

# Tyler Titus is first trans person ever elected in PA

His victory in the Erie School Board race makes history

#### from Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund

Tyler Titus won his race for the Erie School Board in the November 8 general election, becoming the first out trans person ever elected in the state of Pennsylvania.

Victory Fund President and CEO Aisha C. Moodie-Mills released the following statement about his win:

"Tyler Titus shattered a lavender ceiling in Pennsylvania today – and his victory will resonate well-beyond state boundaries. Trans people remain severely underrepresented in our politics and government, and now more than ever we need trans voices like Tyler's in the halls of power. This is a historic night for trans candidates across the country – and Tyler is part of a vanguard of leaders who are determined to be part of the conversation on issues that affect their lives."



Newly-elected Erie City School Board Member Tyler James Titus, first transgender elected official in Pennsylania. ©Photography by Niko 2017

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Erie Gay News	
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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.

7" high X 2 7/8" wide

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\$120 - \$108 Prepaid

\$200 - \$180 Prepaid

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**FULL PAGE** 



**Erie Gay News** 

Erie Gay News 1115 West 7th St. Erie PA 16502-1105 (814) 456-9833

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Deadline for next issue: Dec 11; Folding and distribution is Tue, Dec 19 at Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th.

#### 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.



# THANKS From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Alex, Joe Koch, Kim, Luna Koch, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, Trish Catalano, and Wanda Watkins for folding; Audrey, Jerry McCumber, Joe Koch, Johauna, Kim, Luna Koch, Rex Apps, Trish Catalano, and Wanda Watkins 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**

#### Conneaut Area High School GSA Approved By School District

On Wednesday, November 8, the Conneaut School District School Board voted at its monthly meeting to allow a Gay-Straight Alliance Club to be formed. Mr. David Moore and Mrs. Melissa Flinchbaugh were named as co-advisers to the club. At the meeting, Mr. Moore addressed the school board and said that such a club "would allow the LGBT students of the school to have a safe space to discuss issues relevant to them." He stressed that the LGBT students of the high school are the most underserved segment of the student population.

When asked by a school board member why the club was needed at this time, Mr. Moore stated that in light of the introductory remarks by Mr. Ted Hoover of Persad, who addressed the entire faculty and members of the board, it was past time for the Conneaut School District to meet the needs of the LGBT community. Furthermore, we are "not trailblazers in our region. Meadville, General McLane, and McDowell are just

some examples of other districts with GSAs already in place." The board voted seven to zero, with two abstentions in favor of the Gay-Straight Alliance Club.

# LGBT Walking Unit in Meadville Halloween Parade

by Mike Mahler

On Saturday, October 28 there was an LGBT contingent in the 51st Meadville Halloween Parade, a first for that event. Groups participating included Crawford Area LGBT+, Why Not Us? (Allegheny College campus group addressing sexual violence), Allegheny College Gender & Sexuality Alliance, Showing Up for Racial Justice Crawford County (SURJ), and members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville The contingent was well-received.

Meadville's Halloween Parade is the largest nighttime parade in Pennsylvania.

Photos of the contingent can be seen at www. eriegaynews.com.

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# **Community News**

# Crawford Area LGBT+ new public page

from Randy Herbert-Weed, Crawford Area LGBT+

Crawford Area LGBT+ now has a public facing page for the group. This page will be for public events where we will want to get the broader community involved so that these events can more easily be shared by others. I will keep the current group closed for meetings and group only events.

Please like the page and share with your circle of allies (family & friends) - even those out of the area as they may know others in the area to point them to this community resource to the LGBT+ community.

FB: Crawford Area LGBT+ Public Page



# Marshall Blount creates series of asexuality videos

Photographer and artist Marshall Blount is creating a series of videos offering support and raising awareness around asexuality.

Check them out on his YouTube Channel: Marshall John Blount.

#### Painting with Pride Dec 21

**NWPA Pride Alliance, Inc.** and **Dramashop** team up to present a joint fundraiser, Painting With Pride.

The event, hosted by instructor Angela Howell, will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 PM) at Dramashop (Renaissance Center – 1001 State St – Second Floor). This event is "bring your own drinks and snacks" (a limited selection of non-alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase). Tickets are \$35 (plus service charge), which includes all painting supplies, and are available in the online version of this article and MUST be purchased prior to 12:01am on December 20. Put an end to your ordinary day and sip your way to a masterpiece.

This event will help both organizations continue their missions: NW PA Pride Pride will continue to increase visibility of the LGBTQIAP community and Dramashop will continue to provide entertaining and provocative theatrical experiences designed to challenge, educate and engage the Erie community.

Any questions or concerns can be addressed to agressley@nwpapride.org.

# Holiday Sale benefit for PERSAD Center Dec 1-3

from Persad Center

Persad Center — western Pennsylvania's leading human service organization whose mission is to improve the well-being of the LGBTQ communities, and the HIV/AIDS communities—is having a fundraiser just in time for Holidays. The event will be held Dec 1-3 at Riverside Design Group Warehouse, 3485 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA. This year will be the biggest sale in Riverside's history as the warehouse is moving early next year and they want to clear the shelves! and come help make this our biggest fundraiser ever.

RDG is a tabletop design business that creates fine glass designs, exquisite handcrafted tableware and specialty items for hotels, boutiques, restaurants and museums. Additional vendors will be present to help you complete your Holiday shopping.

More information about the event at FB: Persad Center persadcenter.org

# **Lake Erie Counseling, Inc.**

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# World AIDS Day Program at Erie County Public Library on Dec 1

Join the Eric County HIV Task Force for a World AIDS Day program to raise awareness and show support for people living with HIV on Friday, Dec 1 from 9 - 11 AM at the Eric Co. Public Library, 160 E Front St, Eric PA. FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Event will be held in the Admiral Room. Program includes Tree of Hope and Healing, Community Resource Information, Reflection: Peer Survivor Story. Refreshments Provided. Presentation at 10 AM.



# **Community News**

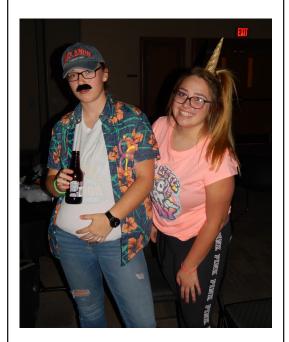
#### Over 40?...So What!

by Dale Allgeier

The social support group Aging With Pride has been renamed. The group will now be known as Over 40?...So What!

Meetings will continue to be held the 2nd Sunday of the month from 4pm to 6pm. The next meeting will be held December 10th . The location will remain the same at Lake Erie Counseling Inc. 301 West 10 th Street, Erie.

The group strives to be a warm, welcoming space for LGBT individuals age 40 and over to socialize, meet friends, finds support and discuss issues of importance to those of us in the prime of our lives.



**IDENTITY/EUP HALLOQUEEN BALL:** A redneck and a unicorn at the annual HalloQueen Ball hosted by Identity, Edinboro University's LGBTQIA student group. The Oct. 31 event included a screening of Rocky Horror Picture Show, a costume contest, and dancing. Event photos on our website.



#### Dr Ashley Sullivan interview about LGBT children on YouTube

Ashley Lauren Sullivan, Ph.D., MSW was interviewed on Ask the Expert - Quality Early Learning Radio Show Program #76 9-1-17. Information on hearing this interview is at the bottom of this article.

Dr. Ashley Sullivan, professor of Early Childhood Education at Penn State-Erie, the Behrend campus. In the interview she discusseds her research on social justice and equity, as it relates to working with LGBT children as well as her soon to be released book, Voices of Transgender Children in Early Childhood Education: Reflections on Resistance and Resiliency. Dr. Sullivan was also included in Erie Reader's 2017 edition of the top 40 professionals in the Erie area having an impact under the age of 40.

Link to the interview via this article on our website, or visit the Northwest Regional Key at the Northwest Institute of Research channel on YouTube

**AA Meeting** Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th St., Erie, PA. For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org.

# NW PA Pride Thanks 2017 Donors

by NW PA Pride Alliance

Thanks to donors and supporters, 2017 was a great year for the NW PA Pride Alliance. We celebrated 25 years of pride this year and embraced this milestone as our theme. With this added focus on the history of the local LGBTQIA community, we honored six groups and one individual with Visibility Awards at Pridefest for their work over the past 25 years.

With accessibility in mind, the board made changes to our marquee summer events, moving Pridefest to the last weekend in June and the Pride Picnic to the final weekend in August. In addition to the new date, Pridefest had a new location—the freshly renovated Perry Square. Because of these changes, we attracted roughly 750 people, the largest pride event in NWPA history. And for the second year in a row, Erie Pridefest was covered by MIC Media as part of the Google-sponsored "Small Town, Big Pride" series.

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 participated in the first-ever Erie County HIV Awareness Walk. We marched in the Edinboro University Homecoming Parade with Identity, Edinboro University's LGBTQIA student organization. We locked arms with our allies in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial March and 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 on two events—the annual Miss Erie Pageant and Painting with Pride. We donated gift baskets for National Night Out in Gridley Park and hosted the third annual Pride Day at Waldameer Park and Water World.

We are already hard at work planning for 2018 with the goal of building on the growth we enjoyed in 2017, but we cannot do it without the support of our donors and our community partners. We thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in 2018 at Pridefest on June 30th and the Pride Picnic on August 11th.

## Calendar

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

Nov 21 (Tue) - "Marvel Runaways" season premiere Hulu "Karolina Dean is the group's only gay character, and their only ET"

Nov 22 (Wed) - "Gay Panic! A Comedy Show by Maggie Casella (9th Ward at Babeville, 341 Delaware Ave, Buffalo NY) 7pm www.hallwalls.org/

Nov 22 (Wed) - Thanksgiving Eve DJ & Karaoke (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY) 8 PM. Thanksgiving Eve Party with Star Sirch Productions for dance music and karaoke! (716) 484-8816. FB: Sneakers Bar

Nov 29 (Wed) - "Battle of the Sexes" (2017) Reg Lenna Civic Center, Jamestown NY. reglenna.com

Dec 1 (Fri) - World AIDS Day This event is held every year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate people who have been lost to the disease. It was held for the first time in 1988, Check local news for other events. www.worldaidsday.org/.

Dec 1 (Fri)- Erie County World AIDS Day Program (Erie County Public Library, 160 E Front St.., Erie PA) 9-11am Hosted by Erie County HIV Task Force. Program includes Tree of Hope and Healing, Community Resource Information, Reflection: Peer Survivor Story. FB: Erie County HIV Task Force.

Dec 1-3 (Fri-Sun) - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "Winter Wonderland" (3 venues in Buffalo New York) buffalogaymenschorus.com

Dec 1-3 (Fri-Sun) PERSAD Holiday Sale (RDG Warehouse, 3485 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA)

Dec 2-3 (Sat-Sun) - "Under the Mistletoe" North Coast Men's Chorus (Hannah Theatre @ Playhouse Square, Cleveland OH) ncmchorus.org/

Dec 9 (Sat) - Renaissance City Choir Hoiday Concert "OUR Family Time" (East Liberty Presyterian

# Recurring events on page 9

Church, Pittsburgh PA)

Dec 10 (Sun) - Human Rights Day www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/.

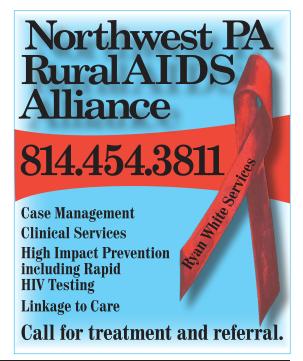
Dec 11 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News January 2018 print edition

Dec 12 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #54 (Lorie's Wildridge Restaurant, 5455 West Ridge Rd, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Dec 15 (Fri) - 2nd Annual Full Spectrum Holiday Gala 2017 7-10pm Mr. Anthony's Banquet Center 7440 South Ave, Youngstown OH. Benefits Full Spectrum Community Outreach. Tickets 330-333-1658 (no refunds) www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org

Dec 16 (Sat) - Pennsylvania Equality Project Holiday Season Dinner (Sugar N Spice Restaurant, 32 High St, Waterford, PA) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. paequality@hotmail.com. FB: facebook.com/equalpa/.

Dec 17 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE



## Calendar

**Drag Show - Christmas Edition** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. "all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests. "TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. FB: The Zone

Dec 19 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 7 PM. Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Dec 24 & 25 (Sun & Mon)) - Zone Open for Christmas Eve & Christmas Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 8 PM - 2 AM. (814) 452-0125. The Zone Dance Club@aol.com. FB: The Zone.

Dec 31 (Sun) - Zone New Year's Eve Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 8 PM - 2 AM. "Party Favors, Food Buffet, and Champagne Toast at Midnight. Come watch the ball drop on the big screen at midnight!" (814) 452-0125. FB: The Zone.

Jan 1 (Mon) - Independent Lens: "The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin" PBS The colorful story of writer Armistead Maupin, whose "Tales of the City" series inspired millions to claim their own truth.Check local listings. FB: Independent Lens

Jan 11 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #55 (Voodoo Brewing Co (Erie), 101 Boston Store Place, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com.www.drenchedfur.com

Jan 17 (Wed) - "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: Amerian Crime Story" FX 10pm

Jan 23 (Tue) - "Rough Trade: Clay Bodies and Queer Visions" Allegheny College, Meadville PA Details soon.

Feb 1 (Thu) - "David Hockney at the Royal Academy of Art" (1891 Fredonia Opera House, Fredonia NY) Widely considered Britain's most popular artist, David Hockney is a global sensation with exhibitions in London, New York, Paris and beyond, attracting millions of vistors worldwide. fredopera.org

DEADLINE for next issue of EGN Dec 11

Having a New Year event? Let us know about it by Dec 11





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# Recurring events

Every Sunday - AA Meeting Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th St., Erie, PA. For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org.

Nov 25 (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

Nov 25 (Sat) - TransFamily of Titusville Transgender Support Group meets (YWCA Activities Building, 212 N. Franklin St, Titusville, PA) 3 - 6 PM. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. (814) 823-1969. caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

Nov 25 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Discussion followed by restaurant dinner and dancing at The Zone (440) 265-8191. eriesisters.ning.com

Dec 9 (Sat) - TransFamily of Meadville Transgender Support Group (CHAPS Building, first floor, 944 Liberty St., Meadville, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Linda Thomas. imhzwoman4586@msn.com. (814) 232-1778 FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

Dec 10 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

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

Dec 10 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Transgender Support Group meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Dec 11 (Mon) - TransFamily of Warren Transgender Support Group meets (Jefferson DeFrees Family Center - Hawke Room, 207 2nd Ave, Warren, PA)

This month we decided to try listing recurring events separately from unique events. Let us know if you think it makes a difference!

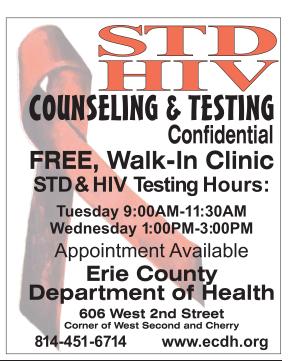
6 - 8 PM. Contact: Kingsley Reese (814) 688-5574. kreeseamon@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

Dec 12 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. Contact: Marguerite youngstownareap-flag@gmail.com. www.youngstownpflag.org.

Dec 12 (Tue) - Crawford Area LGBT+ meets (Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA5) 7 PM. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. crawfordarealgbt@gmail.com. FB: Crawford LGBT+ Public Page

Dec 14 (Thu) - Full Spectrum LGBT Teen Support Group (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM - 8 PM. Open to teens ages 14-18. Confidential, safe space, free. Light refreshments. (330) 333-1658. info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/.

Dec 14 (Thu) - PFLAG Butler meets (Butler Area Public Library, 218 N McKean St, Butler, PA) 5 PM - 7



## Recurring events

PM. www.pflagbutler.com

Dec 19 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th St. Erie, PA 7 PM. Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. info@ eriegaynews.com www.eriegaynews.com

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Dec 23 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Discussion followed by restaurant dinner and dancing at The Zone (440) 265-8191. eriesisters.ning.com



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http://gayellowpages.com

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### TRIGON/PENN STATE BEHREND DRAG SHOW: Trigon, Penn State Behrend's LGBTQIA student

group held their 11th annual Drag Show iNov. 11. The event's theme was Dungeons and Drag Queens and was headlined by Lola Lecroix, and performers also included Sasha Nolan, Anna Steezia, Blade Matthews, and Danyel Vasquez. There was also an amateur drag performer contest. Event gallery on our website.

## Michael dithers

by Mike Mahler

What a busy past few months! It was fun walking with the Edinboro students and NW PA Pride in the Homecoming Parade. Two weeks later, I went down to march with Crawford Area LGBT+ and several Allegheny Colege students in the Meadville Halloween Parade. Randy, the organizer for our unit, had said that it was going to be wet and suggested that folks wear a poncho or something. I must admit that I tend to not be very good at costuming, but I picked up both a red ponco and a red clown nose, and told folks that I was Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Raingear. Speaking of costumes, there were some terrific costumes at the Identity/EUP HalloQueen Ball, and also some wonderful performers at the Penn State Behrend Drag Show.

Kudos to Tyler James Titus for making not only local history as the first openly LGBT person to be elected as a public official, but also as the first openly transgender elected official in Pennsyvania. I was explaining to a friend that although Dr. Rachel Levine is the first openly transgender state-level cabinet position in the US, it is an appointed, rather than an elected position.

I found some documents from Harry Miller of LGBT history from the 1970's, and a playlist from Vincent's, a gay bar that used to be at 1101 State St, from Dale Allgeier. Check them out in the LGBT History photo album on the Erie Gay News Facebook page.



Dressed fior the weather! Folks from the Crawford Area LGBT+ contingent in the Meadville Halloween Parade..

### **Online Contests**

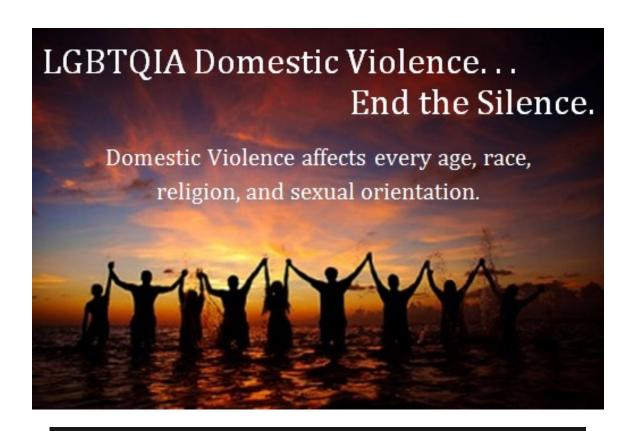
Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
Kelly Clarkson <i>Meaning of</i> Life	November 24
Rachel Platten Waves	November 28
The Thrill Of It All from Sam Smith	December 1
Hidden Kisses DVD	December 5
All Male, All Nude Documentary DVD	December 8
Halsey - Bad at Love	DEcember 12
You Make It Feel Like Christ- mas from Gwen Stefani	December 15
Red Pill Blues by Maroon 5	December 19
Love Is Love from Trey Pearson	December 22
You Must Remember This	December 26
Rent FAQ: All That's Left to Know About Broadway's Blaze of Glory	December 29

Here are contests which are currently active...

ricic are contests which are currently active		
Contest	Ends	
Beautiful Trauma from P!nk	November 24	
Kelly Clarkson - Love So Soft Shirt; Pet Shop Boys Yes and Elysium Reissues	November 28	
Digital download of When Edith's Bells Toll	December 1	
Burn the Binary! Select Writings on the Politics of Being Trans Genderqueer and Nonbinary	December 5	
The Smiths <i>The Queen Is Dead</i> Boxed Set	December 8	
Listen Without Prejudice/MTV Unplugged Reissue by George Michael	December 12	

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at our web site to get first notice!



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