

EGN

Erie Gay News



BEARS IN SPACE

Drenched Fur held its fourteenth annual Bear Run in Erie April 12-15. This year's vent was sci-fi themed, called "Bears in Space." Photos and recap on page 15.

Photo: Drenched Fur

Pridefest and March June 30

from NW PA Pride Alliance

Erie Pridefest and March will take place this year on June 30th. We will gather at The Zone Dance Club on 133 West 18th Street 11AM to noon, and step off at noon to march to Perry Square

Once at Perry Square, we will have info tables, vendors and local drag performers, bands and other performers. For the fifth consecutive year we will also have HIV and STI testing provided by the Erie HIV Task Force. Pridefest is Smoke and Vape free for the second year in a row, thanks to the Erie County Health Department. This event is free, family friendly, and open to all ages.

March: Gather at Zone 133 W. 18th, from 11AM-noon. Step-off at noon. (note new step-off time) PrideFest: Perry Square 1-5PM. Info: www.nwpapride.org president@nwpapride.org

GEAE Afternoon for Equality June 10

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

Tickets are still available for GEAE's delightful summer fundraiser Afternoon for Equality, now in its eighth year

The event will be held Sunday, June 10 at La Rue Dix in downtown Erie. We'll have speakers, scholarship awards, an overview of GEAE's year, and announcements about upcoming events. Plus, there will be delicious food, wine, beer, cool jazz music by Stephen Trohoske, and lots of friends and allies on hand.

Tickets are \$50. Buy online at www.greater-eriealliance.com or email geaeinfo@gmail.com your reservation.

GEAE would like to welcome two new board members: Rick Liebel and Steve Huefner. Welcome!

Afternoon for Equality is at La Rue Dix, 21 E 10th, Erie PA Sunday June 10 from 3-7PM

In This Issue...

PrideFest and March June 30	1
GEAE Afternoon for Equality June 10.....	1
STD and Hepatitis C testing at M&J's Lounge May 26	4
Kate Buczek Memorial Jazz Concert June 3 ...	4
New LGBTQ youth group meets in downtown Erie.....	5
Calendar	7
Social & support groups	13
Michael dithers	14
Drenched Fur recap	15

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.

EGN Rates & Data

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

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$40 - \$36 Prepaid	1 5/8" 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 HORZ.	\$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.



Erie Gay News

Erie Gay News
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(814) 456-9833
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www.eriegaynews.com

Editor: Mike Mahler

Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko

Ad Design: Mike Lipiec

Deadline for next issue: Jun 15; Folding and distribution is Tue, Jun 26 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.

**Erie Gay News is now included in
The EBSCO *LGBT Life*®
with Full Text Index &
Six LGBT Archives
WORLDWIDE!**

THANKS
From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

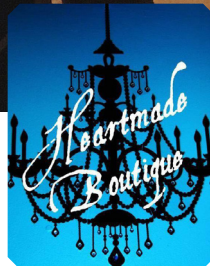
To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea, Audrey, Bobbie Fenno, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, Trish Catalano, and Wanda Watkins for folding; Andrea, Audrey, Bobbie Fenno, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, Trish Catalano, and Wanda Watkins for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.



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Community News

STD and Hepatitis C testing at M&J's Lounge May 26

from M&J's Lounge

The Central Outreach van will be coming back at M&J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St., Butler PA on May 26, starting at 8PM. The testing will cover all sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and Hepatitis C. The event is free and confidential.

"This event is open not only for the LGBT community but all of the community," said Joshua, from M&J's. "You don't need to be a member of the Lounge for this event. Anyone affected by the opiate epidemic can stop by the van to get tested for HepC. We want Butler to be a healthy place."

Info: (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com

**DEADLINE for next issue of
EGN Jun 15**



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Kate Buczek Memorial Jazz Concert June 3

from Al Richardson

The concert happens at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA 4 PM - 6 PM. Featuring "Razzer's Jazzers" Dixieland Band from Jamestown, New York, and the Derf Hopseger Jazz Quintet of Erie.

Kate Buczek was known and loved for her support and commitment to social justice. She was also a jazz music aficionado and supporter. After Kate died in 2010, at age 91, memorial gifts from her many friends were designated to fund annual concerts at the Unitarian Universalist church where, for many decades, she was an active member and supporter. In addition to great music, we'll have solid and liquid refreshments for your intermission pleasure. The concert is free and open to the public. .

Contact: Al Richardson. (814) 864-9300. asrjr@aol.com. www.uuerie.org

Huge 29th Annual 100 Family Yard Sale

Friday and Saturday June 15th & 16th
9a.m.-2p.m. each day

We are a Welcoming Congregation!



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Community News

New LGBTQ youth group meets in downtown Erie

from Prism

Prism LGBTQ youth group will be meeting every other week at the Downtown YMCA teen center, 31 W 10th St, Erie PA. Saturdays from 2-4 beginning June 2 and continued on alternating weeks.

Teens 12-20 can meet for socializing and peer support. Look for upcoming info on the TransFamily of NWPA facebook page. Prism instagram coming soon!

FB: TransFamily of NWPA

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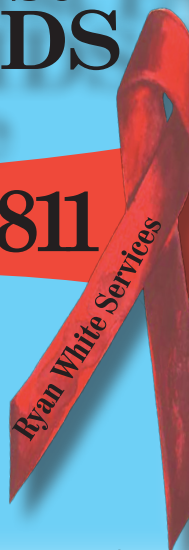
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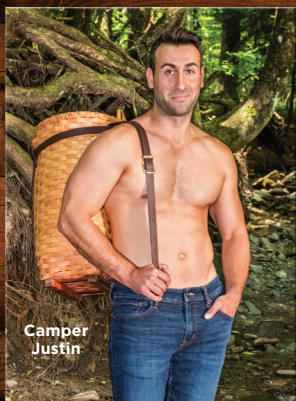
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Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar

www.eriegaynews.com

May 18 thru end of June - A Woman's Voice Through Art (Erie Art Gallery, 24 West 8th St., Erie, PA) "Featuring the works of 19 women and woman-identifying artists, A Women's Voice seeks to provide a glimpse into the diversity of lives and experiences of being a woman." Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1-5 pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 1-7 pm. pm www.erieartgallery.com FB: Erie Art Gallery

May 22 - "Tig Notaro: Happy To Be Here" premiere Netflix

May 25 - 28 (Fri - Mon) - Memorial Day Weekend (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) www.jonespond.com.

May 26 (Sat) - M & J's Lounge - Free STD & Hepatitis C testing (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) 8 PM. See article p. 4 FB: M&J's Lounge

May 26 (Sat) - Camo Military Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com

May 26 - Brooke Cartuss (Alleyway Theatre, , Buffalo NY) Comic Brooke Cartus at her official Album Release Show. 18+ brookecartus.com www.alleytheatre.org

May 30 - "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" Season premiere Netflix FB Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt

Jun 1 - 3 (Fri - Sun) - Friends & Family - Barn Dance Hoe-Down (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) www.jonespond.com.

Jun 1 - "A Kid Like Jake" (2018) Theatrical release date. Claire Danes, Jim Parsons, Octavia Spencer, Priyanka Chopra FB: A Kid Like Jake

Jun 2 - Prism LGBTQ youth group will be meet-

ing every other week at the Downtown YMCA Teen Center, 31 W 10th St, Erie PA. Saturdays from 2-4PM beginning June 2. and continued on alternating weeks. Teens ages 12-20 can meet for socializing and peer support. Look for upcoming info on Facebook: TransFamily of NWPA. Prism instagram coming soon!

Jun 2 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Troika Festival (Church of the Nativity, 251 East Front Street, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 490-3994. ErieBeans@aol.com. FB: LBT WOMEN of ERIE

Jun 2 (Sat) - Anything Goes! Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. info@campdavispa.com. campdavispa.com/.

Jun 2 - Pride in the CLE (Cleveland OH) Organized by LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland lgbtcleveland.org FB: Cleveland Pride

Jun 2 - Hayley Kiyoko in concert (Mr Smalls Theatre Millvale PA) www.hayleykiyokoofficial.com

Jun 3 - Buffalo Pride Parade and Festival (Buffalo NY) www.buffalopridefestival.com

Jun 3 - 7th Annual Kate Buczek Memorial Concert



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Calendar

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy (PA Rte 97), Erie PA 4-6pm Razzler's Jazzers and Derf Hopseger Quartet '18. Concert is free, donations appreciated. Contact: Al Richardson. (814) 864-9300. asrjr@aol.com. www.uuerie.org.

Jun 3 - "Pose" premieres 9PM FX Ryan Murphy drama set in 1980s FB: Pose FX

Jun 5 - Hayley Kiyoko in concert (House of Blues Cleveland) www.hayleykiyokoofficial.com

Jun 6 - "Love, Simon" (2018) (Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, Jamestown NY)

Jun 6 - "The Local Women's Suffrage Movement" (1891 Fredonia Opera House, Fredonia NY) 7PM "Jamestown Community College Professor Traci Langworthy will talk about Chautauqua County's participation in the Movement. Video, photos and lecture. Free admission, donations accepted. fredopera.org

Jun 8 - "Won't You Be My Neighbor" (2018) Theatrical release date, in Erie starting July 4 weekend. Documentary about Fred Rogers, whose gentle and groundbreaking TV program taught children compas-

sion and acceptance of others and oneself. FB: Won't You Be My Neighbor

Jun 8 - "Alex Strangelove" Netflix.7pm FB: Alex Strangelove

Jun 8 - 10 (Fri - Sun) - Cowboy Weekend (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Jun 8 - "Sense8" Finale Netflix Twitter > @sense8

Jun 8 & 9 - Pride Rocks PGH (Pennsylvania Lottery Stage, Pittsburgh PA) Capitol Records recording artist Troye Sivan, also Kim Petras and Leland. Tickets at PittsburghPride.org/tickets

Jun 9-10 Pittsburgh PrideFest & Equality March PrideFest 6/9, March 6/10 www.pittsburghpride.org

Jun 9 - Cleveland GIFT Cruise \$25, no online tickets, \$30 gate, if available. www.clevelandgift.org

Jun 9 (Sat) - Camp Davis Pride Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. info@campdavispa.com. campdavispa.com.

Jun 9 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls - A Tribute Show in Honor of Dae'ia (Moose Lodge #119, 201 W. State

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Calendar

St., Olean, NY) 10 PM. In honor of Dae'ia D'Vyne-Island (1975-2018). \$6 cover/\$5 if Colors member with valid ID) FB: Veronyca's Showgirls

Jun 10 (Sun) - Afternoon for Equality (La Rue Dix, 21 E 10th, Erie PA) 3-7PM FB: Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

Jun 10 (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

Jun 10 - Brandi Carlile in concert (LaurellLive, Russell OH) www.brandicarlile.com

Jun 10 - Peoples Pride March 2k18 (Freedom Corner Pittsburgh) "TransLED Shelter transitioning program into permanent housing for trans/nonbinary people in Western Pa suffering from discrimination and homelessness." FB: SisTers PGH @sistersPGH

Jun 12 - "The Bold Type" returns on Freeform 8pm @TheBoldTypeTV FB: The Bold Type

Jun 12 - 13 (Tue - Wed) - Second Annual Pennsylvania LGBTQA Health Conference (Pittsburgh

Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township, PA) Addressing tobacco and behavioral health disparities: Promising researching based practices. Sponsored by Adagio Health, Northwest Pennsylvania Tobacco Control Program, and TobaccoFree Allgheny in partnership with Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. TobaccoFreeNWPA@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/tobaccofreenwpa1.

Jun 13, 20 & 27 (Wed) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Sunset Music series (Presque Isle State Park, Beach 1, Erie, PA) 5:30-9 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 490-3994. ErieBeans@aol.com. FB LBT WOMEN of ERIE

Jun 15 (Fri) - Deadline for Erie Gay News July 2018 print edition (#273) (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 Tues. June 26. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Jun 15-16 - 29th Annual 100 Family Yard Sale Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie (7180



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Calendar

Perry Hwy, Erie PA) 9AM - 2PM each day “We are a welcoming congregation!”

Jun 15 - 17 (Fri - Sun) - Pirates of The Pond (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Jun 16 (Sat) - Dare to be Bare Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. info@campdavispa.com. campdavispa.com/

Jun 17 - “Man in an Orange Shirt” PBS - Check local listings) Masterpiece drama starring Vanessa Redgrave, scripted by novelist Patrick Gale. “Two love stories, 60 years apart, chart the changes and challenges in gay lives in England—from the era of jail terms to the onset of dating apps.”

Jun 16 & 17 - North Coast Men’s Chorus: “It’s About Time” (Hannah Theatre at PlayhouseSq, Cleveland OH) ncmchorus.org/

Jun 18 - Sam Smith in concert (Air Canada Centre, Toronto ON)

Jun 19 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #60 (Syd’s Place, 2992 West Lake Rd, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. Contact: Gary

Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com. .

Jun 22 - 24 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Pride - 200 Block Party (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Jun 22 (Fri) - Janis Ian and Susan Werner (Cain Park, Evans Amphitheatre, Cleveland Heights OH) janisian.com susanwerner.com

Jun 22-24 - Pride Toronto Festival Toronto ON Canada. *Bring passport for border-crossing*. www.pridetoronto.com FB: Pride Toronto

Jun 23 Sam Smith in concert (Nationwide Arena Columbus OH) FB: SamSmith

Jun 23 (Sat) - Adventures in Underwear Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) info@campdavispa.com. campdavispa.com/.

Jun 24 - Rebecca Mae’s Drag Brunch (Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State, Erie PA) Noon-4pm

Jun 24 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Midsummer (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie PA) 6:00pm, potluck follows. Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.wlg-adf.org

Jun 26 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. All ages welcome! It is also



PRIDEFEST STEPS OFF AT NOON THIS YEAR
Erie PrideFest will gather at The Zone at 11AM and step off at exactly noon. The PrideFest and March take place Saturday June 30, 2018.

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Just go to our website and click on the image of the print edition!





WHERE *Friends* GATHER

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Calendar

a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. Venue (814) 455-4009. info@eriegaynews.com.

Jun 29 - GLOW returns Netflix "A crew of misfits reinvent themselves as the Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling. A comedy by the team behind 'Orange Is the New Black.'" FB: GLOW

Jun 29 - "Ideal Home" (2018) Theatrical release www.idealhomemovie.com FB: Ideal Home Movie

Jun 29 - Jul 1 (Fri - Sun) - Game Show Weekend (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) . info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Jun 30 (Sat) - Black Light Body Paint Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) info@campdavispa.com. campdavispa.com/.

Jun 30 (Sat) - Erie PrideFest & March *March:* Gather at Zone 133 W. 18th, from 11AM-noon. Step-off at noon. (note new step-off time) *PrideFest:* Perry Square. W. 6th & Peach 1-5PM. Info: www.nwpapride.org president@nwpapride.org STEP OFF AT NOON

Jul 1 - Melissa Etheridge in concert (Hard Rock Live, Northfield OH) www.melissaetheridge.com

UPCOMING

Jul 13 - Michael Feinstein w/special guest Storm Large (Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua NY) www.michaelfeinstein.com stormlarge.com chq.org

Jul 16 - Janelle Monáe in concert Toronto ON Canada Rebel Toronto www.jmonae.com

Jul 21 - Youngstown Pride Festival (Federal Plaza E, Youngstown OH) 12:30 pm Pride Festival: 1:00 - 10:00 pm FB: 2018 Youngstown Pride Festival

Jul 29- Sampson McCormick live (Prospect Row Pittsburgh, PA) 5PM www.sampsoncomedy.com

Aug 3 - "Amy Schumer and Friends" (Northwest Arena Jamestown NY) nationalcomedycenter.org


Aug 4 - "An Evening with Lily Tomlin" (Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, Jamestown NY) nationalcomedy-center.org

Aug 11 (Sat) - Erie Pride Picnic (Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie PA) 1-6PM Free and open to the public. www.nwpapride.org

Jun 2019 - Worldpride/Stonewall 50 (NYC) www.stonewall50.org

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ERIE PRIDEFEST MARCH

STEP OFF AT NOON

New start time this year!

Gather at the Zone 133 E. 18th, Erie
Jun 30 from 11am-12pm. Step off at noon.



Facebook.com/NWPAPride www.nwpapride.org

Social & support groups

ADDICTION & 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

Jun 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. dalecallgeier@outlook.com.

GENERAL

Jun 12 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. www.youngstownpflag.org.

Jun 14 (Thu) - PFLAG Butler meets (Butler Area Public Library, 218 N McKean St, Butler, PA) 5 PM - 7 PM. www.pflagbutler.com

Jun 19 (Tue) - Crawford Area LGBT+ meets (Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. crawfordarealgbt@gmail.com. FB: Crawford LGBT+ Public Page

RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

May 8 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA1) 1 PM. FB: Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network

SOCIAL

Jun 1 (Fri) G2H2/ERIE (Location TBA, Erie, PA 16501) 6-8PM Social group. FB: G2H2/Erie

Jun 10 (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

Full Spectrum LGBT Teen Support (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6PM. Ages 14-18. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach

Prism LGBTQ youth group will be meeting every other week at the Downtown YMCA teen center, 31 W 10th St, Erie PA. Saturday from 2-4 beginning June 2 and continued n alternating weeks. Teens 12-20 can meet for socializing and peer support. Look for up-

coming info on the TransFamily of NWPA facebook page. Prism instagram coming soon!

TRANS

May 26 (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

May 26 (Sat) - TransFamily of Titusville Transgender Support Group meets (YWCA Activities Building, 212 N. Franklin St, Titusville, PA) 3 - 6 PM. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeier. (814) 823-1969. caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

May 26 (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

Jun 9 (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.

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

Jun 11 (Mon) - TransFamily of Warren Transgender Support Group meets (Jefferson DeFrees Family Center - Hawke Room, 207 2nd Ave, Warren, PA) 6 - 8 PM. Contact: Kingsley Reese (814) 688-5574. kreeseamon@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

Jun 23 (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

Jun 23 (Sat) - TransFamily of Titusville Transgender Support Group meets (YWCA Activities Building, 212 N. Franklin St, Titusville, PA) 3 - 6 PM. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. Caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

Jun 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

Michael dithers

by Michael Mahler

Thank you to everyone who voted this past month! *Erie Gay News* is very proud to continue this important service to our community. We were also honored that *The Central Voice*, which is based out of the Harrisburg region, asked to reprint the statewide portion of our Voters Guide. Please remember to vote on November 6!

Please note that the start times have changed for Pride Parade and Pride Fest this year! The Pride Parade steps off at noon from the Zone, 133 W 18th St, and Pride Fest will begin at 1 PM in Perry Square.

Although Erie celebrated 25 years of Pride last year, this year actually marks the 20th anniversary of the very first Pride Rally. Before 1998, the only Pride event locally was the picnic. Some of us got together to plan in January of that year. We weren't sure how it would go, but we had 300 people or so turn out for the first Pride Rally in October of 1998.

Hats off to TransFamily of NW PA for working on Prism, an LGBTQ Youth group. I went along to

a meeting. They will next be meeting on June 2 at the Downtown YMCA Teen Center at 2 PM and then meeting every other week. If you can help youth become aware of this, that would be great!

I recently had an email from one in New York state who wanted to know if Erie PA is a friendly community. I wrote back about the various groupos and activities here, and some of our history, so it looks like we may be gaining some new people in Erie County.

Drenched Fur 14 was a fun weekend. For some odd reason, pretty much all of the other groups that I am active with ended up having a meeting the same weekend. UPMC Hamot's Diversity and Inclusion committee met that Friday, The Erie County Democratic Party had a committee Saturday morning, followed immediately by a NW PA Pride Alliance board meeting. I joked that my major goal for the weekend was to make it through to Sunday and not end up in a coma.

See you at Pride on June 30! Remember, the deadline is June 1 if you want to have a table at Pride Fest or want to be listed on the banner as a Pride donor!

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Drenched Fur recap

from Gary Snyder/ Drenched Fur

This April 12-15, once again the Erie community was host for the exclusive Bear Weekend known as Drenched Fur (DF). It was the fourteenth time the 'Best Little Run for Fun' created a weekend vacation where hundreds of men came from places like Canada, California, Iowa, and around the tri-state area.

Drenched Fur is a weekend where men who appreciate each other and their natural masculinity can let off some winter doldrums. This year's event put a twist on 'traveling amongst the planets' with the theme "Bears in Space".

The DF14 weekend kicked off on Thursday night as over 80 percent of the attendees arrived to enjoy a relaxing weekend of socializing with the Galactic Quest Meet 'n Greet mixer. On Friday a laser tag arena appeared in the host hotel ballroom. Later that night, first-time attendees and veterans alike gathered together to laugh at the antics of watching "Spaceballs" film. Then the guys got to shake their asteroids on in the ballroom for the "Forbidden Planet" themed dance that Pittsburgh's own DJ Tony Ruiz utbeats on the floor.

The main event for Drenched Fur is an exclusive Saturday night time private event at Splash Lagoon, our local indoor water park resort. In addition to enjoying the fun wet times there, the weekend this year also included mobile escape rooms, a local Beer Tour, and a winery tour to North East, PA region. Sunday morning, the weekend wrapped up with the charity silent auction which raised over \$2,000 for the Second Harvest Food Bank of North West PA.

The Drenched Fur 14 Committee and volunteers outdid themselves putting on one of the biggest events for Erie's LGBTQA community. Huge thanks to all the individuals, sponsors, and businesses that were involved in making DF14 a success! To find out more about Drenched Fur, visit our website to review the photo gallery from over the years. Mark your calendars to take a rocket ride into next years installment of DF15, 'WOOFstock' April 11-14 in 2019!

At right, photos from DF14. Extensive photo gallery at www.drenchedfur.com



2018 PRIDE PARADE & PRIDEFEST SATURDAY, JUNE 30 11 AM - 5 PM

- * PARADE ASSEMBLY FROM 11-12 AT ZONE DANCE CLUB
- * MARCH TO PERRY SQUARE STEPS OFF AT 12
- * PRIDEFEST AT 1 PM FEATURING DRAG PERFORMERS, BANDS & OTHER PERFORMERS
- * INFO TABLES, VENDORS AND FREE HIV&STI TESTING PROVIDED BY THE ERIE HIV TASK FORCE
- * FREE TO ATTEND, ALL AGES, FAMILY FRIENDLY, AND SMOKE FREE THANKS TO OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

NWPAPRIDE.ORG - [FACEBOOK.COM/NWPAPRIDE](https://facebook.com/NWPAPRIDE) - [TWITTER.COM/NWPAPRIDE](https://twitter.com/NWPAPRIDE)

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CREATE THE FUTURE