



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Free Mom Hugs volunteers at Boots & Coat Drive on February 8. Photo by Michael Mahler.

Erie Queer Community Unites for Successful Boots & Coat Drive

By Bobbie Fenno

On Saturday, February 8, the Erie Queer Community came together in a powerful display of generosity and solidarity, hosting a Boots & Coat Drive to support Community Shelter Services of Erie, PA. Volunteers from local LGBTQ+ organizations collected several carloads of new and gently used winter clothing, including coats and boots, ensuring that those in need have access to essential cold-weather gear. In addition to clothing donations, the drive also collected ground coffee – a simple but meaningful comfort for those facing the harsh Erie winter.

“It was nice having so many LGBT+ groups working together for a cause,” said Mulnah Dovat, a volunteer representing Compton’s Table, Journey, and NW PA Pride Alliance. “No matter what community you are from, homelessness is a pervasive issue that does not discriminate; everyone is one bad day away from being unhoused. Having so many people partnering not only helped with sorting through donations but also with combining networks to reach

donors. Everyone deserves warmth and safety, and the opportunity to help Community Shelter Services through collaboration – especially during such divisive times – was powerful.”

The event was made possible through the efforts of dedicated volunteers and the support of a wide range of local LGBTQ+ and allied organizations, including Aging with Pride, Ascend Climbing/Queer Scouts, Bears Do Dinner, Central Outreach Wellness Center, Compton’s Table, Erie Gay News, Erie Trans Picnics, Free Mom Hugs, Journey: Healing Together, LBT Women of Erie, NW PA Pride Alliance, PA Thrive Partnership, Wabtec’s Pride ERG, Whee! Studios, Yellow Brick Roads, and Zone Dance Club.

With the success of this year’s drive, organizers hope to keep continuing these Give Back efforts in the future, reinforcing the strength and compassion of Erie’s LGBTQ+ community. Stay tuned for the next Queer Community Give Back event coming soon.

Transgender Day of Visibility Mar 31

Join TransFamily of NWPA on Monday, March 31st for Transgender Day of Visibility. We will gather in Perry Square at 6pm to celebrate ourselves as trans people and make our presence known. We will have multiple speakers from the trans community and then walk around Perry Square with flags and banners. Light refreshments will be provided.

Compton’s Table Leaves Meta Platforms Over Safety Concerns

Compton’s Table has announced their departure from Meta-owned platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp). The organization cites growing concerns over safety, algorithmic bias, and the unchecked spread of harmful content targeting the queer and trans community as key reasons for the decision.

For years, Meta has faced criticism for failing to protect queer and transgender users from harassment while simultaneously profiting from their engagement. Reports of queer content being dispro-

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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

Rates & Data

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

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	15/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$80 - \$72 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
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 Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.
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THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Bobbie Fenno, Deb, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Laurie Finch, Maggie Watts, Mason Bracken, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Andrea Shaffer, Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Whee! Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

portionately flagged, shadow banned, and removed, combined with the rise of misinformation and hate speech, have made unchecked social media a more hostile environment for marginalized communities.

“The safety and well-being of the people we serve must always come first,” said Dr. Tyler Titus, Board Chair. “We know that queer visibility is crucial and should be in all spaces, but we also refuse to participate in a system that allows harm to be inflicted on our community while benefiting those responsible. It is time to curate connections that align with our values and prioritize our well-being and safety.”

Compton’s Table will continue its outreach and advocacy efforts through alternative digital spaces. The organization has established a presence on BlueSky, a decentralized social media platform gaining popularity among queer users seeking safer engagement. Supporters can follow Compton’s Table at comptonstable.bsky.social and sign up for the nonprofit’s monthly newsletter at ComptonsTable.org to stay updated on programs, events, and initiatives.

While many queer and trans organizations remain on Meta platforms due to the need for visibility, Compton’s Table believes that stepping away

is a necessary move toward fostering safer, more affirming online communities. The decision reflects a growing concern within queer advocacy spaces about the long-term impact of relying on platforms that fail to prioritize user safety.

An LGBTQIA+ Archive for Erie, Pennsylvania

Work is underway to revive the LGBTQIA+ Archive in Erie. There is a small LGBTQIA+ Archive that already exists in Erie, PA. Materials in various formats were donated by multiple individuals and are now held or will soon be held at the John M. Lilley Library at the Pennsylvania State University, Behrend in Erie, PA. The Pennsylvania State University, Behrend will be the official home of this archive. There is a growing desire to create a more robust LGBTQIA+ Archive for Erie, PA.

Community Archives are growing in number and are often born from the interest of marginalized groups that wish to preserve their history. While there is a beginning in Erie, there is still much developmental work to be done.

Erie has had a long history of LGBTQIA+



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culture and it has been represented by many separate groups over the years. Some of these are groups of interested individuals aligning around a single purpose, some are more formally organized non-profit organizations, and others may have some governmental connection. Although many LGBTQIA+ organizations exist and serve diverse needs, there is often no communication among the groups. There is even less history being gathered. There has been no particular group or coordinated groups that have addressed the archival issues of LGBTQIA+ culture in Erie.

It should be noted that there are already existing LGBTQIA+ archives in Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, Allentown, Central PA, and Pittsburgh.

In collaboration with the Erie Gay News and the LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation, Aging with Pride (Erie) volunteers will be distributing information and a survey to all LGBTQIA+ organizations in the greater Erie area. Organizations will be asked if they are willing to participate in the creation and management of a community archive. Information will also include the types of archival materials being sought.

You can participate in the survey at <https://bit.ly/ErieArchiveSurvey>. If you are having trouble accessing the survey, please email erielgbtqarchive@gmail.com.

OddCity Valentine's Dance at Basement Transmissions

The OddCity Valentine's Dance at Basement Transmissions, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA, on February 8, 2025, was a heartwarming celebration with a purpose, as attendees came together to support The Violet Gathering Festival. The festival, aimed at raising awareness and funds for domestic violence support, is a weekend-long, mixed-genre event whose location and date are to be determined as they continue to raise funds for its second return. The Dance featured a lively mix of couples' and group games and incredible performances by local acts like TayJer, Ducky, Velvet Waves, Do Not Call List, Fastfall, and Dirty Leaf, with DJ Lone Sav between sets. The dance provided several photo and video booths that captured the night's magic. With laughter, music, and heartfelt moments, this dance was more than just an evening of fun; it was a testament to the power of community coming together for a vital cause.

With a packed venue, immersive decor, and

a best-dressed contest with prizes for those who attended with their best formal-alternative attire, it was a night to be remembered as we celebrated acceptance of love in all forms. The dance also featured several vendors and focused on sexual education with a free STD testing booth provided by Central Outreach, and love and healthy relationship coaching by Rose's Red Room.

Up next for OddCity Entertainment is Noob Night on March 8th, featuring rapid sets to showcase Erie's newest musicians, and the highly anticipated second annual Rainbow Fest, showing off our area's queer featured bands, drag performances, businesses, artists, educational speakers and more for a full day of Pride on April 5th.

"It's Our Honor" Offering Free Wedding Officiant Services to LGBTQ+ Couples in Northeast Ohio

By Bobbie Fenno

In a time when marriage equality remains a crucial issue, a small group of ordained wedding officiants in Northeast Ohio is stepping up to support the LGBTQ+ community. "It's Our Honor" is a team of licensed officiants providing non-denominational wedding services to LGBTQ+ couples – and they are offering to do so for free.

With concerns about the ever-changing political landscape, the group has come together to ensure that love remains accessible to all. Their mission is simple: everyone should have equal rights to marriage..

If you are an LGBTQ+ couple in Northeast Ohio and are seeking officiant services, you can reach out to "It's Our Honor" via email at ITSOURHONORNEOH@GMAIL.COM

For those ready to say "I do," this group is ready to help – because love always wins.

Meadville Drag Star Round Two

Round two of Who Wants to be a Drag Star was held on Saturday, January 25th, at Meadville Council on the Arts in front of a sold-out audience. The open-stage drag competition featured five contestants: two drag kings and three drag queens, battling to win the night and their spot in the spring finale.

Each contestant gets five minutes of stage time to showcase their talent. "They can lipsync, sing live, do stand up, juggle, anything they want. I'm still



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waiting on someone to juggle,” said Cherry Falwell, the host of the show. “Open stages are a great opportunity for newcomers to drag to get their names out there and to try things out on stage. It’s how I started in Maryland.” After they perform, contestants must go head to head in a surprise onstage challenge that they find out about at the same time as the audience.

Guest judges for round two included local drag royalty Debbie Does Drag and Alysia Wonderland, as well as an appearance by DJ Snarebear. They joined head judge Travis Smith on the judging panel.

Contestants Velvet Viper, Hydroxyzine, and Tiny Richard made up the top three and lip-synced for the win. Drag king Tiny Richard won round two and Hydroxyzine was given a wild card spot in the finale. The top performers from each round are invited to perform at bi-monthly drag shows held at Cussewago Creek Distillery.

Round three, the last round before the finale, will be held at Meadville Council on the Arts on March 8th. Featuring guest judges Rebecca Mae, Debbie Does Drag, and DJ Snarebear. Tickets are available now.

Aging with Pride Erie to Meet with Pittsburgh OWLS

On Sunday, March 2 at 2pm, Erie’s Aging with Pride organization will have its first collaboration meeting with the Persad Center’s OWL (Older Wiser Leaders) group in Pittsburgh. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom and will be held at the Mental Health Association’s offices at 1101 Peach St., downtown Erie. Both groups have expressed a desire to connect with similar organizations and the possible collaboration between the Pittsburgh and Erie organizations offers interesting opportunities for programs, events, and advocacy.

There have been some preliminary conversations about Aging with Pride Erie hosting the Pittsburgh OWLS for an event in Erie. This meeting is open to anyone with an interest in issues affecting older LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Aging with Pride (Erie), an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, develops and sponsors social/recreational and educational events to promote healthy leisure activities, community and an active, enjoyable lifestyle.

Persad Center (Pittsburgh) is a human service organization whose mission is to improve the

well-being of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning) communities and the HIV/AIDS communities. Persad Center targets populations and their loved ones, cradle to grave, across western Pennsylvania, with service centers in Pittsburgh and Washington, PA.

Wicked Night at The Marvic Tavern

Get your costumes and ruby slippers together and save the date for a Wicked night in Oz on March 8, 2025 from 8:00 pm-1:00 am at The Marvic Tavern, 401 E 2nd St, Oil City, PA! There will be music, live entertainers, a costume contest, yummy munchies, and more! This is a private event and fundraiser to support the Hannah Project. Tickets are \$10 per person and \$15 per couple and 50% of the admissions will be donated to The Hannah Project. The mission of the Hannah Project is to step up and step in to support aging out foster care children and young people in our community. We hope to see you all there! The phone for Mariv Tavern is (814) 677-9981, email is themarvic@yahoo.com, and their website is www.themarvictavern.com.

Journey: Healing Together Expands Wellness Weekends with New Recovery Support Group

By Bobbie Fenno

Journey: Healing Together is introducing an exciting new addition to their Wellness Weekends. A new monthly gathering, Journey to Recovery, will be dedicated to individuals in the recovery community. February marks a significant shift, as the organization discontinues its writer’s group, Heal. Write. Hear., to



Aging With Pride Dinner at El Amigo’s on January 28. Next up are Habibi’s on Feb 27 and Oasis Pub on March 27. See AgingWithPrideErie.org or Facebook and other social media for more events!

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Struggling with substance use can
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make way for Journey to Recovery.

Launched on Sunday, February 23, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM, at 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA, Journey to Recovery will offer a supportive space for those seeking recovery resources, peer connections, and healing opportunities.

Wellness Weekends, hosted by Journey to a Trauma Informed Life and Journey: Healing Together, have become a cornerstone of community engagement, featuring Friday Game Nights, Saturday Crafternoons, and now Journey to Recovery gatherings.

“We are excited to introduce a dedicated space for individuals in the recovery community,” said Will Koehler, co-owner of Journey: Healing Together. Creating safe, supportive spaces for healing is at the core of Journey’s mission, and this new gathering is a natural extension of their work.

What to Expect at Journey to Recovery:

- The ability to ask anonymous questions in a discussion setting
- The opportunity to give feedback for future events
- Meet people in your community with a similar interest in recovery
- Snacks and drinks will be provided

More details can be found at www.journeyht.org/events, and community organizations interested in printed flyers or collaboration are encouraged to reach out.

For those seeking connection, healing, and support in their recovery journey, this new initiative promises to be a valuable resource.

Pride on “Ice” in Perry Square

On Saturday, February 15, the Erie Downtown Partnership (EDP) hosted its Pride on “Ice” event at the Downtown Community Skating Rink. The rain didn’t stop the rainbows from showing up at the rink on pride flags and cowgirl hats!

The event was organized by rink manager Kim McMahon-Smith (she/her), who consistently seeks to provide events like Pride on “Ice” and Sensory Skate that will make community members feel seen and give them a place to know they belong. The EDP was intent on supporting the LGBT+ community through visibility, solidarity, and availability of helpful information. The rink provided a “Resource Shed,” which included materials from local LGBT+ organizations, resources, programming, and informa-

tional pamphlets for all walks of life.

Pride Skate featured halftime drag performances, with a set debuting local queen Fasha N’Doll and including EDP’s own Mulnah Dovat (they/them). N’Doll performed Trixie Mattel’s hits Malibu and Hello, Hello with Dovat performing a Kesha rendition of This is Me and Be a Freak by Felix Hagan and the Family. N’Doll was delighted to be welcomed as a new performer, and Dovat shared the joy of unapologetic expression.

The show also served as a fundraiser, with the \$68 total in tips collected by the queens being split between Compton’s Table and Journey: Healing Together; Dovat, who serves on the boards of directors for both organizations, will be matching the total.

The downtown skating rink is an eco-friendly, synthetic rink from Swiss company Glice that functions without electricity or water. You can find more of the Erie Downtown Partnership’s community events and programming on their social media and on eriedowntown.com



Fasha N’Doll and Mulnah Dovat at Pride on Ice on February 15. Photo by Michael Mahler.



NW PA Pride Alliance returned to a reinvigorated Erie Queer Happy Hour. About 20 people gathered at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA, on Wednesday, February 5. People mingled with friends old and new. Erie Queer Happy Hour will be cycling between different locations. Next will be Room 33 Speakeasy, 1033 State St, Erie, PA, on Wednesday, March 5, from 6 to 8 PM. Meadville Happy Hour is still the fourth Wednesday of each month at Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St.



Bears Do Dinner at Colony Pub & Grille on February 4. Bears Do Dinner #125 will be Mon, Mar 10 at Royal Chopstix Asian Cuisine



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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 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 1603 W 32 St. Erie PA 16508. For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org or contact jmwilliams3603@aol.com or (814) (814) 844-2600.

Zone Monday Night Karaoke with DJ Nitro at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, 9 PM-midnight. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. Please drink responsibly.

Zone Tuesday Game Night, Doors open at 8 PM. Bring your own game or use ours. (Must submit an ID for us to hold while game is in use.) Happy hour 8-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beers. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21 & over with ID.

Zone Wednesday Trivia Night, Think you're a trivia whiz? Prove it! Play night on your phone! New hosts! New challenges! Doors open at 8 PM. Happy hour 8-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beers. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21 & over with ID..

Zone Friday Night Dance Party, 133 W 18th St, 7 PM. With DJ Joe & MC Buffy. Kick off the weekend! Doors open at 7 PM. \$5 cover after 8 PM. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.

RuPaul's Drag Race Season 17 Viewing Party, 133 W 18th St, 8 PM. Hosted by Debbie Does Drag. Doors open at 7 PM. \$5 cover after 8 PM. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.

Zone Saturday Night Dance Party, 8 PM. Dance, drink, fun, food. With DJ Joe & MC Buffy. Doors open at 8 PM. \$5 cover. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.

Zone Sunday Funday, 8 PM. Reset, unwind, recharge, relax. Doors open at 8 PM. No cover. Cash only. Happy hour 8 PM - 10 PM. \$1 off bottled beer, \$2 well drinks. 21 and over with ID.

Feb 26 (Wed) – Meadville Queer Happy Hour (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 9 PM.

Feb 27 (Thu) - Queer Youth support group meets (James Prendergast Library Association, 509 Cherry St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. For ages 12-21. Please contact Kaden Mason at (716) 720-8712 or kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org or Lisa Schmid-Miller at (716) 338-8702 or lschmidmiller@lutheran.jamestown.org with any questions.

Feb 27 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Dinner (Habibi Mediterranean Cuisine, 127 W 14th St, Erie, PA 16565) 6 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior

LGBT+ members and allies, is meeting for dinner. Everyone is on their own for the meal. Please RSVP to Peter at (814) 384-9785.

Feb 28 (Fri) - International STAND UP to Bullying Day International STAND UP to Bullying Day is a special event in which participants sign and wear a pink "pledge shirt" to take a visible, public stance against bullying. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/standupday/>

Feb 28 (Fri) - Coffee Social for LGBTQ+ Veterans (Panera Bread - Peach St, 4014 Peach St., Erie, PA 16509) 10 AM. The Coffee Social is meant to bring Erie's local LGBTQ+ Veterans together to connect and foster ongoing relationships of support and friendship. The group will start off with facilitation by Erie VA staff, Brittany and Alisha, with the goal to be an independently run community Veteran group for like-minded individuals. Please call Brittany Miklos at 814-844-5944 or Alisha Mackey at 814-860-2174 for more information. This event is open to all LGBTQ+ Veterans in all counties served by the Erie VA. Your support will help make this an ongoing event for LGBTQ+ Veterans to meet and connect.

Mar 1 - 31 (Sat - Mon) - Bisexual Health Awareness Month Bisexual Health Awareness Month is dedicated to raising awareness about the startling social, economic and health disparities facing the bi+ community. Browse to <https://bihealthmonth.org/>.

Mar 1 (Sat) - Zero Discrimination Day Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated by the UN and other international organisations. The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN. Browse to http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/zero_discrimination.

Mar 1 (Sat) - LGBT Venango Support Group meets (Franklin Public Library, 421 12th St, Franklin, PA 16323) 10:30 AM. Peer-led support group for LGBTQ+ adults. We meet once a month upstairs at the Franklin Library.

Mar 2 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

Mar 2 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form.

Mar 5 (Wed) - Erie Queer Happy Hour (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM. Join NWPA Pride for a night of sophisticated

socializing at our monthly Queer Happy Hour! This month, we're stepping into the elegant ambiance of Room 33 Speakeasy, a hidden gem in downtown Erie. Come experience the charm of this intimate setting, sip on handcrafted cocktails, and enjoy the company of friends and new acquaintances. Don't miss this opportunity to mingle with the Erie LGBTQIA+ community and allies in a unique and stylish setting!

Mar 6 (Thu) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group (18+) (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 8 PM. Looking to boost your social skills, make new connections or just hang out in a chill, judgment-free zone? Chat N Chill is the place to be! We're all about creating a relaxed, sober space where you can be yourself, whether you're introverted or outgoing. It's a safe haven for the Queer community, where everyone's welcome and respect is the vibe. Join us to build confidence, learn new social cues, or some enjoy good conversation with great people. Chill vibes, real connections, all in a space that celebrates you. 18+ groups are every first Thursday of each month from 6-8 pm. Each month will have a different theme to keep the conversation going. Registration required to be sure that enough supplies are available. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/chatnchill>

Mar 6 (Thu) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. Our mission is to provide a supportive and empowering space for LGBTQIA+ individuals who are dealing with substance use disorders. We strive to create an inclusive, strengths-based community where participants can find understanding, acceptance, and inspiration to overcome any challenges they may be facing. Through support, education, and resources, we aim to foster personal growth, resilience, and long-term recovery. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2247.

Mar 6 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

Mar 7 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Sullivan's Pub & Eatery, 301 French St, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are welcome.

Mar 7 (Fri) - BIGGEST LOSERS: A Benefit for Debbie Does Drag and Cherry Falwell (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. Erie's own Debbie Does Drag and Cherry Falwell may have been crowned "1st Alternate" in their regional pageants, but honey, they're about to snatch the crown and the spotlight at Nationals! These queens are proof that losing



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is the new winning, and they're ready to show Orlando what they're really made of. Get ready for a night of side-splitting laughter, outrageous performances, and maybe even a few tears (of joy, of course!). These queens are bringing the funny, the fabulous, and the fierce to The Zone Dance Club. Featuring a star-studded cast: Michelle Michaels; Snarebear; Poundcake; Miss Erie 2024, Katrina Twerk Island; Sally Goose; Alysín Wonderland; Batonya Dumlín; Misty Michaels Kall. Plus: Jell-O shots, surprises, and all the dragtastic fun you can handle! 10:00 PM (Directly after the Drag Race Viewing Party!) Doors open at 7:00 PM. Come show your support for Cherry and Debbie as they take on Nationals! \$5 Cover after 8pm / 21+ with ID / please drink responsibly

Mar 8 (Sat) - Who Wants To Be A Drag Star Round 3 (Meadville Council on the Arts, 910 Market St, Meadville, PA 16335,) Hosted by Cherry Falwell. Head judge Travis Smith, guest judges Rebecca Mae, and Debbie Does Drag. Tickets \$15. Doors Open at 7 PM, and show time is 8 PM. Beats by DJ Snarebear. Pop-up bar by Cussegago Creek Distillery.

Mar 8 (Sat) - A Wicked Night in Oz (Marvic Tavern, 401 E 2nd St, Oil City, PA 16301) 8 PM - 1 AM. It's time to get out your ruby slippers, grab your flying monkeys, and prepare to defy gravity!! A Wicked Night in Oz is a private non-smoking event and fundraiser for the local Hannah Project. The yellow brick road will lead you into a night of costumes, contests, music, karaoke, dancing, late night munchies, and a silent auction to benefit the Hannah Project. So plan to attend and dress in your most creative and fun Oz-themed costumes! There will be special live performances from Jessica Rabbit, Miss Vee and Kaotica! Advanced tickets will go on sale February 17, 2025 at 12:00 noon. Advanced ticket prices are \$10 per person, and \$15 per couple. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$12 per person and \$18 per couple, so get your tickets early and save. 50% of the ticket proceeds will go to the



NW PA Pride Alliance held its Meadville Happy Hour on January 22, 2025, at Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut Street

Hannah Project.

Mar 9 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Gender Nonconforming Social & Peer Support meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Free to all LGTQIA+ ages 18 & older

Mar 10 (Mon) - National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Every year on March 10 - and throughout the month of March - local, state, federal, and national organizations come together to show support for women and girls impacted by HIV and AIDS. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD) sheds light on the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls.

Mar 10 (Mon) - Bears Do Dinner #125 (Royal Chopstix Asian Cuisine, 3444 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Please RSVP to Peter at (814) 384-9785.

Mar 10 (Mon) - Erie Dems Queer Caucus Dessert Potluck & Meeting (Erie Dems HQ, 1701 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM. Email: ErieQueerCaucus@gmail.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/ErieDemsQueerCaucus/>.

Mar 11 (Tue) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:30 PM This is a safe, inclusive space where queer community members and allies can come together for support, discussion, and connection. Whether you've attended before or are joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you with us. Let's continue building our community, sharing our stories, and supporting one another. Please visit our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/594395124695283> or check out <https://pflag.org/chapter/chautauqua>, or email PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM or call (716) 499-4817 for details.

Mar 11 (Tue) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Join us for our monthly Crawford Support Group meeting! Please use the side entrance of the building on 296 Chestnut. It will have signage as Empowerment with Grace but this may not show up on your GPS.

Mar 11 (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

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The Red Zone

The "Red Zone" is a critical and often overlooked period on college campuses, referring to the first six to eight weeks of the academic year when students, particularly freshmen, are at the highest risk for sexual assault. This period is marked by a convergence of factors that make new students especially vulnerable, including their unfamiliarity with campus resources, a desire to fit in, and increased social activity, often involving alcohol.

During the Red Zone, incoming students are navigating new social environments and building relationships, which can sometimes lead to situations where boundaries are crossed. The pressures of adapting to college life can also make students less likely to recognize or avoid risky situations.

*Crime Victim Center of Erie County is available 24/7.
Services are completely free and confidential.*

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Jen and Katie - Erie, PA

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.

Mar 12 (Wed) - Aging with Pride Game Night (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 8 PM. Bring games and/or cards with you, or just come to play what others bring

Mar 13 (Thu) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Queer Scouts is a LGBTQ+ climbing club, with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive outdoors community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn! Please check in at the front desk upon arrival. Not an ASCEND member? Enjoy a discounted \$15 Club Day Pass while attending these meetups.

Mar 14 - 17 (Fri - Mon) - O'Zone - St. Patrick's Day Weekend (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Green bear! Giveaways! Good Times! Doors open at 7 PM Fri, and 8 PM Sat, Sun, and Mon. \$5 cover Sat & Sun. Cash only.

Mar 14 (Fri) - St. Pissi's Day (Boro Bar, 117 Meadville St, Erie, PA 16412) 9:30 PM. Hosted by Pissi Gabune. Featuring Cherry Falwell and Miss Wonda. 21+.

Mar 15 (Sat) - Deadline for Erie Gay News April 2025 print edition (#353) (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 on the evening of Tuesday, March 25.

Mar 15 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - In Memorium by Alice Winn (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Mar 16 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

Mar 16 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Transgender Roundtable Discussion (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Open to all transgender and gender nonconforming ages 18 and older.

Mar 16 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Free to all LGBTQIA+ ages 18 and older. Entrance to the center is the red ramp on the side of the building off of the parking lot. Please do not use the front door!

Mar 18 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets

(Hybrid) (Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM. The Erie County HIV Task Force is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infection. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/Zoom-ECHTF>

Mar 19 (Wed) - Sexual Wellness PA's Intimacy Building Book Club (Zoom) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. The book for this session is *Desire: An Inclusive Guide to Navigating Libido Differences in Relationships*, by Lauren Fogel Mersy, PSYD, and Jennifer A Vencill, PHD, ABPP. Want to learn skills to build your intimate relationships? Want to better understand yourself and your body? Want a safe place to discuss your questions, concerns, and experiences in a group of like-minded peers led by a sex therapist? You're in the right place! Read and discuss books hand-picked by Sexual Wellness PA in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. Book Club meetings are donation-based and open first come, first serve to the first 8-10 pre-registered, interested participants. Come prepared to listen, share, discuss, and ask questions!

Mar 20 (Thu) - National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was first observed in 2007. This day is observed on the first day of Spring each year. #NNHAAD Browse to <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/native>

Mar 20 (Thu) - Full Spectrum Youth/Teen Social & Peer Support meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5 PM - 7 PM. Free to all LGBTQIA+ youth 16-17, under 16 with signed parental consent form.

Mar 20 (Thu) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2247.

Mar 20 (Thu) - Queer Open Mic (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 10 PM. Come hang out at our monthly open mics hosted by the awesome, talented, and slaying Gwen Elaine! FREE! BYOB (wrist bands provided for anyone with alcohol). if you want to register as a performer, email info@comptonstable.org

Mar 20 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

Mar 22 (Sat) - (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Come join us for our monthly support

meeting at Compton's Table in the Central Outreach Building. Enter through the rear entrance. Light snacks and refreshments provided. Join us for a community in a comfy, no pressure environment! All are welcome!

Mar 25 (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 print edition of Erie Gay News. Volunteers are very much welcome and needed!

Mar 26 (Wed) – Meadville Queer Happy Hour (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 9 PM.

Mar 27 (Thu) - Queer Youth support group meets (James Prendergast Library Association, 509 Cherry St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. For ages 12-21. Please contact Kaden Mason at (716) 720-8712 or kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org or Lisa Schmid-Miller at (716) 338-8702 or lschmidmiller@lutheran.jamestown.org with any questions.

Mar 27 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Dinner (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is meeting for dinner. Everyone is on their own for the meal. Please RSVP to Peter at (814) 384-9785.

Mar 29 (Sat) - Out Like A ... Warren County Pride's Spring Fundraiser (Struthers Library Theatre in Sally's Encore Theatre Bar, 302 W 3rd Ave, Warren, PA 16365) 6:30 PM. Join us in Showing Some Love for Warren County Pride's Spring fundraiser supporting June's festival! Silent Auction opportunities presented by Friends of Pride, delicious catering by Your Daily Serving, and Entertainment by Haus of Rabbit. \$35 per person. Please purchase in advance via paypal donation. <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4750818>. Auction closes at 830pm. If you can't come, please share or donate!

Mar 31 (Mon) - International Transgender Day of Visibility The International TDoV is an annual holiday celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments and victories of transgender & gender non-conforming people while raising awareness of the work that is still needed to save trans lives. The holiday was founded in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT holidays celebrating transgender people's successes. Browse to <http://tdov.org/>.

Queeriosity Corner: Historical & Fun Facts:

The modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement was catalyzed by the Stonewall Riots in 1969, led by activists like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, two trans women of color.



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G2H2 held its monthly get-together at Room 33 Speakeasy, 1033 State St, Erie, PA, on Friday, February 7. The group gathers on the first Friday of each month. The next meeting will be March 7, at 6 PM at Sullivan's Pub & Eatery, 301 French St, Erie, PA,

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