

# Fullerton

APPLIANCE CENTER



1470 W 38th St.  
Erie, PA  
(814) 864-0993

1196 Park Ave.  
Meadville, PA  
(814) 333-8300

SHOP 24/7 at [Fullertonappliancecenter.com](http://Fullertonappliancecenter.com)





Erie Times-News

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025 | GOERIE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Event organizer Sarah Bridgett speaks on July 5 in Erie during a rally to honor the life of Marchello Woodard and seek answers and accountability for his death. Woodard was shot by a Pennsylvania state parole agent on July 2.

NICHOLAS SORENSEN/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

# ‘COMMUNAL COMMITMENT’

## Work continues fostering local law enforcement-citizen relationships

**Kevin Flowers**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

There have been decades of mistrust separating many of Erie’s citizens — including communities of color and those living in poorer city neighborhoods — and the law enforcement officers sworn to protect and serve them.

Parris Baker has been on the front lines when it comes to trying to break down those barriers.

Baker, 68, has been active with Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships, a U.S. Department of Justice-affiliated program launched in the aftermath of a violent 2016 encounter, caught on video, between a Black Erie resident, Montrice Bolden, and city police officers.

SPCP works to identify, explore and break down barriers between the Erie Bureau of Police and the community.

Baker has also conducted diversity and cultural sensitivity training for area police departments, and he helped cre-

**Parris Baker has been on the front lines in Erie, trying to break down barriers between citizens and law enforcement.**

KEVIN FLOWERS/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

ate a police ride-along program for local clergy.

As the community seeks answers about the July 2 shooting death of Mar-

chello D. Woodard, a 43-year-old Erie man shot and killed by a state parole agent, Baker is among those calling for patience and compassion as the official investigation continues.

Woodard’s death has sparked protests in the city, as many protesters have linked the death of Woodard, who was Black, to the Black Lives Matter movement.

But Baker also said that Woodard’s death underscores why multilayered efforts to improve relations between citizens and law enforcement must continue, and that happens via honest conversation, deep collaboration and a sincere commitment to change.

In addition to SPCP, those efforts include but are not limited to Unified Erie, created in 2010 to bring community-wide voices to the table to address crime and violence with an emphasis on prevention and helping formerly incarcerated individuals re-enter society.

**See LAW, Page 3A**

# Barack Obama to speak at Erie summit

**Dana Massing**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Former President Barack Obama is headed to Erie to speak at the Jefferson Educational Society’s 2025 Global Summit.

Obama will kick off Global Summit XVII in September, JES officials announced July 9. They had previously announced that former Vice President Mike Pence will speak in November as part of the series. Also coming to Erie this fall will be astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly and political analyst Larry Sabato.

“The goal to bring President Obama to Erie is something we have heard many times over the years,” JES President Ferki Ferati said in a news release. “We are honored to be able to welcome the former president to Erie this fall as part of a stellar lineup that include(s) renowned thinkers and doers, researchers and practitioners. He will be part of a world-class lineup of

**See SUMMIT, Page 3A**

# Presque Isle beaches still closed for swimming due to E. coli

**David Bruce**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Presque Isle State Park lifeguards were posted earlier this week at the entrances of Beaches 6 and 8, more than

100 yards from the Lake Erie shoreline. Their job was to politely inform visitors that swimming has been restricted at the popular beaches due to consistently high levels of E. coli bacteria. No one has been allowed to swim at Beaches 6 and 8 since July 8.

“People are not happy and understandably so,” said Matt Greene, the park’s operations manager. “These are two of our most popular beaches and people have been going to them for a long time.”

High E. coli levels are a concern be-

cause they indicate a significant amount of sewage or animal waste in the water that can give swimmers gastrointestinal illness or skin infections.

“If humans ingest E. coli, they can

**See BEACHES, Page 7A**

**Subscriber-only eNewspaper**

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [goerie.com/enewspaper](http://goerie.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

Volume 25 | No. 240  
To subscribe 453-4691  
or 800-352-0043  
©2025



\$2.49 7 69185 00001 3