



EGN

Erie Gay News



23rd Annual Erie Pride Picnic

from NW PA Pride Alliance

Join us for the 23rd Annual Erie Pride Picnic on Saturday, June 6 at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle (near Beach 7) from 1 to 6 PM. Enjoy a great day with friends—it's free! Please note that this year's picnic is the first weekend in June, rather than the second.

Hot dogs, ox roast, soft drinks, water and table settings are provided. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or salad to share. Food will be served from 2 to 4 PM. Note that state law does not permit alcohol in the park.

Please check in at the registration table when you arrive. We will be taking the annual Family Portrait around 4:30 PM, and there will also be roving photographers. If you prefer to not be included in photos, put a red dot on your name badge.

If your group or organization would like to set up an info table, please let us know by May 30. There is no charge for an info table, but vending at the park is not permitted. If you can bring your own table, that is very much appreciated, but not required.

There will be a collection taken for Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA (non-perishables).

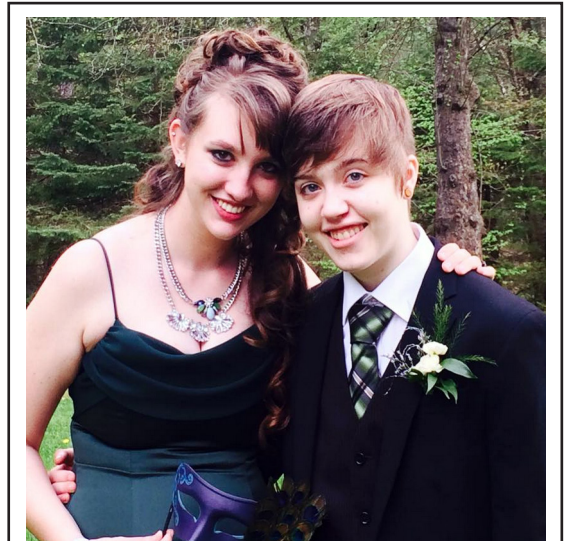
The picnic area and Beach 7 area are accessible.

For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or president@nwpapride.org

NW Alliance Erie Office Announces New Staff

The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance (NW Alliance) has provided HIV services in the Erie community for over twenty years. Two new employees have recently joined the NW Alliance team and will be working in the Erie Office, Thanh Huynh and Sonny Concepcion. Thanh and Sonny will be providing and expanding the quality services of the NW Alliance.

Thanh Huynh is a Medical Case Manager working in the Erie Office. Mr. Huynh received a Masters of Social work degree from Edinboro University. He has been working in Social Services with Veterans and



Transgender student chosen as Prom King in Tidioute

Transgender student Oliver Morgan, 15, (at right, with girlfriend Hannah) was chosen prom king at Tidioute Community Charter School. The administration initially stripped Oliver of the title, but after they learned of his transgender status, they reinstated him, giving Oliver and Hannah a reason to celebrate and a night to remember.

For links to Oliver's story, visit www.eriegaynews.com

the homeless population for the past three years. As a Medical Case Manager, Mr. Huynh's primarily role is to help HIV+ individuals access health and social services. Mr. Huynh coordinates linkage to a variety of community resources for clients, while ensuring quality services and advocating for client rights.

Sonny Concepcion is the new High Impact Pre-

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PRINT EDITIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE
www.eriegaynews.com

Click on the PDFs for this & previous issues of EGN from 1992.

Also, check out our Photo Galleries, Videos, Contests, Reviews & much more



QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL	EIGHTH PAGE	

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

Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.

Erie PA-1105
 (814) 456-9833

Fax: (530) 451-9833

info@eriegaynews.com

www.eriegaynews.com

Editor: Mike Mahler

Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko

Ad Design: Mike Lipiec

Deadline for next issue: June 15; Folding and distribution is Tue, June 23 at Griffin Room at Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel.

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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*[®]** with Full Text Index & Six LGBT Archives **WORLDWIDE!**



To Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel for hosting! Audrey, Bill, Collis, Johauna, Kim, and Rex Apps for folding; Collis, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, and Kim 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

vention Coordinator. High Impact Prevention (HIP) is a new program for the NW Alliance. HIP is reaching communities highly impacted by HIV with education, prevention and linkage to care. Mr. Concepcion has worked in the HIV field in the Erie Community for twenty years. Mr. Concepcion provides interventions in the community and in individual settings to improve HIV risk reduction behaviors. He also makes referrals to link HIV+ individuals to care and needed services. Sonny does HIV testing, including rapid testing in a safe environment. For more info, call (814) 454-3811.

Get Your Pride Shirts and more!

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance is very excited to bring you this year's Pride shirts, as well as some new Pride merchandise! This helps make Pride possible. This year, we will again have V-neck shirts. V-neck shirts are sizes small to 3XL. (\$18 for sizes small to XL, \$20 for t-shirts 2XL & 3XL), and tank tops are sizes small

to 2XL (\$19 for tank tops sizes small to XL, and \$20 for tank tops size 2 XL.) On the back of the shirt are all of the sponsors helping to bring Pride to you this year, and a listing of the great events happening in our community! Cash and credit/debit cards are accepted for payment. Shirts can also be ordered online at www.nwpride.org.

New this year are 26 oz. metal sports bottles with the NW PA Pride logo for keeping your beverage cool and fabulous, and also tote bags with the NW PA Pride logo in full color. Sports bottles are \$15 each, and tote bags are \$12 each.

For more info, contact Michael Mahler at president@nwpride.org or (814) 456-9833. Be sure to check out the NW PA Pride Alliance web site at www.nwpride.org. We will have shirts for sale at local establishments and also at the 23rd Annual Erie Pride Picnic on June 6!

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Extension 477



Remembering Ben Heggy

from Season Crannell

Those of you who saw Erie's Perry 200 Parade or have been to the Millcreek 4th of July parade or the NWPA Pride Alliance's annual Pride Parade the last few years have probably noticed that we had a pretty good sized float rolling down the street behind a big, grey truck. What you may not know is that we had that float because NWPA Pride put out a call for trucks or trailers or pretty much anything that could be decorated and trotted out. The universe answered that call with a message from a man from Seven Springs, PA named Ben Heggy.

As it turns out, Ben had seen our request for help when a friend of a friend passed along our post on Facebook and he contacted us with an offer to come up to Erie and drive a trailer for a parade. Though we had exchanged a few messages to establish the size of the trailer and other practical issues one needs to know when planning out a parade float on a flatbed trailer they've only seen a picture of, I didn't quite know what to expect. The morning of the first build we did together I was greeted with a bald head, a leather jacket and one of the warmest smiles I've ever seen. Ready, eager and willing to help and surprisingly chipper; considering that he had driven up the night before and slept in the back of his pickup truck just to be sure he wouldn't be late and that we'd have plenty of time to decorate without rushing.

Over the course of the next few years and rounds of "set the float up, ride the thing around, tear the float down" the other volunteers and I came to know Ben for his kindness and generosity. He was always ready to help put up the float, and he never lost his patience. No matter how complicated the design was to assemble, even when it didn't go together quite the way I thought it would, or the time I didn't bring enough screws (I'd bought the wrong kind anyway, shopping in haste) and then there was the time one of the wooden supports split when we drilled into it. Ben would just reach into the back of his truck and magically pull out exactly what we needed, and neither he nor his trusty power drill ever seemed to run out of energy.

After the first build, I looked forward to arriving early and sharing a thermos of coffee and a chat with Ben in the early morning pre-parade quiet. He'd sit on the tailgate of his truck and I would sit on the trailer. We'd drink our coffee, eat a little breakfast and



Ben Heggy at NW PA Pride 2012 parade.

go over the plans for the decorations before everyone else arrived and it was time to unload everything and get to work. I learned while we ate and worked together that in addition to taking his truck and trailer to parades as often as his schedule allowed (he said we were his favorites, but given his gracious nature I suspect he told the other groups the same thing); he spent the majority of the time he wasn't taking care of his land choreographing and teaching line dance. He taught several classes throughout the week and went to conventions and competitions year round, often in costume. He made the costumes, too.

At this point in my story, you may have noticed that I've been referring to Ben in the past tense. Sadly, he passed away due to complications from a sudden stroke on May 3rd. It goes without saying that we'll miss his calm, collected presence during parades. I know I'll miss seeing him practice dances during the inevitable downtime that comes after you've set up a parade and before it starts, teaching anyone there who wanted to dance along with him. I'll miss his slow, genuine smiles and his dry wit. I'll miss the bright Hawaiian shirts and his quick steady hands. So Ben, wherever you are now I hope they appreciate you as much as we did, the coffee is always fresh and there's plenty of room to dance. Rest in peace, my friend.

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See Website for Complete Schedule

Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar
www.eriegaynews.com

"Live and Let Live" an LGBT AA meeting is every Sunday at 7 PM at Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie PA., For more info, contact Charlene Newport at (814) 504-1507 or cmn0626@gmail.com.

May 23 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Troika Russian Festival (Church of the Nativity, 109 German St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. (814) 314-9512. . ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 23 (Sat) - Holiday Weekend - Dance Saturday and Sunday Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. www.campdaviscampground.com.

May 23 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones in Erie Co. re-

gion. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeier. (814) 823-1969. caitlyn_xpress@verizon.net. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

May 23 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. Followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. erisesisters.ning.com/

May 24 (Sun) - Big Gay Picnic www.pittsburghpride.org/.

May 24 (Sun) - FACE Drag Show - NOTE DATE CHANGE! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Join Misty Kall and her girls for a phenomenal FACE SHOW with, for one night only, a very special guest: the Lake Erie Perch, Miss Velvet Lace! Come out and celebrate Memorial Day with them because they are gonna tear up the stage! (814) 452-0125.

May 26 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network

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meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 1 PM. (724) 287-7731. www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork.

May 26 (Tue) - It's Time: Cocktails for Equality, Pittsburgh (Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, 1 Schenley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA) 6:30 PM - 9 PM. [Pwww.equalitypa.org](http://www.equalitypa.org). equalityfederation.org.

May 26 (Tue) - PFLAG Meeting in Meadville (Stone

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United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 6 PM. The meeting is co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. (814) 724-6736 sroncola@allegheeny.edu (Stone UMC) or Rev. Carmen Emerson (814-724-4023 ext. 302, revcme@gmail.com). www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/1.

May 27 (Wed) - J-Pride - LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. in Chautauqua Co., 31 Water St. Ste 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Drive into the big parking lot at the Gateway Center and drive to back of the building to the smaller rear parking lot. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044.

May 29 (Fri) - LBT Women go to Erie Ribfest (Perry Square, 6th and State Streets, Erie, PA) 5:30 PM. Free admission. Purchase food and drink www.Erieribfest.com (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com.

May 29 - 31 (Fri - Sun) - Trailer Trash Weekend \$1.98 Beauty Pageant & Talent Show (Jones Pond

9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) ! (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 30 (Sat) - Hag Drag Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA www.campdavicampground.com.

May 30 (Sat) - "Stop the Violence" Film Festival held at the Jamestown Community College Hamilton Collegiate Center (Student Union) Jamestown NY. Free anti-bullying film festival. Full schedule and info: www.jamestownpride.com

Jun 3 (Wed) - The Table Worship Gathering (Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Road, Erie, PA 16506) 7 PM. Experience a time of silence, nature, scripture, discussion and creative prayer practices. Meet at the main building. If it is raining, we will meet at 3176 W. 41st Street instead. Venue Phone: (814) 835-5356. Email: pastrixjodi@gmail.com. Browse to http://www.thetableerie.com/. Browse to venue web site http://asburywoods.org/.

Jun 5 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Gigliotti's, 1325 State St, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. Facebook: G2H2/ERIE

Jun 5 - 7 (Fri - Sun) - Game Show Weekend- The Price is 'Wrong' ((Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) \$2,500 in cash and prizes. (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Jun 6 (Sat) - Toga & Bathhouse Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavicampground.com.

Jun 6 (Sat) - 23rd Annual Erie Pride Picnic (Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA) 1 - 6 PM. Potluck event. Hot dogs, ox roast, soft drinks, water and table settings provided. Contact: Michael Mahler.

SUMMER FUN AT THE POND!

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- Just 2½ hours from Erie in Western NY!
- June 5-7 Game Show Weekend, Over \$2,500 in Prizes!
- June 19-21 Cowboy Weekend
- June 26-28 Construction Zone Weekend, Amateur Strip Contest
- July 2-5 Fourth of July Weekend, Independence Day Party w/Free Food & Drinks, T-Dance



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Calendar

(814) 456-9833. mmahler@nwpapride.org. www.nwpapride.org. venue web site www.presqueisle.org/.

Jun 7 (Sun)- Buffalo & WY Pride Festival & Parade
www.buffalopridefestival.com/

Jun 7 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) Elections will be held. Educational program will be Ask Ellen, the Social Worker. Contact: Joshua Crawford. (724) 290-9674 president@pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com/.

Jun 7 (Sun) - 4th Annual Kate Buczek Memorial Concert 4-6PM Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie PA featuring Irish musician Dáithí Sproule and "Mambo." Free, but donations appreciated. (814) 923-1155.

Jun 8 (Mon) - "Becoming Us " ABC Family 9PM. Chronicles the life of 17-year-old Ben as his father Charlie transitions to become Carly. abcfamily.go.com/

Jun 9 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30pm. www.youngstownpflag.org

Jun 10 (Wed) - J-Pride - LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. in Chautauqua Co., 31 Water St. Ste 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044.

Jun 10 (Wed) - Theology on Tap (Plymouth Tavern, 1109 State Street, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM. Weather-permitting, we'll be in the garden area in the back. If it is raining, we'll have a "guide" at the front door to help you find the group! Venue Phone: (814) 453-6454. Email: pastrixjodi@gmail.com. Browse to http://www.thetableerie.com/. Browse to venue web site http://www.plymouthtavern.com/.

Jun 12 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night (Zone Dance Club,



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Corner of West Second and Cherry

814-451-6700 **www.ecdh.org**

Calendar

133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Jun 12 - 14 (Fri - Sun) - Medieval Renaissance Faire - 200 Block Party ((Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Jun 12-27 - Angels in America Part One: The Millennium Approaches Dramashop, Renaissance Centre, 2nd Fl. 1001 State Street, Erie PA dramashop.org/

Jun 13 (Sat) - Youngstown Festival Pride Parade Federal Plaza E. Youngstown OH. prideyoungstown.org/

Jun 13 (Sat) - Pride Skirt Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) Contact: Jim. (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavicampground.com.

Jun 13 (Sat) - A Conversation with Paul Campion & Randell Johnson, plaintiffs in one of the pending U.S. Supreme Court cases on marriage 7PM, The Robert H. Jackson Center, 305 E. Fourth

St., Jamestown NY, free admiaaion, 716.483.6646 or info@roberthjackson.org www.roberthjackson.org/the-center/

Jun 14 (Sun) - Pittsburgh March & PrideFest www.pittsburghpride.org

Jun 15 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News July 2015 print edition (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Jun 16 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie) 7 PM. Facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty Provides LGBTQA people the confidential opportunity to share what it means to be both a sexual and spiritual person. Contact: Rich McCarty. 1-866-229-1974

Jun 17 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner (Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State St, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. Dinner is on your own. (814) 446-2327. www.drenchedfur.com.

Jun 19-28 Toronto Pride Passports now required for border crossing. www.pridetoronto.com/


Jun 19 - 21 (Fri - Sun) - Cowboy Weekend- Ride 'Em Cowboy! ((Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) Extended country dancing, line dancing etc. (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Jun 20 (Sat) - Summer Kick Off - Swimwear Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavicampground.com.

Jun 21 (Sun) - FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 11 PM. Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and spe-

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The whole book is now online in Acrobat Reader format.
www.gayellowpages.com/online.htm
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 Body Language, Cleveland, OH 216-251-3330
 Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo, NY 716-855-0222
 and many others at <http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

For an application to be listed (no charge), current editions, and prices, mailing labels, 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

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Calendar

cial guests the third Sunday of the month at 11 PM. (814) 452-0125. TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Jun 23 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, Griffin Room, 55 West Bay Dr Erie, PA) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of EGN. All ages welcome! info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Jun 23 (Tue) - PFLAG Meeting in Meadville (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. The meeting is co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. (814) 724-6736 or sroncola@allegheny.edu (Stone UMC) or Rev. Carmen Emerson (814-724-4023 ext. 302, revcme@gmail.com (UU Meadville.). www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/.

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Jun 27 - Cleveland Pride www.clevelandpride.org

Jun 27 (Sat) - Underwear I - Boots & Boxers (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavisground.com.

Jun 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. (814) 823-1969. caitlyn_xpress@verizon.net. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Jun 27 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. Followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/

Jun 28 (Sun) - Miss Erie Pageant (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) (814) 452-0125. www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub.

Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>Mariab Carey - #1 to Infinity</i>	May 22
<i>Ciara - Jackie</i>	May 26
<i>BOYSTOWN Season 3</i>	May 29
<i>Beyond Love DVD</i>	June 5
<i>Folsom Forever DVD</i>	June 9
<i>Saugatuck Cures DVD</i>	June 30

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>grydscaen: tribute</i>	May 22
<i>The Last Five Years DVD; Hot Pursuit Prize Pack</i>	May 26
<i>The Me I Never Was</i>	May 30
<i>The Glass Stiletto; Pair of Tickets to Andrew Lloyd Webber's Sunset Boulevard</i>	June 2
<i>Hairless Toys from Roisin Murphy</i>	June 5
<i>Chocolate City rental</i>	June 9

More contests at eriegaynews.com!

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events!

ERIE'S VAPORIZER SPECIALIST AND ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
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2015 annual free pride picnic

SATURDAY
June 6th 2015
1pm-6pm



Sponsored by



Food & Drinks
Raffles

**Presque Isle State Park
Rotary Pavilion**

(across from Waterworks Cabin)

Everyone Welcome!
Volunteers Welcome!

Please bring non-perishable items
to donate to the Erie Food Bank!

For more information call:
814-456-9833



email picnic@nwpapride.org

Visit <http://www.nwpapride.org>

State law prohibits
alcohol at the Park.