars as the music lineup for the night.

Some of Erie's best musicians will be on hand when the two acts put on quite a performance outside of Calamari's. Your ears won't be the only thing the Block Party will benefit, as the event will go to aid The Regional Cancer Center as well. – Alex Bieler

6:30 to 10:30 p.m. // 1317 State St. // [eriedowntown.com](http://eriedowntown.com)

## Friday, Aug. 28

### Travis Tritt Takes Over Presque Isle Downs & Casino

It's not often that you'll find an artist who's performed at a World Series game, two Super Bowls, and an Olym-

## division)

Aug. 28

Lake Erie Ballet  
701 Holland St.  
[lakeerieballet.org](http://lakeerieballet.org)

## FOOD AND DRINK

### Vineyard Walk and Tasting

Aug. 13 — 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Johnson Estate,  
8419 US Route 20.  
[lakeeriewinecountry.org](http://lakeeriewinecountry.org).

### Pasta Pairing

Aug. 14 — 7 p.m.  
Presque Isle Wine  
Cellars, 9440 West Main  
Road. [piwine.com](http://piwine.com).

### Distiller for a Day

Aug. 22 — 10 a.m.  
Five & 20 Spirits, 8398  
West Main Road.  
[lakeeriewinecountry.org](http://lakeeriewinecountry.org).

### Dog Days of Summer

Aug. 22 — 12 to 3 p.m.  
Arundel Cellars,  
11727 E. Main Road.  
[lakeeriewinecountry.org](http://lakeeriewinecountry.org).

## Ladies Night

Aug. 29 — 7 to 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Wine Cellars,  
9440 West Main St.  
[lakeeriewinecountry.org](http://lakeeriewinecountry.org).

## THEATER

### Erie Playhouse Presents: All Shook Up

Aug. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 — 7:30 p.m. (Sundays at 2 p.m.)  
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St.  
[erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).

### All An Act Theater Presents: Inherit the Wind

Aug. 21, 22, 28, 29  
— 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 23, 30 — 3 p.m.

All An Act Theater, 652  
W. 17th St. [allanact.net](http://allanact.net).

### The Station Dinner Theatre Presents: A Canterbury Feast

Aug. 22, 29 — 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 28 — 7 p.m.

The Station Dinner

Theatre, 4940 Peach St.  
[canterburyfeast.com](http://canterburyfeast.com).

### Gannon University Presents: Altar Boyz

Aug. 27, 28, 29 — 8 p.m.

Aug. 30 — 2 p.m.

Gannon University's  
Schuster Theatre, 620  
Sassafras St. [gannon.edu](http://gannon.edu).

### Laugh/Riot Presents: Bedtime Stories

Aug. 27, 28, 29 — 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 30 — 2:30 p.m.

Edinboro University's  
Diebold Center for  
the Performing Arts  
219 Meadville St.  
[laughrioterie.com](http://laughrioterie.com)

### Taylor Little Theater Presents: Dancing at Lughnasa

Aug. 27, 28, 29 — 8 p.m.

Aug. 29, 30 — 2 p.m.

Taylor Little Theater  
501 E. 38th St. [miac.mercyhurst.edu/events](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu/events).

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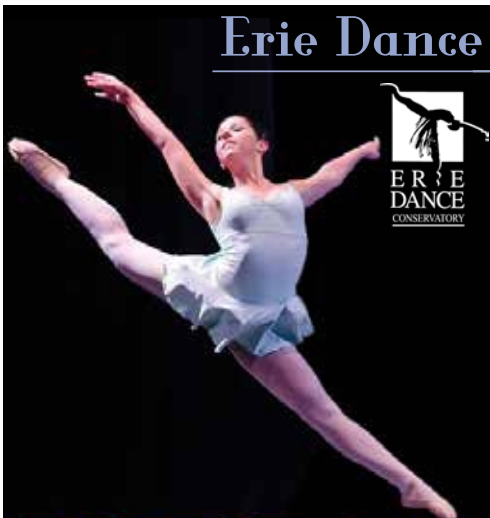
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## CALENDAR

alay's very-cool, ongoing-on-Sundays, free-and-open outdoor concert series along with opening act Buffalo Dub Soldier.

The Rochester-based Giant Panda has been a staple on the national jam scene for well over a decade, and it's a sure bet the Squad is set to drop a healthy helping of heady sonic bounces and booms on its Erie crowd.

Not a bad way to start saying 'bye to Summer, huh? – Ryan Smith

3 p.m. // 2860 W. Sixth St. // [facebook.com/SchickalaysOnTheBay](https://www.facebook.com/SchickalaysOnTheBay)

**Monday, Aug. 31**

### Moutin Factory Quintet Returns to Erie

Return visitors to Erie, though this Rtime with a different name, the Moutin Factory Quintet is such a distinctive ensemble in so many ways that it defies the usual labeling and/or comparisons with other jazz groups.

Previously Moutin Reunion Band back in 2003 when they played the Erie Art Museum as they will again Aug. 31, the band was and remains co-led by French-born identical twin brothers Francois (bass) and Louis (drums) Moutin.

The band is a rarity – even in these days, when jazz musicians must travel extensively to make a living, in that it is bi-continental, moving back and forth periodically between Paris – where Louis lives – and New York City, where Francois calls home.

Filling out the quintet are pianist Thomas Enhco, multi-saxophonist Christophe Monnot, and guitarist Emmanuel Codjia.

"For us, music has always been fun," said Francois by phone from Paris back in '03. "Then it became a passion, so we knew we had to do it to be more in touch with ourselves, although we realized our lives would be less comfortable."

By the way, as with so many jazz musicians and fans, the Moutins learned jazz and its history from listening to their parents' extensive record library, starting to play what they heard at age 5 as they learned various elements from great players.

The result? Their music—mostly acoustic except for the occasional use of electric piano—is completely original, kinetic, as well as lyrical, free-wheeling (i.e. a 7-minute bass-drums solo, a nearly as long, intense soprano solo), and highly interactive.

However it is described, Francois says the band's music is about "intimacy and sharing our emotions with one another and listeners. After all, music expresses life." – Bob Protzman

7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. // [JazzErie.com](http://JazzErie.com) // General Admission: \$15; JazzErie members: \$10; students: \$5



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## AN EVENING WITH THE CREATORS OF *Invisible Thread*

Sept. 9 • 7:30 p.m.  
 Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center



Griffin Matthews and Matt Gould present the music from their Broadway-bound show, blending poetic lyricism with musical theatre as they tell the story of a volunteer in Uganda and the complex realities of trying to change the world.

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The art show will be open to the public at the LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12pm to 6pm and Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> during normal business hours.

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**Frank Turner**

Positive Songs for Negative People  
Interscope

★★★★

One of the big draws for Turner is that, even after his explosion in popularity both back in his native England and here in the States, he still seems like a genuine guy that would sit down and share a few drinks with you. That feeling is still present on *Positive Songs for Negative People*, providing that extra bit of heart that has helped make Turner such a lovable artist. As usual, Turner doesn't hold back on his latest album, belting out pub rockers with full conviction. However, while still rousing, these songs don't carry nearly the same weight as some of his works on albums like *England Keep My Bones*, which is as much of a compliment to his past work as it is a strike against his new material. Still, it's hard not to like Turner's earnestness, particularly on devastating album closer "Song for Josh." – Alex Bieler



**Mac DeMarco**

Another One  
Captured Tracks

★★★★

Mac DeMarco's *Another One* is such a great title for the Canadian singer-songwriter. Not only is it an amusing album name from an artist who knows how to throw a few jokes around, it's also appropriate given that the mini-album is another exercise in DeMarco's hazy, relaxed sound. The eight-song, 23-minute release gives us more lovely pop tunes, as DeMarco continues to toe the line between prankster and sensitive soul during a batch of songs that seem perfect for a warm summer Sunday on the lake as the sun just starts to set. If the songs weren't laid back enough to make you want to hang out with DeMarco, he even included his home address at the end of the album and invited people to come over and have some coffee (and some fans have obliged him). DeMarco doesn't stray far from his formula on *Another One*, but it certainly isn't a problem. – Alex Bieler



**Tone Fach**

Stepping Out the Shadow  
LaMorvielle Entertainment

★★★★

Raw and relentless, Erie-native Tone Fach spits out hip-hop unencumbered by the sterilization that all too often comes with heavy studio production. In the title track opener, Fach welcomes listeners into his world – one burdened by adversity but not one to be pitied. An assault against "swag rap" (think: those rapping about coming up from the bottom without actually having *been* at the bottom), *Stepping* presents real-world struggles and challenges with Fach's gritty confidence ever-present. Album standouts abound – from the bumping yet brooding "Lost Souls" to radio-friendly "Don't Need Nothing" (with an outstanding contribution from Dan Head) to the fun "Pass the Mic" (featuring C. Brown demonstrating exactly why Fach namedrops him multiple times on the record). Remixes of "Lost Souls" and the album's pinnacle, "Problems," add depth to *Stepping* without trumping or discrediting the original mixes, making this a must-listen of 2015. – Ben Spегgen

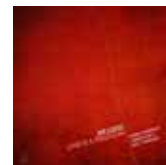


**Joe Locke**

Love is a Pendulum  
Motema

★★★★

Superb vibraphonist Joe Locke and his quartet, plus five impressive guest soloists, take on the challenging task of expressing love's multitudinous emotions. The result is perhaps the finest vibes album since the halcyon days of the Modern Jazz Quartet. Locke, who composed all nine songs as a suite inspired by a poem from multi-dimensional artist Barbara Sfraga, produces an almost limitless range of moods in his often stunning compositions that blend jazz and orchestral sounds. Of the nine tunes, some offer soft, sweet, romantic melodies, others hard-swinging modern jazz. Sometimes a wide variety of feelings occurs on just one song, which opens with crashing cymbals and rock-ish rhythm, followed by a gentle ballad from Locke, and concludes with a surprising, exhilarating piano solo. With his tremendous melodic sense and expansive tonal and rhythmic range, Locke has created a special album that may push him to the forefront of today's vibraphonists. – Bob Protzman



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BRAD TRIANA

[Cont. from page 19] arts organization that's working, go to what lies beyond that southern boundary. PACA is Tanenbaum's brainchild: a multi-dimensional space dedicated to all things artistic. Located in a classic Erie Industrial space on the ArtWorks building's second floor, it holds a theater, classrooms, an art gallery, and dance studio. Under PACA's occupancy, the space has rarely not been under constant remodeling and improvement. Currently, a new rubberized dance floor is being installed, acoustics are being improved in the music and theater classrooms, and the greenroom is getting huge mirrors hung for performers.

Over the past year alone, PACA has put on 150 performances. As an illustration of PACA's mission to promote all of the arts, you can find live music of all kinds there—jazz, folk, blues, roots, experimental and electronic, classical, and international music, as well as kids' programs, poetry, and spoken word. PACA prides itself on being a venue where up-and-coming local musicians can find a ready audience and get their foot in the door. But they're not shy about going after nationally and internationally touring acts, including three Grammy-win-

ning jazz musicians who have graced the stage.

As the name implies, The Performing Artists Collective Alliance specializes in theater and performance art. Directed and performed by seasoned actors and directors on a small stage with a top-of-the-line sound and lighting system, the theater productions are intimate and singular. Of course, the theater company welcomes anyone who is willing to help out. People interested in the theater can try out for parts or work behind the scenes. They are always welcoming new performers into this distinguished group. Theater productions still to come this season include a collaboration with Erie Arts and Culture to produce Samuel Beckett's acclaimed *End Game*. And in October, it's *Rocky Horror Picture Show Time!* PACA is reviving this classic with a new cast and performances will run throughout the month, cumulating in their popular Halloween Bash.

Tanenbaum has made sure PACA's mission includes the visual arts. Last week, the walls were covered with ink-on-cardboard drawings by Mark Weber and Ken Paul Johnson's surreal oil paintings. The gallery space includes 180 running feet of

blank walls where work from nearly every serious artist in Erie has hung. They have hung shows in conjunction with the Northwest Pennsylvania Artist Association and have been the location for several MFA Master's Thesis shows for Edinboro graduates. A show by a "top-secret" artist is promised for September's Gallery Night.

As if all this was not enough to keep Tanenbaum, his volunteers, his employees, and his board busy, there's more: Puppet theater, comedy performances, and classes all take place there. The dance company Triple Threat Studio will be using the space to give lessons in acting, ballet, and pretty much any performance-based activity a body can do.

Holding to PACA's mission of bringing all of the arts to every person they can, this studio is dedicated to providing a place where kids of all ages can be themselves, with the goal that they can learn and grow and go out and perform at all of our local theaters and schools and share their talents with the world.

From Aug. 7 to 9, *Attack of the PACA* returned for its third installment. A truly distinctive – and truly PACA – event, *Attack* was a three-day festival that brought together all the arts under one roof, highlight-

**Left: Art abounds inside of PACA. Below: A day in the life of Mark Tanenbaum, the creator of PACA does it all, from booking events to painting walls.**

ing PACA's ongoing mission to support all areas of the arts. In the course of these three days, there was: Live theater featuring short one-act plays written by outstanding playwrights as well as locally-written skits; live music with local and national musicians; and specialty acts, some of whom demonstrated their craft at workshops. Surprising visual art filled the walls of the gallery. Boldly executed oils by Edinboro student, Ian Thiry and show coordinator Erica Whiting showcased new and upcoming talent alongside pen drawings and encaustics by veteran Robert Eustice.

So many activities went on that weekend that an outsider would think that chaos would reign; but watching the PACA staff switch sets on Saturday night after the *Rocky Horror* preview to make way for the

National Marionette Theater's performance on Sunday morning was theater magic. As they worked, punk masters Tea-time and prog-rockers Lower Eastside Connection kicked it out in the back. The staff and volunteers were all back again bright and early to get dozens of children and adults situated for a packed house to watch professional puppeteers perform *Pinocchio*.

Annually, *Attack of the PACA* is the way that Mark Tanenbaum and his team bring it all together to show off how all the arts in Erie work together. This showcase of the diversity and talent of our "Creative Class" is ample evidence that Erie is vibrant and alive. Tanenbaum says of our community, "We are so savable."

Based on what's happening at PACA, that's a statement full of hope that we can all believe in.

Bryan Toy can be contacted at [bToy@ErieReader.com](mailto:bToy@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @ToyinWitcha.



BRAD TRIANA

# WHERE SEVERE WEATHER COMES FIRST



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BRAD TRIANA

[Cont. from page 9] spite having room for 150,000 people in the City of Erie, the urban population is less than 100,000 and has been continually declining. The reduced demand contributes to a spiral of lower-market-values, rising taxes, blight, and crime. For the long-term sustainability of NWPA, our developers need to slow construction in the county and our elected and community leaders need to consider an urban or “no-growth” boundary to stop sprawl, protect open land, and encourage redevelopment within the city (where infrastructure *already* exists.)

#### **Brothers or fools**

We are in this together. If we collectively abandon stressed areas, they will further decline. Crime will likely increase, affecting the county. Community leader Johnnie Johnson has written in the *Erie Times-News* about our disengagement in areas of education, voting, and loving “our neighbors as ourselves.” Echoing Johnson’s call for deliberate and collective civic engagement, Frantz explained in her *ETN* editorial, “the Erie region’s fate is a shared one,” and, our challenges must “serve as a call to action.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s famous admonition

is pertinent here: “We must live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

#### **Leaders are leading**

Community leaders are speaking up. In a recent *Erie Times-News* editorial, longtime political leader, Ian Murray outlined a blueprint for addressing the city’s crisis of violence, poverty, and blight. In another op-ed published the same day, successful local business developer Dale McBrier called for “courageous leadership and a get-it-done attitude.” Rev. Charles Mock, a member of the African-American Concerned Clergy, challenged Erie’s many stakeholders to collaborate and determine the direction of Erie in his ongoing series of opinion pieces in the *ETN*.

#### **Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove**

Recently in the *New York Times*, Robert Sullivan described how Fullilove has spent “thirty years investigating how broken connections ... harm public health.” Fullilove, a board-certified psychiatrist and professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Columbia University, is an expert in violence and urban and minority health, and serves as the Public Director at the American Institute of Architects. Embracing the “psychology of place,”

Fullilove has examined mental health and “violence, rebuilding, segregation, urban renewal, and mismanaged toxins.” She has authored numerous articles and six books including *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America and What We Can Do About It*.

Fullilove will speak at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27 at the Booker T. Washington Center at 18th and Holland streets. Following Fullilove’s talk, Marcus Atkinson will moderate a conversation with Fullilove, Sonya Arrington, Gary Horton, and Rev. Charles Mock. The event is free and open to the public.

#### **Looking ahead**

Robert Sullivan commented that, too often, planners focus “limited resources on high-wealth neighborhoods” and that the “poor, primarily ... minority neighborhoods” are left with “dilapidated housing” and “bridges (being) shut down.” Over the next six months, as we finalize the Comprehensive Plan for Erie, we must consider how we can catalyze the inherent “wealth of cities” (transit options; richness of labor pool; variety of goods and services; information exchange; business connections; and educational choices), outlined at the 2015

**In the early planning stages, the Erie Comprehensive Plan proposes the city address blight in radical ways.**

Preservation Erie Greater Erie Awards by the former Mayor of Milwaukee John Norquist. We must also ponder Dr. Fullilove’s advice regarding how connections – and blockages – in our “built environment” will impact the health and safety of all of the residents of the City of Erie for generations to come.

*A draft ECP will be presented in the fall, and will be refined and unveiled in winter. Those wishing to be invited to an ECP community meeting should contact City of Erie Assistant Director of Economic and Community Development Melanie Johnson (814.870.1277 mjohnson@erie.pa.us). Civitas members can be reached at their website [www.civitaserie.com](http://www.civitaserie.com), via Facebook at CivitasErie, by emailing [Lisa@civitaserie.com](mailto:Lisa@civitaserie.com), or by scheduling a Friday morning meeting at the Civitas office in the Masonic Building, 32 W. Eighth St. Architect Adam Trott, also a member of Civitas, can be reached via his website: [ajtarch.com](http://ajtarch.com).*

## Geeked Out

American squad wins top honors at The International 2015.



By: John Lindvay

The International 5 wrapped up Aug. 8, and the American squad Evil Geniuses became *DOTA 2* champions winning the final series 3 to 1. The International is the largest eSports event ever, as 16 teams from around the world fly into Seattle to battle it out in the game *DOTA 2 – Defense of the Ancients*, a multiplayer online battle arena video game – for a prize pool of \$18 million. The International is for all intents and purposes my Super Bowl event of the year.

If you caught my article last year, I compared the previous year's prize pool (\$10 million) to other sports to help give some rough comparisons as to why it's such a big deal. Well, the prize pool this year jumped up another \$8 million, bringing it to a total of \$18 million. With the increase in money, it was guaranteed that even the team that took 16th place was walking home with \$55,000. The payouts jump up quickly after that resulting in first place getting more than \$6 million, with second and third each sitting at over \$2 million. That is bananas!

As I mentioned at the top, this year's champion was the American team Evil Geniuses, or EG as they are referred to by fans and podcasters. The EG *DOTA 2* squad is comprised of five players: Clinton "Fear" Loomis, Syed Sumail Hassan, Saahil "UNiVeRsE" Arora, Kurtis

"Aui\_2000" Ling, and Peter "ppd" Dager. At last year's International, they placed third, and coming into this event, many had them rated highly, but no one thought they would take it all. This was not so much a discredit to them as it was hype of other teams that seemed like titans in the event.

The competition this year was staggering. With 10 teams directly invited and a series of regional qualifiers held to allow for underdogs to fight their way in, it was a month-long exhibition of some of the best *DOTA* to date. Invited teams, like LGD China, Team Secret, and Vici Gaming, were favored to take the championship, but were eliminated via upsets. Where EG proved to be the most stable and disciplined team at the event, crowd favorite Secret, who was favored to win the whole thing, was knocked out early on in the main event.

The event itself was two weeks of *DOTA*. The first week was a blitzkrieg group stage, where teams played each other in a round-robin fashion for points to get seeded in a set of double elimination tournament brackets. The top four teams out of a pair of groups would seed into the winners' bracket, while the bottom four teams seeded into the losers' bracket, facing instant elimination.

EG ended up winning the entire event, but the most compelling story was the Cinderella story of a relatively low-rated Chinese team. CDEC Gaming

**The International: The Super Bowl of gaming.**

is a feeder team for the Chinese powerhouse LGD. LGD is in many ways the tour de force of Chinese *DOTA*, and CDEC was established to help find talent that could transition to the "big leagues." CDEC wasn't directly invited; during the regional qualifiers, they only placed second, which didn't mean they were guaranteed to compete in the main event.

Right before the group stages began, there was a wild card series where all the teams who placed second would battle it out for the last two remaining slots. CDEC fought and won that spot, and surprised everyone during the group stages, as they tied with EG to be at the top of their group, a feat no one expected.

From there, CDEC *destroyed* everyone they encountered in the winners bracket. It was amazing to watch this young team, underrated by virtually everyone, wreck teams who were expected to win. They even beat out EG in the final round of the winner's bracket sending them down into losers, forcing them to fight back for a rematch.

So where CDEC Gaming is the spunky upstart surprising everyone, EG is the disciplined veteran where cool heads prevail. The story of the members on EG is pretty fascinating. The oldest member and carry position player (position one player leading the squad, determining its strategy) Fear is a *DOTA 2* veteran who has been in the scene for more than a decade, well before there were millions of dollars flying around. The *DOTA* community refers to him as "Old Man Fear" since he has been around seemingly forever and is older than your average eSports player sitting at a 28. (I write that with tears falling down my face as I turn 30.)

Alongside Fear sits Universe, who is the offlane player, which means "play maker" in simple terms. The goal of the offlane player is to set the pace of the game and to find openings. PPD is the team's captain and expert drafter.

A key aspect of *DOTA 2* is that there is a pool of more than 100 heroes that players can control, and at the start of each game, teams take turns banning and picking heroes for their team; this part of the game is called the draft and

an expert drafter can win a game before the clock even starts. PPD is hailed as one of the best drafters.

Aui\_2000 plays the role of support; the job of support is to protect the team and help ensure that your carry, (e.g. Fear) remains safe. Finally, there is your mid player, which is one of the hardest positions, as it is where players face off one-on-one and technical skill will often determine the effectiveness of that player. Luckily for EG, the team recruited spritely 16-year-old Sumail as their mid. Sumail is now being hailed as the best mid player in the world after his performance at The International.

The International is the largest eSports event ever, as 16 teams from around the world fly into Seattle to battle it out in the game *DOTA 2 – Defense of the Ancients*, a multiplayer online battle arena video game – for a prize pool of \$18 million.


Simply put: It was amazing.

But if you missed this all, don't worry! All the games can be seen on the *DOTA 2* website. And here are some interesting stats on this year's viewership. The event itself takes place in Seattle at the Key Arena, but most people watch the game via Internet streaming from sites like Twitch or YouTube. This year, Valve estimates that more than 20 million people tuned in to watch the event, with a peak of several million concurrent viewers. To put that in perspective, the Super Bowl gets a total of 111 million viewers. The final match of the event was also aired on ESPN.

With that, I want to wish EG congratulations for their incredible run at this year's International, and also shout out to CDEC, for showing us just how amazing this game can be and for proof that young blood will shake up the competition in the coming years.

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## ER Sports

The future of Strong Vincent hoops is the talk of the town.

By: James R. LeCorchick

WITH FOOTBALL season just around the corner, I thought everyone would be talking about the upcoming grid season, but this is not the case, as a few interesting stories making the rounds concern basketball, especially Strong Vincent hoops.

Rumor number-one, which I consider top-shelf after investigating is in regards to SV garnering the services of a 6-9 senior transfer from Rochester, N.Y. After talking to several reliable sources, I couldn't confirm he's from Rochester, but the player in question has been working out with the Colonels this summer, and it appears he will be a great help.

To make it even more interesting is the fact that he is the son of former Academy High School great **Walter Stone**, a four-year starter for the Lions, who I believe is one of the most underrated players ever to come out of Erie. Stone, a 6-9 standout, was an outstanding inside player who also owned a very soft touch from the outside.

He went on to play in junior college and then started for the Sun Devils of Arizona State University.

While at ASU, the Erie native was a member of the 1980-81 squad that posted an overall

record of 24-4 while showing a 16-2 card in the PAC10. The Sun Devils were awarded a second seed in the Midwest Region of the NCAA Tournament, State being eliminated by Kansas.

This unit is considered one of the best – if not the best – teams in school history.

The former Lions' great played with some of the best players in the country during his high school and college days. Following his Academy senior season, he was named to the Pennsylvania squad for the prestigious Dapper Dan Classic in Pittsburgh and some of his teammates included **Sam Bowie** (Kentucky), **Ricky Tunstall** (Duquesne), **Billy Varner** (Notre Dame), and **Larry "Bread" Anderson** (UNLV).

Meanwhile, it was a Who's Who of College Basketball on the ASU roster, as he played with **Byron Scott**, **Lafayette Lever**, **Alton Lister**, **Sam Williams**, and **Johnny Nash** – all high school All-Americans and future NBA performers.

While things are looking up for SV coach **Shannon Pullium**'s team, it was not quite as bright a couple of weeks ago, as there were strong rumors that junior-to-be superstar **David Morris** was considering a transfer to **LeBron James'** old high school, Akron's St. Vin-



**Walter Stone (Photo submitted to Erie Reader by Erie sports historian Dan Brabender)**

Pitt and at George Washington before the regular season gets underway. GU coach **John Reilly** will be breaking in a lot of new faces, and he could learn a lot if they have to match up with the Panthers and the Colonials.

And there are even more stories floating around as rumors persist that Coach Reilly is still looking into the possibility of adding one or two Division-I transfers, paper work be-

ing done and the outcome to be known in the near future. GU has a lot of firepower to replace, so the Knights' boss has not left any stones unturned in a hectic recruiting season.

For the people that really like to look ahead, Gannon opens its season with a PSAC West contest Nov. 11 at Clarion University.

I WOULD BE remiss if I didn't mention high school football, the local schools officially underway with pre-season workouts in full gear and scrimmages set to begin Saturday, Aug. 22.

There are two of those scrimmages I am planning on making that opening Saturday, Hickory at McDowell (10 a.m.) and Cleveland Benedictine slated to test Cathedral Prep at Dollinger Field at 4 p.m. Both of the visiting teams have

players drawing attention from some of the top schools in the country.

Hickory showcases safety **Andrew Pryts** (6-2, 195) who already has offers from the likes of Alabama, Penn State, Ohio State, Michigan, Michigan State, Pitt, Notre Dame, and Stanford. His father Ed played linebacker at Penn State and many people consider the Nittany Lions the favorite to sign the Hornets' star.

Meanwhile, the Bengals from Cleveland will be bringing a squad looking to defend its state crown with players such as wide receiver **Justin**

The player in question has been working out with the Colonels this summer, and it appears he definitely will be a great help.

**Layne** (6-2, 180) and running back **Dontez Rash** (5-8, 175). Layne, rated nationally as a four-star recruit, picked the Spartans over such schools as Alabama, Notre Dame, Michigan, Ohio State, Florida, and Miami (FL). Rash has already committed to Ohio University.

This should get the fires burning for high school grid-iron fans.

James R. LeCorchick can be contacted at [JRLSportsReport@gmail.com](mailto:JRLSportsReport@gmail.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @JRLSports.

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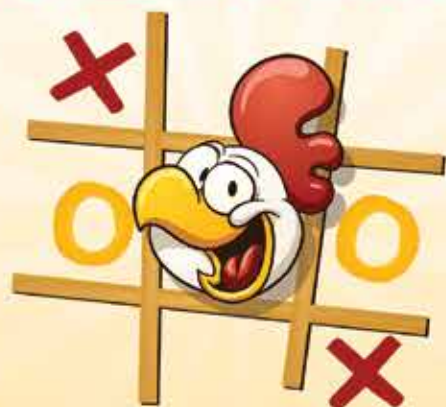
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