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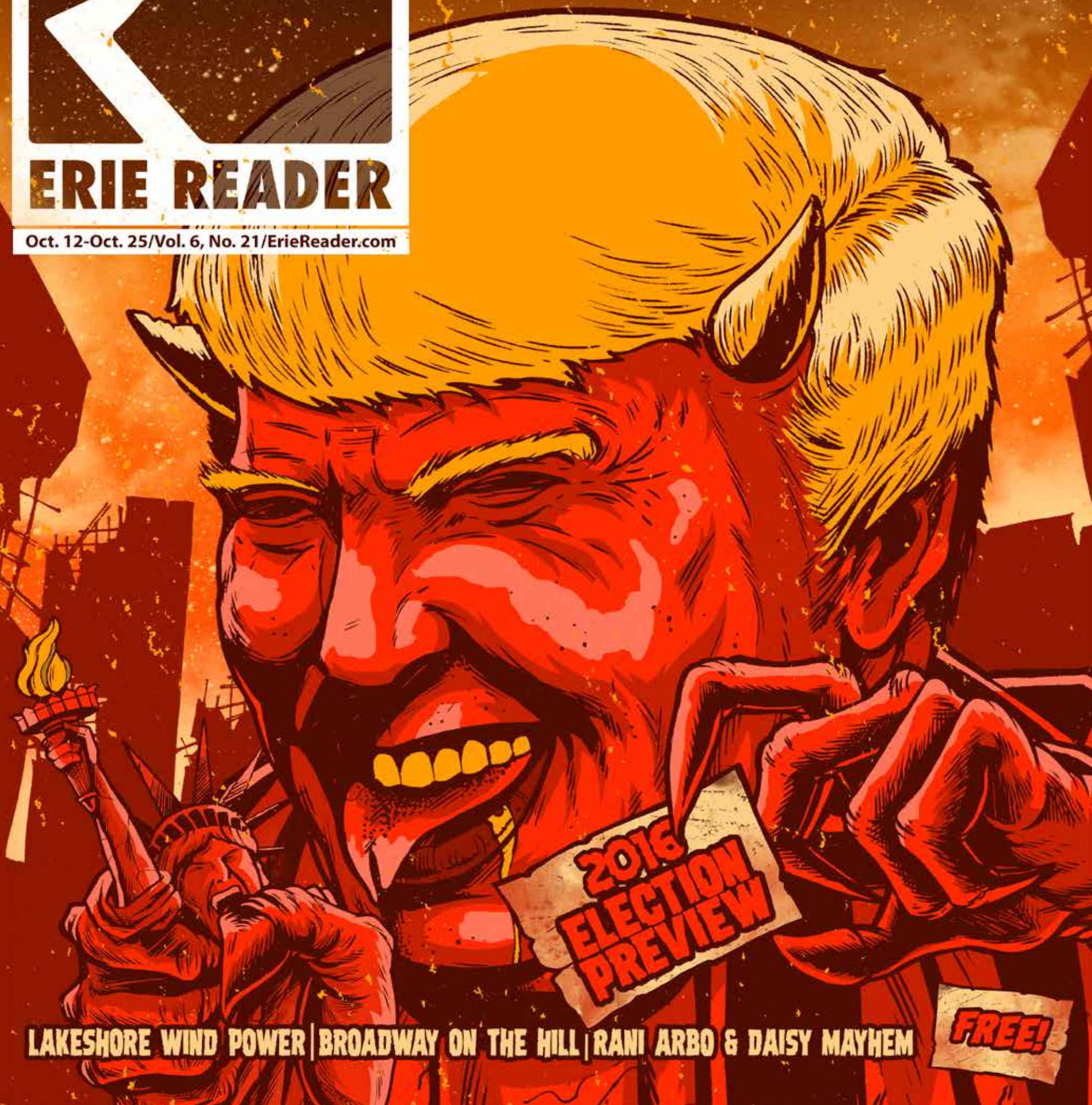
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Oct. 12-Oct. 25/Vol. 6, No. 21/ErieReader.com

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## From the Editors

Election season can be a scary time.

As fall settles in, we Erieites find ourselves waiting as long as we possibly can to mournfully say goodbye to our summer months. Easing into the cold weather routine, we dig out our sweaters and fill up our mugs with the appropriate warm liquids.

It's also Halloween time, consuming the majority of October. We're haunted by the usual ghouls, ghosts, and other things that proverbially go bump in the night. Traditionally frightening, yet ultimately benign, the stuff of horror movies serve as a backdrop to the month.

For years, the "Erie" area has heard reports of frightening fauna, and if you can't get enough of those spooky creatures, Matt Swanseger has a few stories you'll love. Cryptozoology is the science (or more accurately, psuedoscience) of those unexplained critters that capture our imagination. Making a case for the "cryptids," Swanseger takes us exhibit by exhibit through our region's mythical menagerie, looking into the oral history of the mysterious claims.

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'Tis the season for all things unnerving, right? That's truer more and more every day if you're following this election cycle. Lately things have become scary, and the political climate in this country has grown, for lack of a better word, monstrous.

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'Tis the season for all things unnerving, right? That's truer more and more every day if you're following this election cycle. Lately things have become scary, and the political climate in this country has grown, for lack of a better word, monstrous. Local artist "Monster" Mark Kosobucki has illustrated that idea perfectly, and we hope you appreciate the satirical nature of this issue's cover, despite the ugly truth of some recent events. America is used to mudslinging; that's nothing new. What we're seeing this election feels more like an abandonment of basic decency.

Those of us at the *Reader* are immensely proud to represent a forward-thinking mindset in our community. We want change for the better. We want equality for all. We want economic growth. We want our leaders to be the best people for the job. While some of you out there might still be on the fence regarding Hillary Clinton, it's clear to us whom we cannot support for office.

A few days before the second, almost unwatchable debate, a recording leaked of Donald Trump speaking into a hot mic before an *Access Hollywood* segment in 2005. In the recording (readily available online) Trump lewdly suggests sexually assaulting women. It was the most talked about subject of the weekend, and it was disgusting. This is just one example of the extreme, dangerous nature of the candidate. Built upon a cavalcade of anger and fear, the discourse has bred xenophobia and racism.

Once again, Pennsylvania is an important swing state. Erie has traditionally leaned Democratic, but still plays a pivotal role in balancing out the state's urban and rural electorates. Our elected leaders play an essential part in determining how policies shape our region. In this issue, Nick Warren takes a look at Erie County's entire ballot, providing a few key facts to go along with the dozens of often unfamiliar names you'll see on Election Day.

Maybe it's no coincidence that election season comes to a head over Halloween. Sometimes, politics can be a scary thing.

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## NEWS & VIEWS

### Just a Thought

Polluted by anger



ARNE HJORTH JOHANSEN VIA FLICKR

Even the most cursory awareness of current events is enough to make throwing a temper tantrum like this child a tempting response. And harnessing our anger collectively might just save us all.

By: Katie Chriest

Walking along West Ninth Street one morning, I picked up the foot-printed schoolwork of a scribbling elementary kid.

“What is Anger?” the worksheet, provided by TherapistAid.com, reads at the top. Then it explains: “Even though it’s normal to feel angry from time to time, it’s never ok to be mean, break things, hurt others, or hurt yourself. Learning to control your anger is about learning new ways to act when you’re upset.”

The worksheet continues with “healthy things you can do when you feel angry. Circle the ones that you might like to try.”

Of these 11 options, the child has circled 10 in blue Magic Marker: “Take deep breaths. Draw your anger. Do jumping jacks. Count to 100. Walk away. Talk to someone. Squeeze a stress ball. Play outside. Listen to music. Practice a hobby.” The only non-circled option is “Write about your anger.”

The next stapled page asks the child to “List some things that cause you to feel angry,” which he or she has, in ironic sunny yellow.

On the last page is another explanation of anger as “a difficult feeling. ... But did you know that it’s normal to feel angry from time to time? It happens to everyone.”

Of course it happens to everyone. Look around us: yet another thieving big bank; yet another circus-like presidential campaign; yet more laid-off

workers; yet more resource-starved teachers and students; yet more corporations negligently polluting our air.

As the *Erie Times-News* reported on Oct. 4, “The Environmental Protection Agency is suing Erie Coke in U.S. District Court in Erie, claiming the company has failed to fix leaks of the chemical benzene, excessive exposure to which can cause cancer.”

The pink breast cancer awareness ribbon in the *ETN* logo was almost too much.

Two days later, *ETN* reported that “Erie Coke Corp. has again agreed to pay a large fine to resolve claims over pollution at its plant at the foot of East Avenue.”

To resolve claims. There’s a lot more to the story, of course. But perpetually, corporations pay their way out of protecting surrounding communities from carcinogens. And perpetually, we seek cures for the disease, rather than its cause.

And our anger goes unharnessed. Meanwhile, that worksheet also says, “When you’re angry, you might do bad things that you wouldn’t do if you were happy.” But what about the good things anger could make us do? Protest. Boycott. Organize.

Even write about our anger. To our elected officials, to corporate leaders, to editors, to each other.

It’s promising that this worksheet normalizes anger for children. From many other angles in these hyper-optimistic United States, the message they

– and we – receive is that constant outward happiness is the ultimate goal.

And if you don’t have it? You’re doing something wrong, or there’s something wrong with you. So here – take this pill. Buy this new device. Go on this diet. Or, you know, feel like a failure because you *should* be happy – and geez, why don’t you *smile* more?

But as Krishnamurti famously said, “It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.”

So I wish that worksheet had emphatically reassured children that it’s okay to *feel* their anger. That the hot, jagged sludge that boils up from the pit of their stomachs and clenches their shoulders and jaws can be repurposed

Fully feeling the anger that arises when we learn that Erie Coke is accused of releasing cancer-causing benzene into our city allows us to feel anger the world over, in communities having to clean up after corporations that dump toxic waste or mine precious resources.

for good – if they learn to use it wisely.

Fully feeling the anger that arises when we learn that Erie Coke is accused of releasing cancer-causing benzene into our city allows us to feel anger the world over, in communities having to clean up after corporations that dump toxic waste or mine precious resources. These companies do not deserve our money. In that way, anger makes us better consumers. Better global citizens. Better human beings.

Eventually, we might even have less to get angry about.

Katie Chriest can be contacted at [katie@ErieReader.com](mailto:katie@ErieReader.com).



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## A Welcome Wind of Change for Erie?

The dollars and sense of lakeshore wind power



**Wind power is a rapidly growing part of the U.S. energy mix, and for good reason: It's clean and plentiful, it creates good jobs with a future, and it is increasingly cost-competitive.**

of many kinds are required, and the income thus generated multiplies as workers and businesses spend some of their wind-related earnings on other local goods and services.

Look at the Deepwater Wind project off Block Island, Rhode Island, where recently-completed installation of five turbines involved four Rhode Island ports. Local welders fabricated foundation components; 100 local construction workers and the crews of a dozen vessels placed the foundations; 60 local workers assembled turbine components; others laid underwater cable and placed the turbines. An additional handful of jobs will remain at the new, permanent operations and maintenance center.

In the water by 2018, Icebreaker's turbines can pave the way for many more here. DOE maps show that the best wind on Lake Erie is from the central to eastern shores, putting Erie right in the middle.

And the wind doesn't stop at the water's edge; an analysis by Pioneer Green Energy found a plentiful resource on the ridges of North East. All of this means that Erie County and its neighbors can be part of an important new industry.

How big could this be? Studies of onshore wind growth in Indiana and Illinois suggest that Pioneer's original North East plan could be expected to

By: Don Goldstein

This summer there was some good economic news for Erie and all of northwestern Pennsylvania. A \$40 million U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) award to Cleveland's Icebreaker offshore wind power project – which County Council has wisely partnered with Erie County – could mark the beginning of a new era for our region. These six wind turbines will create well-paying jobs and stimulate new port and industrial activity,

and – as the name suggests – promise to break the ice for an expanded wind industry along Lake Erie.

Erie's shores are home to a terrific wind resource, both offshore and on. Wind power is a rapidly growing part of the U.S. energy mix, and for good reason: It's clean and plentiful, it creates good jobs with a future, and it is increasingly cost-competitive. The cost of onshore wind is already about the same as coal and gas for new projects, and offshore costs – while still higher – are falling rapidly. Growing concerns

about the health and climate impacts of fossil fuels mean that regions blessed with wind resources, and proactive enough to harness them, are moving ahead.

What could this mean for us? Staging, assembly, and installation of big turbines employs people in logistics, transportation, construction trades; and for offshore projects, shipping and port operations. Beyond installation, smaller but still significant revenue streams from operation and maintenance continue. Supplies and services

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## NEWS & VIEWS

create about 1,000 jobs during construction, bringing \$66 million in direct payroll with a total local impact of \$114 million. Ongoing operations and maintenance could be expected to generate 50 jobs, almost \$3 million in payroll with a total impact of \$8 million annually, and \$1.7 million yearly in local tax revenues plus \$800,000 in land-lease payments.

What about offshore wind? A mere 1 percent of what the DOE estimates as Pennsylvania's Lake Erie wind capacity would mean installing 100 megawatts (MW). After all, there are shipping lanes, migratory bird flyways, and airport radar zones to be avoided. A recent study by the DOE's National Renewable Energy Lab suggests that constructing 100 MW of offshore wind capacity in Lake Erie would generate 700-2,500 jobs and \$18-\$315 million in total income. Post-installation, ongoing operations and maintenance would create 70-80 jobs and \$13-\$64 million in income yearly.

The wide ranges in these numbers point to a crucial dynamic: The more we and our neighboring states invest in Great Lakes wind power, the bigger the local bang we get for each dollar invested. Small pilot projects like Icebreaker only begin to create local resources needed to install and run wind power projects. But as the industry grows and encourages local capacity in specialized labor, transportation, and manufacturing, more pennies out of every dollar invested will be spent locally.

Wind power subsidies are sometimes criticized. They are dwarfed by those given to oil and gas, but it's still an important question. Big new technologies – railroads, the internet – often need public support to get started. The

question is whether there's an important public interest served and a good return on our investment. In rail and the internet, the answer was "yes!" And wind energy is no different. Onshore wind is now cheap enough to stand on its own, and its offshore cousin is making good progress.

Where will the energy come from to power a growing nation and world? All large-scale energy sources have environmental impacts and public costs. But renewables like wind and solar are far cleaner and healthier.

What it boils down to is this: Where will the energy come from to power a growing nation and world? All large-scale energy sources have environmental impacts and public costs. But renewables like wind and solar are far cleaner and healthier, and it's no wonder that worldwide and at home they comprise a rapidly growing share of the overall energy mix.

In northwestern Pennsylvania, we are blessed with a rich wind resource. Why not be a part of the solution and reap the rewards?

*Don Goldstein is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Allegheny College. His specialty is corporate adaptation to climate change and environmental management. He has served on the steering committee of the NW PA Industry Pollution Prevention Roundtable and currently works on local economic development. Contact him at [dgoldste@allegheny.edu](mailto:dgoldste@allegheny.edu).*

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## NEWS & VIEWS

### Harrisburg Happenings

Public health and the health of local budgets are both at stake throughout Pennsylvania.



KUMAR APPIAH

By: Senator Sean Wiley

*"We have heard too many horror stories about high school athletes whose futures are robbed by addiction that begins with prescription pain killers."*  
– Gov. Tom Wolf

**A recent joint session of the General Assembly focused on Pennsylvania's heroin and opioid crisis: "Likely the largest public health crisis that this commonwealth has ever faced."**

When Gov. Tom Wolf addressed the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives on Sept. 28 as part of a joint session of the General Assembly, he made one thing vividly clear: Pennsylvania will be the phoenix that rises from the ashes of opioid addiction.

Likely the largest public health crisis that this commonwealth has ever faced, the heroin and opioid addiction epidemic claims lives in Pennsylvania each and every day. 2015 saw almost 3,500 of our family members, our friends, and our neighbors lose the battle to opioid addiction. And more lives will be lost before we truly have a handle on how to wage the most strategic war possible.

Addiction can no longer be an invisible disease, a concealed problem. Invisibility translates into opposing acknowledgement and acceptance; a

resistance to seeking treatment. Addiction is, after all, a disease like diabetes or cancer or epilepsy, all with accompanying courses of treatment that are tailored to meet the needs of individual patients. Addiction then moves into recovery.

Addiction can enter every home in our commonwealth – quickly, silently and possessively, having a stranglehold with the strength of an army. Addicts are not street junkies. They live in our homes, work in our businesses, and sit in the same pews on Sunday mornings. They are us and we are them.

We cannot legislate our way out of this – nor can we arrest our way out. Opioid addiction needs to be treated like the public health crisis it is, and provided every available resource. To say that lives depend on it is not an exaggeration.

Switching gears now, I want to address a recent ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that impacts

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## NEWS & VIEWS

communities statewide contiguous to casinos. The ruling requires the General Assembly to develop a fix – within no more than 120 days.

At issue is the County Local Share and the Municipal Local Share that casinos pay, translating into \$11 million to Erie County and \$1.2 million to Summit Township, respectively. Of that \$11 million to Erie County, \$5.5 million is used for grant-making by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA); and Summit Township has seen over \$12 million in revenues since the opening of Presque Isle Downs & Casino in 2007.

The Court ruling invalidated the Local Share on the grounds that it violates the uniformity clause, therefore nullifying part of the Gaming Act and making it the responsibility of the Senate and the House to resolve.

Both Summit Township and Erie County project the use of these funds in their 2017 budgets, and I can confidently assume the majority of other host municipalities and counties do, as well.

There is a solution to be found within

the General Assembly inside the 120-day timeframe, one that I will share in a later edition of Harrisburg Happenings.

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At issue is the County Local Share and the Municipal Local Share that casinos pay, translating into \$11 million to Erie County and \$1.2 million to Summit Township, respectively.

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As we are merely weeks away from the November general election, it is important for all of us to be doing our homework about candidates at every level of government. The decisions we will make are too important not to.



*Senator Sean D. Wiley can be contacted at [SenatorWiley@pasenate.com](mailto:SenatorWiley@pasenate.com), and you can follow him on Twitter [@SenatorWiley](https://twitter.com/SenatorWiley).*

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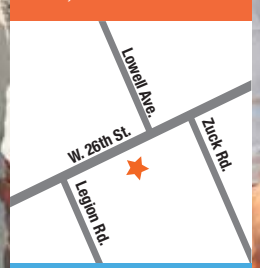


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## News of the Weird

Who knew a giant tortoise could be that 'lover with a slow hand?'

By: Chuck Shepherd

### Frontiers of Science

Large kidney stones typically mean eye-watering pain and sudden urinary blockage until the stone "passes" (often requiring expensive sound-wave treatment to break up a large stone). Michigan State University urologist David Wartinger told *The Atlantic* in September that he had recently happened upon a pain-free even exciting! way to pass stones before they become problems: the centripetal force from a roller coaster ride. In a 200-trip experiment preparing for a validating "human" trial, he successfully passed stones in his hand-held, silicone model kidney (using his own urine) about two-thirds of the time when sitting in a rear seat at Disney World's Big Thunder Mountain Railroad. [*The Atlantic*, September 2016]

### Perspective

With about 30 states having adopted some form of "stand your ground" defense to assault (or murder) charges, five membership organizations, charging up to \$40 a month, have signed up a half-million gun owners concerned that law enforcement treat them fairly should they someday be forced to shoot providing instructions and a "hot line" to coach members on what to tell police, plus liability insurance and help getting a lawyer. Critics say such organizations are also useful to those who might be prone to shooting people and want advice on how best to get away with it. The U.S. Concealed Carry organization's wallet-sized card,

to give to police, asks that the shooter under suspicion be given the same consideration as the officers might give to their own colleagues under suspicion. [*Tampa Bay Times*, 9-16-2016]

In a dozen YouTube videos recently released, Syria's Tourism Ministry praised the country's sandy, fun-filled beaches as ideal vacation spots and its many World Heritage Sites as renowned tourist exhibits attempting to distract world travelers from the country's daily bloodshed (and the wartime destruction of those priceless historical sites). Before civil war broke out in 2011, Syria was a fashionable, \$8 billion-a-year destination (and the now-devastated city of Aleppo was known worldwide for its food). [*Washington Post*, 9-2-2016]

### Awesome!

Diego the giant tortoise, believed to be more than 100 years old, now lives in semi-retirement on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos, but from 1976 to 2010, Diego brought an almost-extinct species back to life by fathering about 800 babies in the captive breeding program on Espanola, another of the Galapagos Islands. Biologists did not realize Diego's prowess until 2010 when DNA tests identified him as the father of 40 percent of all tortoises on the island. Even on Santa Cruz Island, Diego keeps busy, with a "harem" of six females. (Another Galapagos tortoise species did die out in 2012 when the last male, the centenarian Lonesome George, maintained his celibacy until death.) [*Fox News*, 9-15-2016]

### Compelling Explanations

The New York City Council, grilling police officials in September about their practice of freely seizing money from detainees under suspicion, asked for a thorough accounting of that money (suspecting that innocent victims rarely get it back unless aided by high-powered lawyers). Though (in "crime-fighting" hyperbole) NYPD routinely boasts of its half-million annual seizures, an NYPD official told the council it would be "impossible" to account for everything that keeping track of it all would cause its computers to crash. [*Village Voice*, 9-16-2016]

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is bureaucratically at the epicenter of the state's drought crisis, but in September KCBS-TV aired video of the department actually using sprinklers to water the artificial lawn at a substation in South Los Angeles. A DWP spokesperson said such watering is routine at substations to "clean" the plastic (and wash off any dog urine, for example). [*Reuters via msn.com*, 9-18-2016]

### Things You Thought Didn't Happen

Wanda Witter, 80, had been living on Washington, D.C., streets for 10 years, but insisting to anyone who would listen that the Social Security Administration owed her sums that recently reached \$100,000, and that she had documents to prove it. However, given her circumstances, most regarded her as just another luckless person confused by homeless life. In June, though, after social worker Julie Turn-

er took a closer look and found, improbably, that Witter was indeed owed \$100,000 and even more improbably, that all of her paperwork was carefully organized among the unimpressive possessions she hauled around daily, SSA paid her \$999 on the spot, and the remaining \$99,999 arrived in August. [*Washington Post*, 8-23-2016]

### Feel-Good Marketing

One branch of the James Harper funeral homes, in Bromley, England, announced its latest promotion via a sign in a front window (reported by the Bromley News Shopper in September): "Wow! Free Child's Battery Powered Vehicle With Every Pre-Paid Funeral Arranged This Month." A Harper spokesperson said the purpose was to encourage residents to think ahead about funerals. [*Bromley News Shopper*, 9-15-2016]

"Considering Cremation?" was the headline of the Aug. 7 advertising supplement to the Tampa Bay Times (and other Florida newspapers), appearing just below a snapshot of a mom, dad and three youngsters frolicking in the grass, seemingly overjoyed (<http://bit.ly/2dBv3yk>). Nothing about cremation appeared except dates and sites of free cremation seminars, sponsored by the National Cremation Society (whose website is thankfully more somber). [[marketplace.tcpalm.com](http://marketplace.tcpalm.com) (Stuart, Fla.)]

### Recurring Themes

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**NEWS & VIEWS**

his wife, Jeanne, both 33, who drew the equivalent of about \$130,000 in government benefits last year, but are still feuding with the Luton Borough Council near London over its inability to find (free) housing adequate for them and their eight children. They turned down four- and five-bedroom homes, were housed temporarily in a Hilton hotel, and said they would be satisfied only with a six-bedroom residence. Mr. Sube, from Cameroon, emigrated to France at age 18, then came to England in 2012 to study nursing at the University of Bedfordshire. [The Sun via Daily Mail, 9-8-2016]

**The Aristocrats!**

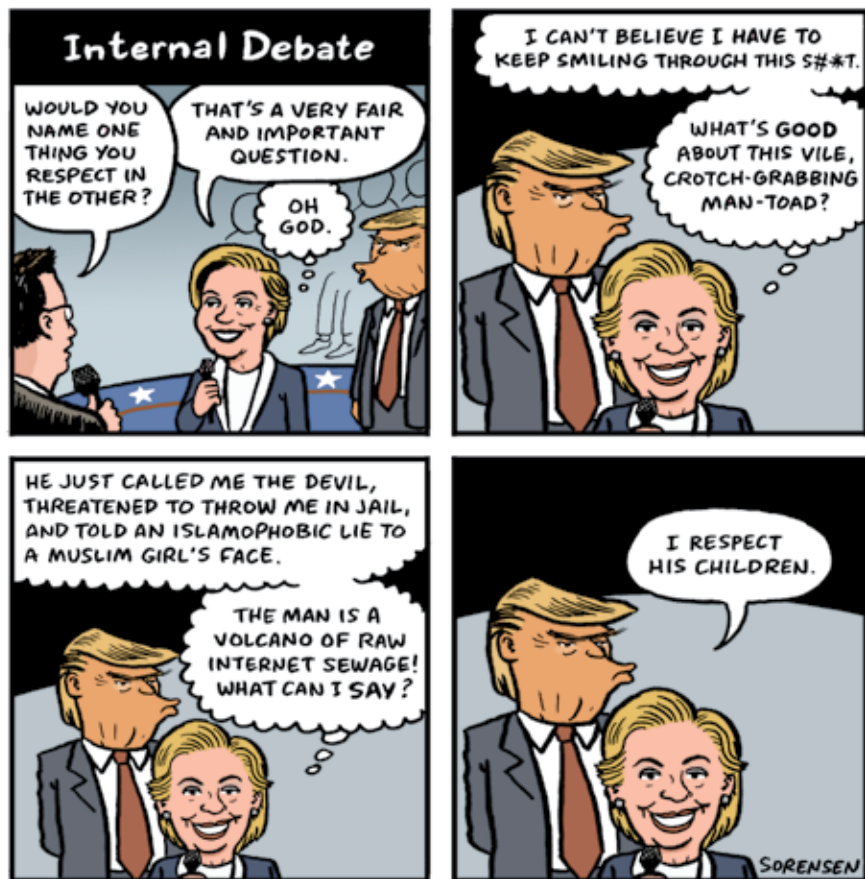
Iowa City Jamboree: (1) Thomas Morgan, 42, was charged in a May 7 incident at the University of Iowa's Main Library when, using a men's room urinal, he turned to reveal to a fellow user that he was "measuring" his penis with a hand-lettered cardboard "ruler." (2) Thomas Warren, 49, was arrested in September near the Iowa City home that he, naked, had allegedly trespassed into minutes before. He was discovered passed out in the grass, though his clothes, car keys and driver's license had been left on the doorstep (along with telltale evidence that he had used

the doorstep as a toilet). Alcohol and a controlled substance were involved, said police. [The Smoking Gun, 9-21-2016] [Iowa City Press-Citizen, 9-28-2016]

**The Passing Parade**

A woman was arrested on Sept. 7 at the Italian Pizza Kitchen restaurant in Washington, D.C. She was chatting up a police officer she did not know, then playfully took a french fry from his plate. He asked her to stop, but she took another, and when the exasperated officer issued an ultimatum, she took yet another. The arrest report for second-degree theft, cited by WUSA-TV, included "property stolen" as "three" "French fried potato(es)." (2) At the seven-mile mark of the Allentown, Pennsylvania, marathon on Sept. 11, more than 100 runners were blocked off by an unanticipated, slow-moving train causing the athletes one of their best chances to qualify for the gold-standard Boston Marathon (by posting fast times at Allentown). The train lingered for 10 minutes, though some runners climbed over couplings and continued on. [WUSA-TV, 9-9-2016] [Lehigh Valley Live, 9-13-2016]

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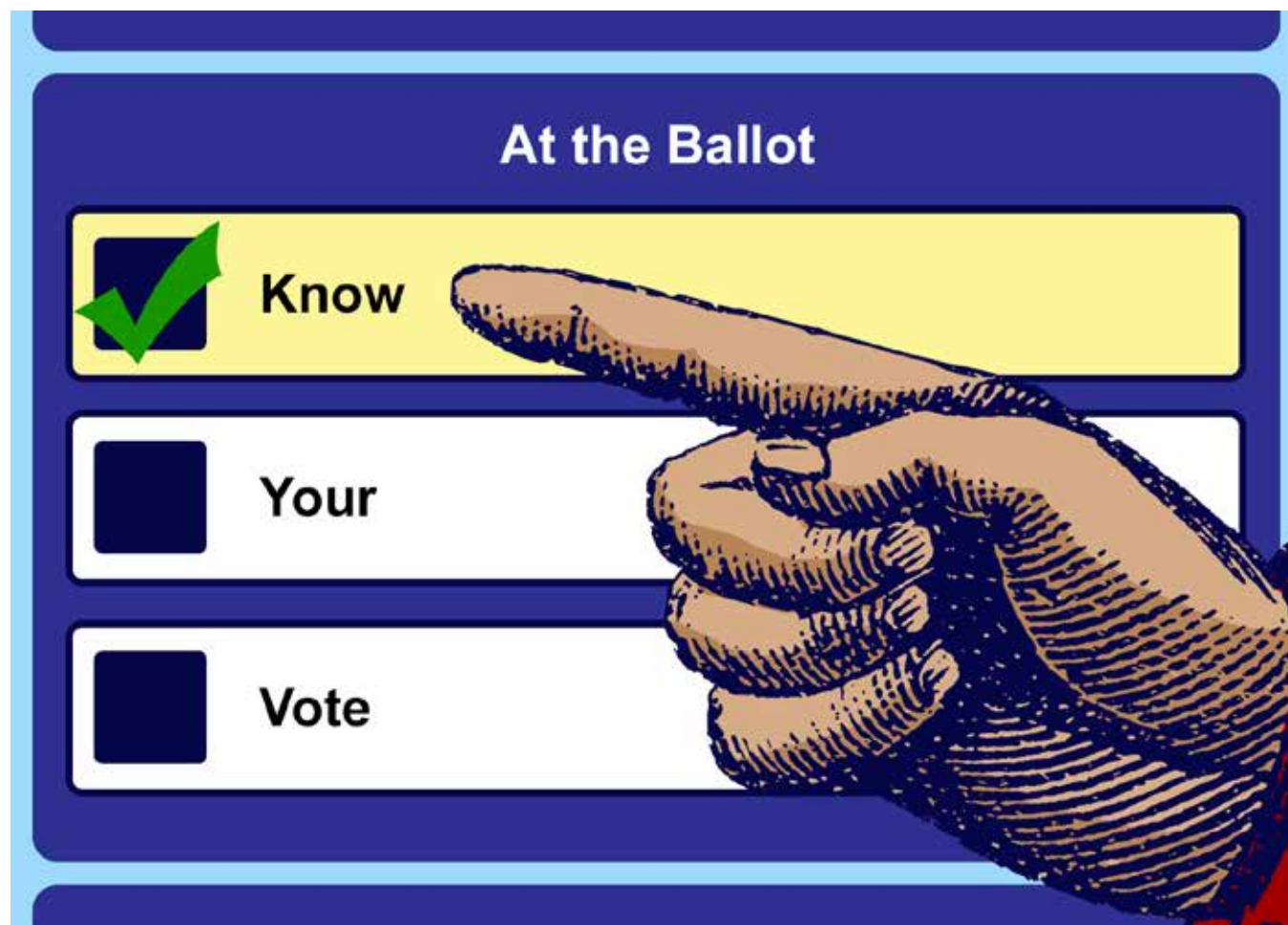
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# Unboxing Erie's Ballot

Your 2016 Election Day preview



For the 2016 Official General Candidates list, go to <http://www.eriecountypa.gov/county-services/elections-voting>

particular candidate or the other almost always echoes throughout the party, sometimes ushering in a change on the national level.

## U.S. Senate

By far the next largest race is for Pennsylvania's Senate seat. Dubbed "this year's most consequential Senate race" by columnist George Will, it's one that hangs precariously in the balance. Republicans are in danger of losing their 54 to 45 majority this year, with a small handful of seats polling exceptionally close.

Republican Pat Toomey is facing his first reelection campaign since his 2010 win. Toomey defeated Democrat Joe Sestak by a 2 percent margin of 80,229 votes (Sestak carrying Erie County). Hailing from the Allentown area, Toomey is a former member of the House of Representatives. His views align closely with the conservative GOP establishment, both socially and fiscally; and he is one of the more prominent Republicans who have not endorsed Trump.

On the other hand, Philadelphia native Kathleen "Katie" McGinty has no problem endorsing her party's choice. Serving under President Bill Clinton as head of the Council on Environmental Quality, she later headed Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection in Ed Rendell's administration.

With little to no data on the Libertarian candidate, Delaware County's Edward Clifford III, McGinty and Toomey have polled up and down all season, averaging a less than 1 percent difference. Undoubtedly, this could be an extremely close race.

## Attorney General

Another Pennsylvania office has certainly had its share of twists and turns. In August, former Attorney General, Democrat Kathleen Kane, was tried and convicted on multiple counts including perjury, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice and is now awaiting sentencing.

Her indictment occurred amidst the primaries, with Philadelphia's Josh Shapiro emerging victorious. Shapiro,

By: Nick Warren

The ballot. It's all anyone can talk about. This election has cast an omnipresent, ever-looming fog over our country for more than a year. At this point, you've no doubt made up your mind one way or the other concerning your vote for president. Undecided voters are an increasingly rare group. *For president*, that is.

But large swaths of the electorate arrive at the polls with little knowledge of state and local contests. As a registered voter in Erie County, you'll see eight races on that first Tuesday in November. While you're certainly familiar with at least two names at the top, there are dozens more to get acquainted with.

## The Big One

Nineteen months prior to election day, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that she was running for president. Two months later, real estate mogul and television per-

sonality Donald J. Trump did the same. After an arduous primary cycle, they emerged as the Democratic and Republican nominees, respectively. Right now, Clinton is up by a margin of 11 points, but that lead could rise and fall several times in the coming weeks. It's a close race, and an undeniably significant one. Partisan rhetoric from both sides has escalated into bitter vitriol. The stakes have never seemed higher.

For millions of people, neither candidate sits well. A growing number of disillusioned voters, including many Bernie Sanders supporters, gave clout to Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate Jill Stein.

As of this writing, Johnson is polling at around 7.4 percent. The former Republican governor of New Mexico is an advocate for limited government, marijuana legalization, and privatized healthcare. His running mate is former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld (also a Republican prior to 2016).

Green Party candidate Jill Stein is

a physician turned political activist. The Harvard alum has held no major political office, and currently polls at 2.6 percent, just shy of Ralph Nader's supremely consequential Green Party votes in 2000.

Both major third party candidates are reprising their run from 2012, in which they received a total of 1.35 percent of the popular vote. Darrell Castle represents the Constitution Party, a low-funded, largely Christian conservative party, which polls at extremely low numbers.

Pennsylvania is a battleground state this election. In numerous electoral scenarios, our state, with its 20 electoral votes, is needed to win. As seen in other swing states like Florida or Ohio, the candidates will modify their stump speeches to shoehorn in regional concerns. There's a larger push for volunteers, and a substantial increase in personal appearances by the candidates. This swell affects the entire ticket. High voter turnout for one par-

43, a state Representative from 2005 to 2012, is now chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Four-term Republican state Sen. John Rafferty, 64, also hails from Montgomery County, representing the 44th District. Rafferty chairs the Senate Transportation Committee.

**Auditor General**

Eugene DePasquale, our state's incumbent Auditor General, was elected to office in 2012. Prior to that, he served as 95th District State Representative for three terms. At 45, the Pittsburgh-born York resident seeks to examine state tax expenditures involving issues like transportation and the environment.

Northampton County Executive John Brown, the GOP challenger, also seeks to reduce wasteful spending, especially in opposition to the Wolf administration. Brown is a lifelong Republican with support from Trump and Toomey.

Small business owner John Jay Sweeney, 63, is the Green Party candidate and current Falls Township auditor (across the Delaware River from Trenton).

Libertarian candidate Ron Minet ran a beer distributorship as well as Intelligent Computer Systems, Inc., which was later sold to 3M.

**State Treasurer**

The Attorney General seat isn't the only Democratic office wrecked by controversy. In February of 2015, former State Treasurer Rob McCord pleaded guilty on two counts of extortion.

After McCord's resignation, Tim Reese, an independent, was appointed to replace him. Reese, the first African American to hold the office, chose not to run for reelection.

The Republican candidate is Otto Voit III. Hailing from Berks County (Reading), Voit is a Desert Storm veteran and president of the Keystone Dental Group.

Democrat Joe Torsella, 53, is a former U.S. ambassador to the UN for management and reform. Prior to that, the Philadelphia politician was chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, and has endorsements from Michael Bloomberg and Ed Rendell.

Advertising consultant James Babb is running as a Libertarian and would choose to return Pennsylvania's tax dollars to its residents, essentially defunding the entire state government.

Kristin Combs represents the Green Party. A former high school physics teacher, she is dedicated to education

and progressive causes.

**From State to Local**

Here's where things start to split up. If you paid attention in civics class, you'll remember most of this. Your district varies depending on where you live. Out of the country's 535, there are 18 U.S. congressional districts in Pennsylvania, with representatives like Mike Kelly and Glenn Thompson. Just as the U.S. Senate has 50 seats, so does Pennsylvania, along with 50 separate districts led by people such as Sean Wiley and Pam Snyder.

Further down the line are state representatives. Erie County is a part of six different districts, with elected officials like Ryan Bizzarro and Curt Sonney.

U.S. and state senators serve six-year terms, while U.S. and state representatives serve two-year terms. Your ballot will feature one race for each office. This year, there will be two senators and two representatives to vote for.

**U.S. House of Representatives**

Erie County residents live in either the 3rd or the 5th Congressional District. The 3rd is served by Republican Mike Kelly, a former car dealer from Butler County, who is running unopposed for his fourth term. An ardent Trump supporter, Kelly is assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The 3rd District runs from Lawrence Park to Ohio and down the I-79 corridor to Butler. The city of Erie is part of the 3rd as well, as are sections of Millcreek, torn along East and West Grandview Boulevard.

The 5th District splits the county, with Summit Township, Harborcreek, Edinboro, and Waterford making up the westernmost section. There, Republican Glenn Thompson is seeking his fifth term in office. No stranger to mandates, his congressional elections have averaged him a winning margin of 27.75 percent. The Howard Township resident chairs the House Agriculture Committee Subcommittee on Forestry,

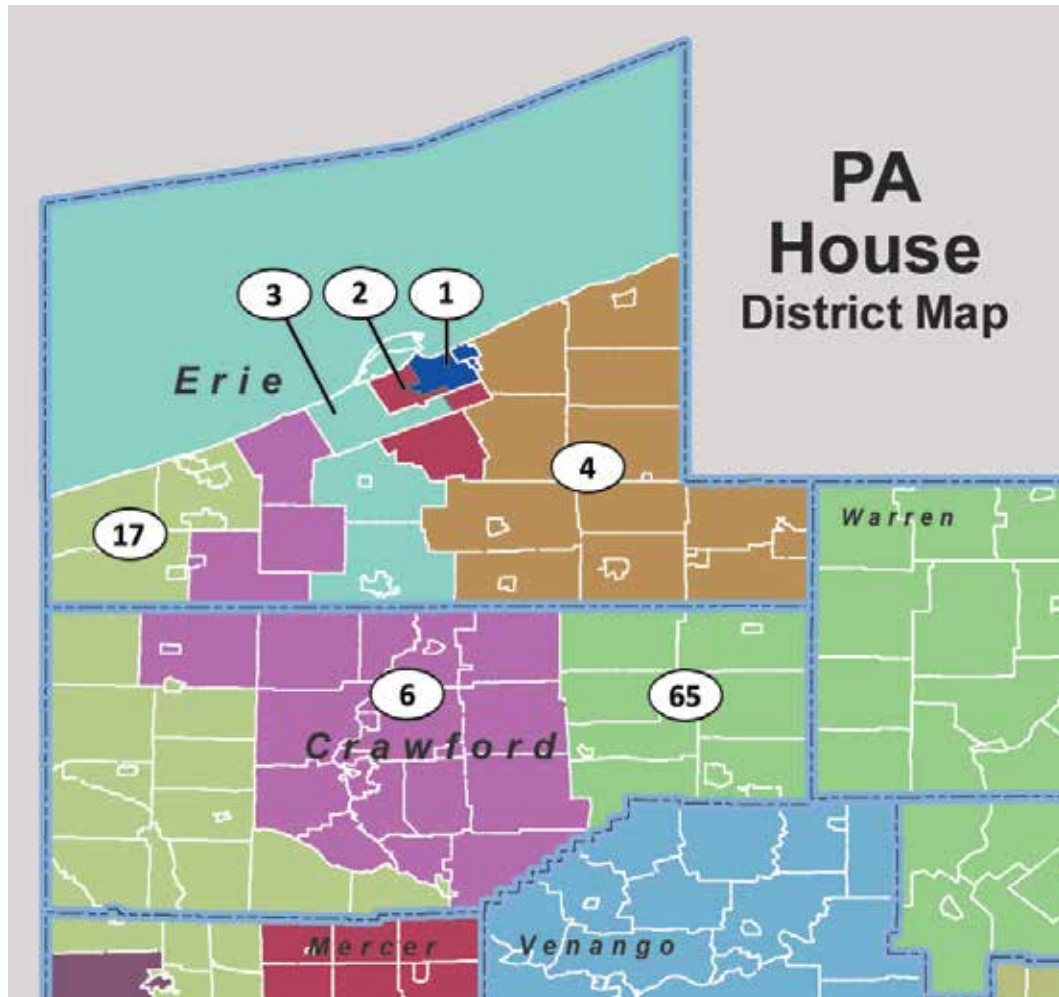
Conservation, and Energy, as well as committee assignments to Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Natural Resources.

Democrat Kerith Strano Taylor is running against Thompson as she did in 2014. Taylor is an attorney from Jefferson County with a background in children's services.

**Pennsylvania State Senate**

Pennsylvania State Senate's 49th Senate District is housed primarily in the upper area of Erie County from West Springfield to North East. There, Democratic Sen. Sean Wiley is seeking reelection for Pennsylvania's General Assembly. During his tenure, he has been assigned to numerous committees, serving as Chairman of the Banking & Insurance Committee and the Intergovernmental Operations Committee (as well as contributing columns to the *Erie Reader's* "Harrisburg Happenings").

Both Wiley, 45, and his opponent, Republican Dan Laughlin, were born in Erie and reside in Millcreek. Starting in construction, Laughlin helped form Laughlin Builders, as well as Waste Away disposal. The 53-year-old choos-



NICK WARREN

For more district maps, go to <http://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/Maps/>

es to distance himself from establishment politics, reacting against Gov. Tom Wolf's budget.

The 50th District encompasses the southern half of Erie County, as well as Crawford, Mercer, and parts of Warren counties. Democrat Pam Snyder is up for reelection in 2018.

**Pennsylvania State Representatives**

Erie County is home to six of Pennsylvania's 203 legislative districts. The 1st District comprises much of the east side of the City of Erie and is served by Democrat Patrick Harkins, 52. A former UPS driver and Judge of Elections, Erie-born Harkins serves on seven committees (chairing two) and is running for his sixth term.

Republican challenger William Crotty, 29, is running for the second time against Harkins. Crotty formerly worked at the radio station HAPPI 92.7, and is member of the Wesleyville Borough Council.

Our state's 2nd District has been represented by Florindo "Flo" Fabrizio since 2002. Having **[Cont. on Page 40]**



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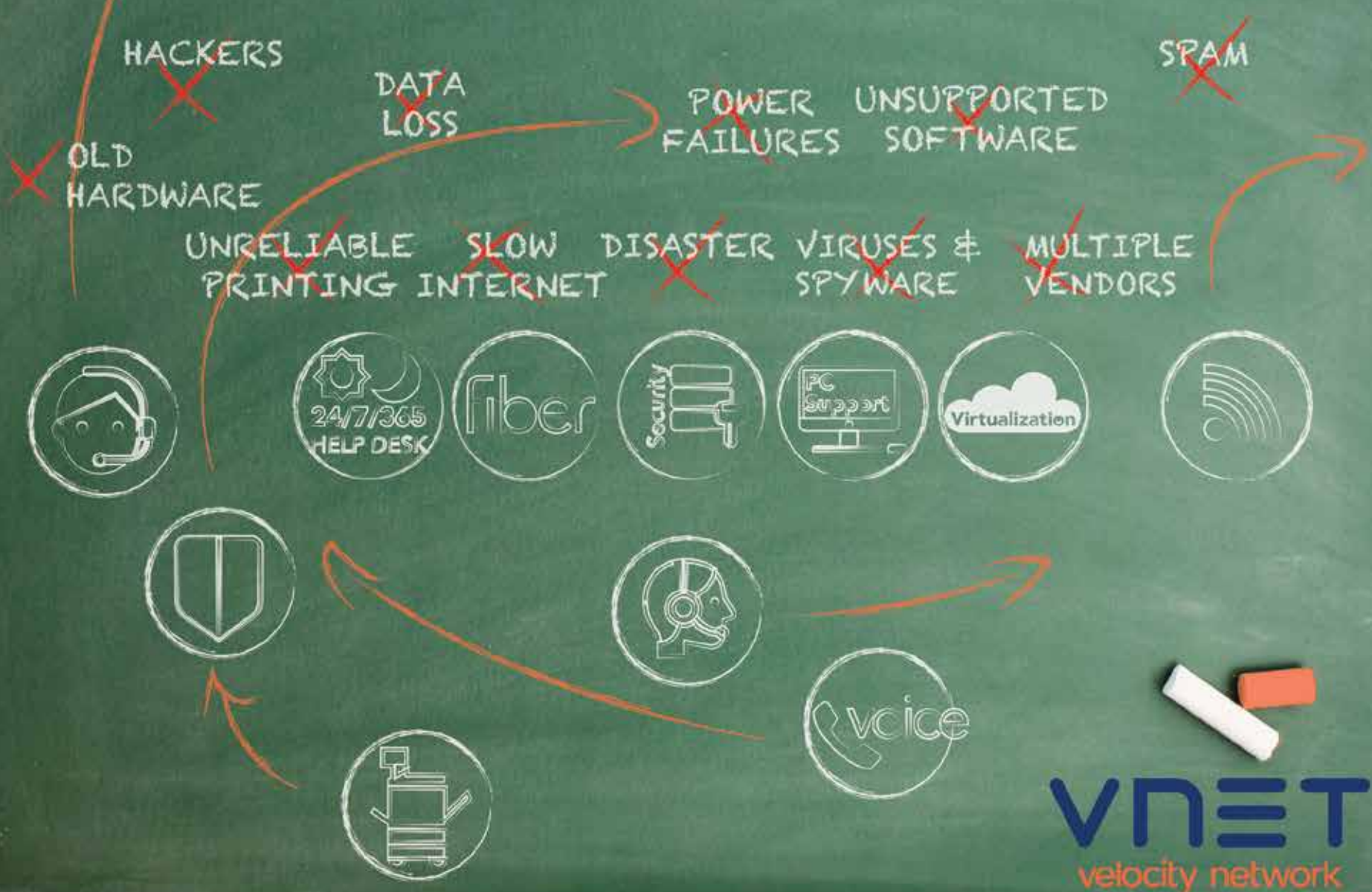
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# Cryptozooboolumination

Curious creatures at home and abroad

By: Matt Swanseger

“I love Erie, but there’s just not enough biodiversity for me here.”

And off goes yet another friend or loved one, station wagon heaving from a life of lies packed stubbornly away. Never mind the 400 species of terrestrial vertebrates dwelling in Presque Isle State Park or the 100 unique species residing at the Erie Zoo, all readily observable and authenticated by science. There are bigger and better things out there and authors Stan Gordon (*Astonishing Encounters: Pennsylvania’s Unknown Creatures*) and Michael Newton (*Strange Pennsylvania Monsters*) have the (predominantly hysterical) eyewitness accounts and amateur sketches to prove it.

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Anyone claiming to have encountered an unusual creature will swear they are f’real – but are they f’real f’real? That is at the discretion of a cryptozoologist, or a “studier of hidden animals.”

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Pennsylvanians have beheld just about everything over the years – from a tailgating pterodactyl in Jeanette (observers noted that it flew “like a complete and utter pteroasshole,” trailing a helicopter at close range) to a half-cabbie/half-kangaroo in Lancaster County (it “shouted something in a foreign language” before hopping into the woods, according to a witness). Given these reports, it’s easy to see how our town might lack for culture. But are we really missing out on anything?

Anyone claiming to have encountered an unusual creature will swear they are f’real – but are they f’real f’real? That is at the discretion of a cryptozoologist, or a “studier of hidden animals.” Paranormal cryptozoologists (such as Gordon, a former state director of the Mutual UFO Network) are more flexible as to what constitutes “reality” than “flesh-n-blood” cryptozoologists (Newton), who require physical proof. Before you collapse from a scoffing fit, bear in mind that a few incredible species *have* been (re)discovered, such as the coelacanth (a fugly prehistoric fish) and the giant squid (the “Kraken” of seafarer lore).

In general, cryptids (i.e., the hidden animals) are lumped into four major categories: 1) animals resembling extant species but with extraordinary variation(s) in size or appearance, 2) OOPs – known species that are “out-of-place” in a given area, 3) species thought to be wiped out locally or globally, which didn’t get the hint, and 4) the “what-is-it?” – a monster that defies all conventional knowledge (i.e., I hope you stocked up on scoff-suppressant lozenges because you actually may *die* of scoffing fits).

## EXHIBIT A: (UNACCREDITED) MONKEY BUSINESS



ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICK WARREN

**Featured creature:** The North American Sasquatch

**Spotted in:** July 1891 (Erie), throughout 1959 (Crawford County), July 1969 (Presque Isle Beach 6), 1970-1971 (40 miles SE of Erie), 1976 (near Cambridge Springs), Autumn 1977 (West Springfield), Autumn 1984 (Greenville), Autumn 1988 (Wesleyville), April 1994 (Girard), June 1998 (1 mile south of Lake Erie), November 2001 (between Hermitage and Mercer), November 2003 (taking a dip at Presque Isle), July 2004 (Fairview), and many more.

**Description:** Pennsylvanians have had more run-ins with the ‘Squatch than any other cryptid by far (490 over a span of 175 years, by Netwon’s count) – but somehow we have diddly-‘Squatch to show for it. The typical Sasquatch is approximately 6.5-10 feet tall, with gangly limbs, little-to-no neck, and a conical head – and covered in various shades of shaggy fur with a texture “like pine needles” (per Crawford County witness Caroline McAdoo). Despite evidence that Bigfoot may use product, its hygiene leaves much to be desired, with its odor compared to “a dead skunk,” “rotten egg,” or an “open sewer.” It walks with an unusual gait, with long strides that are almost mechanical in appearance. Its expressive eyes glow an unearthly fluorescent red, green, or orange (blank, expressionless eyes seem to be a recessive trait).

**Behavior:** Although the Sasquatch has been known to ravage human food supplies (Erie’s 1891 Sasquatch reportedly drained the blood of 500-600 chickens – them ma’luckas got cockadoodle-schooled), it is seldom harmful to humans themselves. However, it is intensely curious of our activities, sometimes displaying borderline voyeuristic tendencies (peeking through windows, hanging around popular makeout spots, etc.).

The best “record” we have of Sasquatch interaction is Jan Klement’s *Kong*, published in 1976 by Allegheny Press (in Elgin, between Union City and Corry). In his narrative, Klement allegedly builds a relationship with a Sasquatch, even teaching it basic commands. Meanwhile, his relationship with his girlfriend suffers, as she accuses him of spending that man-on-mange bonding time with “some whore.” Klement dumps a tearful Kong off in the middle of the Allegheny Forest, but it returns in less than a day. Kong becomes ill shortly thereafter and soon passes away. Respecting Kong’s strict non-disclosure policy, Klement hacks up Kong’s remains with an axe and buries him in West Virginia without snapping a single photograph.

**The apple doesn’t fall from the tree:** Albwatches, or “apple-snitchers,” are shorter, more slender ‘Squatch relatives that peg picnickers with their own fruit.

## EXHIBIT B: MEOW MYTHS



**Featured creature:** The Alien Big Cat (ABC)  
**Spotted in:** 1945-46 (Titusville and Corry), Oct. 1962 (Venango County), Summer 2000 (Summit Township), Summer 2002 (near Edinboro), Oct. 2003 (Girard Borough Park), Feb. 2010 (City of Erie, on Melrose between West 39th and 40th).

**Description:** Cougars once roamed Pennsylvania freely before being (seemingly) extinguished in the late 1800s. Modern sightings almost exclusively refer to “black panthers,” although biologists have yet to recognize melanism (the gene mu- [Cont. on Page 37]



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# Spotlight on Erie

October 12 – 25, 2016

Wednesday, Oct. 12

## Time to Choose Makes Direct Connections between Local Actions and Global Impacts



We're all consumers. We eat, we drive, we heat our homes. For most of us, our food does not grow in our own backyards, our cars are not powered by clean-burning fuels, and our homes are not warmed in chilly November by rooftop solar panels. We consume to make things go, and that part's okay – we probably always will. According to film writer and director Charles Ferguson, it's not the "go" that gets us into trouble – it's the choices we've been making to fuel the "go" that have created devastating problems

*Time to Choose* is as much about the beauty of earth as it is about the effects of our daily actions on our global and local ecosystems.

both locally and around the planet.

*Time to Choose*, Ferguson's third critically-acclaimed documentary, accomplishes much more than any climate documentary of its kind. Presented in themed sections dedicated to the acquisition of major fuel sources, urban sprawl, deforestation, and industrial agriculture, *Time to Choose* is as much about the beauty of earth as it is about the effects of our daily actions on our global and local ecosystems.

"If we continue with business as usual, warming the planet further, by the

middle of this century, we could trigger runaway climate change; a process beyond human control," reports the film's narrator.

The film shows that we don't even have to travel thousands of miles to witness severe destruction – deforestation has been taking place in the form of mountaintop removal for coal in West Virginia for decades. The process is messy, it's ugly, and it kills – plants, animals, workers. But coal is not our only energy choice.

"Phenomenal things are happening," says film subject Steven Chu, former U.S. energy secretary and a Nobel Prize winner in physics. "Technology is developing [fast] ... and the cost of renewable energy is plummeting."

As one film critic states, "It's hard to watch Charles Ferguson's deft climate change documentary *Time to Choose* and think there's any other choice."

Following the film, there will be an engaging panel discussion featuring Benedictine Sister Pat Lupo, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, and Erie Art Museum Director John Vanco. Prior to the film, there will be a special screening of a six minute proof of concept video for *Unearth*, a feature film directed by Film at the Erie Art Museum host, John Lyons. – Ti Sumner

Film at 7 p.m., followed by panel discussion // \$5 // Erie Art Museum, 20 East 5th Street // [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org) or 459.5477 // For more information on the film, visit [timetochoose.com/#paths-to-change](http://timetochoose.com/#paths-to-change).

Wednesday, Oct. 12

## Implementing Erie's Comprehensive Plan Takes Center Stage at JES

You can learn a lot from *Erie Refocused*, the 106-page comprehensive plan compiled earlier this year by Virginia-based urban planning firm CZB, LLC. It's a warts-and-all look at the pains and promises that face the Gem City in its current state. And on a Wednesday evening in mid-October, you can hear from two of its authors at the Jefferson Educational Society.

The plan's language is a mix of tough-love realism and business-friendly optimism. The scale of local "de-investment" is explored in depressing detail – 45 percent of our residential properties are on or near blocks with visibly distressed buildings. At the same time,



the plan praises "a city of great places," where the Bayfront offers an intimate "mixed use urban experience" with plenty of potential.

It's full of practical, pragmatic suggestions. What to do about the roughly 4,700 housing units that currently sit vacant in our city. How to upgrade infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurship. Where to invest in architectural improvements. How to capitalize on the potential of our downtown spac-

*Erie Refocused* is a warts-and-all look at the pains and promises that face the Gem City in its current state.

es, and how to merge them more effectively with our gorgeous lakefront.

CZB's president, Charles Buki, advocates for a transition toward a "postindustrial, technology-driven, service-sector economy" in our region. To Erieites who are all too familiar with three decades of stagnating wages and a long-term decline in manufacturing labor, that might sound unrealistic – or even misguided. But Buki and his team also offer a vision at a time when innovation is surely needed.

And it's not just the vision of some firm from the suburbs of D.C., either. CZB partnered with a range of local organizations to craft the document, including the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, the United Way, and the Erie Community Foundation. They also worked with local universities like Gannon, Mercyhurst, and Penn State Behrend.

At the Jefferson, Buki and CZB associate Peter Lombardi will discuss the plan's implementation, with particular focus on the collaborative efforts needed to make it a success. If you care about the long-term stability of our city, drop by and hear them out. – Dan Schank

7 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. // [jeserie.org/events#10\\_12\\_2016](http://jeserie.org/events#10_12_2016)

Friday, Oct. 14

## Spook-tacular Fun: Erie Zoo's Annual Event Creeps Up on Us

Somewhere in the city, a troll practices a scratchy voice, 200,000 pieces of candy have been secured, skulls are being polished, and pumpkins are being gathered. Yes, it's time for ZooBoo!

ZooBoo attracts approximately 40,000 visitors over the course of its 16 days, some of them coming from as far as Cleveland. "The community just loves ZooBoo," says Emily Antolik, marketing and public relations assistant. "It is a significant fundraiser for the zoo, but also so much fun."

It's no surprise, with the array of family-friendly fun to be had. The 12-and-under set can trick-or-treat at 10 booths as well as have their faces painted, or participate in craft activities when they're not out collecting sugary treasure. Along the way, you'll find a talking pumpkin, games to play, and all kinds of spooky fun.

For an additional fee, you can ride the carousel or take a trip on the Safariland train. While rolling down the tracks, keep your eyes open for some very mysterious and mythical creatures – maybe even Bigfoot – lurking in the dark.

You can snag a free carousel ride if you go on opening night and are one of the first 1,000 through the gate, courtesy of sponsor, Chik-fil-A. If you don't like crowds, though, you may want to consider a rainy night, which offers fewer people and shorter lines. "A lot of people prefer rainy nights," Antolik says with a laugh. "They can get in and out more quickly, which might be good with little ones."

In case you haven't heard yet, ZooBoo is (say it with me) scary, but not too scary. So rig up the kids' costumes or grab a date, and prepare to answer a troll's question at the bridge. Hint: A turtle can live 150 years. You didn't hear



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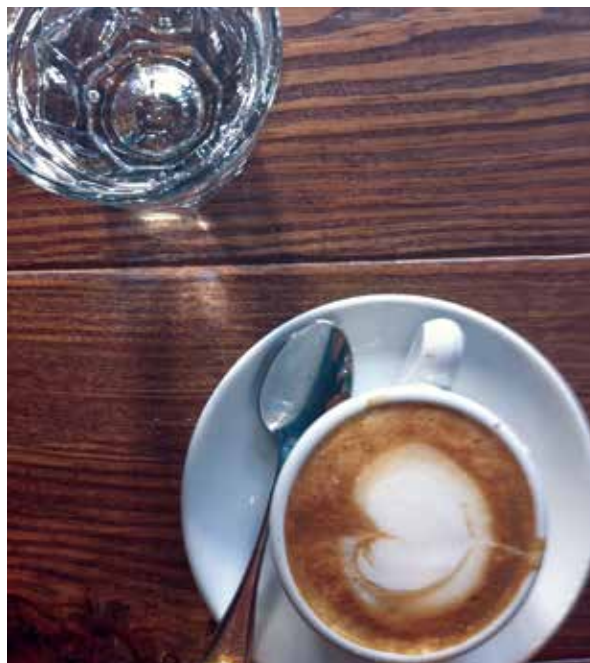
Erie Times News



## CALENDAR

### Erie's Best Coffee

Local cups compete to benefit the St. Martin Center.



SALIM VIRJI

pher Arkwright of Young Erie Professionals, Tom DiVecchio of WJET, Bishop Lawrence T. Persico of the Diocese of Erie, and Bill Scholz from Radius CoWork.

Activities for the kids include creating coffee can drums (because mom and dad's coffee addiction can be fun for the kids too!), decorating a coffee mug, or hopping in coffee sack races. The event also features a Chinese auction with great items up for grabs: prizes ranging from a \$100 value coffee basket from Wegmans or gift cards from places

#### SUNDAY, OCT. 16

In these troubled times, there is still some joy in the world. Or at least my morning coffee makes me believe that. In spite of the fact that it is a presidential election year, we can introspectively sip on our coffee and wonder where the world went wrong. And somehow good coffee makes it all better for a brief moment. To invoke such happy feelings and in order to truly overcome the issues of the day, excellent coffee is vital.

So how does one go about finding the best cup of coffee around? Fortunately for Erie, the St. Martin Center is here to help with their 2nd annual Erie's Best Coffee event, bringing the coffee shops of Erie together for a taste-testing extravaganza headed by local celebrity judges: Liz Allen of the *Erie Times-News*, Christo-

such as Art's Bakery or the Brewerrie, a kids' basket, and even more.

Last year's first prize coffee shop, The Wave Cafe at the Erie Art Museum, will be back to defend their title. Based on the last cup of coffee I had at the museum, they have a great chance of clinching the title again this year. Come out and decide for yourself who has Erie's best cup of coffee. – Angie Jeffery

*Erie's Best Coffee takes place at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center on Sunday, Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10; children 12 and under free. All proceeds benefit the St. Martin Center. Your ticket gets you a sample of every coffee at the event and a great day filled with family fun that will put everything right with the world for at least one afternoon.*

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**NOVEMBER 7, 2016 AT 7:30 PM**  
 **Unnatural Selection: Does Wilderness Have a Place in the 21st Century?**  
M.R. O'Connor, M.S.

**NOVEMBER 9 AT 7:30 PM**  
 **Deep Brain Stimulation: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Depression, and the Switch to Turn Them Off**  
Andres Lozano, M.D.

**NOVEMBER 10 AT 7:30 PM**  
 **When Roads Diverge: Robert Frost and Belief in the Future\***  
David Orr, J.D., Lesley Lee Francis, Ph.D., Robert Hass, Ph.D., Don Sheehy, Ph.D.  
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\*VIP tickets and passes provide preferred seating


\*\*Admission to Global Summit events for all Erie County students is free of charge with proof of enrollment and attendance; advance registration is required.

## THIS YEAR'S GLOBAL SUMMIT SPEAKER LINE-UP


**NOVEMBER 7, 2016 AT 7:30 PM**




**Unnatural Selection: Does Wilderness Have a Place in the 21st Century?**  
M.R. O'Connor, M.S.




**NOVEMBER 9 AT 7:30 PM**




**Deep Brain Stimulation: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Depression, and the Switch to Turn Them Off**  
Andres Lozano, M.D.




**NOVEMBER 10 AT 7:30 PM**



**When Roads Diverge: Robert Frost and Belief in the Future\***  
David Orr, J.D., Lesley Lee Francis, Ph.D., Robert Hass, Ph.D., Don Sheehy, Ph.D.  
\*In partnership with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania




**NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:30 PM**




**An Evening with Fred Barnes, Executive Editor and Co-Founder of *The Weekly Standard***  
Fred Barnes

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546




**NOVEMBER 15 AT 7:30 PM**




**An Evening with Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin**  
Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D.


The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



**NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:30 PM**



**The RECAP Initiative: Reducing Youth and Gang Violence by 79 percent in Boston**  
Rev. Jeffrey Brown, M.Ed., M. Div.



**NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:30 PM**



**The Smartest Places on Earth: Why Rustbelts are the Emerging Hotspots of Global Innovation**  
Antoine van Agtmael, M.B.A., M.A.

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



**NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30 PM**




**The Digital Forevermore: Are We Ready?**  
Hon. Tom Ridge, J.D.
























The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



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## CineFestAsia at Erie Art Museum

Experience world cinema in a local setting.

OCTOBER 14 - 16



On Oct. 14, 15, and 16, the Erie Asian Pacific American Association (APAA), in conjunction with The Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, will present CineFestAsia. Three films, three days, each viewing offered at matinee prices in the comfortable ambience of the Erie Art Museum.

As APAA President Meera Kumar states, "These films showcase the uniqueness of life experiences in Asia and at the same time show how many of these experiences are universal. [The festival is a good way] to share our diverse cultures with the local community through film."

Opening night will feature *She Remembers, He Forgets*, one of the headliners at the 2015 Hong Kong Asian Film Festival. A romantic comedy, the story flashes back to events in Gigi Yu Feng-zi's (played by Miriam Yeung and Cecilia So) youth to show how her decisions affected her adult life.

*Dheepan* brings action and drama to Saturday night with the story of three Sri Lankan refugees who meet in a camp

and later pose as a family to seek asylum in France. Giving up homes and belongings for a foreign land become secondary concerns as these characters face identity, relationship, and cultural challenges.

Sunday's finale, *The Journey*, juxtaposes new with old, conservative with progressive as the film travels both geographic and metaphorical miles. It is the top-grossing Malaysian film of 2014, and yes – there are feel-good moments as the main characters, a modern-day quintessential odd couple, travel to the bride-to-be's home to win her father's approval for marriage. – Ti Sumner

Friday, Oct. 14: *She Remembers, He Forgets* at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 15: *Dheepan* at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 16: *The Journey* at 2 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. // Tickets \$5 and can be purchased at the door // For more information on APAA, visit [erieapaa.org](http://erieapaa.org).

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## CALENDAR

### Erie Homecoming

A meeting of the minds to move Erie forward

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26

It's not uncommon to see comparisons between Erie and other Rust Belt cities like Detroit within our pages; nor is it uncommon to hear them being made among the forward-thinking populace working hard to make Erie vibrant and vital. The Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership is taking a cue from a popular Detroit idea – the Detroit Homecoming – and starting our own Erie Homecoming.

Detroit began their series three years ago, inviting influential, successful former residents to come back to the city and talk, network, and invest where they began. Erie has major success stories as well, and they are heading back to town to share their experiences.

Confirmed attendees include: Joseph Bione, president and CEO at American Specialty Vehicles Corporation in Detroit; Dr. Joe Cacchione, chairman of strategic operations and network development for Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland; Gary Carano, CEO and chair-

man of the board of Eldorado Resorts, Inc. in Reno, Nevada; Robert DeMichiei, chief financial officer for UPMC in Pittsburgh; Sean Hagerty, head of product at Vanguard Group in Philadelphia; Kevin Hughes, president of Portfolio Solutions for Cushman & Wakefield in Cincinnati; John Lilley, former provost at Penn State Behrend and past president of the University of Nevada, Reno and Baylor University; and Barbara Smith Warner, member of the Oregon House of Representatives.

Many Erie-based businesses will also be in attendance, showcasing the dynamic capabilities of Erie's business sector. The event is free and open to the public. All are encouraged to attend and join in the dialogue. – Angie Jeffery

*The Erie Homecoming Event takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 26 at the Bayfront Convention Center and is free and open to the public. You can find more information at [eriepa.com/erie-homecoming](http://eriepa.com/erie-homecoming).*

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MAKE THE RIGHT MOVE

[Cont. from Page 19]

tation resulting in an all-black coat) in any big cat other than the jaguar or leopard. Titusville witness Judy Walters sighted a “shiny and jet black” feline on her property on Aug. 22, 1945, and a spate of panther reports followed in nearby Corry and Chautauqua County, New York. Titusville police blamed the usual “wrecked carnival” in New York state – which was either a strong indictment of carnival workers or their own investigative prowess, since no documentation was provided. Most estimates place the ABC at 3-4 feet long and 2-3 feet high with a “swishy” tail and “glowing” yellow eyes, tipping the scales at 100-plus pounds.

**Behavior:** Like absentee parents, ABCs only show up on a whim – and never when you need validation the most. There is some speculation that black panthers are shapeshifters, supernatural entities (some say the spirits of native tribes dispossessed of their land) lunging through hoops in the interdimensional fabric as if it were a circus act. Occasionally those big paws of theirs hit a snag in the time-space draperies and they appear in the temporal realm, only to dissolve again into nothingness. *Purrposterous?* It’s all a matter of *purr*ception.



**EXHIBIT C: AMERICA’S GOT TALONS**

**Featured creature:** The Tufted Thunderbird  
**Spotted in:** June-July 2001 (Greenville and Summit townships)

**Description:** Most concisely summarized by a Derry Township man as “an eagle on steroids.” These raged-out raptors boast bodacious wingspans of 12 feet or more, with diamond-shaped tails, foot-long hooked beaks (sometimes with tuft “goatee” underneath), and grip strength so insane they can pluck deer and livestock off the ground (without the aid of straps or chalk) Standing up, they can look a seated human straight in the eye – although you might not want to get into a staring contest with one, because Native American legend has it they are equipped with lightning-vision (power metal lyricists everywhere are drooling). The last non-mythical birds to approach such stature were the prehistoric teratons, which went extinct 10,000 years ago.

**Behavior:** Native American mythology characterizes the Thunderbird as wrathful and vengeful, but modern examples have at times proven otherwise

(such as the specimen that rescued a snakebitten hiker in the 1930s). Takeoff can be labored, but once airborne they are more graceful than a stunt plane, gliding on air currents with a sound like “flags flapping in a storm” despite being minimally flap-happy with little wasted motion. Who knew bird-watching could be so extreme?

**Related:** The Fayette County Dragon, because the only thing more bitchin’ than an electrified eagle is a fire-breathing reptile.



**EXHIBIT D: SNARK TANK**

**Featured creature:** Bessie, Nessie’s bestie from the Westie

**Spotted in:** 1993 or 1995 (Presque Isle)  
**Description:** B-list Bessie hasn’t gotten the press that her more popular plesiosaurority sister (as if!) Nessie has, but there have been whispers of her existence among the Lake Erie waves for decades. A boy and his father allegedly caught her napping on the north shore of Presque Isle in the mid-90s, a spectacle the boy recollected so vividly he was able

B-list Bessie hasn’t gotten the press that her more popular plesiosaurority sister (as if!) Nessie has, but there have been whispers of her existence among the Lake Erie waves for decades.

to sculpt it from memory decades later. Bessie was an estimated 40-45 feet long and 15 feet high at the shoulders, with blue-gray skin, an elongated neck, and an enlarged head and flippers like that of a sea turtle.

**Behavior:** Bessie is typically regarded as a benign and unobtrusive presence. She could afford to be more body-positive, as the witness noted her voluptuous hind end obscured by tall grasses. Don’t be shy, babygurl – you’re beautiful just the way you are.

**Total opposite:** The Storm Hag, a strong, independent green woman with catlike eyes, shark-like teeth, and poison-tipped claws. You’re having what she’s having for dinner – if you’re lucky, a lungful of pristine Lake Erie water. If not, a lungful of algae-infused, postindustrial bilge.

**EXHIBIT E: MAN CAVE**



**Featured creature:** The Waterford Sheepman  
**Spotted in:** Early 1970s Waterford

**Description:** Peach Street traffic isn’t the only nightmare concerning U.S. Route 19 – this half-man, half-goat provided an equally valid reason to stay home back in the day.

**Behavior:** Sheepman’s staunch support of abstinence education was something approaching zealotry. He jumped from the rafters of the Waterford covered bridge onto parked cars, tearing the rooftops away to expose young fornicators to Heaven’s judgment\*. He also singlehandedly raised the price of goods at the local farmers markets, massacring livestock at will. Talk about fleecing paying customers!

*\*Aside: Despite their intrusive reputation, cryptids do seem to have at least an elementary grasp of boundaries. Sure, they’ll disrupt pairs of curfew-breakers “fooling around,” but I’ve noticed none of these narratives begin with “On our wedding night, shortly before we consummated our marriage ...” or “As my immediate family gathered around to draft my will ...” or “Whilst we hotly debated painting the living room a warm or neutral color ...” #InterruptionWithIntegrity*

**No less a man:** But not much of a moth was West Virginia’s Mothman, a sort of mutant archangel with a good-sized bug head (endowed with the prerequisite bulging red eyes) on his broad bruh-shoulders. The feathered fiend ostensibly emerged from a disused munitions facility locals dubbed the “TNT area” in the mid-to-late 1960s and proceeded to harass teenagers in Point Pleasant, West Virginia and later the outskirts of Pittsburgh after dark.

Mothman strikes me as a spry fellow who simply needed a more productive outlet for his energy – for instance, instead of chasing convertibles at speeds in excess of 100 mph, perhaps he could’ve taken up cryptozoology?

As it is with cars, so it is with monsters, or dreams – you may never catch ‘em all, but sometimes it’s the belief that’s worth pursuing.

*Matt Swanseger can be reached at mswanseger@eriereader.com. You can follow him on Twitter @SwazzySwagga or read his blog at squanderoza.com.*

## MUSIC REVIEWS

### Danny Brown

Atrocity Exhibition  
Warp Records



It's easy to contribute Danny Brown's rise in rap to his idiosyncrasies. He's the Detroit punk rapper, the self-proclaimed "Adderall Admiral," whose music exists to assault its listeners with an abrasive voice, enormous beats, and painfully crafted lyricism. *Atrocity Exhibition* is saturated with everything that we've come to expect from Brown, but it's the artist's willingness to experiment on this album that allows him to break new ground. As a whole, the album engages themes of isolation, mental collapse, and drug abuse. Warp Records' history of signing sonically visionary artists (think Boards of Canada and Flying Lotus) wasn't lost on Brown, and he allows himself to be challenged by the breadth of his soundscape. Certain transitions are jarring, but it's his ability to blend form with content that earn each track a position within the album's arc. Lyrically, it is allusion-heavy and critical, and Brown's word-play is often at its most intricate. By the end, its themes may feel overstated, but *Atrocity Exhibition* is a showcase of versatility and a step toward artistic maturity. – Nicolas Miller



### Bon Iver

22, A Million  
JagJaguwar



At first, the sound might surprise you. This is a far, far cry from *For Emma, Forever Ago*. In the wake of *22, A Million*, 2011's doubly eponymous *Bon Iver*, *Bon Iver* serves as a beautiful, Grammy-winning bridge between sounds. At first glance, despite having a comma in its title, this new album shares little in common with Bon Iver's previous two efforts. That, of course, is purely superficial. Bon Iver is Justin Vernon, his voice, his lyrics, and his vision. Vernon's prior collaborations with Kanye West on *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* and *Yeezus* suddenly become more significant. The production similarity between this and West's work are perplexingly abundant. Right from the first notes, the results are exquisite. "22 (OVER S<sup>∞</sup>ON)" instantly feels generation-defining, in all of its M83-esque glory. Synthesized tones sculpt the sound into poignant pleas. The album is far from reserved, letting loose epic, blasting sections in "33 'GOD,'" and "666 ↓," among others (cover artist Eric Timothy Carlson helped to create the symbol-heavy album titles). Tracks like "715 - CRΣΣKS" see Vernon shaping his poetic falsetto with auto-tune harmonies and modern R&B production. – Nick Warren



### Cymbals Eat Guitars

Pretty Years  
Sinderlyn



Beginning with subtle, staccato palm muting, "Finally" doesn't wait long to add in the lush bomb bursts that Cymbals Eat Guitars are known for. The Philadelphia quartet have perfected a rich, modern shoegaze sound filled with echoey, effects-laden instrumentation. It even makes sense that their keyboard player, Brian Hamilton, has his own guitar pedal company, small-sound/big-sound. The tweaked tones mix with their emotional punk songwriting for something refreshingly welcome. Singer Joseph D'Agostino's lyrics are filled with sympathetic prose, evocative of past experiences, sung with the grainy eloquence of *Cursive* (with whom they toured in 2012). Melody-driven tracks like "Well" and "Have a Heart" even bring an almost poppy edge to the album. *Pretty Years* falls just short in affecting the listener as immediately and dramatically as 2014's *Lose*, which was this reviewer's single favorite album that year. After multiple plays, however, *Pretty Years* comes out of its shell, resonating deeply and profoundly with the listener. If this level of quality continues, Cymbals Eat Guitars will easily become more recognized as one of the finest indie rock bands today. – Nick Warren



### LVL Up

Return to Love  
Sub Pop



It's impossible to overstate how perfectly *Return to Love* opens. "Hidden Driver" is one of most severely addicting tracks of the year, filled with a holy radiance brilliantly stolen from the Neutral Milk Hotel and the Thermals. The album shifts gears from guitarist Dave Benton's Jeff Mangum impression to guitarist Mike Caridi's excellent Built to Spill flavor (Benton and Caridi also happen to run the label Double Double Whammy). "Spirit Was" showcases bassist Nick Corbo's J. Mascis-meets-Stephen Malkmus tone. It's not as if the band feels disingenuous, eliciting such comparisons from other acts. LVL Up is on the same, well, level. They're not hiding it, either. You can find a Spotify playlist from the band unceremoniously titled, "Bands that Influenced *Return to Love*." Aside from drummer Greg Rutkin, every member is an active songwriter unto himself. The fact that the band has three different singers goes relatively unnoticed. Even after multiple listens, it all still feels like a product of the same voice. This is LVL Up's third full length, and one that almost didn't happen, as the restless band almost split before signing to Sub Pop. Thank goodness they stayed together. – Nick Warren



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**10/26 INTO THE FOREST (2015)**  
 After a massive power outage, two sisters learn to survive on their own in their isolated woodland home.

**11/2 SALAM NEIGHBOR (2015) with Panel Discussion**  
 Two filmmakers fully embed themselves in a Syrian refugee camp.  
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**11/9 CHRISTINE (2016) with Panel Discussion**  
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**[Cont. from Page 16]**

run unopposed in the Democratic primaries for 14 years, Fabrizio is seeking an eighth term at the age of 71. The district houses Summit Township, Belle Valley, and much of Erie's west side. Fabrizio serves on the House Policy, Rules, and Health committees (chairing Health).

Running against him is Republican Pat Fuller. Besting Michael Pace in the primary, Fuller, 42, is a customer service specialist and longtime supporter of the GOP.

Pennsylvania's 3rd District is made of up Millcreek, McKean, and Washington townships, including Presque Isle and Pennsylvania's portion of Lake Erie. Running for a third term is Democrat Ryan Bizzarro. Sworn in at age 27, he was the youngest member of the 197th session. Bizzarro serves on six

committees (as an officer in three), and is a member of 10 different Pennsylvania caucuses.

Bizzarro's opponent, Greg Lucas, 56, was a former State Representative for Pennsylvania's 5th, before it was redistricted to Berks County in 2014. Similar to Laughlin, Lucas is a contractor. He was born in Edinboro, later serving as its mayor.

On the eastern side of Erie County, we see Pennsylvania's 4th District. From North East to Union City, the district is represented by Curt Sonney. He is the third former contractor on this list, and is a member of the United Auto Workers Local 832. Running for a seventh term, the Republican found himself unopposed in April's primary. He goes into the general election unopposed, as well.

Erie County's portion of the

6th District is comprised of Fairview, Franklin, and Elk Creek townships. Much of

---

**Pennsylvania's 3rd District is made of up Millcreek, McKean, and Washington townships, including Presque Isle and Pennsylvania's portion of Lake Erie. Running for a third term is Democrat Ryan Bizzarro. Sworn in at age 27, he was the youngest member of the 197th session.**

---

Crawford County's central region makes up its lower half. Republican Brad Roae of Meadville has served the area

since 2007. Roae, 49, serves on the House Finance, Human Services, and Insurance and State Government committees.

Running for his sixth term, the conservative Roae is challenged by Democratic newcomer Peter Zimmer, 29. Having worked at the Voodoo Brewery, Zimmer is an advocate for healthy food and worker's rights, and other progressive concerns.

The westernmost side of Erie County hosts the state's 17th District, from West Springfield and Girard, down to Conneaut Lake, Jamestown, and New Wilmington. Democrat Parke Wentling is seeking a second term for the House. Wentling, 43, was a teacher before going into politics. The Mercer County native serves on the House Game & Fisheries, Human Services, Local Government, and

Tourism & Recreational Development committees.

Returning to challenge Wentling is former District Judge Wayne Hanson. The Conneautville Republican and Marine Corps veteran is 73. Hanson ran against Wentling in 2014, and is also a former teacher.

In addition to the standard races, there will be a proposed constitutional amendment concerning judicial retirement age. A "yes" vote will raise the age limit for retirement from 70 to 75.

So there you have it! This is, of course, only the tip of the iceberg. If you want to know more about any candidate, they're usually only a few mouse clicks away. The good thing is, you still have plenty of time to do your homework.

*Nick Warren can be contacted at [nick@ErieReader.com](mailto:nick@ErieReader.com).*

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# Erie Faces Erie

**Drew Farrell**

artist

**Ed Bernik**

photographer

*"Just remember that you don't have to be like all of the other artists. Do your own thing from deep in the heart."*

**Ed Bernik:** So you're now 12 years old. When did you first feel passionate about drawing?

**Drew Farrell:** I always loved to draw. I used to draw in pre-school; my teacher had a hard time getting me to concentrate on my schoolwork.

**EB:** Do you still have some of your early work?

---

Sometimes I draw something and think it's beautiful, and then the next day see room for improvement, and then a few days later think, "What did I do?"

---

**DF:** I do. It's in a box above my closet.

**EB:** You were selected to have one of your designs used by The North Face clothing company. How did you get involved in that?

**DF:** My mom told me about the contest and I got interested. I started with a bunch of

designs and then narrowed it down.

**EB:** Were these designs something you already had, or was this totally new stuff specifically for The North Face?

**DF:** Most of it was new stuff. But some of it was based on older pieces.

**EB:** Where did the idea for the pattern come from?

**DF:** Last summer, we went to Seattle and hiked Mount Rainier. We were hiking from base camp and were so high up that when we looked down, all we saw were the foothills and all these trees – and they went on for miles and miles. When I was thinking about the design for the t-shirts, I thought a pattern would be better than a scene because you could repeat it. They could use it more easily.

**EB:** So your pattern is based on foothill mountain ranges?

**DF:** Yes.

**EB:** Do you have some favorite artists who inspire you?

**DF:** I like Vincent van Gogh a lot. I drew a big collage of a bunch of famous artists' work, and I put it on my door. It was works of van Gogh, da Vinci, Michelangelo, Vermeer, Mondrian, Dali, and Picasso.

**EB:** So you like a wide range of different artists. Who do you like best for color? Any modern folks?

**DF:** I follow a couple of pen and ink artists on Instagram. I like Anne Chihiro and Qinni Art, which is anime.

**EB:** What medium do you like to use when doing your artwork?

**DF:** I use Copic markers. I got them for my birthday and I love them so much. They blend nicely.

**EB:** Is all of your work done by hand, or do you also use a computer?

**DF:** All by hand. I do sometimes doodle on my phone with an app.

**EB:** But you do all of your real work by hand?

**DF:** Yes, by hand.

**EB:** Are there any TV shows that inspire you?

**DF:** No, not really. What I do is read a book and think, "This is really a great book." Then I draw something about it. I will take that book and make a collage.



Like *Alice in Wonderland*. And I always liked that movie.

**EB:** So did you take classes from a teacher?

**DF:** No. I went to a lot of summer camps that taught different mediums. I went to watercolor camp. One camp was about facial expressions and hand movement. And I do a lot of Asbury Woods camps. Those are very informational.

**EB:** Do you like to be outside? Are you a nature guy, too?

**DF:** Well, I like to run and play

soccer. And we go on family hikes. I like to draw outside sometimes, but I mainly like to draw in my room.

**EB:** Is every piece a keeper?

**DF:** Sometimes I draw something and think it's beautiful, and then the next day see room for improvement, and then a few days later think, "What did I do?"

**EB:** What would you tell other kids who want to be artists? How would you tell them to realize their dream?

**DF:** Just focus on your art. Just practice a lot and find subjects that you like to draw. Just remember that you don't have to be like all of the other artists. You don't have to copy other artists. Do your own thing from deep in the heart. Have your creative environment – your markers or whatever.

**EB:** Thank you, Drew. Now let's go make a portrait.

*Ed Bernik:*  
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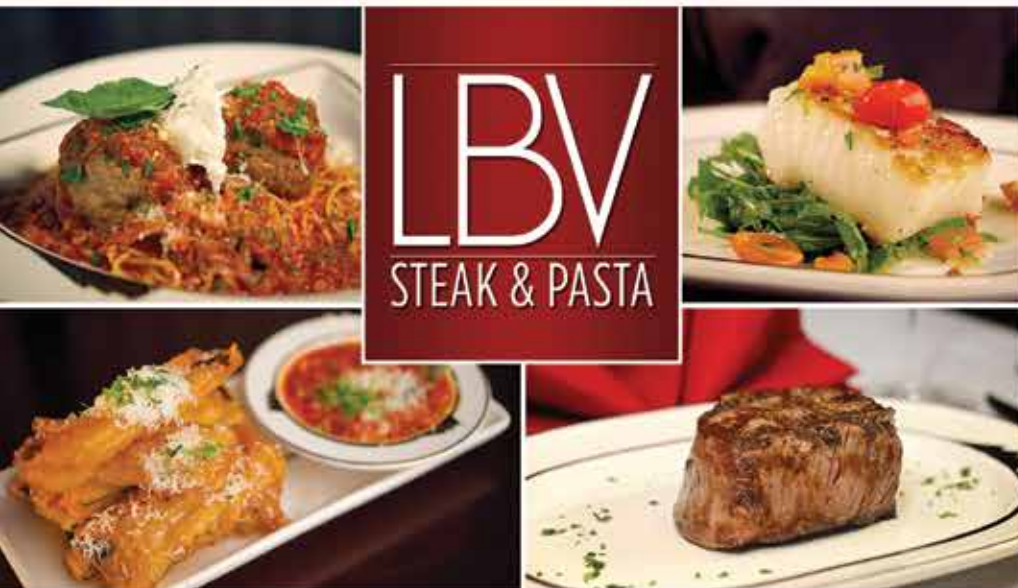
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