

January 2012



EGN

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Erie Gay News

of Serving the GLBT Community!

Drenched Fur Bear Bar Night

from Drenched Fur

Join local/tri-state area bears, cubs, admirers and their friends on Friday January 13th at 10 PM for Bear Bar Night at the Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. (\$2 cover charge for the bar, but there is no additional charge for the Bear Bar Night.) Come shake your groove thing on the dance floor, shoot some pool or just hang out and chat with others in attendance. Not only can you meet up with fun people, you could have a chance to win the raffle giveaway that night. The DF8 Committee will be giving away a free pass to Splash Lagoon Water Park for the Drenched Fur 8 After Hours Private Event on Saturday night during this year's bear run, Mar 29-Apr 1. For more information, contact Gary Snyder at (814) 446-2327 or info@drenchedfur.com or Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Another great Lake Erie Gala!

From the Erie Sisters

The 12th annual Lake Erie Gala, sponsored by the Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group, was held Nov.16-20 at the Avalon Hotel in Erie. Registration opened Wednesday, and the attendees present then had dinner together at the Plymouth on State Street.

Events began on Thursday with tours of South Shore and Johnson Estate wineries, and lunch at Barcelona restaurant in New York. Thursday evening featured a Hawaiian luau-themed dinner at the Avalon, with prizes for the best Hawaiian attire, followed by an act by Lisa Naples and Girls, an impressionist act from Warren, Ohio.

Friday's events featured local tours of the Warner Theatre and Arrowhead Wine Cellars, with lunch at Pufferbelly Restaurant. The girls played mini golf at the Family First Sports Center, and prizes were given for the best scores. Friday evening featured a medievall-themed dinner, with prizes for the best Renaissance outfits, followed by magician Cliff Hopkins.

Saturday we had lunch at the Avalon, with a



Crystal Ciallella enjoying some yummy peanut butter pie at the LBT Women Holiday Party at Calamari's Squid Rom.

Photo: Laurie Finch

separate lunch for spouses and significant others, followed by a talent contest that was judged by EGN's own Michael Mahler, again with prizes for the top acts. Saturday afternoon saw free time to patronize the vendors who have helped to support the Gala, or time to go out and shop in the Erie area. Dinner that night was preceded by a blessing of the meal by Rev. Steve Auschmann of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. A tearful eulogy was given by Joanne Law to observe Transgender Day of Remembrance, which is set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. Candles were lit by Joanne and by Erie Sisters president Melanie Shubitowski. Our annual Glitter Ball followed dinner, with DJ and lighting provided by the Erie Sisters' own Kimi Weathers and Jennifer Lucas.

The event concluded Sunday morning with our farewell brunch, leaving us with fond memories of old friends reunited with and new friends we met during the week.

Erie Sisters info: <http://eriesisters.ning.com>

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Erie Gay News
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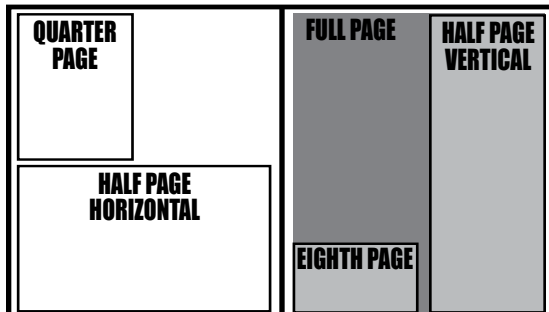
Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Sun, Jan 15;
Folding and distribution is Tue, Jan 24 at
Mike Kohler's. Please check night before!

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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.

Check out our special bonus contest online at eriegaynews.com! Photo galleries, videos , contests, reviews and so much more!



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month. Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

Erie Gay News is now included in the EBSCO *LGBT Life*® with Full Text index and six LGBT archives around the world



To the Michael Kohler & Tim Wiler for hosting; Andrea, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Michael Kohler, Paul Gee, and Tom Wiler for folding; Andrea, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Michael Kohler, and Paul Gee for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

We provide access to testing, education, & medical, financial, & supportive **services** to those infected with HIV/AIDS in 13 counties of Northwest PA. HIV Specialty Clinics are held in Erie, Meadville, Clearfield, DuBois, Warren, Clarion, Seneca, Greenville & Farrell, staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered.

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Year in review

by Michael Mahler

Wow—2011 was a pretty eventful year! January saw the first meeting of an GLBT college forum at Behrend which later went on to be active with both Students Networking Across Pennsylvania (SNAP) and also Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC.) Colleges involved include Penn State Behrend, Edinboro University, Mercyhurst and students from Gannon University,

The Pride Planning committee—which in years past had put together the annual Pride Picnic—this year organized the Pride Parade & Rally on August 27. New this year were Pride shirts with a list of sponsors and a calendar of area GLBT-related events. The group also organized the GLBT contingent in the Millcreek 4th of July Parade (sixth year for that event), the GLBT table at the Erie Art Museum's Annual Blues & Jazz Festival (third year tabling at that event) and an invited GLBT contingent in the Edinboro Homecoming Parade on October 8 (first year for Edinboro participation.)

There were several new events this year. In January, Equality PA, American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights Campaign held a Town Hall Meeting and “Equality on the Rocks” event at Matthew’s Trattoria. An HIV/AIDS benefit at the Zone in March raised \$1,000. Friends of long-time activist John Daly King held a potluck picnic in his honor at Pleasant Ridge Manor on May 22. John Daly King was also the first-ever Grand Marshal for the Pride Parade a few months later in August. The Pride Alliance at Allegheny College and *Erie Gay News* partnered for an GLBTQ Mixer in Meadville in October. Richard Baer of AIDS Community Services of WNY Southern Tier, organized a very well-attended screening of *Out In The Silence* with filmmakers Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer on November 5 at Jamestown Community College. Unfortunately, due to the loss of a funding source, Richard Baer’s position was eliminated in December.

Donor Unknown was released in the USA. The documentary tells the story of Warren county native JoEllen Marsh, as she tries to connect with her sperm donor father. (JoEllen is the daughter of Lucinda Marsh, first openly-lesbian mom in Erie county). The documentary aired on PBS in October. Erie Gay Pride, Inc, which had previously organized the Parade and Rally, changed their name to Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Inc and had a fundraiser in conjunction with

Equality PA and a screening of the documentary *Lead With Love* on November 2.

On April 26, Lundy “Lee” Verdoni passed on. Lee and his partner Jack frequently danced together at the Zone. Former PA State Rep Linda Bebko-Jones passed away in November 2011. Linda was first elected in 1992 after her opponent, Republican Jerry Knight attacked her for GLBT-supportive responses in the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters published a Voters Guide.

Reid McFarlane and AnnDrea Benson, who had been instrumental the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in Erie Co. Human Relations Commission ordinance in 2002, moved to Minnesota in May.

Tim Dahle and Rex Young were married in Vermont on May 16. Tim Dahle was one of the subjects in the documentary *Out In The Silence*. On Saturday, May 23, Jeremy Snyder and Eric Linster had a handfasting at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. Amusingly enough, this was the same date that Harold Camping predicted as the Rapture, and apparently a gay Pagan wedding failed to trigger this.

Recurring events in our community and nearby included Drenched Fur 7 and WNY Dining Out for Life Chautauqua County in April, picnics for Ashtabula PFLAG, Butler PFLAG and Annual LBT Women Potluck Picnic, annual Diversity Worship Service at Community United Church in October, Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend at the Zone Dance Club (which raised \$1,530), and the 5th Annual Drag Show at Behrend by Trigon

National events affecting the Erie PA region included New York marriage equality enacted in September, and the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell on September 21. On November 2, the *Erie Times News* had front page coverage of a same-sex marriage performed in nearby Findley Lake, NY.

In September, Persad Center, the nation’s second oldest GLBT and HIV counseling center headquartered in Pittsburgh, opened a branch office in Erie.

In November, Ebony Davis was appointed as a board member to Erie County Human Relations commission by County Executive Barry Grossman. Grossman had specifically looking for an openly GLBT person to serve on the board. PFLAG of Erie & Crawford Counties President Mark Hoovler continues to serve as HRC chair.

Linda Bebko-Jones remembered

Linda Bebko-Jones passed away November 20, 2011. She was 65.

Linda served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1st District) from 1993 until 2006. While serving as a state representative, she was a strong advocate and sponsored many bills and resolutions in support of military and veteran benefits and health and human services. She supported GLBT equality, crime victims' rights, adoptee rights, substance abuse prevention, sexual harassment awareness, insurance reform, and women's rights. She served on many local and state boards and associations, and received numerous awards



Linda Bebko-Jones speaking at Erie Pride Rally in 2003

and accolades acknowledging her public service.

During her run for state representative in 1992, her Republican opponent, Jerry Knight, engaged in strong attacks on Linda's supportive responses in the voters' guide of the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters. Linda won the race and held the office for 14 years. At the 2003 Erie Pride rally, she spoke about the need for acceptance and equality for GLBT people.

She was open about her own struggles with alcoholism in her efforts to raise awareness and understanding about substance abuse.

Her greatest achievement during her tenure with General Assembly was in passage of her House Bill 23, Act 28 of 1993, which provided the lawful recognition of "stalking" as a criminal act.

In a 2006 interview for the PA House archives, Linda was asked how she would like to be remembered. "Probably that I tried to make a difference in people's lives," she said. "That's what I came down here to do."

You can link to Linda's archived interview from our website.

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Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/news/calendar.php

Dec 23 (Fri) - Craze Night Club - 'Doctor' is in Town 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. The "Doctor" is in town! Join us at *Craze* for a night of *fun, friends, and cheer!!!* Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Dec 24 (Sat) - Craze Night Club closed for Christmas Eve 1607 Raspberry St, Erie *Merry Christmas* from all your friends at *Craze!* Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Dec 25 (Sun) - Craze Night Club Open Christmas Night 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Stop out for some Christmas Cheer! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Dec 31 (Sat) - "New Year's Eve Gala" (Erie Playhouse, 13 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16501) Phone: (814)454-2852. Email: info@erieplayhouse.org. Browse to www.erieplayhouse.org/.

Dec 31 (Sat) - Community United Church New Years Eve Board Game Night at Community United

Church, 1011 W 38 Erie, PA Price: \$5 donation Pop and snacks are free. Smoke free and nonalcoholic, midnight toast. We use a variety of party games. All are welcome; suitable for all ages. Doors open at 9:30 pm, games run from 10 pm until 1 am. Youth under 18 must have a guardian. Phone: (814) 864-4429 Check us out on Facebook.

Dec 31 (Sat) - Zone New Year's Eve Bash (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Gay New Year's Eve Bash....Ring in the New Year at Erie's Biggest Gay New Year's Eve Party! Doors open 8 pm. Spend the last night of 2011 with all your friends! Free party favors, free food buffet, and free champagne toast at midnight! Watch the ball drop on the dancefloor big screen! Then, dance into 2012 with the best dance music in town! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Dec 31 (Sat) - New Year's Rockin Eve Party at Craze 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Ring in the New Year with all your friends! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Jan 1 (Sun) - New Year's Night at Craze 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 2012's here! Continue the Celebration at Craze! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub

Jan 6 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Location TBA) 6 PM - 8 PM. G2H2/Erie takes place

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Calendar

every month in a new location around town, providing GLBT professionals, and our colleagues and friends, the opportunity to meet, network or just hang out once a month. You can also sign up for the email list at lists.eriegaynews.com. Find on Facebook.

Jan 6 (Fri) - Vortex (Nocturnal Asylum) 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Jan 7 (Sat) - Pride Planning meeting (Panera's - Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16505) 3 PM. Discussion of upcoming 2012 events and checking on status. We will be working on sponsorship options. All are welcome to help with planning! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 833-9101. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com. RSVP/Register/Tickets at www.facebook.com/events/305236869510326.

Jan 6 & 10 - LBT Women Pottery Classes 6:30 - 8:00 PM - Six of us have signed up and paid our \$5 registration fees for the Allen Stoneware Gallery

Classes - \$20 will be due at the first class from each of you. If anyone else wishes to go, please e-mail me at LFinch003@neo.rr.com and let me know!

Jan 7 (Sat) - Duane's Birthday Party at Craze 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA Duane turns 35 *again!* Stop in and wish him a *Happy Birthday* at Craze! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Jan 8 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA) 1 PM. Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse. Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Jan 8 (Sun) - Craze Karaoke Night (1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Join us every Sunday. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Jan 9 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy Erie. 7 - 8:30 PM. Support group

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Calendar

for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. Contact: Mark H. Phone: (814) 456-0901. Email: pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com.

Jan 13 (Fri) - LBT Women - Dinner and a Movie for Laurie's Birthday (Old Country Buffet, 7200 Peach St, Erie, PA) 5 PM. Meet at the Country Buffet at 5 PM for dinner. Afterwards we head to the Millcreek mall Cinema 6 for a \$1.75 movie...My choice! (Hey, it's my birthday!) Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 866-5671. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Jan 13 (Fri) - Drenched Fur - Bear Bar Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. Stop out for a casual night of fun! Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 384-0463. Venue Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to www.drenchedfur.com. Browse to venue web site www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Jan 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News February 2012 print edition (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads,

Jan 17 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th, Erie, PA) Every 3rd Tuesday of the month (Sept - May), the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty facilitates a discussion group on spirituality and sexuality at Community United Church (an open and affirming congregation). This group provides LGBTQA people the confidential opportunity to share questions, stories, and experiences about what it means to be both a sexual and spiritual person. Contact: Rich McCarty. Phone: 1-866-229-1974 (toll free). Email: richmccarty@msn.com.

Jan 18 (Wed) - Craze Karaoke Night (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) Every Wednesday. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Jan 20- Feb 11 - "Avow" at Buffalo United Artists Tom's and Brian's simple request to their parish priest to witness their vows creates five separate and linked spiritual journeys, each seeking to balance passion and faith. Visit buffalobua.org

Jan 24 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Mike Kohler's, 614 Cherry St, Erie PA) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We'll be folding and distributing the copies. All ages welcome! It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

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Calendar

and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of January 24. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Jan 15 (Sun) - Craze Karaoke Night (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) Bring all your friends! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Jan 15 (Sun) - FACE: Michelle Michael's Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie. 11 PM. Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new faces and special guests! 3rd Sunday of the month at 11 PM. (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com

Jan 16 (Mon) - Craze Entertainment Series (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) 11:30 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.



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Calendar

Jan 27-29, Feb 3-4 "Cats" at Academy Theatre in conjunction with Allegro Dance Arts www.theacademytheatre.org

Jan 29 (Sun) - Cornhole Tournament to benefit Crime Victim Center of Erie County 1PM at the Maennerchor. Teams of 2 are \$50 and that includes food. Cash bar. Cash prizes will be awarded! Call 455-9414 to register. All proceeds to benefit CVC.

Jan 30 (Mon) - Craze Entertainment Series (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) 11:30 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Feb 10-26 "The Color Purple" at Erie Playhouse Passion runs deep in this musical adaptation as it captures the joyful heart of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about a woman's triumph over a life of abuse and tragedy. Brimming with beats of rhythm, blues and jazz, the core of the tale is the strength of the black women it depicts in rural Georgia in the first half of the 20th century. This is a musical sung from the heart telling us we all deserve happiness, joy and

love. www.erieplayhouse.org

Feb 24 - Erie Sisters benefit for Second Harvest 11:30am to 2PM. The Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group, in conjunction with Jekyll & Hyde's Gastropub (8 East 10th Street in Erie PA.), will hold a charitable event to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank, all tips collected by the Erie Sisters will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. For more information, contact Jekyll & Hyde's at (814) 456-0072 or e-mail Melanie at shub1@suite224.net or browse to <http://eriesister.ning.com>

Mar 29-Apr 1 - Drenched Fur Erie's Bear Run Online registration will be live at www.drenchedfur.com as of January 1.

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and many others at <http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

For an application to be listed (no charge), current editions, and prices, mailing lables, etc. please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN, Village Station, New York, NY 10014 646-213-0263 or email gypages@gmail.com

<http://gayellowpages.com>

On our website

PHOTOS

Zone Breast Cancer Benefit, Behrend Drag Show, Latonia Halloween Party; LBT Women Holiday Party; *Out in the Silence* Jamestown screening; Lake Erie Gala 2011

VIDEO

Sec. Hillary Clinton's historic speech to the United Nations on GLBT human rights; music video in support of accused whistleblower SPC Bradley Manning (who is gay); Erie Pride Parade at 13th & State; *In the Life* 30th anniversary trailer

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Here are contests that will be premiering this month...

Contest	Starts
<i>The One</i> (DVD)	December 23
<i>Well With My Soul</i>	December 27
<i>Crossing the Bridge: From Mennonite Boy to Gay Man</i>	December 30
<i>The Truth About Sex</i> by Dr. Gloria Brame	January 10
<i>The Lopez Family Science Fair Day</i>	January 17
<i>The New Dance Mix USA Vol. 2</i> mixed by Louie Devito	January 20
<i>Screen World 62</i> edited by Barry Monush from Hal Leonard Applause Books	January 24

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>The Carousel</i> by Stefani Deoul	December 23
<i>Remembering Christmas</i> from Kensington Books	December 27
<i>The Choosing: A Rabbi's Journey</i> by Andrea Myers	December 30
Minus417 Skin Care for Men Gift Set	January 3
Carolina Liar - <i>Wild Blessed Freedom</i>	January 6
<i>Backdrop: The Politics and Personalities behind Sexual Orientation Research</i> by Gayle E. Pitman, Ph.D.	January 10

You can always see a complete list of contests at our web site! Members of the Erie GLBT News and Events list get first notice of contests. Sign up today!

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