

Hot Spots in Erie



Pet Smart is located at 7451 Peach St. near Circuit City.

PetSmart

by Karl Benacci
features editor

After a tough day of dealing with human beings, one is inclined to be in a bad mood. After all, people can be so rude and obnoxious. That is why animals are truly man's best friend, whether it's a dog, cat or even a fish.

Animals are great because they love their owner unconditionally, and would do anything to make them happy. But what can an individual do for their pet? How about treat them kindly and give them a cool present here and there.

Pet Smart is located at 7451 Peach St., near Circuit City.

It's a huge store full of wonderful things for any pet. Aside from tons

of animal food and dog bones, it has nearly anything one could imagine, including animal clothes, toys, pet food calculators and animal furniture.

One can even bring their dog into the store and ask questions, because Pet Smart's staff are animal lover's who own pets themselves.

Perhaps the coolest thing about Pet Smart is their web site, where one can order items, receive newsletters and even report a lost or found pet!

Nice animals that don't bite plus cool treats surely go hand in paw, making Pet Smart a definite *Hot Spot in Erie*.

Play a fantasy

By Billy O'Keefe
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

FINAL FANTASY X

Available: Now for PlayStation 2
From: SquareSoft

As is the standard in SquareSoft's genre-defining role-playing game series, "Final Fantasy X" presents a brand-new story with a brand-new cast of characters and does so with untamed amounts of gusto and flair. The series seems incapable of telling a dull tale, and "Final Fantasy X" is no exception with its linear but deep story that's engaging and masterfully presented. The game improves on the series' battle and character-building mechanics, giving each a more open-ended feel that further molds the game around your chosen plan of growth and attack.

You'll likely need a good 40 hours or so to tackle the main quest alone and twice that amount of time if you take on the bevy of side projects and mini-games. But "Final Fantasy X" still leaves you wanting more after such a long commitment, and that is all that needs to be said about the game's brilliant design.

JAK AND DAXTER

Available: Now for PlayStation 2
From: Sony / Naughty Dog

The mechanics of "Jak and Daxter" should ring familiar to fans of "Rayman" or "Crash Bandicoot," as there is plenty of item collection, platform hopping and enemy stomping featured throughout, as well as mini-games, vehicular missions and side quests. Where the game pulls away is in the trimmings and its sense of artistry. "Jak and Daxter" boasts some massive, open-ended levels that are made seamless by the almost complete lack of load times, and the clever presentation and great voiceplay complement the package. The somewhat skittish controls leave a bit to be desired, and the camera can be a pain to maneuver, but neither weakness kills the deal, and for hungry fans of the genre, this one's a sure thing.

BALDUR'S GATE: DARK ALLIANCE

Available: Now for PlayStation 2
From: Interplay / Forgotten Realms

Where the PC "Baldur's Gate" franchise focuses on turn-based battles and real-time strategy, "Baldur's Gate: Dark Alliance" is all about action, a modern version of "Gauntlet" laced with terrific character development and storytelling. "Alliance" is about as old school as it gets in terms of action, with each command a simple button click away, and the crush of spells, weapons and baddies makes it hard to stop playing. "Alliance" features strong visuals and voiceplay, and the adventure offers some nice plot development and plenty of side quests, as well as a character development system that's every bit as strong as its PC counterparts. A traditional "Baldur's Gate" wouldn't play out too well on a console, but "Alliance's" blend of action and role-playing elements fits in perfectly.



Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - This is a great day for a party. Invite all your friends - the more the merrier. Play games and prepare a fabulous meal.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 5 - Continue to tie up loose ends. Make more room in the attic, the basement and the garage.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 9 - Full speed ahead! You and your buddies will have a great time doing what you've done before.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - Continue to squirrel away most of what you make. Nobody else needs to know how much you have in reserve.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Let somebody else be the captain of the ship. Just go along for the ride. You're still a major contributor to the fun, of course.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - This isn't an easy day for you. There's a mountain of work, and you might not be appreciated. Short-tempered people are going off for the smallest reasons, and some of them may blame you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is a 9 - You're getting stronger by the minute, but that doesn't mean you have to do everything. Recline in regal splendor while somebody else pampers you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 5 - Your place may be a mess, but don't be embarrassed. It's a work in progress.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - Instead of being bored, you're more curious than ever. That's a nice quality to have. It makes you very attractive.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - Once you get into a big mess, you may wonder if there's any way out. There is. True, this renovation or relocation comes at an awkward time.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 10 - The sun is coming into your sign. Can you feel the increase in energy?

Venus, for love, has just entered Aquarius. Neptune, Mercury and Uranus were already there. That's five in your sign, and that, my friend, is awesome.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - You've had your say, and you've let off a little steam.

Kool Karl's Crazy Korner!

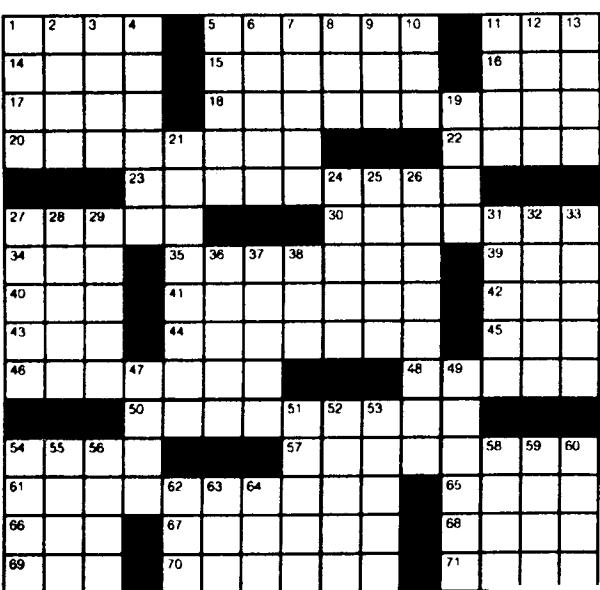
Mad Dude

Karl is mad at all of you for not voting on his hair survey, so you're not getting a crazy corner this week! As a punishment... here's a crappy comic. Now complete the survey by E-mailing HELPMYHAIR@YAHOO.COM and let me know whether I should cut my hair or not or else you're getting more Lewis!



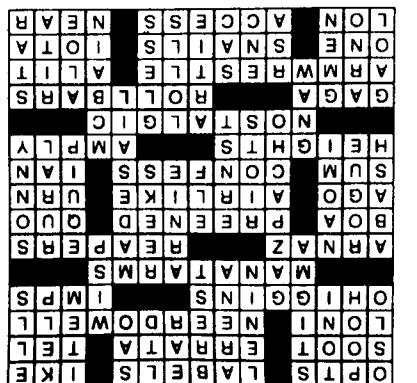
Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Makes a choice
 - 5 Designers' IDs
 - 11 Candidate to like?
 - 14 Fireplace residue
 - 15 Mistakes list
 - 16 Aviv-Jaffa
 - 17 Burt's ex
 - 18 Good-for-nothing
 - 20 Chilean leader (1817-23)
 - 22 Little rascals
 - 23 Soldier
 - 27 Ball's partner
 - 30 Harvesters
 - 34 Constrictor
 - 35 Hogged the mirror
 - 39 Status
 - 40 In the past
 - 41 Resembling the atmosphere
 - 42 Coffee server
 - 43 Totality
 - 44 Admit to
 - 45 McKellen or Holm
 - 46 High points
 - 48 Plentifully
 - 50 Living in the past
 - 54 Head-over-heels
 - 57 Race-car safety devices
 - 61 Engage in a certain contest of strength
 - 65 Touched down
 - 66 Undivided
 - 67 Slow movers
 - 68 Smidgen
 - 69 Actor Chaney
 - 70 Right to enter
 - 71 Come closer



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Solutions



- DOWN**
- 1 Capital on the Aker River
 - 2 Tigger and Eeyore's friend
 - 3 Braxton or Tennille
 - 4 Mark of Cain
 - 5 Bolshevik leader
 - 6 Fight venue
 - 7 Britany port
 - 8 Corn serving
 - 9 British Inc.
 - 10 Tome and Principe
 - 11 News piece
 - 12 Common seaweed
 - 13 Building wings
 - 19 Fleeting trace
 - 21 Chilled soup
 - 24 Putter Palmer
 - 25 Stinks
 - 26 Put to sea
 - 27 Disconcert
 - 28 Scoundrel
 - 29 One Judd
 - 31 Furnish
 - 32 Bucolic
 - 33 Rollins of jazz
 - 36 Rampages
 - 37 Surrealist painter
 - Max
 - 38 Santa's helper
 - 47 Do beaver's work
 - 49 Hunter's pen name
 - 51 Swing jazz clarinetist Shaw
 - 52 Stretches out lazily
 - 53 Actress Sharon
 - 54 Portsmouth prison
 - 55 Pisa's river
 - 56 Feds
 - 58 vera
 - 59 Post Dove
 - 60 Luminary
 - 62 Capetown loc.
 - 63 Adml. material in letters
 - 64 Plant pouch

Anyone caught stealing Karl's ideas will be attacked by rabid Yetis and then, after being mauled, they will be thrown into a pile of manure...face down. We welcome your humorous submissions. Send them to behrcoll5@aol.com

The Weekly Funnies

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



"You may notice some post-operative behavioral changes. More often than not, dead people become quiet and withdrawn."



Recipes for You!

Swedish Meatballs

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup dried bread crumbs
- vegetable oil (for frying)
- salt, pepper

Preparation

1. Finely grate or chop the onion.
2. Mix the ground beef, the onion, the egg and the bread crumbs. Add some white pepper and salt to taste.
3. Form into 30 walnut-size meatballs.
4. Heat 2 tbsp of vegetable oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Saute the meatballs in two batches until browned on all sides and cooked through (approximately 10 minutes).

We want your recipes! Send your submissions to behrcoll5@aol.com. Don't cop out and raid your mom's recipe box. We want recipes from college students, for college students!

CAPTAIN RIBMAN in Prize Fighter

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



PAUL

BY BILLY O'KEEFE www.billyo.com

