



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Bear meets Otter. NW PA Pride Alliance kitchen staff Gary Snyder with Erie Otters mascot Otto at the 29th Annual Erie Pride Picnic on August 13, 2022 at the Rotary Pavilion. Photo by Andrea Shaffer.

29th Annual Erie Pride Picnic

Friends, Families and Supporters of Erie's LGBTQIA Community concluded a day of fun at the Rotary Pavilion on Erie's Presque Isle. Attendees contributed by bringing a dish to share which accompanied food and drinks provided by the Pride alliance. On August 13th, 200 attendees enjoyed fellowship and laughs amongst the parks many amenities.

Get ready to mark your calendars for next year as we will be enjoying the 30th picnic. Planning has already started to bring even more enjoyment to compliment the raffle for local baskets and information tents. Leftover perishable food was taken to the Erie City Mission and non-perishable items collected by those in attendance were donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA.

Thanks to all the volunteers and attendees who helped to make this another success. Adding to events success is the information tables from community organizations, ACLU of Pennsylvania, Bair Foundation, Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Curaleaf, Episcopal Church of Erie, Erie Gay News, Erie Vet Center, Family Services of NW PA, Highmark Blue

Cross Blue Shield, LGBT Community Funds at The Erie Community Foundation, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, NWPA Tobacco Control Program, PNC Bank, Queer Defense Collective, SafeNet Center, TransFamily of NWPA Transgender Support Group, and UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor (W 12th), Health Screening and vaccinations were by Central Outreach Wellness Center (Erie).

Gov. Wolf Signs Executive Order to Protect LGBTQIA+ Pennsylvanians from Conversion Therapy

Harrisburg, PA - August 16, 2022 - – Today, Governor Tom Wolf signed Executive Order 2022-2 to protect Pennsylvanians from conversion therapy.

“Conversion therapy is a traumatic practice based on junk science that actively harms the people it supposedly seeks to treat,” said Gov. Wolf. “This discriminatory practice is widely rejected by medical and scientific professionals and has been proven to lead to worse mental health outcomes for LGBTQIA+ youth subjected to it. This is about keeping our children safe from bullying and extreme practices that harm them.”

The Executive Order directs commonwealth agencies to discourage conversion therapy in the commonwealth. It directs commonwealth agencies to take steps to actively promote evidence-based best practices for LGBTQIA+ individuals that is actually supported by the scientific and medical communities. It directs agencies to make updates to policies and procedures to better support LGBTQIA+ employees and the Pennsylvanians we serve. It also directs the Department of Human Services, the Insurance Department and Department of State and other appropriate agencies to explore and implement all options to ensure state funds, programs, contracts, and other resources are not used for the purposes of providing, authorizing, endorsing, reimbursing for, or referring for conversion therapy, to the extent permitted by law.

A survey on LGBTQIA+ Youth Mental Health by The Trevor Project shows that LGBTQIA+ youth

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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.

If you are restarting events or are moving to hosting events/meetings virtually, or want to change your copies received for distribution, please email info@eriegaynews.com

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THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Michael Kohler for mailing prep, Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Bridget, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Michael Kohler, Rex Apps, Steve Siwiecki, and Walter Ang for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Michael Kohler, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki 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.

are at increased risk for negative mental health outcomes. The survey results show that 45% of LGBTQIA+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. 73% of LGBTQIA+ youth reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety. 58% reported symptoms of depression. Additionally, 36% of LGBTQIA+ youth reported they have been physically threatened or harmed due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

According to a peer-reviewed study from The Trevor Project, 13% of LGBTQIA+ youth nationwide reported being subjected to conversion therapy, and 83% of those subjected to it were under age 18.

The study showed that LGBTQIA+ youth who underwent conversion therapy were more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide in the past year. Researchers found that when they accounted for the harms caused by conversion therapy – including negative mental health outcomes and substance use – conversion therapy costs our nation \$9.23 billion each year.

A 2019 study from the UCLA Williams Institute estimated that 73,000 LGBTQIA+ youth will

be subjected to conversion therapy before they turn 18 – including 16,000 youth who will receive conversion therapy from a licensed health care professional.

“Conversion therapy is causing horrific consequences for the mental health and well-being of a generation of young LGBTQIA+ individuals,” said Gov. Wolf. “But there is something very simple that we can all do to help. We can stand up and tell LGBTQIA+ youth that we hear them and we accept them exactly as they are.

“The Trevor Project’s Youth Mental Health Survey showed that rates of negative mental health outcomes among LGBTQIA+ youth are much lower in communities, schools and families that are accepting and supportive of LGBTQIA+ people. That’s why I signed this executive order to protect Pennsylvanians from conversion therapy and the damage it does to our communities. Because all of our youth deserve to grow up in a commonwealth that accepts and respects them.

“I want LGBTQIA+ youth and individuals across Pennsylvania to know that I stand with you. I see you, I respect you and I support you. My ad-



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ministration will continue to support policies to keep children safe from bullying and harmful practices.”

“We have worked tirelessly over the last year to collaboratively get this executive order drafted, through discussions with advocates, parents, and many stakeholders. With this action, the practice of conversion therapy has its days numbered in Pennsylvania,” said Rafael Alvarez Febo, executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs. “Young people should never be punished for being who they are and that’s what so-called conversion therapy does, while causing sometimes irreparable trauma to individuals.”

“Taxpayers’ dollars must never again be spent on the dangerous and discredited practice of conversion ‘therapy’ — which has been consistently associated with increased suicide risk and an estimated \$9.23 billion economic burden in the U.S.,” said Troy Stevenson (he/him), senior campaign manager for Advocacy and Government Affairs of The Trevor Project. “Thank you Governor Tom Wolf for your leadership and for taking bold action to affirm and protect young LGBTQ people across the commonwealth. We urge the state legislature to pass comprehensive state-wide protections and for governors across the nation to follow the Keystone State’s lead in ending this abusive practice.”

Miss Erie Pageant 2022

by Michael Mongera

And we have a winner! 2022 Miss Erie Pageant was held on August 19th and crowned native Erie drag performer, Debbie. The 2022 Miss Erie Pageant welcomed contestants, Debbie, Snarebear, Tammy Joe Hammertoe, and Alysins Wonderland, and were judged by the distinguished panel of talent, Michelle Michaels, Molli Jane Norman, Moe Ferrara, Patrick Hiller and Justin Kelso. Sponsors for the event included Northwest PA Pride Alliance, GEAE and of course, The Zone Dance Club.

The categories included Presentation, Evening Gown and Talent, all set against a tropical cabana backdrop. All contestants showed their unique approach to drag. Debbie showed her camp kitsch in a Katy Perry Left Shark-inspired reveal costume to a swallowed swimmer. Snarebear displayed a beautiful blue ruffle wave head-to-toe facekini, with sandy rhinestone embellishments. Tammy Joe Hammertoe brought their subversive drag to life with a beach-hopping “Sand Witch” presentation. Last but not

least, Alysins Wonderland presented a groovy 60’s inspired beach surfer/dancer look.

Evening gowns followed. Debbie dazzled in a beige and brown shimmering number. Snarebear accentuated their bearded lady glamour with a wedding dress inspired look. Tammy Joe upcycled used trash bags as a nod to plastic pollution in the sea. Alysins ended the category with an impressive hot pink sequin dress.

Lastly, the talent category was full of show-stoppers. Debbie brought the house down with a live performance of The Greatest Showman’s “From Now On”. Snarebear showcased a lip sync number with light sticks. Tammy Joe included a hilarious spoken word piece and Alysins finished off with a lip sync performance. The judges agreed that Debbie excelled in all categories and snatched the crown. Alysins Wonderland finished as her first runner-up. She is the successor to 2021 winner, Indie Skies.

Former Miss Eries such as Rebecca Mae, Valerie Valentino, Destiny Devine and Misty Michaels Kall and Indie Skies entertained the crowd between categories.



Debbie is crowned Miss Erie 2022 on August 19 at The Zone. Photo by Alex Sphon.

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Erie Chapter of Free Mom Hugs Reactivated

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Erie chapter of Free Mom Hugs has been reactivated. Free Mom Hugs is a nonprofit organization that was started in Oklahoma City in 2014, by mom Sarah Cunningham. After her son came out, Sarah noticed that many LGBTQIA+ youth were being ostracized by their families. Sarah wanted to do something tangible to help and, as a result, Free Mom Hugs was born. After our debut at Erie Pride 2022, we are now available to bring hugs to your LGBTQIA+ supporting organization. If you have an event or activity that you would interested in having Free Mom Hugs attend, please send an email to Kim Perrine, chapter co-coordinator, at mswchick@yahoo.com. You can also reach us on Facebook through the Erie Chapter of Free Mom Hugs group page.

Local LGBTQ+ nonprofits benefit from Erie Gives Day 2022

by *Rex Apps*

The Erie Community Foundation's 12th Annual Erie Gives Day capped off another record breaking year for local nonprofits on Tuesday, October 9. Over 7.9 million dollars was raised which was more than just over 7 million last year.

The local LGBTQ+ groups benefiting from the communities generosity include:

- Compton's Table, which works to empower queer youth and young people to be agents of change. Compton's Table received \$1,023.
- Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) dedicated to supporting the region's LG-BTA+ community and its straight allies through educational programs, social events

and opportunities for service. They received \$9,973.

- NW PA Pride Alliance received \$3,871. They are the organizing body for the Pride events in the city of Erie. Pride events have been celebrated in Erie for 30 years.
- Pennsylvania Equality Project, Inc. serves the LGBTQ+ community across Pennsylvania providing educational initiative in pursuit of affirming our civil rights. The seek to end discrimination, conversion therapy, and youth homelessness within the LGBTQ+ community. The Pennsylvania Equality Project received \$126.
- The LGBT Community Endowment exists to find projects that address the unique challenges facing the LGBTQ+ community in Northwest Pennsylvania. The goal of all the LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation is to help build a positive, thriving environment for community members. They were giving \$37,277.

Lake Erie GALA celebrates 23rd year

from *Lake Erie GALA*

Lake Erie GALA will be held November 16-20 at the Sheraton in Erie.

Now in its 23rd year, the Lake Erie Gala attracts crossdressers, transgender persons and their loved ones from across North America.

This year's theme is a Casino Royale/Speak-easy called "Classy Ladies... Cocktails and Dreams" features a Thursday night Dinner and Entertainment with Illusionist Cliff Hopkins and Kelly followed by dancing the night away with our very own DJ Brittany. Friday morning, hop on the bus and take a trip back to the site of the first Lake Erie Gala, from

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out of the ashes arose the Riverside Brewery. Enjoy a flight of brew and a farm to table lunch. Friday night put on your best bar hopping attire and enjoy dinner before heading out to Kellar's Comedy Club. Saturday night is our big Gala Dinner.

Each day is full of wonderful, social events and outings including a Welcome to the Gala pizza party, fine dining events, a spouse/significant other lunch outing.

We are blessed again to have one-on-one professional photo shoot opportunities and informational seminars from My Feminine Heart founder Cassandra Storm and Image Consultant Lindsey Taub. We will also have Financial and Transitional seminars from Beth McKinley and Liz Tattersall. Anita Marie DiVecchio Bissonnette from Anita New Look Wig Salon will have a large selection of wigs to choose from. Our very own Scarlett will be back offering her makeup talents and lastly, we will have the students back again for their 3rd year offering their makeup and manicure services. Let's once again help them by helping us by giving them the much-needed seat time for their graduation degree. New this year we have Michelle Popkov providing us with her seminar on Enhancing Your MTF Presentation.

The Gala management team will be offering one scholarship for those otherwise unable to attend this year, as well as our regular raffle to support our scholarship program. For more information about our scholarship program, please contact us at info@LakeErieGala.com

Lake Erie GALA November 16-20 2022, Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Drive, Erie PA 16507 visit lakeeriegala.com

LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County Drag In The New Year

LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County will present Drag in The New Year on December 31, 2022 from 7 PM to 1 AM at the Norman D Banquet Center, 2720 Carpenter Road, Ashtabula OH. The celebration is a formal affair to benefit the outreach and education program, and will be hosted by Mona Lotz, with music by Jeremy James. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$120 per couple and include dinner, dessert, open bar, dancing, DJ and drag show, door prize entry, 50/50, and 12 AM champagne toast. Tickets can be requested from LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County web site.

TransFamily celebrates with annual summer picnic

by Rex Apps

The afternoon of Saturday, August 20th was a beautiful time for Erie's TransFamily of NWPAs to celebrate their 5th annual summer picnic. The picnic, held at the Glenwood Park, also served as a way to celebrate the ten years TransFamily has been working to support the transgender community of northwestern Pennsylvania, as well as those who are questioning, their loved ones, family members, and aliens. They work towards a greater understanding of people who are transgender through advocacy, education and community engagement.

To find out more about TransFamily of NWPAs, check them out on Facebook or their website TransFamilynwpa.org.





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Calendar

For latest updates, see www.eriegaynews.com

Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16508. For more information, visit www.aeriepa.org or contact cmn0626@gmail.com. or (814) 504-1507

1st and 3rd Monday at 8 pm until compete, Everyone's Comedy Open-Mic Night at RandyBillDuck, 4th Floor of the Paca 1505 State.

Aug 19 - Sep 4 (Fri - Sun) - All An Act Theater Presents "Rule of Three" by Agatha Christie (All An Act Theatre, 652 W 17th St, Erie, PA 16502) Three Stories of Intrigue from the Mistress of Suspense! Three Directors! Three Casts! Note: Proof of vaccination and photo identification will be required to attend performances. You may use a copy of your vaccination card or a picture of the card on your smart phone. If you are unvaccinated, a negative covid test (including home tests) that is less than 72 hours old from the performance date is also acceptable.

Aug 24 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour - All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Aug 25 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Contact: Danielle Bonovitch. (716) 708-6161. <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

Aug 25 (Thu) - Mild to Wild Discussion Group (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Mild to Wild is a discussion group about sex and substance use designed for gay and bisexual men and folks of trans experience. Meets in person at MHA and also on Zoom. (716) 661-9044.

Aug 26 - 28 (Fri - Sun) - Camp Davis Stark in the Dark Black Out Party (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Phone: (724) 637-2402. Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

Aug 26 - 28 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Summer Beach Party Weekend (600 block party) (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

Aug 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM - 5 PM. We will be making T-shirts at this meeting.

Meetings are hosted at the Crime Victim Center of Erie County (125 W. 18th St., Erie, PA). All current CDC, state, and local guidelines for meeting indoors will be observed. Meetings are always confidential and completely free. <http://www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA>.

Aug 28 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form.

Aug 28 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 6 PM - 8 PM. Ages 18+. (234) 254-8924. info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/.

Sep 1 (Thu) - Truth Seekers of LGBTQ+ Coalition Of Ashtabula County meets (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 6:30 PM. We are people of faith coming together to discuss reconciling our faith with our sexuality.

Sep 2 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Sloppy Duck Saloon, 726 Bayfront Bikeway # 1, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM - 8 PM. G2H2/Erie takes place every month in a new location around town, providing GLBT professionals, and our colleagues and friends, the opportunity to meet, network or just hang out once a month.

Sep 2 (Fri) - Take Me Back To: Pop 2K (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Join host Rebecca Mae and special guests for the first of her TWO new series! Take a musical journey back to the first decade of the 2000's. Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Sep 2 - 3 (Fri - Sat) - Back To School Weekend (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Come celebrate the return to school with your friends at The Zone! We'll have giveaways and more! Doors open at 8pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Sep 2 - 5 (Fri - Mon) - Camp Davis Labor Day Holiday Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Saturday: Bizarre Bazaar Yard Sale 12pm-5pm (\$25 for best "Regurgitated" costume made from yard sale items.). Saturday: Blue Collar Bougie. Sunday: Fingers & Cocks Progressive Party - TBD. Sunday: Trailer Trash Phone: (724) 637-2402. Browse

to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

Sep 2 - 5 (Fri - Mon) - Jones Pond Labor Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729) Hollywood comes to the Pond. Glamour and games for our final long weekend of the season. Saturday night is our Cooking with Iggy & Aggy Hollywood Awards Show. Come see this dynamic duo cook up a storm as we hand out our 2021 Ponder Awards. Sunday night is Aggy Dune's Night of 1,000 Stars show. Corey and Jim are back with their Labor Day Party. This year's theme is Beach Movies so wear your craziest beach movie attire. Prizes for best outfit. Cowboy Jeff leads us in ladder golf Sunday afternoon. It's a packed weekend at the Pond. Come play with us. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to <http://www.jonespond.com>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.jonespond.com/events/labor-day-weekend>.

Sep 3 (Sat) - Erie Trans Picnics (Frontier Park, W 8th and Bayfront Highway, Erie, PA) 2 PM - 5 PM. Erie Trans Picnics invites all trans and nonbinary people to attend our picnic in Frontier Park in the field behind the amphitheater. Bring your own everything (blankets, snacks, sunscreen etc). No cops no creeps no chasers. Please email Gwen Elaine at mgwensingerg@gmail.com with any questions. Email: mgwensingerg@gmail.com. Browse to <https://www.instagram.com/erietranspicnics/>.

Sep 8 - 12 (Thu - Mon) - Jones Pond Family & Friends Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

Sep 9 (Fri) - Night of 1,000: Madonnas (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Rebecca Mae's second new series makes a night of your favorite artists! The inaugural show is dedicated to one of the OG queer icons: Madonna. Join Rebecca and special guests for sickening performances to Madonna's greatest hits. Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Sep 9 - 11 (Fri - Sun) - Camp Davis Hag Drag Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Phone: (724) 637-2402. Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

Sep 11 (Sun) - Drag Brunch (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 11 AM - 3 PM. Hosts Alysin Wonderland and DJ Tony G are back with a NEW AND IMPROVED brunch! You had suggestions and we listened. More information and tickets available at <https://www.thezonedanceclub.com/events>.

Sep 11 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Zoom) 12 PM - 12:30 PM. Meeting ID: 770 9886 1291. Passcode: F4fwNr. u Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 490-

3994. ErieBeans@yahoo.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Sep 11 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Trans Feminine Adult Peer Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 3 PM - 5 PM. Trans Feminine adults 21 and over. (234) 254-8924. <https://www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/>.

Sep 12 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LG-BTQIA+ Caucus meets via Zoom (Zoom) 7 PM. General meeting on Zoom. Voting members must be a registered Democrat living in Erie County. Straight/cisgender allies welcome! Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or mmahler@eriedems.com for Zoom meeting info.

Sep 12 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News Oct 2022 print edition (#324) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released on the evening of Tuesday, Sep 20.

Sep 13 (Tue) - "Let's Taco-bout LGBTQ+ Youth" Kick-Off Event (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Taco bar, meet Youth Advocates, learn about our fall events, take our interest survey. Open to youth, caregivers, educators & support people. Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: jmorell@4urjrny.com. Browse to <https://www>.

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Sep 13 (Tue) - LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County Community Meeting (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 6 PM. Join a committee - fundraising, outreach and education, Pride, Drag in the New Year, and more! We value your strengths, ideas, and talents that you can bring to make a difference in the LGBT+ Community in Ashtabula County!

Sep 13 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. If you're GLBT, a parent of someone who is, or an ally and you're looking for emotional support, we encourage you to attend Youngstown PFLAG's monthly support group. You will be surrounded by understanding peers from the valley who will be able to listen and help. Support groups are open to the public, and it starts at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be available. Browse to <http://www.youngstownpflag.org/>.

Sep 15 (Thu) - PFLAG Westfield NY meets (Patterson Library, 40 S Portage St, Westfield, NY 14787) 6:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and family of LGBTQ+ people. Contact: Patricia. (716)-450-9055. aoede2149@yahoo.com.

Sep 16 - 23 (Fri - Fri) - Bisexual Awareness Week Co-founded by GLAAD, Bisexual+ Awareness Week seeks to accelerate acceptance of the bi+ (pansexual, fluid, no label, queer, etc.) community. #BiWeek draws attention to the experiences, while also celebrating the resiliency of, the bisexual+ community. Throughout #BiWeek, allies and bi+ people learn about the history, culture, community, and current policy priorities of bi+ communities. Browse to <http://bisexualweek.com/>.

Sep 16 (Fri) - Take Me Back To: The 90s (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Rebecca Mae and special guests take us back to the 90s! The girls will Make You Sweat with the Rhythm of the Night! Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Sep 16 - 18 (Fri - Sun) - Camp Davis Country Western Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Phone: (724) 637-2402. Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

Sep 16 - 18 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Halloween Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old

State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

Sep 18 (Sun) - National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day This day brings attention to the growing number of people living long and full lives with HIV and to their health and social needs. #NHAAD #HIVandAging Browse to <http://www.theaidsinstitute.org/programs/education/national-hivaids-and-aging-awareness-nhaad>.

Sep 18 (Sun) - FACE Show with Misty Michaels Kall (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. Misty and the house cast (and special guests!) will burn up the dance floor in this month's FACE show. Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. Showtime 10:00 pm. No cover. 21+ with valid, state-issued ID.

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

Sep 20 (Tue) - Future-Finding with 12-15 year olds + parent/caregiver support meeting (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: jmorell@4urjrny.com. Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

Sep 20 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 7 PM. Help us get out the new issue. Volunteers appreciated!

Sep 22 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #95 (Location TBA) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter. Phone: (814) 384-9785.

Sep 22 (Thu) - Mild to Wild Discussion Group (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Mild to Wild is a discussion group about sex and substance use designed for gay and bisexual men and folks of trans experience. Meets in person at MHA and also on Zoom. (716) 661-9044.

Sep 23 (Fri) - Celebrate Bisexuality Day Marked each year since 1999, Bi Visibility Day raises bi awareness and challenges bisexual & biromantic erasure. Browse to <https://bivisibilityday.com/>.

Sep 23 (Fri) - Take Me Back To: The 70s & 80s (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Rebecca Mae and special guests take us back to the 70s and 80s! Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Sep 23 - 25 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Bear Weekend #2 (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729) .

Sep 24 (Sat) - Camp Davis Dive Bar Weekend (Camp

PLEASE RECYCLE US!



Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219)

Sep 24 (Sat) - Erie Out of the Darkness Community Walk (Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle, 301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 1, Erie, PA 16505) 9:30 AM. This walk supports the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's education and support programs and its bold goal to reduce the annual U.S. rate of suicide 20 percent by the year 2025. Email: westernpa@afsp.org. Browse to <http://www.afsp.org/westernpa>.

Sep 25 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM - 5 PM. All current CDC, state, and local guidelines for meeting indoors will be observed. Meetings are always confidential and completely free. <http://www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOFNWPA>.

Sep 25 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form.

Sep 25 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 6 PM - 8 PM. Ages 18+. (234) 254-8924. info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/.

Sep 27 (Tue) - National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day In 2008 the National Association of People with AIDS launched this observance day to recognize the disproportionate impact of the epidemic on gay men. #NGMHAAD

Sep 27 (Tue) - Future-Finding with 16-19 year olds (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 5:30 PM - 7 PM.

Sep 28 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour - All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Travis and

Brett came up with the idea of having a monthly happy hour get together for the LGBT and allies community in Crawford County. This is a time to network and socialize with the LBGTQ community and allies in the Meadville area, make new friends and meet people you may not know. An RSVP would be appreciated but not necessary. All are welcome and please share and spread the word! Don't forget to bring your business cards for exchange.

Sep 29 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Contact: Danielle Bonovitch. (716) 708-6161. <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

Sep 30 (Fri) - Take Me Back To: Hocus Pocus (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Rebecca Mae, Misty Michaels Kall, and Alysins Wonderland are teaming up for not one but TWO events! First, our own version of the Sanderson Sisters host the Hocus Pocus 2 Viewing Party. Then, immediately following the movie they'll take the stage to start getting everyone in the spooky season mood! Doors open at 8pm. Viewing party starts at 9pm. \$5 cover. 21+

Sep 30 - Oct 29 (Fri - Sat) - The Rocky Horror Show (Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) In this cult classic by Richard O'Brien, sweethearts Brad and Janet, stuck with a flat tire during a storm, discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters, including a rocking biker and a creepy butler. Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named "Rocky."

Sep 30 - Oct 2 (Fri - Sun) - Camp Davis Ugly Sweater Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Phone: (724) 637-2402. Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

Sep 30 - Oct 2 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Moxie's Camp Yeti Euchre Tournament (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729) Get your game on this weekend at the Pond. Trivia, euchre, bingo? We've got it all this weekend. Dances both Friday & Saturday nights. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to <http://www.jonespond.com>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.jonespond.com/events/moxies-camp-yeti-euchre-tournament>.

Oct 1 - 31 (Sat - Mon) - LGBT History Month First celebrated in 1994 in October. It was declared a national History month by President Barack Obama in 2009. The month was created with the intent to encourage openness and education about LGBT history and rights.



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