



EGN

Erie Gay News



“Conversion Therapy” Ban to be considered by Mayor’s LGBTQ Advisory Council after 7-0 vote by Erie City Council

By Michael Mahler

On September 19, 2018, Erie City Council passed a resolution introduced by Councilmember Kathy Schaaf to have the Mayor’s LGBTQ Advisory Council research and report back on potential city ordinance to ban conversion therapy. The Mayor’s LGBTQ Advisory Council is expected to meet in October, and the City of Erie Solicitor has already seen a draft of the potential ordinance. If the solicitor and the advisory council approve a review, the ordinance would still need to be voted on by Erie City Council and signed by the Mayor.

“Conversion therapy”—sometimes called “reparative therapy”—attempts to change an individual’s gender identity or sexual orientation. It has been found to be ineffective and sometimes harmful to the individual, and every mainstream medical and mental health association has rejected it. (see page 6 for more on rejections of conversion therapy)

Dining Out for Life in WNY Oct 9

Dining Out for Life is an annual dining fundraising event held around the country to raise money for HIV/AIDS service organizations. In western New York, the event will be held Tuesday Oct. 9, 2018. Dine at a participating restaurant, and a portion (25-33%) will go to Evergreen Health Services.

Participating Southern Tier restaurants: Fortel the Restaurant 716-484-6063 (Dinner); Andriacchio’s Restaurant (Dinner); Brazil Craft Beer & Wine Lounge 716-708-2471 (Dinner); Ellicottville Brewing Company West 716-679-7939 (Lunch, Dinner); Labyrinth Press Company 716-708-2471 (Breakfast, Lunch, Late Night); Landmark Restaurant 716-720-5633 (Dinner) Info: www.diningoutforlife.com or www.evergreenhs.org Info: (716) 847-0212



Photo Mike Mahler

MICHELLE MICHAELS ANNUAL PINK PARTY BENEFIT WEEKEND Annual Pink Party Benefit Weekend will be held at The Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th, Erie PA Oct 12-14. Bake sale, gift baskets, show on Sunday 14th. “All proceeds go to StringsforaCURE® Foundation” stringsforacure.org Above: Organizer Michelle Michaels at last year’s Benefit Weekend. Event details FB: The Zone

PFLAG Butler chapter closes

Joshua Sean Crawford reports the closure of the Butler chapter of PFLAG Butler. You can connect with the national PFLAG at www.pflag.org Twitter: @pflag FB: PFLAG National

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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
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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.

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

THANKS
 From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Audrey, Bobbie Fenno, Brad, Joe Koch, Johauna, Luna Koch, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, Trish Catalano, and Zachary for folding; Audrey, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, and Trish Catalano 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

2nd Annual HeART Show Nov 11

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NWPA Pride Alliance will again host the HeART Show, an art auction consisting entirely of original works from the Erie region's LGBTQIA community on Sunday November 11th at The Zone Dance Club (133 West 18th St) from 7pm – 10pm.

The donated works will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to make Pridefest even bigger and better. The event is free and open to the public, The venue is 21+. Please have state-issued photo ID, in accordance with PA state regulation.

Questions about the show are welcome—contact: agressley@nwpapride.org. Visit www.nwpapride.org/

“The Laramie Project” opens Dramashop season

from Dramashop

Dramashop's 2018-2019 season will open with The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman and the members of the Tectonic Theatre Project.

On October 12, 1998, a 21-year old college student died from injuries sustained six days earlier in a brutal attack. The death of Matthew Shepard shook a college town and stunned a nation. Matthew Shepard was gay, and Matthew Shepard was murdered. The questions that arose divided a community and resonated across America. Twenty years later, the story of what happened in Laramie Wyoming, is still painfully relevant. The play challenges actors and audience members alike, with eight actors playing more than sixty characters over three acts.

Dramashop is located at The Renaissance Centre, 1001 State, Erie PA. The Laramie Project will run from Oct 5-21. Visit dramashop.org, NW PA Pride Alliance is the title sponsor for this show's production.

Lake Erie Gala Nov 14-18

Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group will host their Annual Lake Erie Gala Nov. 14-18 at Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA. This is a four day transgender event starts Wednesday with dinner, bus tours of attractions in the area, dinner, dancing, entertainment and farewell breakfast on Sunday morning. This is a social affair

so there is a lot of chatting with other transgender people, a chance to relax, meet new friends and do a little dancing.

Info: neumanncindy@gmail.com. eriesisters.ning.com

Erie Dems LGBT Caucus Formed

By Michael Mahler

At the request of Erie County Democratic Party Chair Jim Wertz, the Erie Dems have formed an LGBT Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to represent the interests of the LGBT community in the local party and to also engage with the local LGBT community. (There are also caucuses in the local party for veterans, women, progressives, black voters, younger voters, etc.)

The first meeting of the LGBT caucus was held September 17. Currently, the group is working on voter registration and Get Out The Vote (GOTV) efforts. Info: Michael Mahler. mmahler@eriedems.com or (814) 456-9833. The next meeting will be in early October. See the online version of this article for the link to the email list.



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Community News

Board Members sought for NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc

from NW PA Pride Alliance Board of Directors

NWPA Pride Alliance is looking for applicants to fill positions with our board of directors. NWPA Pride Alliance is seeking to diversify its membership to best address the needs of the LGBT community, persons of all sexual orientations, gender identifications, marital status, ethnic backgrounds and educational experiences are welcome to apply. All positions are unpaid, volunteer positions. We are looking for people who want to become more involved with the LGBT community, working with our members to extend outreach to the community as a whole.

Board members organize events within the community, represent the LGBT community at local events, and work with local businesses and organizations to raise awareness of LGBT issues. Board members meet the second Saturday of each month at 11 AM and additionally as needed in preparation for specific events.

Advisory panel members are to provide guidance for the board of directors in specific matters upon request. Meetings will be as needed and may be irregular. Specific areas of expertise being sought are accounting, legal counselor, community education, publicity, medical backgrounds and nonprofit administration. The board of directors will seek advice from the advisory panel on issues as they arise.

If you are interested, please send a resume that outlines your experience and qualifications by Saturday, December 1 to president@nwpapride.org. All resumes will be considered, please note if you wish to apply for membership to the board of directors or advisory panel. You can only hold one of these position, but you may apply for more than one. Applicants for the Board of directors will be contacted for a mandatory interview with the board to be scheduled after the resume is received.

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.

Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs: Why we need it

By Michael Mahler, Erie Gay News

Gov. Tom Wolf is to be commended for creating the nation's first statewide Commission on LGBTQ Affairs on August 6.

Why is such a commission needed? LGBTQ communities around the state are often unaware of what is going on in the various other regions in Pennsylvania. Being aware of what is going on elsewhere may help regions formulate their own strategies, or tap into resources that they might not have been aware of.

I believe that probably most LGBTQ organizations and resources would like to improve their connections with non-LGBTQ resources and systems in their own geographic community, so being able to compare notes with other regions would be helpful.

In addition, by having so many different regions of the state represented, that may make it clearer which regions currently do not have adequate resources for LGBTQ people. We can then begin to develop methods and resources to address those shortcomings.

We can hopefully strategize and coordinate efforts to pass anti-discrimination and other needed



HIV Awareness Walk

Participants marchd in the Erie County HIV Task Force's second annual HIV Awareness Walk September 10. The Task Force is a coalition of groups involved in HIV/AIDS services. Find them on Facebook: Erie County HIV Task Force

Community News

legislation on the state level that Pennsylvania has lacked for too long.

Having a statewide LGBTQ resource directory and also a calendar of major events would also be worthy tasks to take on.

October is LGBT History Month

From Equality Forum

LGBT History Month celebrates the achievements of 31 lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender Icons. Each day in October, a new LGBT Icon is featured with a video, bio, bibliography, downloadable images and other resources.

The LGBT community is the only community worldwide that is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions. LGBT History Month provides role models, builds community and makes the civil rights statement about our extraordinary national and international contributions.

In 1994, Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, believed a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history, and gathered other teachers and community leaders. They selected October because public schools are in session and existing traditions, such as Coming Out Day (October 11), occur that month.

Gay and Lesbian History Month was endorsed by GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Education Association and other national organizations. In 2006 Equality Forum assumed responsibility for providing content, promotion and resources for LGBT History Month.

Equality Forum is a national and international LGBT civil rights organization with an educational focus. Equality Forum coordinates LGBT History Month, produces documentary films, undertakes high-impact initiatives and presents the largest annual national and international LGBT civil rights summit. For more information, visit www.equalityforum.com.

GEAE New Board Members

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

Greater Erie Alliance for Equality would like to formally welcome Jennifer Kubiak and Steve Huefner to the board and welcome back Rich McCarty from the advisory council. All three new board members jumped

right in and have been actively planning educational and fundraising events for the organization and the greater LGBTQ community. Please give them a warm welcome.

GEAE Wins Charity Challenge

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

GEAE would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our Charity Challenge with Room 33 last month. A ridiculous number of people showed up, sang, and bought raffle and 50/50 tickets, winning glorious entertainment packages and treats from local businesses. Talented and energetic celebrity bartenders, including Mayor Schember, rounded out the evening. On the evening of Erie Gives where the support continued online, it is not hard to see how much the Erie community loves to work together for a greater cause and enjoy a fun evening. We especially would like to send a special thank you to Room 33 for hosting this ongoing event, to all our sponsors, and, of course, to all our guests and fellow charity challengers.

Photo Galleries on Our Website from 1995 through 2018, also a listing of local LGBT history going back to the 1960's



"PROMOTING LGBTQ HEALTH WITH DR. CAPRIOTTI"
Q&A presented by Greater Erie Alliance for Equality September 21 at Calamari's

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Distributor Update

Erie Gay News is updating our list of distributors. If you are currently a distributor, lease email us at info@eriegaynews.com or call (814) 456-9833 to let us know that we are getting you the correct number of copies before Friday, Oct. 12. If you are not currently a distributor, but would like to be, please contact us by Oct. 12. The distributors of our monthly print edition are listed at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/places-toget.php. We are happy to list those who carry EGN!

Conversion therapy positions

More at Human Rights Campaign "Policy and Position Statements on Conversion Therapy" hrc.org

American Academy of Pediatrics: "Therapy directed at specifically changing sexual orientation is contraindicated, since it can provoke guilt and anxiety while having little or no potential for achieving changes in orientation."

American Medical Association: "Our AMA: (c) opposes, the use of 'reparative' or 'conversion' therapy that is based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that the patient should change his/her homosexual orientation."

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: "The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry finds no evidence to support the application of any "therapeutic intervention" operating under the premise that a specific sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression is pathological. Furthermore, based on the scientific evidence, the AACAP asserts that such "conversion therapies" (or other interventions imposed with the intent of promoting a particular sexual orientation and/or gender as a preferred outcome) lack scientific credibility and clinical utility. Additionally, there is evidence that such interventions are harmful. As a result, "conversion therapies" should not be part of any behavioral health treatment of children and adolescents."

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy: "[T]he association does not consider homosexuality a disorder that requires treatment, and as such, we see no basis for [reparative therapy]. AAMFT expects its members to practice based on the best research and clinical evidence available."

American College of Physicians: "8. The College opposes the use of "conversion," "reorientation," or "reparative" therapy for the treatment of LGBT persons.

"Available research does not support the use of reparative therapy as an effective method in the treatment of LGBT persons. Evidence shows that the practice may actually cause emotional or physical harm to LGBT individuals, particularly adolescents or young persons. report high levels of depression, use illegal drugs, or be at risk for HIV and sexually transmitted illnesses."

Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar

www.eriegaynews.com

Sep 20 - “Glitterbomb” premiere (LATV) 10 pm
“First LGBTQ Latinx Talk Show” If you know how to access this show in this area please let us know. latv.com/Glitterbomb

Sep 26 (Wed) - “Modern Family” Season Premiere (ABC) 9 PM. Wildly popular show revolves around three different kinds of families.

Sep 27 (Thu) - “Murphy Brown” Reboot Premiere (CBS) 9:30 PM. Reboot of the newsroom sitcom, updated to take on the current political climate

Sep 27 (Thu) - “Grey’s Anatomy” season premiere (ABC) 8pm, 2 hours. “Alex Landi joins cast as Dr. Nico Kim, the series’ first gay male surgeon..

Sep 28 – Oct 14 - “The Laramie Project” (Dramashop, Renaissance Center, 1001 State Erie PA). Play based on townspeople’s reactions to the October 1998 murder of a gay college student in Laramie, Wyoming. dramashop.org

Sep 28 (Fri) - “The Cool Kids” Series Premiere (Fox) 8:30 PM. Leslie Jordan (“Beverly Leslie”), Vicki Lawrence, Martin Mull, David Alan Grier are friends in a retirement community. FB: The Cool Kids

Sep 28 (Fri) - “Bad Reputation” (2018) Documentary about rocker Joan Jett. In theatres, on demand, iTunes and Amazon Video FB: Bad Reputation

Sep 28 – 30 (Fri – Sun) – Closing Weekend (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) www.jonespond.com.

Sep 29 (Sat) - Namoli Brennet in concert (Robert W. Rhoades Auditorium, Clarion Venango Campus, Oil City PA) “free and open to Venango campus students, their families, and the local communities.” namolibrennet.com

Sep 29 (Sat) - Rock N Roll night and Drag Show (M & J’s Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. FB: M&J’s Lounge

Sep 29 (Sat) – Country & Western Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com

Sep 30 (Sat) - Sneakers Football Sunday (100 Harrison, Jamestown NY) “Football Fans...Sneakers will open at 1:00pm on Sundays throughout the football season. Go Bills!”

Sep 30 (Sat) - “Marvel Rising: Secret Warriors” premiere (Disney Channel) “The line-up includes Latina lesbian superhero America Chavez, as well as Ms. Marvel, Squirrel Girl, Quake, Patriot, and Inferno.” ~GLAAD Wrap

Oct 4 (Thu) - “Superstore” Season Premiere (NBC) 8 PM. FB: Superstore

Oct 4 (Thu) - “Station 19” Series Premiere (ABC) 9 PM. FB: Station 19

Oct 4 (Thu) - “Will and Grace” Season Premiere (NBC) 9 PM. Chelsea Handler joins the cast and the show’s publicity describes her character as a “power lesbian.”

Oct 5 (Fri) - “Dancing Queen” premiere Netflix docuseries about Drag Race alum, Alyssa Edwards.

Oct 6 (Sat) - Coming Out Day Film Screening (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 4 PM - 6 PM. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/.

Oct 6 (Sat) - Friends & Family Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com/.

Oct 9 (Tue) - Dining Out for Life (Various venues, WNY) Annual AIDS service fundraiser In WNY benefits Evergreen Health Services. Participating Southern Tier restaurants: Forte! the Restaurant (Dinner); Andriaccio’s (Dinner); Brazil Craft Beer & Wine Lounge (Dinner); Ellicottville Brewing Company West (Dinner); Labyrinth Press (Breakfast, Lunch, Late Night); Landmark Restaurant (Dinner). Info: www.diningoutforlife.org



Calendar

diningoutforlife.com or www.evergreenhs.org

Oct 9 (Tue) - “Supergirl” Season Premiere (CW) 8 PM. Nicole Maines, first trans superhero. FB: Supergirl

Oct 9 (Tue) - “Black Lightning” Season Premiere (CW) 9 PM. Anissa Pierce (a.k.a. Thunder) is the first black lesbian TV superhero FB: Black Lightning

Oct 9 (Tue) - “Charmed” Series Premiere (CW) 10 PM. Supernatural sister reboot; Melanie Diaz plays lesbian activist. FB: Charmed

Oct 9-10 (Tue-Wed) LGBTQ Aging Summit (Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg PA) Hosted by PA Dept. of Aging To learn more about Pennsylvania’s Inaugural LGBTQ Aging Summit or to register your attendance, visit ltltrainingpa.org.

Oct 9 (Tue) – PA VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Oct 10 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner #64 (Cannon’s Chophouse, 7165 Peach St, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. “Casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own.” Contact: Gary (814) 446-2327. info@drenched-fur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Oct 11 (Thu) - National Coming Out Day

Oct 12-14 (Fri-Sun) - Annual Pink Party Benefit Weekend (Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th, Erie PA) Show is on Sunday. Benefits StringsforaCURE® Foundation FB: The Zone

Oct 13 (Sat) - Masquerade Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com/.

Oct 13 (Sat) - Veronyca’s Showgirls presents Halloween Spooktacular (Moose Lodge, 201 West State St, Olean, NY) 10 PM. \$6 FB: Veronyca’s Showgirls

Oct 13-14 (Sat-Sun) - Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus: “Standing on the Side of Love” (Kenmore United Methodist Church and Kenmore Presbyterian Church, Kenmore NY) To celebrate National Coming Out Day in October, BGMC will present “Standing on the Side of Love,” a program of selections that touches on anti-bullying, built around a performance of Stephen Schwartz’s “Testimony.” Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, *Working*, *Wicked*) composed the piece as a musical soundtrack to support a set of lyrics taken directly from submissions to Dan Savage’s “It Gets Better



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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Calendar

Project.” A portion of concert proceeds for this event will benefit Gay and Lesbian Youth Services. buffalogaymenschorus.com

Oct 14 (Sun) - Public Closure (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com

Oct 15 (Mon) – Deadline for Erie Gay News November 2018 print edition (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) info@eriegaynews.com.

Oct 16 (Tue) - “The Connors” Series Premiere (ABC) 8 PM. This time, without Roseanne.

Oct 19 (Fri) - “Get A Room With Carson & Thom” premieres (Bravo) 9 PM. “Queer Eye” alums Carson Kressley and Thom Filicia have joined forces to form a dynamic design duo. bravotv.com

Oct 19 (Fri) - Zone DIVA Halloween Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) FB: The Zone

Oct 20 (Sat) - Prism LGBTQ Youth Group Halloween Costume Party (Basement Transmissions, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. “Refreshments, costume contest, and fun for ages 12-20. This takes the place of the regular meeting.” Contact: Rose Surma.

(814) 490-1971. Rose.surma@gmail.com. FB: Prism LGBTQ Youth Group

Oct 20 (Sat) - True Colors Social (Countryside Farm Market, 4684 Center Rd, Canfield, OH) 2 - 6 PM. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org

Oct 20 (Sat) - Seasonals Closing Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com/.

Oct 23 (Tue) - Rebecca Walker: “Stuck at the Intersection: Can Feminism Survive the Traffic?”

(Mary D-Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst University, Erie PA) “This event is being gifted in memory of Charlene M. Tanner by her loving partner Doris Cipolla. Because of their shared interests in social justice, peace and the environment, it is hoped that this program will inspire others to help create a healing environment for the world.” Free and open to the public, but tickets required. miac.mercyhurst.edu

Oct 23 (Tue) – Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th, Erie, PA) 7PM. All ages! Contact: Mike (814) 456-

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Calendar

9833. Venue (814) 455-4009. info@eriegaynews.com

Oct 26 - "1985" (2018) "a haunting elegy for a generation of gay men." ~Jude Dry. Visit 1985thefilm.com

Oct 27 (Sat) - Halloween Party and Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) (724) 602-8447. FB: M&J's Lounge

Oct 28 (Sun) - 10th Annual Diversity Worship Service (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA) communityunited.church.

Oct 28 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Samhain (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) ritual 6pm potluck to follow. Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.wlg-adf.org/.

Nov 2 (Fri) - "Bohemian Rhapsody" (2018) national release Celebration of British rock band Queen and the too-short life of frontman Freddie Mercury

Nov 2 (Fri) - "Boy Erased" (2018) National release Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe. Based on the book *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family* by Garrard Conley.

Nov 11 (Sun) - "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (Taylor Little Theatre, Erie) Mercyhurst National Theatre Live miac.mercyhurst.edu/

Nov 14-18 (Wed-Sun) - Lake Erie Gala (Wed - Sun) (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) Annual social weekend hosted by Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group. neumanncindy@gmail.com. eriesisters.ning.com FB: Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group.

Nov 20 (Tue) - Transgender Day of Remembrance

Nov 28 (Wed) - A Drag Queen Christmas (House of Blues, Cleveland OH) "starring contestants from RuPaul's Drag Race" dragfans.com

UPCOMING

Dec 4 - Jane Lynch: "A Swingin' Little Christmas" (Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst University, Erie PA) miac.mercyhurst.edu

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

★ **VOTERS GUIDE NEXT ISSUE** ★

Canada Cannabis

by *Deb Spilko*

On October 17, 2018, recreational cannabis will become legal in Canada.

If you are planning on heading up to Ontario for some cannabis tourism, you may want to hold off. Although Canadian residents will be able to order online as soon as it becomes legal, it will apparently not be available through Ontario retail outlets until sometime next spring.

Other provinces will be handling it their own way.

If you want to be kept up to date, visit Ontario.ca and search for "Cannabis Legalization."

Regardless of how one buys it while in Canada, it is not wise to attempt to bring your purchase back into the US. While Canada is legalizing cannabis, US Customs will still treat it as a crime. If US Customs finds you in possession when you cross back into the US, you will be in trouble. I'm especially directing this at younger people or folks who haven't crossed the border before, and may not understand that that the US-Canada border crossing should be taken seriously. It is not just a glorified toll booth. You will encounter border guards who will question you and have the right to search your luggage, and, if they have cause—or the mood strikes them—they can also search your vehicle or your body. They also have drug sniffing dogs. Experiences vary, so just because your neighbor had a mellow border experience, on't assume it will go the same way for everybody. Add to this the Trump administration's open hostility to Canada (and their even stronger hostility to the Canadian cannabis industry), and it's only prudent to expect stepped up efforts on the US side.

Not trying to be a party pooper, just want to make you aware.

Read more at:

- Ontario.ca and search for "Cannabis Legalization."
- "In a month, pot will be legal. But the list of rules has never been longer" (André Picard, *Globe and Mail*, Sept. 17. 2018)



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

Oct 14 (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.

GENERAL

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

PFLAG Butler This organization no longer meets

(Oct 16 (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

Oct 9 (Tue) – Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E. Jefferson St, Butler PA) 1 PM. FB: Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network

SOCIAL

Oct 14 (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

Oct 2 & 16 (Tue) – 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

Oct 6 (Sat) – Prism LGBTQ youth group meets 1st & 3rd Sat at the Downtown YMCA teen center, 31 W 10th St, Erie PA. from 2-4. Oct 20 meeting will be Halloween Party at Basement Transmissions. Socializing and peer support. for teens 12-20 Rose Surma (814) 490-1971 Rose.surma@gmail.com FB: TransFamily of NWP

Oct 16 (Tue) – Full Spectrum LGBT Teen Support

(Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6PM. Ages 14-19, under 14 with parental consent. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach

SUPPORT

Oct 14 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Sexuality Support (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 3-5PM.

Oct 21 (Sun) – Parents Who Are LGBTQIA+ Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM.

TRANS

Oct 8 (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 NWP

Oct 13 (Sat) – TransFamily of Meadville Transgender Support Group (CHAPS Building, 1st floor, 944 Liberty St., Meadville, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Linda Thomas. imhwoman4586@msn.com. (814) 232-1778 FB: Transfamily of NWP

Oct 14 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Transgender Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM. Also meets Jul 22 from 3-5PM.

Oct 21 (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.

Oct 27 (Sat) – TransFamily of NWP (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 NWP

Oct 27 (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. erisesisters.ning.com



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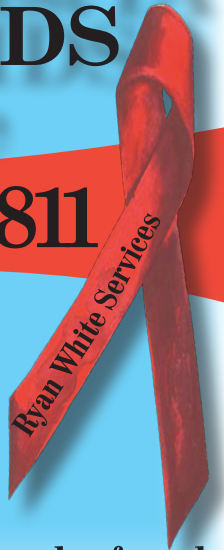


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