

January 2013

EGN

Erie Gay News

Erie Gay Community Newsletter - Extra!
Winter, 1993 Edition - Premiere Edition!

20 YEARS

of Serving the GLBT Community!

20 Years of EGN

by Michael Mahler

This issue marks the 20th anniversary of *Erie Gay News*.

It has been our proud duty to report on our local LGBT community and preserve our history since 1993.

PDFs of every issue since the first issue is on our web site, and copies of every print issue are stored in 6 different LGBT archives across the nation, as well as Toronto and Amsterdam. Our web site also has photo galleries going back to 1995.

Originally, this publication was called *Erie Gay Community Newsletter*, and was put out by an organization called Bridges for the first few years of its existence. Bridges disbanded around 1995/1996.

In 1995, the City of Erie marked its Bicentennial, and a copy of the December 1995 issue was included in the time capsule that the city placed in the tower at Dobbins Landing, which is due to be opened again in 2095.

Erie Gay News existed in an online-only format after December 1999 and resumed publishing in print as of the December 2002 issue.

Thanks for supporting us for the past 20 years, and here's looking forward to many more years to come!

Episcopal Diocese of NWPA to offer same-sex unions

The bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North-western Pennsylvania has announced his approval to allow priests in the diocese to conduct blessings of same-sex couples.

The Right Rev. Sean Rowe gave the approval for this diocese on Dec. 12. The move was approved by the church's general convention in July, and took effect Dec. 2. Priests and congregations who do not favor the measure will not be forced to offer blessings.

More on this at our website www.eriegaynews.com and at www.integrityusa.org



Folding volunteers Laurie, Jan (top row), Andrea, Amy (2nd row), Kim and Johanna (3rd row), Editor Mike, host Mike, Sharon and Erin at December folding. Photo by Mike Coleman

Craze Presents "Saturday Night With The Stars"

By *Destiny Divine*

If you have attended one of Craze's Monday night shows (College Night Entertainment Series), you know that they pack the bar with an energized crowd who enjoy the show. The audience has been asking for more shows, and Craze listened. Beginning in September, Craze hosted its first Saturday night show in at least two years. The response was overwhelming, the party was epic, and the show was well received. After a few more successful events, Craze named Destiny Divine, Miss Erie 1993, Weekend Show Director and introduced "Saturday Night With The Stars." Not only is there a show on these specific Saturday nights, but

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

EGN Rates & Data

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.



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Deadline for next issue: January 14; Folding and distribution is Tue, January 22 at Mike Kohler's. Please check night before!

ISSN 2159-1792

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 and six LGBT archives around the world



To Mike Kohler for hosting! Amy Terrizzi, Andrea, Colleen, Erin Moll, Janice Hanusik, Johauna, Julie, Kim, Laurie Finch, Michael Kohler, and Sharon Dunfee for folding; Andrea, Erin Moll, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Julie, Kim, Michael Kohler, and Sharon Dunfee 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

Craze is also offering drink specials, sexy shot bois and girls, the hottest bartenders, the sickest songs being played, local queens and kings, and also a splash of out-of-town and new entertainment. All this combined with no cover charge has made Saturday Night With The Stars an anticipated and flourishing event every month. Come play and reclaim the rainbow at the next event on Saturday, January 19th, 2013.

Browse to: <http://www.facebook.com/craze-nightclub/events> for the next epic experience ~ you don't want to miss it!

2012 Lake Erie Gala Recap

by *Melanie Shubitovski*

The 2012 Lake Erie Gala was held at the Avalon Hotel November 14th through November 18th. The Gala kicked off Wednesday with the opening of registration, dinner at the BrewErie and a private shopping experience at the Sassy Peacock. The annual event this year included tours of the Dunkirk lighthouse and the Erie Brewing Company with lunch at the Kelley Ho-

tel on Thursday. The lighthouse and Kelley Hotel are both reported to be haunted, and the hotel has been a frequent stop for ghost hunters, as well as a paranormal studies class from the University of Buffalo. Friday's tours included the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Arrowhead Winery and lunch at the Colony Pub and Grill. Themed dinners were also held with prizes for best themed dress.

Thursday's dinner was an Indian theme, and the Avalon Hotel owner personally prepared the meal for us, with entertainment by Lisa Naples who performed an impressive impersonation act. Friday was retro night, with the girls dressing as flappers and hippies to compete for top prize. Entertainment Friday saw Hoops by Dennehy, a very impressive group of talented local hoop dancers, and included interactive hooping instruction.

A trivia contest was held following lunch on Saturday with prizes for that also. After lunch, a film screening entitled *Gender Redesigner* was given on the second floor of the Avalon. The film screening was

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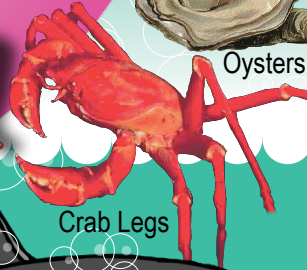
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Community News

a documentary given by the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality and Persad Center in partnership with the Erie Sisters, and featured fAe Gibson, (yes, that's how he spells his name), a female to male transsexual, who was in attendance for the showing, as well as a panel of experts assembled to answer questions following the movie.

Saturday was also free time for attendees for local shopping and vendors in attendance, as well as a swap and trade set up for attendees to leave things they no longer wanted and take anything that appealed to them, Saturday evening saw a meal blessing by Rev Steve Auschmann of the local UU church and a Transgender Day of Remembrance candle lighting ceremony by Caitlyn Strohmeier and Erie Sisters president, Melanie Shubitowski to remember transgenders who have died due to violence and discrimination, with Caitlyn delivering a touching speech prior to dinner. Her speech can be found on the Erie Sisters website at <http://eriesisters.ning.com>. Our annual Glitter Ball followed dinner, and the event concluded Sunday morning with a farewell brunch, and sales of picture CD's compiled by Gala

Correction to Bank Robbery Article

On page 4 of the November 2012 issue of *Erie Gay News*, we incorrectly listed the bank robbery as occurring at the PNC Bank located at 8th and Pittsburgh. The bank robbery occurred at Northwest Savings Bank Office on Pittsburgh Avenue. *Erie Gay News* regrets the error.

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Community News

photographer Glenda Berkshire of photos taken throughout the event.

While the Lake Erie Gala is not as big as most transgender conferences held throughout the country, it's interesting that our attendance remains at least consistent, while every other conference held has shown a marked decline with a struggling economy. The Lake Erie Gala brings over \$30,000 to the local economy each year, and draws transgenders from all over North America. The Lake Erie Gala remains a unique and fun experience for all.

Auditor General-Elect DePasquale Announces Transition Team, including Equality PA President

Democratic Auditor General-Elect Eugene DePasquale recently announced the leaders in his transition team. Among those leaders are Adrian E. Shanker, President of Equality Pennsylvania.

"We want to be ready on day one to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania, and am thrilled to have the guidance of a strong, diverse, and experienced transition team," said DePasquale.



Eric and Richard at Bear Bar Night

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Couples and PA Inheritance Law

by Gary Maas

“In this life, when your loved one dies?”

Richard and I had been together for 43 years until the two-month nightmare of hospital care took his life and him from me. Now the nightmare continues because we have no rights in Pennsylvania at this time.

We thought we did the right things to protect our assets from either family seizing them or having them fall into the wrong hands. Everything we owned jointly as tenants in common with rights of survivorship. While it is true that everything transferred to me, it is not without penalties imposed by the state.

Had we had the advantage of a legal marriage in this state, there would have been no ramifications as far as taxes and legally I would not be imposed upon with inheritance taxes. Instead, 50% of everything we owned together is subject to a 15% tax, including my personal checking account because he had the rights to also sign my checks. We never suspected this would happen and I am not sure there was a way to prevent it and preserve the assets from family intervention.

I implore all who read this to check with an estate planner or your attorney and to be prepared for a rude awakening when death occurs. I also encourage all of you to continue to fight for our simple human rights in this state and nationally to stop this horrid injustice. Know that I am there to fight the battle with you.

Obituary

Richard J. LaPrice

Richard J. LaPrice, age 70, of Millcreek Township, passed away Sunday, November 11 at Saint Vincent Health Center surrounded by his partner, Gary, and his best friends: Tommy, Dafna, and Jean-Marc. He was born in Erie on December 18, 1941 to the late Chester H. and Mary D. LaPrice.

Richard is a graduate of Cathedral Prep and went on to Gannon College to earn degrees in Mathematics and Physics. He was a member of the TKE Fraternity. After graduating from Gannon, he served his country during the Vietnam War at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Richard worked for Haysite Manufacturing, Zurn Industries, Smith Meter, Lyons Transportation, and retired from PHB Incorporated in 2009. He was a Senior Programmer Analyst.

Richard was an avid reader with a wealth of knowledge and he could converse on almost any subject. He was especially fond of science, history, biographies, and philosophy. He loved his gardens and designed and built many with water features and elaborate stone walls, which he laid himself. Richard could spend hours listening to classical music with his beloved cat, Brutus, on his lap. He had a profound respect for Eastern philosophy and religion and its disciplines. He was known for his classic sense of style, and always dressed for special occasions. He loved fine wine, dining with friends, and enjoyed good company. Richard was a lifetime member of the Erie Maennerchor Club. He was a strong supporter of the arts and, with Gary, a collector of local artists, most notably John Silk Deckard, Frank DiPlacido, and Susan and Steven Kemenyffy.

Richard will be sadly missed by his partner of 43 years, Gary; his best friend, Tommy; Cody and his buddy, Brutus. He is also survived by his sister, Joan (Tootie) and her husband John; his brother, Chet; four nephews and one niece. Richard is preceded in death by his parents. Services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to The Regional Cancer Center, 2500 West 12th Street, Erie, PA 16505 and to the Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation, 130 West 8th Street, Erie, PA 16501.

from Gary Maas



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“Made In America! Where are My Rights?”

by Chelsey

Brian Fijal started working on “Made in America! Where are My Rights?” in July 2012 when the idea came to him and another photographer to create a Facebook page showcasing gay couples.

“I wanted to show that gay love is real,” he said.

This idea transformed into a photography project featuring members and supporters of the gay community.

The first event — a photo booth — was held at the Erie Pride 2012 Parade and Rally in August. Since then, there have been three more photography events.

The photos that have been taken so far are posted to the group’s Facebook. Before sharing them, Brian edits the pictures to make them look like a magazine cover.

“We always look at what celebrities have to say,” he said. “Everyone has a voice, so why not let everyone be able to speak their mind? They can impact other people’s lives.”

According to Brian, his ultimate goal is to create a series of books showcasing not only the photographs, but also the stories of the people that are included to show that gays are regular people who deserve the same rights as anyone else.

To help achieve this goal, the Made in America executive board launched an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign with a goal of \$20,000. The board of directors consists of Director of Photography Brian Fijal, Director of Media/ Graphics Jerry Davis, Director of Communications Chelsey Klube, Director of Events Nick Elkovitch, Creative Director Megan Kuntz and Director of Outreach Earl Kunsman.

Donations can be made at Indiegogo.com/MadeInAmerica. To keep up-to-date with events and fundraising for Made in America! Where are My Rights!, like them on Facebook at facebook.com/madeinamericawherearemyrights.

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Suicide Prevention

by *Patty Puline*

Suicide among Erie residents, including gay adults and gay teens prompted me to write this article. We need to take a good hard long look at ourselves, our knowledge base and our judgments.

Erie County conducted a needs assessment for suicide prevention in 2010, using a decision based matrix comparing data from Erie and surrounding counties to state and national data. Results indicated that we needed to have a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention, policy, awareness and education.

Meeting with leaders of social service agencies, mental health providers, drug and alcohol counselors, and local professionals in the counseling field, we created a suicide prevention task force in the fall of 2010, and now have over 30 members, including Persad and Erie Gay News.

Statistics are surprising among adolescents, as it is the third leading cause of death among that group, and almost half of this group engages in some form

of self-harm, which may lead to suicidal ideations or attempts. LGBTQ youth are uniquely at risk for suicidal ideations, and at risk behaviors (Liu, 2012). However, this population has not been studied enough; we need more concentrated efforts /projects.

Let's talk about attitudes - What do you know about suicide? What experiences have you had with suicidal friends or family members? What does suicide mean to you? Common emotional reactions to suicide include fear, anger, helplessness and hopelessness.

Myths and facts about:

1. People who talk about suicide won't really do it MYTH
2. Almost everyone who dies or attempts suicide talks about it first FACT
3. Talking about suicide may give someone the idea to do it. MYTH
4. You can help by discussing the subject openly and show you care. FACT
5. Only crazy people die by suicide, he must have been insane. MYTH
6. Most suicidal people are not psychotic or insane. They feel sad, depressed, hopeless, distressed and are in deep emotional pain. FACT
7. People who attempt suicide are just trying to get attention. MYTH
8. It does not matter if that is the motivation – results could be fatal. FACT

Suicide is a major public health problem. Every year more than 31,000 people die in the United States by suicide. Suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, and 3rd in Pennsylvania. Last year in Erie County we had 45 deaths due to suicide, the youngest age 10, the oldest age 86.

Gender, ethnic and age differences in suicide are interesting – males are four times more likely than females to commit suicide. White Americans are more likely than ANY other race, and the rates increase with age. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for ages 15-24 and the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 25-44.

People think that if you are suicidal you are most likely mentally ill, and truly over 90% of suicides are associated with some form of mental illness. But abuse of alcohol and other drugs play a significant role in suicide

(continued on page 15)



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Calendar

Dec 21 (Fri) - The Zone Divas Annual Christmas Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Don your "gay" apparel for this night of show-stopping fun! Come spend time with your friends and family here at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Dec 22 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets 2 - 5pm at Mental Health Association of Northwest PA (MHA - 1101 Peach St. Erie, PA, 16501) Group discussion around some topic of interest, followed by time for social interaction. Please bring some type of snack to share. Free parking in MHA parking lot. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeier. Phone: (814) 823-1969. Venue Phone: (814) 452-4462 ext 117. Email: caitlyn_xpress@verizon.net.

Dec 22 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, 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. Phone: (440) 265-8191. Email: shub1@suite224.net. Browse to <http://eriesisters.ning.com/>.

Dec 22 (Sat) - Craze: "Christmas With the Stars!" 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) Making her Erie debut, Angelina Ducati from Lincoln, Nebraska! (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Dec 24 (Mon) - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA. 8 PM. United Church of Christ/ Church of the Brethren. All are welcome! Contact: Rev. Richard A Moyer. Phone: (814) 864-4429. Email: communityunit-edchurch@yahoo.com. Browse to www.uccwebsites.net/commuceriepa.html.

Dec 24 (Mon) - Craze Closed Christmas Eve www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Dec 27 (Thu) - Ho Ho Hoedown Holiday Show at Craze (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) 18 & over. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Dec 29 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Gremlins/Mov-

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Calendar

ies at the TREC Center (Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. \$5.00 fee. - "Gremlins" - 6:30 pm - family friendly event. There is a buffet before this movie that begins at 5:45 pm. The \$6.00 fee includes 2 pieces of pizza, salad, breadsticks, a soft drink and a cookie. Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Dec 31 (Mon) - New Year's Eve at Zone (133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Don't miss our annual Gay New Year's Eve Bash. Ring in the new year Zone style. Food buffet, party favors, and a free champagne toast at midnight. Watch the ball drop on our dance floor big screen. Then dance your way into the New Year! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Dec 31 (Mon) - Craze New Years Eve Gala (1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) NOT A COLLEGE NIGHT. Stay tuned to Facebook for more details. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Dec 31 (Mon) - Buffalo United Artists presents "Jeffrey" (Buffalo United Artists, 119 Chippewa, Buffalo, NY 13205) One night only, celebrating BUA's 20th anniversary. Phone: (716) 886-9239. Browse to www.buffalobua.org.

Dec 31- Erie Playhouse New Year's Eve Gala Concert 2012 - Magical Movie Music www.erieplayhouse.org/

Jan 4 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (1201 Kitchen, 1201 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. G2H2/Erie takes place 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 <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>.

Jan 5 (Sat) - 2013 Kickoff Show (Skybar, 108 Fairmount Parkway, Jamestown, NY) The First Show of 2013 Featuring the Hottest Music of the Moment! Announcing Our New Cast for the Year! Your hosts Liza Summers and Anita Waistline with cast members Anna Lee and live singers Matthew Kaydyn and Jaala welcome Amanda Playwith, Fiona Kora, Anita Ma

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Calendar

ndalay, Vanessa Valentine and Adam Babcock in a supershow filled with non-stop entertainment! The hottest music, the hottest performances (716) 661-3214.

Jan 12 (Sat) - Pride Planning meeting (Panera's - Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16505) 2:30 PM. NW PA Pride Alliance meets to plan our events for next year and also elect board members/officers! All are welcome to help out. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 833-9101. Email: mmahler@nwpapride.org. Browse to www.nwpapride.org.

Jan 12 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Gannon Woman's Swim/Dive Meet VS Canisius (Gannon University Carneval Athletic Complex, 4th and Peach St, Erie, PA) 1 PM. FREE - afterwards we will probably head to dinner and maybe a movie because it's my birthday! Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com.

Jan 13 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA 16505)

12 PM. Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. 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. VEmail: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Jan 14 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. Meets 2nd Monday of each month Contact: Jayne May. Phone: (814) 397-7133. Email: pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com. Browse to www.facebook.com/pages/

Jan 14 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News February 2013 print edition Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of January 22. For complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Jan 15 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Every 3rd Tuesday of the month (September - 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. 1-866-229-1974 (toll free). richmccarty@msn.com.

Jan 18 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night at Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 11 PM. Join the Bears for a night of fun! Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Jan 18 - 26 "Pageant Play" at PACA 1505 State St., Erie PA 2cond floor. Satiric look at the twisted world of child beauty pageants, with Alex Bolla and Sean Morgan. Visit paca1505.ning.com/

Jan 19 (Sat) - Saturday Night With The Stars at Craze (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) Drink specials, sexy shot bois and girls, the hottest bartenders, the sickest songs being played,

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.

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

For more info., contact:

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Suite 213, Erie, PA 16501

814-454-3811 or 1-800-400-AIDS

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814-764-6066 or 1-800-359-AIDS

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Calendar

local queens and kings, and also a splash of out-of-town and new entertainment. All this combined with no cover charge! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Jan 20 (Sun) - 40th Anniversary of Roe v Wade by NW PA Now (La bella, 802 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16502) 3 PM - 5 PM. Join Us As We Celebrate Choice. Drinks & hors d'ouerves. RSVP: due to limited space by January 14. Sponsored by: Northwestern Pennsylvania National Organization for Women, Northwestern Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union, American Association of University Women, Mr. Larry Sawdy, Social Responsibilities Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Erie Phone: (814) 734-5467. Venue Phone: (814) 456-2244. Email: nwpanow@yahoo.com.

Jan 20 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the third Sunday of the month at 11 PM.

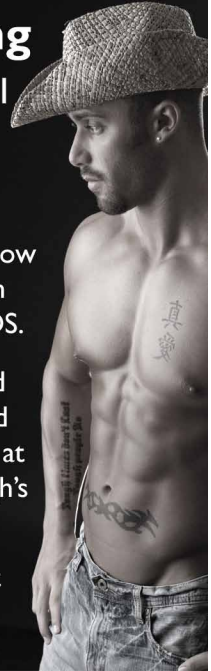
Text for Testing

Text "PAtest" to 41411 to find free HIV testing near you.

Almost half the gay men infected with HIV don't know it. Knowing your status can help protect you from AIDS.

Text for Testing is presented by the Pitt Men's Study and the PA Prevention Project at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health.

For more information visit PittMensStudy.com.



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Monday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Thursday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Calendar

(814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com

Jan 22 (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.

Jan 26 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets 2 - 5pm at Mental Health Association of Northwest PA (MHA - 1101 Peach St. Erie, PA, 16501) Group discussion around some topic of interest, followed by time for social interaction. Please bring some type of snack to share. Parking in the MHA parking lot is free. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeier. Phone: (814) 823-1969. Venue Phone: (814) 452-4462 ext 117. Email: caitlyn_xpress@verizon.net.

Jan 26 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, 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. Phone: (440) 265-8191. Email: shub1@suite224.net. Browse to <http://eriesisters.ning.com/>.

Jan 27 (Sun) - Crime Victim Center 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament 64 teams will compete to win prizes and raise money for CVC. \$50 per team gets you food and play. Get your 'toss' on and join us! www.cvcerie.org Corporate sponsorships are available. Please call us at 814-455-9414 for more information.

Feb 2 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Gannon Lady Knights Basketball VS Lockhaven (Gannon University - Hammermill Center, 109 University Square, Erie, PA) 5:30 PM. There may be a \$5 fee. Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Feb 16 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "Hooray for Love...Cabaret" 7-10 PM Hamlin House, 422 Franklin, Buffalo NY. Features open bar, hors 'oeuvres, silent auction, dessert tables. Visit buffalogaymenschorus.com/

Suicide Prevention

(continued from page 8)

rates. The suicide rate of people with major depression is eight times higher and more than 50% of those who complete suicide were afflicted with major depression.

Warning signs include: Previous suicide attempt, Suicide ideations or behaviors, Social isolation, Exposure to suicidal behaviors, History of abuse, Victim of bullying, Discrimination – gender/sexual identity, and Bulimia/anorexia

What can we do? Promote the effective care of mental illness. Encourage positive therapeutic relationships, strong family and community support, ongoing medical and mental health relationships. Build resilience and coping skills as protective factors. Appreciate and accept cultural, religious beliefs, life affirmations and gender equality.

In Erie, the Suicide Prevention Task Force welcomes you and your voice as a part of our team effort. Potential task force members include survivors, youth, school personnel, crisis response team members, public health agencies, social service and mental health agencies, spiritual leaders, grief counselors, and all community members.

Quote from Wikipedia:

“Researchers have found that suicide among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) youth is comparatively higher than among the general population. LGBT teens and young adults have one of the highest rates of suicide attempts.[1] According to some groups, this is linked to heterocentric cultures and institutionalised homophobia in some cases, including the use of LGBT people as a political wedge issue like in the contemporary efforts to halt legalising same-sex marriages.[2] Depression and drug use among LGBT people have both been shown to increase significantly after new laws that discriminate against gay people are passed.[3] Bullying of LGBT youth has been shown to be a contributing factor in many suicides, even if not all of the attacks have been specifically addressing sexuality or gender.”

Wikipedia-2012 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suicide_among_LGBT_youth

If you are interested, please contact Patty Puline, Coordinator of the Erie County Suicide Prevention Task Force – ppuline@eriecountygon.org

Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Starts
<i>Jayson Gets a Job</i> ; Christina Aguilera <i>Lotus</i>	December 21
<i>You Are Here</i> by Chris Delyani; Nicki Minaj <i>Pink Friday Fragrance</i>	December 25
<i>Land of 10,000 Loves: A History of Queer Minnesota</i> ; Paloma Faith <i>Fall To Grace</i>	December 28
<i>Saltwater</i> DVD; Ke\$ha <i>Warrior</i>	January 1
<i>Remixxer: John LePage</i> download; <i>Gayby</i> DVD	January 4
<i>Coming Out In New York</i> ; Sarah Brightman <i>One Day Like This</i>	January 8

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Heart - Kicking and Dreaming</i> ; Tracey Thorn <i>Tinsel and Lights</i> and She & Him <i>A Very She & Him Christmas</i>	December 21
<i>The Man With The Iron Fists</i> Soundtrack; <i>Sunset Boulevard</i> on Blu-ray™	December 25
<i>Comediennes: Laugh be a Lady</i> ; Kathy Griffin <i>Collection: Red, White & Raw</i>	December 28
<i>Heart - Fanatic</i> ; <i>A MusiCares Tribute to Barbra Streisand</i>	January 1
<i>Vampires: Brighter in Darkness</i> ; Rihanna <i>Unapologetic</i>	January 4
<i>Dirty Dancing Deluxe Anniversary Edition</i> ; Kelly Clarkson <i>Greatest Hits - Chapter One</i> ; <i>The Guilt Trip</i> prize pack	January 8

More contests at [eriegaynews.com!](http://eriegaynews.com/)

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