

**COMMUNITY ISSUES REPORT**  
**10:00 pm (Monday-Sunday) 35 Minutes**  
**“Fox 66 News at 10”**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2006**

**October 2006**

October 3

Candidate Forum: With mid-term elections just 30 days away, Action News 24 presented the first in a series of candidate forums. Our 5:30pm broadcast featured a 30-minute discussion with Green Party US Candidate Carl Romanelli. He was facing a challenge to his election ballots and ultimately did not appear on the November ballot.  
:35

October 10

Candidate Forum: Incumbent Republican US Senator Rick Santorum has trailed in the pre- election polls from the very beginning. He is in the challenge of his political career, facing Democrat Bob Casey Jr. We hosted a live 30-minute candidate forum with Senator Santorum in 5:30pm broadcast on this date.  
:50

Governor Debate: Incumbent Democratic Governor Ed Rendell is facing Republican and Super Bowl Champion Lynn Swann in the race for Governor. Tonight they squared off in a face-to-face LIVE debate in Philadelphia. JET-TV carried the debate live from 7 to 8 pm from ABC affiliate WPVI  
1:00.

October 31

Candidate Forum: Action News 24 hosted its third and final candidates forum in the race for the US Senate seat in Pennsylvania. Our 5:30 pm news broadcast was dedicated to a discussion of the issues with Democratic challenger Bob Casey Jr. Casey has maintained a double-digit lead in the polls over GOP incumbent Rick Santorum.  
:45

**November 2006**

November 7

Election Day: Action News 24 and FOX 66 featured all the days election news from our first broadcast Good Morning Erie, 12 noon, live reports at 5-5:30-6pm. We featured cut-ins throughout the evening as election results began to come in. And we have a complete wrap-up of local and statewide races on Fox 66 News at 10, and Action News 24 at 11pm.  
:55

November 9

Parade St Crime: A Target 24 Special Report focused on the problem of crime on Parade St in Erie. Parade St is Erie's original main street, and is the focus of a significant attempt to redevelop the area by both public and private partnerships. Unfortunately crime continues to be an issue. This report went undercover to reveal the crime that takes place, practically in plain view...drugs, prostitution, etc.

5PM 6PM and 11pm

:35

November 20-21-22

Great American Toy Test: Action News 24 in cooperation with toy manufacturers and the Erie YMCA daycare centers tested some of the newest toys on the market for Christmas. Toys were distributed to several area daycares for children to play with. Our report focused on what kids liked and didn't like and what was a sure bet for consumers this holiday season. It was a three day report each night on Action News 24 at 5 and 6pm

:50.

November 28

Crystal Meth Housing: Drug enforcement agencies are finding more and more people cooking the popular drug crystal meth. It's a dangerous process for those who cook it, those who live around a meth house, and those who may purchase a former meth house unknowingly. Our Target 24 special report focused on what the dangers are to the environment, local housing stock, and the people who may be unsuspecting victims, and what can be done about it. Our reports were featured at 5pm, 6pm and 11pm.

:45

November 30<sup>th</sup>

Tech Detox: More and more people are becoming tech dependant. They can't seem to function without their cell phones, computers, iPods, and other electronic gadgets. We asked people from all walks of life to go for a week without technology. Our Target 24 special report focused on the results, and ramifications of tech dependency. It ran in our 5, 6 and 11pm newscasts..

:50

## **December 2006**

December 1

Millcreek Flooding: Heavy rains inundated a Millcreek neighborhood that often falls victim to flooding. This, despite on-going efforts to provide this neighborhood some relief during heavy storms. Our coverage focused on the rain, the damage, the victims, and what authorities are doing to help.

Noon - 5pm - 5:30pm - 6pm - 10pm - 11pm

:45

December 8

**Firemen Furloughed:** As the City of Erie wrestles with balancing a budget, there is a serious proposal to furlough 16 firemen. Fire chiefs from the past decade appeared before Erie City Council to protest the plan, along with fireman's union. Ultimately the firemen were furloughed.

Noon – 5pm – 5:30pm – 6pm – 10pm – 11pm.

:35

December 9

**PI Down Job Fair:** A new slots casino and race track will open in February. Today a job fair was hosted for those interested in working at the new entertainment venue. Thousands of people showed up looking for hundreds of jobs being offered.

6pm – 10pm - 11pm

:55

December 12 and 17

**Governor Raymond Shafer Dies:** Former Pa Governor Raymond Shafer died in Meadville. Governor Ed Rendell, Lt Gov Catherine Baker Knoll, former governors Dick Thornburgh and Tom Ridge all came to pay their respects. Shafer was a former state legislator, Crawford County District Attorney, Lt. Governor under William Scranton, and served presidents. Our coverage included the announcement of his death, arrangements for calling hours, and coverage of his funeral service at Allegheny College in Meadville.

5pm – 5:30pm – 6pm – 10pm – 11pm

6pm – 10pm – 11pm

:1:20

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**July 2006**

July 5-6   Manhunt for Bucky Phillips

A fugitive remains on the run from authorities after breaking out of prison in Erie County, New York in April. He is accused of shooting a NY State Trooper. Authorities believe he is hiding out in nearby Chautauqua County.

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July 12-13, 27   NFG Hearing

National Fuel Gas has proposed a rate hike, and a surcharge on customers who conserved too much natural gas last winter. Customers are outraged and gave NFG an earful at a public meeting. PUC hearings on the matter will be held at a later date. A local consumer activist is holding public training sessions teaching NFG customers how to file a formal complaint with the PUC.

July 16-17, 31   Hot Summer Weather

Temperatures many days this month were in the 90s. Humidity was high. This causes problems for people, animals and systems like our local power industry. Everyone is trying to stay cool, and beat the heat. Energy consumption is high. The power issues caused sporadic power outages during the heat wave.

1:15, 1:00, 1:30

**August 2006**

August 15-17-18-19-21-22   Erie Zoo Polar Bear Injured, Surgery, Dies

Alcor, one of the popular polar bears at the Erie Zoo is discovered to have an injured paw. The paw is so badly broken that local vets don't offer much hope. A Philadelphia vet who operated on the Kentucky Derby winning horse offers to fix Alcor's paw. Surgery goes well, but on the return trip to Erie, Alcor dies. This is tragic because just months earlier, the Zoo's new Gorilla, while in route to Erie, also dies unexpectedly.

August 17-18-19-20 Celebrate Erie

The largest festival in downtown Erie takes place, Celebrate Erie. It begins Thursday evening with A Taste of Erie, featuring local restaurants. The highlight is Friday night with a Beach Boys concert on State St. It is the highlight of the summer season in downtown Erie. We were live from the event starting Thursday evening, and throughout the weekend.

August 21-22-23-24-25 Crawford County Fair

The biggest social event in Crawford County is the Crawford County Fair, billed as the largest agricultural fair in Pennsylvania. A quarter of a million people visit the fair each summer. We broadcast live from the fair every night of the week, Monday through Friday.

August 31 Bucky Phillips Manhunt – 2 NY Troopers shot

An escaped fugitive from New York that has alluded authorities since April, is believed to have shot two troopers in nearby Chautauqua County. One of the injured troopers is flown to an Erie hospital. This incident intensifies a manhunt that has been going on all summer.

3:30

### September 2006

September 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9 Bucky Phillips Captures

One of two troopers dies after being shot by escaped fugitive Ralph Bucky Phillips. The search grows in size until September 8, when Phillips is caught in Warren County, PA. This search was reported daily going live to Chautauqua County most days. We carried live news conferences with NY State Police. We went live immediately after his capture, and was the only Erie Station to carry the NYSP news briefing live, following his capture the evening of 9/8. We were the only Erie TV Station in the courtroom in Buffalo, NY, the day after his capture to cover his formal arraignment.

September 11

On the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attack in NYC, Fox 66 presented extensive coverage on the anniversary, and a look back at what has changed since.

September 25-26-27-28 Pregnant Erie Woman Missing, Found Dead

A 9 month pregnant Erie woman is reported missing by authorities. Late the same day, Millcreek police arrest the woman's co-worker and charge him with the murder, but there is no body. The man eventually tells authorities where he buried the body. Authorities discover the pregnant woman in a rural area of western Erie County. The man faces two charges of murder. Our coverage included authorities... interviews with the victims friends... an interview with the defendants defense attorney, and another local defense attorney helping to explain the nature of the charges. Our coverage included live shots from where the murder is believed to have occurred.

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April 2006

April 3...Body Farm Study

There's a proposal to study the decomposition of dead bodies on a rural property in Ashtabula County Ohio. It's proposed by Youngstown State University. If approved, it would be the second body farm of it's type in the US. There is significant local opposition to the idea. Neighbors don't want dead rotting cadavers in their neighborhood.

2:00

April 19...Gasoline Prices Hit Hard

For people who drive for a living, like cab drivers, the high cost of gasoline is hitting hard. It's jumped from 2.19 to 2.95 a gallon in the past year. Our story details the impact of the high cost of gas on those who must drive.

:30

April 28...Rendell on Property Tax Relief

There could be property tax relief on the way for senior citizens in Pennsylvania. Legislation is being considered in Harrisburg that would lower property taxes for seniors, using revenue from state gambling casinos. The measure is supported by Gov Ed Rendell, who was in Erie today.

:30

May 2006

May 1.....Erie County Fair in Financial Trouble

The local county fair is in danger of not happening this summer because of debt leftover from last years fair. Efforts are being made by fair and county officials to determine what can be done to salvage this century old agricultural showcase.

:45

May 16...Primary Election Day

We provided live, informative coverage and analysis of the election process, the candidates, and the races in all newscasts throughout the day. This was the first election using new computerized voting machines. We also had complete results throughout the evening, featuring interviews with the winners at 10 and 11pm.

May 18<sup>th</sup>...Erie Zoo Gorilla Dies

The Erie Zoo was anxiously awaiting the arrival of it's new gorilla, Tumai. It was coming from the Memphis Zoo. Unfortunately, while the gorilla was in route, he unexpectedly died of complications from a rare heart condition. Action News 24 was the only local TV station to be with very disappointed Erie Zoo officials at the Cleveland airport when the deceased gorilla arrived. We broke the story at 10pm.

2:00

May 26...Grand Opening of Tom Ridge Environmental Center

Today marked the grand opening of the long awaited Tom Ridge Environmental Center at the entrance to Presque Isle State Park. Named after our former governor, TREC features exhibits, laboratories, visitor information, and a large format movie theatre. It's taken 50 years and 31 million dollars to complete.

:45

June 2006

June 1...Covention Center Tour

The largest building project on Erie's bayfront is under way. The construction of Erie's Bayfront Covention Ctr. It's an 80 million dollar project that's providing scores of new jobs. It's behind schedule and overbudget, but expected to do great things for Erie. This was the first inside look at the construction project with local leaders.

1:00

June 19 and 20...NFG Proposed Surcharge

The local supplier of natural gas has announced it has asked the PUC for the addition of a distribution cost surcharge on customer bills. This is due to the fact that NFG customers used less gas than last winter, and that has cut into operating revenue. NFG customers are furious. We covered this story two consecutive days.

:45

1:15

June 21, 22 and 23...70 Local Soldiers Leave for Iraq

We received word that 70 local reservists have been deployed to Iraq. Our coverage included the initial announcement, last minute preparations, and the final farewells to family and friends. Our coverage continued three consecutive days.

:30

2:15

1:15

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January 2

This day marked the beginning of a new era in local government leadership. New Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott was sworn-in. New Erie County Executive Mark DiVecchio was also sworn-in to office. Both served on their respective council's before being elected to the administration of Erie city and county government.

3:15

January 4

St Vincent Health Center announces a 10 year multi-million dollar expansion plan. It's a project that will dramatically change a Westside Erie neighborhood and improve and expand health care opportunities in Erie.

:45

Former Pittsburgh Steeler Lynn Swann came to Erie to announce his candidacy for Governor of Pa. The Hall of Famer will face Democrat incumbent Ed Rendell in the general election if successful in the GOP primary.

:45

January 30

One of Erie's largest employers announces it is laying off more than 400 workers, and moving their jobs to Mexico. The company says it's a move that will save the company more than \$20 million dollars annually. Our team coverage has company, worker, and community reaction to the news.

February 9

A piece of Erie history came tumbling down today. The smoke stack at the former Koehler Brewery was demolished by explosion. It was a very public event, marking the start of demolition of the former brewery to make way for a new retail, office, and business complex at the gateway to downtown Erie.

1:10

February 14

Prepared to Protect. The name of a Target 24 investigation into how well Erie police officers are trained, even in the face of declining numbers in the police force, caused by a city budget crisis. Our report revealed Erie Police officers remain among the best-trained officers in the region, exceeding all minimum training requirements.

3:04



February 21

With more and more immigrant students populating the Erie School District, it's not unusual for some teachers to have many students in one class with different native languages. Overcoming the Language Barrier, a Target 24 investigation, looks at how students and teachers are dealing with struggles in the classroom.

2:18

March 1

Affinia, a local brake parts plant, has announced it is closing its doors. The move will leave 170 local workers unemployed. The company is closing two plants in Erie and one near Chicago. Workers don't know what they may do in the future, even though their skills are transferable to many other local factories. We reported on the impact to local workers.

1:00

March 13 -25

The trial of former Erie Mayor Rick Filippi begins today. Filippi is charged with public corruption for allegedly using his power as mayor to provide inside information to his business partners, for the purchase of real estate around the proposed site of a horse racing track and casino. It was a case that was two years in the making and finally Filippi is having his days in court. Action News 24 and FOX66 provided gavel to gavel coverage and live reporting from the trial in Washington County. After two weeks of trial, testimony, and deliberations, the mayor and his co-defendants were found not guilty of all charges against them. We were first to report the verdict, and to have live in-studio legal analysis of the verdict. We had live and taped reports, many via satellite every day the trial was in session, the jury deliberated, or the verdict was rendered. They appeared in all of our newscasts.

March 27

Longtime State Representative Linda Bebko-Jones announces she will withdraw from the spring primary election. This surprise announcement comes one day before she was to appear in Commonwealth Court and prove the validity of hundreds of signatures on her nominating petitions. One of her opponents in the election had challenged the petitions, claiming many of the signatures were forged. Instead of defending them, Jones opted to drop out, ending her career in the state legislature.

2:00