



EGN

Erie Gay News



Kim and family getting ready to run for Greater Erie Alliance for Equality's first Virtual 5K on September 12..

GEAE 5K On Sep 12

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

60 runners and walkers joined GEAE for their first Virtual 5K, Fun Run & Walk held on September 12. Registrants and other community members also purchased chances at raffle baskets donated by GEAE board members, Natalie Braddock and Lake Erie Counseling.

Allyship in Motion on Oct 6

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

This summer many joined in protests highlighting police brutality against black bodies across the nation. Allies are being called upon to learn how they can be true, antiracist agents of change. On October 6 from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, this workshop will help queer youth come together and learn how they can create safe, affirming spaces for all members of the LGBTQ-IAA community. We will do this by answering: What does it mean to be ally? How do white queer youth support Black, Latinx, Indigenous, queer youth?

Virtual workshop on October 6 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Zoom link will be sent to your email address the day before the event

This workshop will be taught from the perspective of GeeXella, a Black, Mexican, Non-binary singer, rapper, organizer, and teacher who grew up primarily in the southern United States.

TransFamily Scholarship for Name Change

from TransFamily of NW PA

Do you or do you know someone who needs some help getting their name changed? TransFamily of NWPA is giving funding to go toward any costs for a name change. If you would like to be considered, please fill out the survey on their Facebook page or in the online version of this article. Please apply by Friday, October 16.

A Re-imagined Dining Out (In) For Life on October 13

from Evergreen Health Services

Dining Out For Life 2020 is just around the corner! This year we will be encouraging patrons to order take out from one of our participating restaurants, where 100% of the proceeds will go toward these restaurants who have been hit hardest by COVID-19.

Those who donate to Evergreen Health's HIV services will be entered to win one of several great raffle prizes. The grand prize is two round trip tickets on JetBlue. All donations made on October 13 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$12,000 thanks to our presenting sponsor, KeyBank.

For more information about participating restaurants and Evergreen's HIV Services, visit dining-outforlife.com/city/wny

Erie HIV Mobile Testing at Dickey's BBQ Pit on October 13

from NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance

First time partnership between the Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, NWPA Pride Alliance and Dickey's BBQ. Northwest Rural AIDS Alliance will be conducting free and confidential using their new mobile testing

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Erie Gay News
Erie Gay News
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Editor/Layout: Mike Mahler

Deadline for next issue: Oct 12
Folding and distribution is Tue, Oct 20 at Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th.

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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.



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
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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 is now included in
The EBSCO *LGBT Life*®
 with Full Text Index &
 Six LGBT Archives
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To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, and Rex Apps for folding; Audrey, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, and Rex Apps for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Community News

unit on Tuesday, October 13 from 6 to 8 PM in the parking lot at Dickey's BBQ in the Liberty Plaza, 3716 Liberty St, Erie PA. Testing is available to those 14 years of age and up with no parent consent required. Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance will use rapid testing using a finger prick and results will be given after 2 minutes.

Giveaways!! Each person Tested will receive a \$5 Country Fair Cash Card and a Coupon for a free sandwich at Dickey's BBQ. Masks required. Please practice social distancing.

If you are unable or not comfortable going out in public for a test, please contact Emily Crofoot at ECROFOOT@CLARION.EDU to find out how you can still get tested.

Jamestown Pride's National Coming Out Day Event on October 11

from Jamestown Pride

We are excited to share with you the many details about Jamestown Pride's National Coming Out Day event that is set for 2:00-4:00 p.m., Sunday, October 11th.

The online event will feature local members of the LGBTQIA+ community sharing their stories about themselves with a moderator that will be livestreamed in a Zoom webinar, courtesy of the Robert H. Jackson Center. The stories shared will be added to the exhibit the Fenton History Center is compiling about the history about Chautauqua County's LGBTQIA+ community.

You can register for Jamestown Pride's National Coming Out Day event webinar here: <https://bit.ly/33gP33F>

If you are interested in sharing your story at the live event, email JamestownPride@mhachautauqua.org. Jamestown Pride has partnered with the Robert H. Jackson Center who is making their theatre space available to us to film and stream the story presenters. Proper health and safety guidelines will be in place for this including mask wearing and disinfecting procedures. There are a limited number of spaces for presenters so please submit your interest by October 4, 2020.

We also need help at the Robert H. Jackson Center on October 11th with tasks like presenter



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Community News

registration, disinfecting sets, and other event production items. To volunteer, email JamestownPride@mhachautauqua.org. We will be holding a volunteer orientation on Zoom so that everyone knows what to expect for the portion of the event that's taking place at the Robert H. Jackson Center.

If you want to share your story for the Fenton History Center's exhibit, follow this link: <https://bit.ly/2FzLEVw>

Zone Dance Club Looking At Options for Opening Safely

The Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, is not currently open because of COVID-19 restrictions. They are examining business options for how to operate safely and reasonably in a changing environment and hope to have an update soon. They thank their patrons for their support and are grateful for the virtual drag show fundraiser on Saturday, September 19.

Central Outreach Wellness Center Erie Office Opening This Fall

Central Outreach Wellness Center continues its mission, offering high-quality medical care to the communities who need it most. Now, the leading LGBTQ+ medical center in Western Pennsylvania--Pittsburgh, Aliquippa, and Washington-- expands its access to the state's most Northern city, Erie.

COWC Erie will open in the fall of 2020.

Our clinics provide culturally competent healthcare to marginalized communities by offering free STD testing and treatment, Hep C testing and the cure if you need it, and PrEP to prevent HIV.

Our providers can also serve as your primary care physician, especially for members of the LGBTQ+ and HIV communities. Although we are an LGBTQ+ clinic we are straight friendly. Begin the process for your medical marijuana card at Central Outreach. Case management services help you with insurance, housing coordination, addiction resources, homeless outreach, and patient advocacy are additional ways we remove barriers that face people who need health care.

We are excited to engage the community in Erie, to be a voice for the voiceless in Erie, and to advance the medical care that people receive in Erie. Like all of our offices, we always accept walk-in patients. Arrangements for house calls can be made. The Erie office will be run by Dalen Michael. If you need us, Central Outreach will be there for you.

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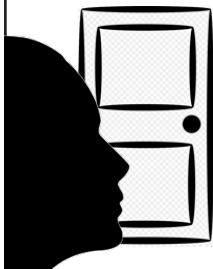
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Community News

UK Asexuality Conference 2020

from Marshall John Blount

September 6th, 2020 was an eventful one but this time, the event took place on YouTube. COVID-19 has not stopped the UK Asexuality Conference 2020 AKA AceCon2020 from happening and I got the chance to not only attend but to panel one of nine intersectional panels. The panels ranged from Aces and Ethnicity to research which offered hours worth of education and conversation which concluded with Ace activist/model Yasmin Benoit and AVEN founder and Ace activist David Jay giving a beautiful closing to the conference. With the conference over, there was a virtual meet and greet on Gather (a social media site) with Yasmin Benoit which lasted well into the afternoon and early evening (Eastern Standard Time). The Gather event ended on a boat where we all celebrated like it was 1999. Hopefully, we can expect the same in 2021

AceCon2020 can be viewed at www.youtube.com/channel/UCNGdR787fwF7BxC5yMwIPEg

12th Annual Diversity Worship Service on October 25

from Community United Church

On Sunday, October 25, Community United Church will be celebrating their 12th Annual Diversity Service at 11 AM, recognizing their national Open and Affirming status as a Christian congregation. Here, LGBTQ people are warmly welcome! The event will take place at 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA (masks and social distancing required) and also livestreamed from their Facebook page, so you may participate either in person or online.



There is More Than One Way to Be Isolated

from SafeNet Erie

What do COVID-19 exposure and Intimate Partner Violence have common?

Isolation.

In an unhealthy relationship, the abusive partner often uses isolation to protect and extend their need for power and control. This can include controlling who you see, where you go, and what you do. They limit outside activities and contact with family and friends. You are forced to account for your time, whereabouts, spending, and phone contacts. Time spent away from them is seen as either abandonment or proof you are cheating. You might even be coerced into moving someplace where you don't have family or friends for support.

Why does the abusive partner do this? Ask them, and they might give an answer that's meant to keep you silent. It's because they love you. They get jealous whenever they aren't with you, and jealousy is proof of their love.

Deep down you know that in healthy relationships, partners show love through mutual respect, trust, honesty, fairness, and equality. If you feel isolated and need to speak with someone confidentially, call SafeNet's hotline at 814-454-8161.

Special Note: October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Be watching for news about RUSafe, a free mobile app providing support for those in unhealthy relationships and those concerned about someone they know.

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

Community News

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 first Saturday of each month at 11:15 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 Tuesday, 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.

2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

OCT 19 Last day to register to vote for the general election.
register.votesPA.com

OCT 27 Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.
votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot

NOV 3 Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8 PM.
votesPA.com/County

NOV 3 General election day.
Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM.
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RU Safe

RU Safe is a free mobile app providing support for anyone who may be in an abusive relationship or those concerned about someone they know. Features of RU Safe include an agency directory for domestic abuse support services, a secure journal tool, questionnaires to assess safety of relationships, and links to resources about safety and risk.

 **Aspirant**

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RU Safe is based on the Danger Assessment developed by Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

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Voters Guide

Candidates for US Congress PA-16, PA State Senate, and PA State House were asked about their positions on LGBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

The General Election is November 3. ALL voters can request a mail-in ballot, which can be applied for online. Applications for absentee ballots are due by Oct 26, and all completed ballots must be post-marked or delivered to the drop box at the Courthouse by no later than Election Day, November 3 at 8 PM.

Questions for all candidates:

Anti-Discrimination

Do you support the passage of legislation such as the Equality Act, which would protect LGBT individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation? Please explain.

“Religious Freedom”

Do you support legislation such as the so-called First Amendment Defense Act (introduced in the US Senate in March of 2018) that would allow individuals, government officials or government agencies to deny providing goods and services to LGBT individuals because of religious beliefs. Please explain.

US Congress PA 16

Not Responding: Mike Kelly (R-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

KRISTY GNIBUS (D)

Yes, I support the Equality Act. Our federal law still does not specifically and explicitly prohibit the termination of an individual’s employment based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Additionally, LGBT tenants are often evicted from their homes due to an overzealous landlord’s dislike of their tenant’s choice of a partner and LGBT students are mistreated and bullied in schools across our nation every day. There should be no question as to an LGBT citizen’s rights under the law and each passing

day without our government instituting these explicit protections is another day that our nation fails to recognize true equality.

“Religious Freedom”

KRISTY GNIBUS (D)

No, I do not support such legislation because it would rollback critical legal protections for LGBT Americans and their families. The First Amendment Defense Act is destructive legislation that would, in essence, legalize state-sanctioned discrimination and weaken important civil rights protections for our nation’s LGBT population.

PA State Senate District 49

Anti-Discrimination

JULIE SLOMSKI (D)

For far too long, the LGBTQ+ community has been left unprotected by Pennsylvania law. It is frustrating that in this day and age someone could lose their job or housing because of who they are or who they love. It is unacceptable to me that discrimination is still codified in our commonwealth, and as the next Senator for SD-49, I would be honored to introduce and support legislation to end discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.

DAN LAUGHLIN (R-Incumbent)

I am supportive of the Equality Act.

“Religious Freedom”

JULIE SLOMSKI (D)

To deny service on the basis of sexual orientation or identity is discrimination. While this has been addressed on a federal level, we need to be proactive in Pennsylvania to end discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, regardless of its form.

DAN LAUGHLIN (R-Incumbent)

I would not support the FADA

Voters Guide

PA State House District 1

Anti-Discrimination **PAT HARKINS (D Incumbent)**

I do support legislation such as the Equality Act. In past sessions I have not only co sponsored legislation but I have held public hearings in Erie so the public can hear what is contained in the legislation and hear how it might affect them. I believe it is the right of all to be treated fairly and equally in all matters especially housing, employment and public accommodation. Bottom line, treat others the way you would want to be treated.

"Religious Freedom" **PAT HARKINS (D Incumbent)**

I would never support anything like the First Amendment Defense Act and I believe our founding fathers would turn over in their graves if they would see what some people would like to do to the constitution they so brilliantly crafted.

Call these proposals what they are, hate speech. Closed minded people who have a fear of the unknown are who come up with these ideas. In 2020 I would hope we could get beyond judging people for who they love and accept the differences in all of us. We have much deeper issues we should be dealing with at this point in society.

PA State House District 2

Not Responding: Bob Merski (D Incumbent)

PA State House District 3

Not Responding: Greg Hayes (R)


Anti-Discrimination **RYAN BIZZARRO (D Incumbent)**

Yes, I absolutely support legislation such as the Equality Act. One of the cardinal pillars of our Con-

stitutional Republic is equal treatment under the law in the public square. To deny anyone employment, housing, or public accommodation due to (assumed or actual) sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression is a very clear transgression of one of our most cherished principles of equality. Private institutions and organizations that do not accept tax dollars are free to do as they will under their own roofs (for better or worse), but in our shared society that belongs to all citizens, LGBTQ people should not be denied equal access to employment, housing, or public accommodation.

"Religious Freedom" **RYAN BIZZARRO (D Incumbent)**

I am opposed to any legislation that dares to cloak discrimination in the name of religious freedom. The U.S. Constitution very clearly grants everyone freedom of conscience/belief. However, freedom of conscience does not translate into an unqualified freedom of accommodation. One is not free to use their private beliefs to infringe upon the



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<http://gayellowpages.com>

Voters Guide

rights of others, nor to cause them harm. To that end, whether as elected officials, or as people hired to serve, government positions are not domains to impose religious beliefs. What is more, tax funded services managed by private organizations do not have the right to impose narrow religious beliefs upon government funded projects. As a person of faith, I am deeply committed to protecting and exercising the freedom of religion in this country. However, I am not confused about what that means—and I am not interested in participating in any legislative effort that would use religion as a tool of discrimination in our shared society or in our rule of law.

PA State House District 4

Not Responding: Curt Sonney (R Incumbent)

PA State House District 6

Not Responding: Brad Roae (R Incumbent)



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Anti-Discrimination MATTHEW FERRENCE (D)

Simply put, that PA currently fails to fully protect the fundamental Civil Rights of the LGBTQ community is an affront to human decency and the values of the Commonwealth. There's no doubt that strong legislation prohibiting any kind of discrimination due to sexuality or gender identity is long overdue in Pennsylvania. While I certainly hope that members of the US Congress will pass the federal Equality Act, as a candidate for the Pennsylvania House I believe we need protections written into our own state laws. We can't wait for the feds. Too many people are suffering discrimination here in NWPA and across the state. We must act to ensure equity and justice.

"Religious Freedom" MATTHEW FERRENCE (D)

Hiding discrimination behind the thin veil of "religious freedom" devalues us all, and this kind of hateful legislation perniciously insults American concepts of freedom and justice to codify bigotry. Freedom of religion does not give license for discriminatory practice against members of the LGBTQ community. While religious freedom guarantees individuals the right to practice their faith, it does not imply that religious belief can be used as a cover to deny the Civil Rights of others. I would vehemently oppose any legislation similar to the deceptively-titled "First Amendment Defense Act" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PA State House District 17

Not Responding: Parke Wentling (R Incumbent)

**Deadline for Next EGN issue
Oct 12**

Calendar

For latest updates, see www.eriegaynews.com

Sep 25 - 27 (Fri - Sun) - Bear Weekend #2 (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park).

Sep 26 (Sat) - Country Cow Poke Weekend at Camp Davis

Sep 26 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Zoom) 2 PM. Currently meeting via Zoom. Please message via Facebook page for meeting info.

Sep 27 (Sun) - National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Sep 27 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Gender Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 18+. Meets in person at Full Spectrum and also streams via Zoom Password to join is 4678312.

Oct 1 - 31 (Thu - Sat) - LGBT History Month.

Oct 2 - 4 (Fri - Sun) - Moxie's Camp YETI Euchre Tournament (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

Oct 3 (Sat) - Untraditional OktoberFest Weekend at Camp Davis (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219)

Oct 4 & 18 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Youth Social & Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14 & up, under 14 with guardian consent. Meets in person at Full Spectrum and also streams via Zoom.

Oct 9 - 11 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Closing Weekend

Oct 10 (Sat) - Closing/Marsquerade Weekend at Camp Davis

Oct 11 (Sun) - National Coming Out Day Every year on National Coming Out Day, we celebrate coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) or as an ally. First celebrated in 1988. .

Oct 11 & 25 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Gender Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center) 9th: 6-8PM, 23: 3-5PM 18+. Meets in person at Full Spectrum and also streams via Zoom.

Oct 11 & 25 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Sexuality Support-Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center) 3-5PM 18+. Meets in person at Full Spectrum and also streams via Zoom.

Oct 12 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LGBTQIA+ Caucus meets (Zoom) 7 PM. General meeting on Zoom. Contact Michael Mahler at (814)

456-9833 or mmahler@eriedems.com.

Oct 12 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News November 2020 print edition (#297) (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of Tuesday, Oct 20.

Oct 15 (Thu) - National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day
Oct 15 (Thu) - Spirit Day #SpiritDay <http://www.glaad.org/spiritday>.

Oct 18 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Friends & Family of Gender-Variant Individuals Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14 & up, under 14 with guardian consent. Meets in person at Full Spectrum and also streams via Zoom.

Oct 19 (Mon) - Pennsylvania General Election Registration Deadline

Oct 20 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets via Zoom 1 PM - 2:30 PM. Zoom Meeting ID: 927 9128 9996. Passcode: 940728

Oct 20 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16502) 7 PM. Limited number of volunteers welcome. You must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Oct 24 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Zoom) 2 PM. Currently meeting via Zoom. Please message via Facebook page for meeting info.

Oct 25 - 31 (Sun - Sat) - Asexual Awareness Week <http://www.asexualawarenessweek.com/>.

Oct 25 (Sun) - 12th Annual Diversity Worship Service (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA 16508-2540) 11 AM. Please join us as we celebrate our 12th Annual Diversity Service, recognizing our national Open and Affirming status as a Christian congregation. Here, LGBTQ people are warmly welcome! Contact: Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty. Phone: (814) 864-4429. Email: communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com. Browse to <http://communityunited.church/>.

Oct 25 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Gender Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 18+. Meets in person at Full Spectrum and also streams via Zoom Password to join is 4678312.

Oct 26 (Mon) - Intersex Awareness Day Commemorates the first intersex protest, which took place in Boston, MA. Browse to <http://intersexday.org/en/>.

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Northwest Alliance

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Case Management

Clinical Services

High Impact Prevention

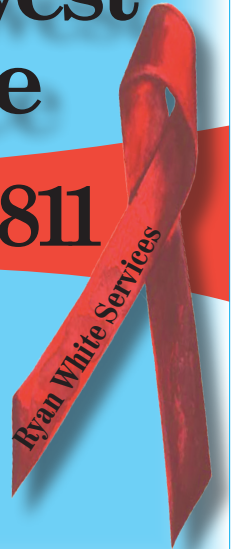
including Rapid

HIV Testing - Walk-in

Testing Available!

Linkage to Care

Call for treatment and referral.



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Family Services *of NWPA*