



Erie County couple applies for marriage license on Valentine's Day.

ERIE, PA—Feb. 14 - On the morning of Valentine's Day, Kathy Czarnecki-Smith and Christina Czarnecki-Smith walked into the Erie County marriage bureau and asked to apply for a license. Tammi Elkin, the Erie County deputy register of wills, apologized but indicated she was bound by state law regarding who could obtain a marriage license. Kathy promised "We'll be back!" and wished them a happy Valentine's Day, as the couple left the office.

They knew they would be turned down. The event was part of Marriage Equality for PA's efforts to raise awareness about marriage equality. But even though the couple knew what would happen, it still affected them deeply.

"We knew we were going to be rejected, but it still feels bad," said Kathy. "To come out here and know that we're not allowed to be married in this state."

"It's just sad," said Christina, her voice breaking up. "I love Kathy with all my heart, and that we can't be married here is just horrible."

"We'll be back," Kathy promised again.

Kathy and Christina were legally married in New York state, but wish to have their marriage recognized by Pennsylvania, the state in which they live.

Photos and video of the event on our website and Marriage Equality for PA www.me4pa.org

50 gather outside Jamestown NY paper to protest bigotry, bias

JAMESTOWN NY—Feb. 21 - About 50 people weathered cold and high winds to take a stand outside The Post-Journal, protesting what they say is bigotry and bias in that publication.

The event was called "Raise Awareness, Community Outcry for Fair and Balanced Reporting." According to a press release sent by the group, the event "was conceived primarily in response to Randall S. Braley's letter, 'Issues Stem from Homosexuality,' which was published in the February 13 edition of The Post-



Kathy Czarnecki-Smith and Christina Czarnecki-Smith at Erie County Courthouse, where they applied for a marriage license in an effort to raise awareness about marriage equality in Pennsylvania.

Photo by Deb Spilko

Journal. The language included in Mr. Braley's letter was hate speech and creates an unsafe and hostile environment for members of the LGBQTQ community, who are a vibrant and essential part of the revitalization of Jamestown. We believe that The Post-Journal showed a lack of journalistic integrity when it chose to publish this letter; It also stated "Members of this group have also noticed a strong conservative bias in the editorial content published by The Post-Journal, specifically in regard to issues of poverty, women's issues and issues regarding to ethnic and racial diversity. We believe that this does not paint an accurate picture of the realities of the Southern Tier region and that all views should be represented in our local paper, including those with

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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.



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Deadline for next issue: March 15; Folding and distribution is Tue, Mar 25 at Mental Health Association.

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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.

Erie Gay News is now included in
The EBSCO *LGBT Life*[®]
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To Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania for hosting! Collis, Julie, Kelly Kidd, Melanie Shubitowski, and Season for folding; Collis, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Julie, Kelly Kidd, Melanie Shubitowski, and Season 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.

Community News

which the publishers and editors of The Post-Journal, may not agree. Going forward, members of this group will continue to monitor the representation of diverse opinions represented in The Post-Journal's reader-submitted and editorial content."

The *Erie Gay News* website will be posting more complete coverage.

Drenched Fur's Tenth Big Splash

by Gary Snyder

Drenched Fur is celebrating its 10th year of bringing together the broader bear community from Erie, PA and beyond. Over 250 bears, cubs, and admirers attending Drenched Fur 10 invite you to join them in April for fun and good times. On Friday night, April 11th, join us at The Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, for hours of fun dance music starting at 11 PM with cover charge at the door. Guests are welcome to support this year's charity, the Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation, by making a donation and putting their name on display around the bar.

And of course, the reason for the weekend is

the exclusive 'after hours' event at the Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort. The private event is from 10 PM until 2 AM, and the admission is \$40. If local guys wish to participate in the private event at Splash Lagoon, please visit the DF10 website at www.drenchedfur.com and click on Registration. (Advance signup and payment is required for joining all the water park fun!) The Splash Lagoon Event is sponsored by Drenched Fur 10 and is part of Erie's Bear Run Weekend.

Visitors from across the USA will be enjoying the weekend's events listed at the Drenched Fur website, including various daytime tours, a charity auction, vendor mall, and more! Commemorative DF10 beach towels are also available to order via our website. There is a 21 and over age limit because of the presence of alcohol for events at the Clarion Hotel and Bel-Aire Conference Center.

If you have questions, please contact the DF10 Run Coordinator, Gary at gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com or leave a message at 814-446-2327. For more about Drenched Fur 10 visit www.drenchedfur.com

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Community News

Two Days of Action campaign by Marriage Equality for PA

from Marriage Equality for PA

On February 27 and 28, Marriage Equality for Pennsylvania will be holding two days of action in which we are calling on our members, and anyone committed to equality in Pennsylvania to call, email, or write letters to their Pennsylvania legislators. On February 27, we want our members to contact their State Representatives to let them know we want to see PA House Bill 300 passed out of committee and given a vote on the House floor. This bill would end legal discrimination for all public accommodations against the LGBT community. The chief sponsor of this bill is Representative Frankel, while Representatives Sims and McCarter are also key co-sponsors. Governor Corbett has said he supports the bill, but it is presently stalled in the House State Government Committee which is chaired by Representative Daryl Metcalfe who refuses to allow the bill to come up for a vote in his committee.

On February 28, we are asking our members to contact their State Senator regarding Senate Bill 300, which is the companion bill to House Bill 300. Both would end the possibility that a person can be fired, evicted from his or her home, or discriminated against in public places solely for being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

People who are uncertain about the name and contact information for their state legislators can go to www.me4pa.org/pa-legislators for additional information. ME4PA will have a template email that can be copied and pasted into an email to be sent to their legislators.



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Moving PA equal rights law forward

Erie Equality PA kickoff meeting March 13

Join fellow supporters of LGBT rights in your area at Equality PA's community kickoff meeting in Erie on Thursday, March 13 from 6 to 8 PM at First Niagara Bank's Community Room, 801 State St, Erie PA. Enter via the doors on E 8th St. We'll be talking about what our local grassroots team will do to advance equality for all Pennsylvanians, and how you can get involved. Free refreshments are being provided by Drenched Fur, Erie Gay News, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Marriage Equality for PA, NW PA Pride Alliance, and PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties.

When it comes to passing a non-discrimination bill or making progress toward freedom to marry for everyone, we know we have support in every part of the state. However, we need to work together to find those supporters and make sure that leaders throughout the state hear every voice. All we need to make it work is you!

Have questions? Contact your local organizer Shanea Leonard at sleonard@equalitypa.org or (484) 612-5813.

Local activists met in Erie to focus on pushing PA equality bills Feb 3

About a dozen Erie area people met with Shanea Leonard from Equality PA on February 3. Shanea is the new western Pennsylvania coordinator for Equality PA, which is a statewide organization focused on LGBT equality.

The meeting focused on working for the passage of House Bill 300 and Senate Bill 300, two pieces of legislation that would finally "ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression statewide in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations." Shanea introduced herself and explained some of her own background. Each person attending introduced themselves, and participants were asked to tell a little about themselves and what motivates them to work for LGBT equality.

Attendees included: Alex Sphon (NW PA Pride and PFLAG-Erie), Rex Apps (Community United Church), Mike Mahler (Erie Gay News, NW PA Pride



Meeting with Shanea Leonard from Equality PA Feb. 3

and PFLAG Erie), Diana Ames (NW PA Pride, PFLAG Erie and Mental Health Association of NW PA), Kathy Czarnecki-Smith, Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty (GEAE), Deb Spilko (EGN), Joshua Szecsesny (Marriage Equality for PA), Jason Brendel, and Kelly Kidd (NW PA Pride). Alison M. Scarpitti, Esq. attended as legal counsel for GEAE.

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Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar

www.eriegaynews.com

Feb 27-Mar 2 – Playshop Theatre: “Wedding Band” Allegheny College, Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre, Meadville PA..oignant examination of an interracial love affair set in SC in 1918. Visit allegheny.edu/

Mar 2 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E. Jefferson St., Butler, PA) 5 PM. Contact: Joshua Crawford. (724) 602-8447. president@pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com.

Mar 3 (Mon) - Novelist Chuck Wendig speaks on gender diversity at PSU Behrend 4 p.m. in room 114 of the Reed Union Building. Info: Mara Taylor, lecturer in German/Woman Studies, at 814-898-6325 or email mut13@psu.edu.

Mar 5 (Wed) - LBT Women of Erie go to Erie Art Museum's spring film series (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Features independent and foreign films. The films are shown at 7 p.m. every Wednesday at Erie Art Museum. Doors open at

6.p.m. They have water, wine, popcorn and beer, to purchase. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. Contact: Kim. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. Details at www.ericartmuseum.org

Mar 6 (Thur) - NAMI Peer-to-Peer 10-week course begins 10-week education course for individuals with a mental illness. Call NAMI of Erie County to register and for location of class. (814)456-1773

Mar 7 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (El Toro Loco Mexican Grille and Cantina, 333 State St, Erie, PA) 6 PM Providing GLBT professionals, and our colleagues and friends, the opportunity to meet, network or just hang out once a month. Find on Facebook.

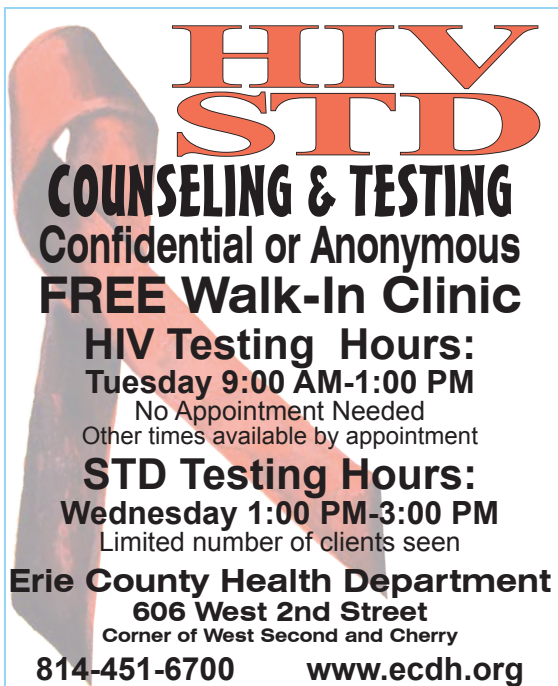
Mar 8 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls 90's Drag Show (Rockin' Ricks, 543 Spittler Lane, Limestone, NY) (702) 505-4771. www.myspace.com/rockinricks.

Mar 9 (Sun) - LBT Women meets - (Brew Ha Ha, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) Noon. After the meeting, we'll go to Erie Art Museum. (It's free admission day). Contact: Kim. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com.

Mar 10 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. 7 to 8:30 PM. Contact: Alex Sphon. (814) 367-3311. pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com.

Mar 11 (Wed) - R U 1 Too? / an LGBTQ chat group (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water St., Suite 7, Jamestown, NY) 7PM. LGBTQ group for the Southern Tier. supported by Pride Center of WNY. Info: Steven (716) 661-9044. chautauquamha@gmail.com.

Mar 12 (Wed) - LBT Women of Erie go to Erie Art



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at the



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Bear Vendor Mall
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For more info, visit: www.drenchedfur.com or call: 1-814-446-2327

Calendar

Museum's spring film series ((Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM., doors open 6PM. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. Contact: Kim. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. womynoferie.wikifoundry.com/.

Mar 13 (Thu) - Erie Equality PA Kickoff Meeting

(First Niagara Bank Community Room, 801 State Street, Erie, PA—*use side door*) 6 - 8 PM. Join fellow supporters of LGBT rights in your area at Equality PA's community kickoff meeting in Erie. We'll be talking about what our local grassroots team will do to advance equality for all Pennsylvanians, and how you can get involved. When it comes to passing a non-discrimination bill or making progress toward freedom to marry for everyone, we know we have support in every part of the state. However, we need to work together to find those supporters and make sure that leaders throughout the state hear every voice. All we need to make it work is you! Free refreshments. For info contact your local organizer Shanea Leonard at sleonard@equalitypa.org or (484) 612-5813.

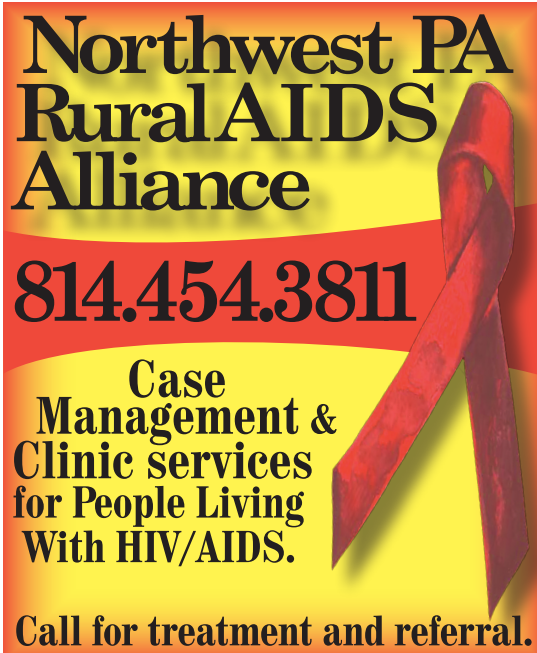
Mar 15 (Sat) - Deadline for Erie Gay News April 2014 print edition Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Issue released evening of Mar 25. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Mar 15 (Sat) - O'Zone Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) (814) 452-0125. TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Mar 15 (Sat) - STARZ "Bittie Bees" Sky Bar 108 Fairmount, Jamestown NY. Comedy show, \$5 cover.

Mar 16 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the 3rd Sunday of the month. (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Mar 16 (Sun) - On Screen/In Person Series: 'Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines' 2pm Mercyhurst, Taylor Little Theatre, Erie PA. "Looks at how popular representations of powerful women often reflect society's anxieties about women's liberation... We encourage everyone



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to come dressed up as your favorite superhero! The filmmaker will be present for a Q&A following the film and will chose the patron with the best costume for a prize. ” \$6 adults, \$5 students/seniors, \$4 fpresident’s card holders \$1 Mercyhurst students (with ID)

Mar 17 (Mon) - St. Patrick’s Day Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) (814) 452-0125. The-ZoneDanceClub@aol.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Mar 18 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner (Molly Brannigan’s, 506 State St, Erie PA) 7 PM. Join Bears for casual dinner! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary, (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchdfur.com.

Mar 19 (Wed) - GEAE 3rd Wednesday Happy Hour (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry, Erie) 5-8PM. 866) 229-1974. info@gmail.com. greatereriealliance.com/.

Mar 19 (Wed) - LBT Women of Erie go to Erie Art Museum’s spring film series (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM., doors open 6PM. Tickets are \$5, purchase at the door. Contact: Kim. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com.

Mar 22 (Sat) - Imperial Court of Buffalo “Lights Up for Autism” Troop I Hamlin House Buffalo NY. Hosted by Empress 19, Coco LaTigue, & Channel 7, John Borsa. www.icobspecialevents.com

Mar 22 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group dedicated to providing safe, supportive

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Calendar

space for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones in Erie Co. region. Refreshments, free parking is available in a lot to the south of MHA. Please bring a snack to share. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969.

Mar 22 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 7 PM. (440) 265-8191

Mar 25 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E. Jefferson Street, Butler, PA) 1 PM www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork.

Mar 25 (Tue) - Erie Gay News Folding/Distribution Work Party (Mental Health Association of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) Help us get out the print edition of EGN. All ages welcome! Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Mar 26 (Wed) - LBT Women of Erie go to Erie Art Museum's spring film series (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 314-9512

ErieBeans@aol.com.

Mar 26 (Wed) - Candlelight Vigil for Equality (Erie Federal Courthouse, 17 South Park Row, Erie, PA) 7 PM - 8:15 PM. To commemorate the 1 year anniversary of the Oral Arguments before the US Supreme Court for DOMA and Prop 8, we hold this rally to show we have a long road to follow for equality in PA. me4pa2@gmail.com www.me4pa.org.

Mar 26 - Namoli Brennet in Oil City 7PM Clarion University Venango Campus, Oil City, PA www.namolibrennet.com


Mar 27 - "Community Conversations: Let's Talk About The LGBT & Spirituality" presented by Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network, free program at 7:30pm. Email interfaithbutler@gmail.com for location and final information in March.

Mar 28 (Fri) - LBT Women of Erie go to Division II women's basketball championship game (Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Join Kim & Andrea. If you are planning on attending let me know and I can tell you where we are sitting. Contact: Kim. (814) 314-9512 ErieBeans@aol.com.

Mar 28 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Monthly Bear Bar Night. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327 info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Apr 11-12 (Fri-Sat) - Gender Conference at Penn State Erie Details TBA

Apr 24-26 - Comedian Thomas Dale at JR's Last Laugh Comedy Club and Resturant, 1402 State, Erie, PA. From his website: "Standup comedian, writer, and actor Thomas Dale is one of the fastest rising talents in the United States today. He's also a loveable, macho, gay Italian guido from Long Island who loves his mother." (814) 461-0911 www.jrslastlaugh.com



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Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>Salt of the Earth</i> by Seraphina Nova; Hedley <i>Anything</i> EP	February 28
<i>Free Fall</i> DVD from Wolfe Video; Starling Glow <i>We Are Infinite</i> Remix CD	March 4
Hi Fashion <i>You Are Gorgeous</i> EP	March 7
<i>Geography Club</i>	March 11
Matt Zarley <i>Somebody 4 Everybody</i>	March 14
<i>The Happy Sad</i>	March 18
<i>Becoming</i> by Dr. Peter Morry	March 21

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Best Lesbian Erotica 2014</i>	February 28
<i>Capital Games</i> DVD	March 4
<i>Love Burns Bright: A Lifetime of Lesbian Romance; Legally Wed</i>	March 7
<i>Sherlock Holmes FAQ</i>	March 11
<i>Straight Men and the Men Who Love Them Vol. 3</i>	March 14
<i>Fujimi Orchestra: Cold Front Conductor</i>	March 18

More contests at eriegaynews.com! Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events email list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events! Over 1,000 people have won a prize!

April 24th-26th 2014

A Long Island native, Thomas Dale is a rising star in the comedy world. He recently landed a coveted spot on the New Faces showcase at Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival. In 2013 he was brought on as a regular performer for E's Chelsea Lately. Thomas performs regularly at the Comedy Cellar, Caroline's on Broadway, Stand Up NY, Comic Strip Live, and Eastville Comedy Club. He also provides regular commentary for VH1's 100 Greatest series. Thomas was a finalist in the New York's Funniest Competition at the New York Comedy Festival for three consecutive years, and has also won the "Best Comedian" prize at the Bamboozle Music Festival.

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