Erie County Executive Dahlkemper issues Transgender Awareness Week Proclamation

On November 12, 2018, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper issued a proclamation for Transgender Awareness Week. It read in part: “NOW THEREFORE, I, Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive, do hereby proclaim November 12 - 19 as Transgender Awareness Week and call upon our citizens to educate themselves regarding the issues of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that transgender people face and encourage our community to be allies of the transgender community.”

The document may be viewed in its entirety at TransFamily of NW PA on Facebook.

World AIDS Day event at Blasco Library on December 3

On Monday, December 3 at 10 AM at Blasco Public Library, the Erie County HIV Task Force will hold a World AIDS Day event to raise awareness and show support for people living with HIV. The program is free and open to the public and includes a Tree of Hope and Healing, community resource information and Reflection: Peer Survivor Story. Presented by Erie County Co. HIV Task Force. Contact: LauraBeckes. (814) 451-6786. FB: Erie County HIV Task Force.

E3 Youth Summit in Erie April 2019

The E3 Youth LGBTQA Summit will be hosting all young individuals ages 12-21, their families, and professionals who impact LGBTQA youth. The Summit is focused on building a safe, supportive, and connected community through the cooperation of regional advocacy organizations, as well as local educational and health care professionals, to empower our youngest members. The final schedule of summit events will be released soon. The event will be held April 12-13, 2019 at Strong Vincent Middle School, 1330 W 8th St, Erie PA. Please like our Facebook page as we make more information available: E3 Youth Lgbtqa Summit

12TH ANNUAL BEHREND DRAG SHOW

On Thursday, November 8, the Gender and Sexuality Equality Club (GASE) at Penn State Behrend held their 12th annual Behrend Drag Show. The event was hosted by Pittsburgh-based Lola LeCroix (above), and other performers included Anna Steezia, Sasha Nolan, Danyel Vasquez, and Dixie Shurwood. The room was packed with students from Behrend and area universities, as well as other local community members. There were six entrants for the amateur drag contest, with the winner being 13 year old Club Diamond (aka Jewels), who was there with her mother. The room was packed and there was also coverage by the Erie Times News.

Photo album of event at eriegaynews.com
Eighth $40 - $36 Prepaid 15/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
Quarter $65 - $58.50 Prepaid 3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
Half Vert. $120 - $108 Prepaid 3 1/2" high X 6" wide
Half Horiz. $120 - $108 Prepaid 7" high X 2 7/8" wide
Full Page $200 - $180 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.

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Erie PA 16502-1105
(814) 456-9833
Fax: (440) 551-5985
info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

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Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec

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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.

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea, Bobbie Fenno, Emily, Kim, Kim Hackbarth, and Rex Apps for folding; Andrea, Bobbie Fenno, Emily, Jerry McCumber, Johanna, Kim, Kim Hackbarth, and Rex Apps 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

Erie County HIV Task Force News
from Lisa Szymanski BSN, RN | Public Health Nurse

As a member of the Erie County HIV Task Force, I can think of no better time to talk about HIV prevention than as World AIDS Day approaches. The theme for World AIDS Day this year is “Know Your Status”!

The task force is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infection.

We have been diligently working to develop a plan to increase awareness of this preventable disease. Keep an eye out for 6 billboards sponsored by the Erie County Department of Health. These billboards offer information about HIV and STD prevention strategies happening in our community: (1) promotion of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), (2) FREE condoms, and (3) FREE testing sites in our community.

The billboards announce our new Erie County HIV Task Force website: echiv.org. The website offers information regarding free and confidential STD and HIV testing. There are multiple testing locations in Erie County, making it easy to know your status! The task force also manages the condom distribution program with an ever growing list of businesses and organizations distributing free condoms. Click on the website’s link for information about testing and condom locations near you.

The final billboard promotes PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, which helps HIV-negative adults greatly reduce their risk of infection. This medication is taken once a day and if used correctly, reduces the risk of HIV infection from sex by more than 90% or higher if combined with other risk reducing behaviors.

We hope these billboards get people talking and asking questions, to each other and to their doctors. For more information, contact Lisa Szymanski BSN, RN at 814-451-6714 or Laura Beckes, BS, CHES at 814-451-6786 at the Erie County Department of Health.

(Continued on next page)

NW PA Pride Alliance: Thanks for a great 2018
from NW PA Pride Alliance

Thanks to our donors and supporters, 2018 was a great year for the NWPA Pride Alliance. We celebrated Pride this year with our theme, “Remember the Past, Create the Future.”

This year’s Pride Fest set an all-time record for attendance – over 1,500 people attended, making it the largest Pride event in local history. We were honored that Erie City Major Joe Schember and his staff walked in the Pride Parade, and that the Mayor spoke at Pride Fest. In addition to the City of Erie painting a rainbow crosswalk between City Hall and Perry Square, the Mayor also chose to announce the Mayor’s LGBTQ+ Advisory Council (which included board members of NW PA Pride Alliance) during Pride Fest. We were very much honored that our event was chosen to make this historic announcement. We were also very pleased to have a great time with everyone who came to the 26th

World AIDS Day Events
page 8
annual Pride Picnic in August.

We also continued to focus on increasing the visibility of NWPA Pride, building connections to community partners and promoting issues important to the LGBTQIA community. We marched in the Edinboro University Homecoming Parade with Identity, Edinboro University’s LGBTQIA student organization. We participated in the annual Fourth of July Parade in Millcreek. We also continued our partnership with the Erie Seawolves for “Pride Night at the Erie Seawolves.” We partnered with The Zone Dance Club for Painting with Pride. We donated gift baskets for National Night Out in Gridley Park as well as the Pink Party Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend at the Zone, and hosted the fourth annual Pride Day at Waldameer Park and Water World. We were also proud to sponsor the production of “The Laramie Project” at Dramashop for the 20th anniversary of Mathew Shepard’s tragic murder.

We are already hard at work planning for 2019 with the goal of building on the growth we enjoyed in 2018, and we look forward to the support of our donors and our community partners. We thank everyone for their continued support and we look forward to seeing you in 2019 at Pridefest on June 29th and the Pride Picnic on August 10th.

Third Annual Pennsylvania LGBTQA Health Conference June 18-19

The Third Annual Pennsylvania LGBTQA Health Conference will be held at Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry PA June 18-19.

This year’s skill-based conference will focus on addressing tobacco and behavioral health disparities through the lens of trauma informed care and resiliency. The event is co-sponsored by PA Department of Health, PA Department of Human Services, Adagio Health, Northwest Pennsylvania Tobacco Control Coalition, and Tobacco Free Allegheny. Registration for the 2019 Conference will be opening soon. Applications for presenters are being accepted now!

For more information, visit http://tobaccofree-allegheny.org/pa-lgbtqa-conference/ On Facebook: Third Annual Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Conference
LGBTQ Unit in Meadville Halloween Parade
from Randy Herbert-Weed

Crawford Area LGBT+ (@crawfordarealgbt) along with Showing Up for Racial Justice Crawford County (@SURJCrawfordCounty) participated for the second time in Meadville’s 52nd Annual Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 26, 2018. As was the case last year, we were welcomed warmly among the community with periodic cheers from those watching the parade as we walked the route. A special thanks to all those who made it possible for us to participate! This truly has been a huge step in building bridges in the community.

(Photos by Mike Mahler. See complete album at eriegaynews.com)
Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend Raises over $4,000 from Lovin Heart

The 13th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend was held at The Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA, October 12th-14th. What started as Michelle Micheals’ idea to bring together the local drag community to raise money for a cause near and dear to her heart has since grown into an entire weekend of raising funds. Michelle Micheals mother Gracie is an 18 year survivor of stage 4 breast cancer, and has always been her biggest supporter, and is the inspiration for the weekend. Over the years of doing this event it has grown thanks to the overwhelming support of Erie LGBT+ community, the dance community many other supporters of the cause.

This weekend is not possible without the help of many and the vision and dedication of Michelle Micheals. A very special thanks to The Zone owners Bob and Lou, the staff Tony, Glenn, Brittany, Brian, Sean and Dennis as well as Josh, Marty, Alex, Jimbo, Erick and Brenda for their hard work all weekend.

This year included over 40 baskets from the following group or people Chris Temple, Grace Watson, Sandy Hodas, Brenda Dugan, Elaine Crandall, Denise Kubiak, Brenda Crolli, Denise Kubiak, Dale Allgeier, Robert Eckendorf, Anelle Dugan, Nancy Krumpe, Erie Gay News, Matthew Blake Steger, Glenn David Meyer, Sean Weary, NW PA Pride Alliance, Rose Palombi, Jennifer Wilson, Tiffany Sheffield, Kristen Baxter Glass and Schafer family.

The weekend included massive 3 day bake sale. Thanks to Sherry Edkin, Grace Watson, Susan Conner, Brenda Crolli, Sherry Grace and Sarah Burnside for supplying delicious baked goods.

The weekend ended with a fabulous drag show that included Phenomenal performance from Misty Micheal Kall, Lovin Heart, Alysin Wonderland, King Maximo, Soren Hellfire, Taylor Morgan, Marilyn Tenni and was capped off with a Moving performance of Fight Song by Erie’s Drag Icon and organizer of the
Community News

Report on Inaugural Meeting of PA Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

The inaugural meeting of the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs was held on November 2, 2018 at Harrisburg University. There are about 40 commissioners from across the Commonwealth from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Executive Director Todd Snovel reported on the actions taken thus far, which included a listening tour of the commonwealth, as well as individual correspondence. Snovel also spoke in a panel for the LGBTQ Aging Summit in October, which included several discussions of a Bill of Rights for long term care for elders. About 300 people attended that inaugural event championed by the Elder Initiative and the Department of Aging. Snovel has also been working with state departments and agencies on both inward and outward facing engagement and policy work.

Vice Chair Shaashawn Dial presented a fascinating discussion on considering our language and commissioner Adrian Shanker shared the results of the PA 2018 LGBTQ+ Health Needs Assessment from this past spring. Future plans include task based work groups, working with individual community and local ordinances, and a series of town hall meetings. The commission will meet quarterly, rotating through the commonwealth. February’s meeting will be in Washington, PA. May will be in Philadelphia, and August will be in Erie. The commission will also be launching several social media platforms.

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event Michelle Micheals. All tips were donated and are included in the event total. Special thank your Season The stage manager and Marty our sound and lighting coordinator who also donated their time to help put on the show.

Other cash donations include Little Dance Studio, Pat Matson and family, Stacy Glass, Jill Vollmer and Tom Harris from Possibilities. Linda Jones donated a handle made quilt for raffle.

This year weekend raised $4,082. This includes $2,697 from the weekend activities, $385 from the quit raffle and $1,000 from Sam’s Club. All proceeds will be donated to StringsforaCURE.

Over the past 6 years that StringsforaCURE has been the donation recipient Michelle Micheals and the community has raised a total of $19,474. For more information, visit www.stringsforacure.org.

Michelle and company are already at work planning the 14th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend and the Zone to be held in October 2019.
World AIDS Day events

Erie

Nov 30 (Fri) - Erie Awareness Outreach presents Blood Red Runway Affair (Metropolitan Club, 144 W 13th St, Erie, PA) Doors open 7 PM, runway 8 PM “Awareness fashion event featuring urban style runway!” Reception with DJ Blackcat at 10 PM, runway 10:30 PM. (Performance and Sex Siren.) $50 per category + pot ($5 fee.) Style Code: Blood Red. $5 at the door (state & college ID), 18 to party, 21 years for cocktails with state ID. FB: Erie Awareness Outreach

Dec 1 (Sat) - World AIDS Awareness Annual Prayer Breakfast 9:00AM-11:30AM Flight of the Eagle Banquet Hall 1125 Pennsylvania Ave., Erie PA $10 Erie Awareness Outreach/Urban Ministries. Speaker: Bishop Dwane Brock Contact Tom Lee at (814) 449-0646, or at tsoundsproduction@yahoo.com.

Dec 3 (Mon) - World AIDS Day observance (Blasco Memorial Erie County Public Library, 160 East Front St. Erie, PA) 10 AM. Event is free and open to the public and includes a Tree of Hope and Healing, community resource information and Reflection: Peer Survivor Story. Presented by Erie County Co. HIV Task Force. Contact: Laura Beckes. (814) 451-6786. FB: Erie County HIV Task Force.

WNY

Dec 1, 8, & 9 - Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus: “Our Grown-Up Christmas List” (3 Buffalo venues) “Features Buffalo AIDS quilt. BGMC is very purposefully looking back at a tragic time that demanded we step up to support one another, juxtaposed against a season of thankful sentiments we will be sharing in our ‘Singing with Pride’ concert,” buffalogaymenschorus.com

Youngstown

Dec 1 (Sat) - Free World AIDS Day Dinner, Testing, & Vigil (First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown OH, 1105 Elm St, Youngstown, OH) Co-Sponsored by The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org

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Nov 22 (Thu) - Silver Fox Thanksgiving Celebration (Old Country Buffet, 4401 Transit Rd, Buffalo, NY) Noon-2PM “Don’t be alone this Thanksgiving, join us for a buffet. Attendees do not need to RSVP but, they are expected to pay for their own food. Look for us, we will be saving a table.” Silver Pride is a LG-BTQ+ seniors group. silverprideproject@gmail.com

Nov 24 - 5th Annual Transgiving Dinner (Crime Victim Center of Erie County 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 2-5PM Hosted by Transfamily of NWPA “All are welcome, but we ask that you please RSVP so we have an idea of how many people are coming. Transfamily of NWPA will provide the turkey and place settings. Please bring a pot luck dish to share and your preferred non-alcoholic beverages.” FB: Transfamily of NWPA

Nov 24 (Sat) - Drag Show and Disco Night (M & J’s Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) FB: M&J’s Lounge

Nov 25 (Sun) - Rebecca Mae’s Drag Brunch (Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St, Erie, PA) 11 AM - 4 PM. Live entertainment includes performances by: Siren Kelly (from Maryland), Evon Michelle (from Maryland) and London Adour (from Las Vegas)! Advance tickets: $35 / Door $45. 21+ event. Please provide valid ID at door with ticket. Please print or have a digital copy of your ticket to present at the door No refunds. FB: Rebecca Mae’s Drag Brunch

Nov 28 (Wed) - A Drag Queen Christmas (House of Blues, Cleveland OH) dragfans.com

Dec 1 (Sat) - World AIDS Day See local and area events page 8. worldaidsday.org

Dec 1-2 (Sat - Sun) - North Coast Men’s Chorus: Snowbound (Hanna Theatre @ Playhouse Square, Cleveland) ncmchorus.org

Dec 4 (Tue) - Jane Lynch: “A Swingin’ Little Christmas” (Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst University, Erie PA) Featuring Kate Flannery and fellow Glee alum Tim Davis miac.mercyhurst.edu

Dec 6 (Thu) - Randy Rainbow Live (Carnegie Library Music Hall of Homestead, Munhall PA) librarymusicall.com

Dec 7 - “RuPaul’s Drag Race Holi-Slay” (VH1) 8pm

Dec 7 (Fri) - “Dumplin” national release (on Netflix and select theatres) Musical comedy based on the YA novel of the same name #Dumplin

Dec 7 (Fri) - A John Waters Christmas (Babeville, Buffalo NY) babevillebuffalo.com

Dec 8 (Sat) - Renaissance City Choir: “Find Joy Together” (East Liberty Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, Pittsburgh) rccpittsburgh.com

Dec 10 (Mon) – Deadline for Erie Gay News January 2019 print edition (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) info@eriegaynews.com.

Dec 11 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #66 (Golden Wok Chinese Restaurant, 3202 Pittsburgh Ave, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. “Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and fun! Dinner on your own.” Contact: Gary (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Dec 14 (Fri) - 3rd Annual Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center Holiday Gala (DiVieste’s Banquet Centre, 754 N River Rd NW, Warren, OH) 6-10 PM. $45 no refunds. (330) 333-1658. fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org

Dec 16 (Sun) - Joan Jett & the Blackhearts (Hard Rock Rocksino, Northfield, OH ) joanjett.com

Dec 16 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Yule (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) Ritual 6PM ptluck follows. Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. grollwynn72@hotmail.com

Dec 16 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. “Don’t miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests.” FB: The Zone
Calendar

Dec 18 (Tue) - “Relatable” (Netflix) Premiere of Ellen DeGeneres’ new standup special.
Dec 18 (Tue) – Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th, Erie, PA) 7PM. All ages! Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. Venue (814) 455-4009. info@eriegaynews.com
Dec 21 (Fri) - “Marvel’s Runaways” Season 2 (Hulu) FB: Marvel’s Runaways
Dec 29 (Sat) - Drag Show (M & J’s Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB membership required, purchase from bartender. FB: M&J’s Lounge
Dec 31 (Mon) - New Years Eve Party (M & J’s Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA ) M&J’s Lounge
Jan 11 (Fri) - “Friends from College” new season (Netflix)
Jan 16 (Wed) - “Schitt’s Creek” new season (Netflix) FB: Schitt’s Creek
Jan 17 (Thu) - Rufus Wainwright in concert (Byham Theater, Pittsburgh) rufuswainwright.com
Jan 27 (Sun) - “Rent” Live (Fox) Live broadcast of Jonathan Larson’s Tony- and Pulitzer-winning musical.

UPCOMING & ONGOING
“We the Animals” is now on @iTunes and On Demand. Acclaimed film is based on novel by Justin Torres
“Batwoman” series on CW will feature a Jewish lesbian main character, played by Jewish lesbian Ruby Rose. The series will premiere in 2019, with the Batwoman character being introduced in the “Elseworlds” Crossover event Dec. 9-11, reportedly in the “Arrow” hour. FB: Batwoman CW TV Series

Mar 15 (Fri) - Indigo Girls (Asbury Hall Buffalo NY) babevillebuffalo.com
Apr 12-13 (Fri-Sat) - E3 Youth LGBTQA Summit FB: E3 Youth Lgbtqa Summit
Jun 18-19 (Tue-Wed) - Third Annual Pennsylvania LGBTQA Health Conference (Cranberry PA) FB: Third Annual Pennsylvania LGBTQA Health Conference

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**ADDITION & RECOVERY**
AA Meeting Live & Let Live LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting every Sun. 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 W. 38th St., Erie, PA. www.aaeriepa.org.

**AGING**
Dec 9(Sun) – Over 40? So What? meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 – 6 PM. (814) 455-4009. daleallgeier@outlook.com.

**SOCIAL**
Crawford Area LGBT+ On FB: Crawford Area LGBT+
Dec 9 (Sun) – LBT Women of Erie meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 490-3994. ErieBeans@aol.com. FB: LBT Women of Erie
LBT Women of Erie Various events and venues.: Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 490-3994. ErieBeans@aol.com. FB: LBT Women of Erie

**STUDENT & YOUTH**
Gender and Sexuality Club (GASE). LGBTQA group at Penn State Behrend. Info: 814) 898-7162. mos5744@psu.edu.
Dec 4 & 18 (Tue) – Full Spectrum LGBT Teen Support & P.E.A.R.S Teen Drop-In Center (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6-8PM. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach
Dec 1 & 15 (Sat) – Prism LGBTQ youth group meets 1st & 3rd Sat at the Downtown YMCA teen center, 31 W 10th St, Erie PA. from 2-4. Socializing and peer support. for teens 12-20 Rose Surma (814) 490-1971 Rose.surma@gmail.com FB: TransFamily of NWPA

**SUPPORT**
Dec 9 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Sexuality Support (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 3-5PM.
Dec 23 (Sun) – Parents Who Are LGBTQIA+ Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM.

**TRANS**
Dec 8 (Sat) – TransFamily of Meadville Transgender Support Group (CHAPS Building, 1st floor, 944 Liberty St., Meadville, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Linda Thomas. imhzwoman4586@msn.com. (814) 232-1778 FB: Transfamily of NWPA.
Dec 9 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Transgender Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Road, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM. Also meets Jul 22 from 3-5PM.
Dec 10 (Mon) – TransFamily of Warren Transgender Support Group meets (Jefferson DeFrees Family Center – Hawke Room, 207 Second Avenue, Warren, PA) 6 PM– 8 PM. Contact: Kingsley Reese (814) 688-5574. kreeseamon@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA.
Dec 16 (Sun) – Parents and Partners of Gender Variant Individuals Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM.
Dec 22 (Sat) – TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 2 – 5 PM. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. Caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

Fun at the TransFamily picnic this past summer. Check out TransFamily on this page.

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

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