



# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



*Performers gather at The Zone on November 14 to honor the late MC Buddy/Buffy Lynn Hayes/Arthur Dobson*

## Thank You and Goodnight, MC Buddy: A Memorial Drag Show

A memorial drag show for the late D.J. and proud emcee, Arthur “Buddy” Dobson, was held at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA, on Friday, November 14th. Buddy Dobson was a fixture in the Erie queer nightlife, DJ-ing alongside Joe Totleben. Dobson also performed under his drag alter-ego, Buffy Lynn Hayes, and was a former Miss Erie.

There was a total of 16 entertainers who took to the stage in Buffy’s memory. Some of them included Former Miss Erie’s: Rebecca Mae, Shea D’Heaux, Misty Michaels Kall, and Michelle Michaels.

Other entertainers included Veronica Ville, who performed a selection from the Greatest Showman; Snarebear performed “American Teenager” by Ethel Cain; Cherry Falwell performed Good Luck, Babe by Chappel Roan; and Priscilla Godzilla performed a dance number to Lady Gaga’s Abracadabra, alongside two dancers. The performances were greeted with raucous applause. Notably, Priscilla’s performance received a standing ovation.

As the performances wrapped up, the queens

and Zone coworkers gathered to honor Buffy/Buddy. A plaque with Dobson’s name was placed on the DJ booth to commemorate numerous years of memories and celebrations.

Dobson passed away on his birthday, Wednesday, October 22, 2025. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama, but raised in Clearwater, Florida. Buddy then moved to Erie in 2005, where he was very active in charitable events that he helped organize and raise funds for the community. He worked as a nurse’s aide and also at Voices for Independence and The Zone. He was gifted with music and held a master’s level in Martial Arts.

## Making History: The Aging with Pride Legacy Project

The Aging with Pride Legacy Project continues to gather historical records of the LGBTQ+ community in Erie. To date, a collection of artifacts: newspaper articles, photographs, posters, flyers, buttons and even a journal have been catalogued in a collaborative effort to create a formal LGBTQ+ archive at a local university. Such an archive provides a record of community evolution, strengths, challenges, successes and identity.

Personal interviews provide an important dimension within an archive. The LGBTQ+ Erie community history, is after all, the sum of these individual experiences. Because personal accounts, experiences and perspectives provide the human element in archival collections, several Legacy Project members completed training in audio/visual recording/film at a local studio. We are pleased to announce the Project team has begun to record interviews with LGBTQ+ members and allies to be included in the archive.

## Virtual Town Halls for Mental Health Professionals

The Governor’s Advisory Commission on LGBTQ Affairs\* will hold two virtual town halls in December to hear specifically from Mental Health Professionals serving LGBTQ+ communities. You

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# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992

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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.



## Rates & Data

<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
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AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
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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.

## THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Bobbie Fenno, David Perry, Deb, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Knox A, Laurie Finch, Nick G, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Andrea Shaffer, Brett Staskiewicz, David Perry, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Knox A, Nick G, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Wheel Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

may attend either the session on Thursday, December 4 at 6:30 PM or the session on Friday, December 5 at 12 noon. Both sessions are expected to last 90 minutes.

Your contact information is secure and will not be shared with anyone outside of this meeting. This event is held on Microsoft Teams and will not be livestreamed or recorded.

\*The purpose of the Commission is to gather information regarding LGBTQ Pennsylvanians' experiences and needs; review, evaluate, and assess programs affecting them; provide the Governor with information and recommendations regarding how best to meet their needs; and provide information about programs and services that may be relevant to LGBTQ Pennsylvanians' needs.

<https://www.pa.gov/governor/administration/advisory-commissions>

## **PADOH Cuts Ryan White Funding by 25%**

*Erie County HIV Task Force*

In September this year, the PA Department of Health's Division for HIV Health [DOHH] informed

Ryan White grant receivers of a universal loss for 25% less money, going back to July 1st of 2025. Across the Commonwealth, various organizations were given updated budgets with significantly less money for services that Ryan White money covers. These entities were forced to choose how to continue operating thru June 2026 with less pre-planned funds. This resulted in various services being cut out altogether, prevention efforts heavily reduced, and the loss of staff.

In addition, DOHH reduced the income qualifying amount for drug assistance in the state's benefit program [SPBP]. The DOHH stated these decisions were due to increased overall costs for medicines / procedures and less rebate funds coming back to the state. The PA HIV Planning Group met virtually November 19th and 20th and was presented with a high level breakdown of costs from 2023 thru October 2025, showing how drug claims increased by 58% in 2024 and currently have already doubled the amount of Federal dollars awarded.

While HIV infections have been low in Erie County for years, these budget cuts have already reduced the northwest PA region workforce. This negatively effects the region's current prevention

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Family Services of NWPA



Jen and Katie - Erie, PA

efforts, impacting local providers, along with their services for testing and treatment. Local providers are continuing their work and are dedicated to our partnerships to ensure that Ryan White Services and HIV prevention efforts continue to keep infections rates low. Look for updates in the future as HIV funding at the Federal level also has the potential be reduced nationwide forcing more cuts on the local level. For more information, contact the EC HIV Task Force by email at [admin@echiv.org](mailto:admin@echiv.org) or give us a call at 814-315-3375.

## **Compton's Table "Witch, Please" Gayla**

On Friday, October 24th, Compton's Table hosted "Witch, Please: A Queer Gayla," the organization's second annual gala fundraiser. The sold-out event was held at the Erie Art Museum. Guests enjoyed an evening of community, altruism, and fun, featuring cuisine by Van's Catering, tarot readings, an auction of works by queer and trans artists, and performances by regional drag artists Debbie and Shea D'Heaux. The Compton's Table board presented its second annual Safe Space of the Year award to Herb and Honey Bakery. Ember and Forge was honored with the Ally of the Year award.

The Witch, Please gala also kicked off Compton's Table's largest-ever capital campaign. This major six-week fundraising event aims to help the organization raise \$50,000 to purchase a building as its permanent home, a critical step as Compton's Table continues to grow. "We're thrilled that so many people are coming to Compton's and finding community here," says Compton's Table Co-Vice Chair Christina Salvia. "But we have outgrown our current space. We need a stable, accessible, and spacious home to continue the work of supporting and uplifting our queer and trans community."

Compton's Table's capital campaign runs through December 12th, 2025, though donations are accepted year-round. To learn more and support this campaign, visit <https://givebutter.com/ComptonsCampaign>.

## **Warren County Pride Members at Annual Christmas Walk**

Members of the Warren County Pride event team will host a street-side booth at the Warren County, PA, annual Christmas Walk on Friday, De-

cember 5th, 2025. Stop by for holiday cheer and free rainbow candy canes!

## **City of Erie earns perfect score of 100 on HRC's 2025 MEI**

The City of Erie has again earned a perfect score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's 2025 Municipal Equality Index (MEI). This is the fourth year in a row that Erie has achieved a perfect score.

The MEI is a nationwide evaluation of 506 cities that examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people who live and work there. The 2025 MEI is the thirteenth annual edition and rates cities from every state in the nation on 49 different criteria. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and leadership on LGBTQ+ equality. Cities are rated on a scale of 0-100, with scoring done on 100 standard points and 22 flex points. The flex points are awarded for items which apply to some but not all cities. The maximum score is 100 points.

Erie was first scored a 57 by the MEI in 2015. In the following years, Erie scored 39 in both 2016 and 2017.

When Mayor Joe Schember took office in 2018, he and his team concentrated on implementing non-discrimination policies to eliminate prejudice and make Erie a more welcoming and supportive community for all LGBTQ+ people. He formed the City's first LGBTQ+ Advisory Council and set about examining City policies, with a goal of making changes to support the LGBTQ+ community. As a result of this work, the City scored a 50 in 2018, 75 in 2019, 80 in 2020, and 86 in 2021, finally achieving its first perfect score in 2022.

In addition to the City of Erie's perfect score of 100, the City also received 9 bonus (or flex) points for its ordinance banning Conversion Therapy and its youth bullying prevention policy for City Services, and for providing services to/supporting people living with HIV or AIDS, having openly LGBTQ+ elected or appointed municipal leaders, and testing the limits of restrictive State law, securing a total of 109 points.

Mayor Joe Schember said, "The City of Erie is committed to creating a welcoming environment. Diversity is one of Erie's greatest strengths. When everyone feels supported, welcomed, and valued



for their unique skills, perspectives, and talents, this empowers people to thrive and contribute to our sense of community. Achieving and maintaining this perfect score was the result of much hard work by my team and our LGBTQ+ Advisory Council. Our policies and practices continue to help us achieve this perfect score. This is one of the ways in which we strive to make Erie an inclusive place to live, work, play, and raise a family.”

To learn more about the Mayor’s LGBTQ+ Advisory Council and the Municipal Equality Index, please visit LGBTQ+ Council – Erie, PA.

For more information about the Municipal Equality Index, please visit [www.hrc.org/MEI](http://www.hrc.org/MEI).

## Community Spotlight: Crime Victim Center of Erie County

*by Bobbie Fenno*

In the heart of Erie County, a quiet but powerful force has been working for over five decades to support survivors of crime: the Crime Victim Center (CVC). Founded in 1973 by Joan Martin, the agency began as the Erie County Rape Crisis Center after Martin’s family member survived a sexual assault. With no services available at the time, Martin set out to build the support network her family needed but could not find.

What began as a small crisis response team has grown into a comprehensive, countywide resource. Today, the CVC operates from its main office at 125 W. 18th Street in Erie, as well as five satellite offices in Girard, Union City, Edinboro, Corry, and North East.

CVC’s mission is simple yet far-reaching: to reduce crime and lessen its impact through counseling, prevention education, and advocacy. They carry out this mission through an array of free, confidential services, including a 24/7 crisis hotline, immediate crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, court and legal advocacy, hospital accompaniment, including forensic exam support, assistance with victim compensation and restitution, and prevention education in schools, workplaces, and community organizations.

The center also offers trauma-informed programming such as equine-assisted therapy and a yoga-based psychoeducation program that helps survivors reconnect with their bodies and regain confidence after trauma.

CVC serves every victim of crime, and the organization emphasizes that its services do not discriminate by gender identity, sexual orientation, race, or income level. This commitment is especially meaningful for LGBTQIA+ survivors, who often face additional barriers when seeking help. Whether someone needs counseling, medical advocacy, or simply a safe place to talk, CVC ensures that inclusive, affirming care is available to all.

In 2023, CVC celebrated its 50th anniversary. Looking ahead, the center has a major project underway with the development of a Sexual Assault Response Center (SARC) adjacent to CVC’s headquarters. This new center will provide 24/7 care from trained advocates and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, offering a private, trauma-informed space for medical treatment, forensic evidence collection, and emotional support.

CVC keeps the community involved through a variety of signature events throughout the year, including a **Cornhole Tournament** in February, **“Turn the Courthouse Blue”** and Pinwheel Planting in April (during Sexual Assault Awareness Month), a **Kentucky Derby fundraiser** in May, a formal gala in September, and a **Holiday Open House** in December.

CVC welcomes volunteers and community partners. To get involved, you can email Zac Mahon at [zachary.mahon@cvcerie.org](mailto:zachary.mahon@cvcerie.org) or call 814-455-9414. They’re especially looking for dedicated volunteers to support their key events. Financial support is also vital. Donations fuel their free services, including counseling, crisis lines, court advocacy, and more, for everyone who needs them.

If you or someone you know has been affected by crime, whether recently or in the past, the Crime Victim Center is there, 24/7, confidential, and free.



## Erie Observes Transgender Day of Remembrance

Members of the TransFamily of NWPA welcomed members of the community to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Erie on Thursday, November 20, for the local Transgender Day of Remembrance service. This year, a total of 57 names were read for those whose lives were cut short by violence. Sadly, this is by no means the true number of the lives that were lost. Violence against the trans community - particularly transgender women of color and those living at the intersection of multiple forms of marginalization - is really underreported. The names of those remembered this year may be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

## Pip-Skey's Foundation's 3rd Annual Bark and Boo(ze) Basket Raffle

**Jamestown, NY** - Pip-Skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals, Inc. is proud to announce the tremendous success of its 3rd annual Bark and Boo(ze) Basket Raffle, held on October 19, 2025, at Sneakers Bar. This year's event raised more than \$6,000 to support the organization's mission of aiding local homeless, neglected, and at-risk animals.

The community-driven event featured 50 themed basket raffles generously donated by local businesses and community members, multiple 50/50 drawings, and a highly anticipated, framed and signed Josh Allen jersey that drew significant excitement. The foundation credits the overwhelming support of the community for making this year's fundraiser the most successful yet.

Pip-Skey's Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3), is dedicated to developing innovative fundraising initiatives that directly assist local animal rescues and shelters. Funds raised from the Bark and Boo(ze) event have already made an immediate impact - to date, the foundation has donated over 800 pounds of cat food for feeding community cat colonies. Many of these cats face harsh winter conditions and rely heavily on human assistance to survive.

In addition to its community feeding initiatives, Pip-Skey's manages the Fix-It Fund, which provides financial assistance to pet owners seeking spay and neuter services. With local rescues experiencing unprecedented intake levels and staffing shortages, the Foundation attempts to reduce strain on shelters while promoting responsible pet ownership and reducing

the number of unwanted litters.

Mary Green, proprietor of Sneakers Bar, was honored to once again host this event, which is near and dear to her heart. The entire Sneakers community looks forward to this annual event in their establishment to assist in funding the homeless pets in Chautauqua and surrounding counties.

Community members interested in supporting local rescues-but unsure where to begin-are encouraged to reach out to Pip-Skey's Foundation for guidance and resources.

**For more information, to volunteer, or to make a donation, please contact: Pip-Skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals, Inc.**

Email: [pipskeysfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:pipskeysfoundation@gmail.com)

Website: <https://pipskeysfoundation.wixsite.com/pipskey-s-foundation>

## Celebrate Aging With Pride T-Shirts on Sale at Werner Books and Coffee

Celebrate Aging with Pride t-shirts are now available at Werner Books and Coffee in the Liberty Plaza (3608 Liberty Street). Local artist Kem Brazda created this colorful design to celebrate older members of the LGBTQIA+ community. T-shirts are available in purple or black, in sizes ranging from small to 5X extra large, and are priced at \$25 each. Proceeds benefit Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies that develops and sponsors social/recreational, and educational events to promote healthy leisure activities, community, and an active, enjoyable lifestyle.

## OddCity Announces Noob Night Sign-Ups & New "OddTV Labs" Studio Tour Series

OddCity Entertainment is gearing up for an exciting winter as we open sign-ups for Noob Night Spring 2026, our debut platform for brand-new bands, musicians, and rappers. Noob Night gives rising artists their first chance to perform in front of a large audience of fans, promoters, and venue owners - all within our signature corporate punk/corporate goth aesthetic. Each participating act receives the Noob Bible, OddCity's insider guide to navigating the underground music scene.

While we prepare for the spring showcase, OddCity is also launching a new winter initiative: OddTV Labs, an MTV Cribs-style studio tour series

# Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20, 2025

Aoife Dovah Velspira, 27, Chubbuck, ID

Megan Jordan Kridli, 22, Miami, FL

Rick Alastor Newman, 29, Bozeman, MT

Leah Jo, 37, Denver, CO

Kayla Jane Walker, 39, Austin, TX

Ra'lasia Wright, 25, Minneapolis, MN

Aziza Barnes "Z", 31, Oxford, MI

Meka Shabazz, 46, Columbus, OH

Parker Sacarese, 15, Setaukar, NY

Aubrey Dameron "Shorty", 25, Cardin, OK

Sam Nordquist, 24, Canandigua, NY

Amyri Dior, 23, Milwaukee, WI

Jordon Maye "JJ", 17, Ocean Springs, MI

Kaitoria Le'Cynthia Bankz "Kai", 31, Autaugaville, AL

Kelsey Elem, 25, St. Louis, MI

Karmin Wells, 25, Detroit, MI

Jonathan Joss, 59, San Antonio, TX

Jax GRatton, 34, Lakewood, CO

Laura Schueler, 47, Cincinnati, OH

JJ Godbey, 26, Canton, OH

Lily-Dawn Harkins, 22, El Paso County, CO

Kia-Leigh Tabitha Roberts, 55, West Valley City, UT

Arty Cassidy Beowulf Gibson, 23, Portland, OR

Rosa Machuca, 24, Austin, TX

Onyx Cornish, 18, Caldwell, ID

Kaso Rhea "Kaeyy Holmes", 31, Lynchburg, VA

Blake Strum, 25, Roanoke, VA

Tiara Love Tori Jackson, 37, Charlotte, NC

Marisol Payero "Mari", 22, Kennesaw, GA

Gracen Coon, 33, Santa Fe, NM

Raven Syed, 18, Lawrenceville, NJ

Allyson Ketchum "Alex", 29, Mesa, AZ

Sydney Leigh Phillips "Syd", 22, East Islip, NY

Quanesha Shantel "Cocoa", 25, Greensboro, NC

Roy Mora, 15, Fort Bragg, CA

Cam Thomspson, 18, Tuscaloosa, AL

Jonathan Asamow "Jonny", 29, Seattle, WA

Elisa Rae Shupe, 61, Syracuse, NY

Tahiry Broom, 29, Southfield, MI

Erviana Johnson "Baylee", 25, Tabor City, NC

Linda Becerra Moran, 30, Los Angeles, CA

Katelyn Rinnetta Benoit, 15, Rochester, NY

Norah Horwitz, 38, Virginia Beach, VA

Shy'Parius Dupree, 32, Memphis, TN

Charlotte Fosgate "Charcoal", 17, Portland, OR

Tessa June, 21, Randleman, NC

Hope Luca Youngblood, 49, Los Angeles, CA

Emma Slabach, 24, Fort Wayne, IN

Christina Hayes, 28, Detroit, MI

Gabrielle Nguyen (Cam), 21, El Paso County, CO

Kamora Woods, 27, Indianapolis, IN

Dream Johnson, 28, Washington, DC

Blair A Sawyer, 27, Louisville, KY

Aurora Pellegrina "Alexa, Luna", 35, Lawnside, NJ

Robyn James Post, 48, Erie, PA

Scarlet, 21, Hawthorne, NV

Lia Smith, 21, Middlebury, VT



*This list was provided by TransFamily of NWPA in conjunction with Remembering Our Dead that serves as a companion resource for Transgender Day of Remembrance events.*

highlighting local musicians, artists, and creators. This project invites participants to open the doors to their creative spaces for a filmed interview and show-and-tell, offering fans a behind the scenes look at the environments where their work comes to life. OddTV Labs celebrates the humble side of creation, highlighting everyday studios and home setups to show that great art comes from all kinds of places.

Together, Noob Night sign-ups and OddTV Labs mark OddCity's winter focus on artist discovery, community building, and platforming new voices. Whether you're ready to hit the stage for the first time or excited to show off your creative HQ, we want to hear from you. Sign up now, get involved, and be part of the region's next wave of rising talent.

[oddcityentertainment.org](http://oddcityentertainment.org)

[oddcityentertainment@gmail.com](mailto:oddcityentertainment@gmail.com)

## Who Wants to be a Drag Star, Meadville Season 2 Premieres

Who Wants to be a Drag Star, Meadville's bi-monthly drag competition series hosted by Cherry Falwell, is back and bigger than ever for season two. Round one was held on Saturday November 19th at Voodoo Brewery. Head judge Lady Travesty and guest judges Snarebear and Shea D'Heaux made up the judges panel. Five drag performers (Angelica Starlight, Marina Flowers, Ophelia Payne, Sunny Rae Rex, and Ruby Skye) battled it out for their spot in the spring finale. "Drag Star is a great way for newer performers to showcase their talent and find their footing on stage," said Cherry Falwell. "The competition is open to all genders and all types of drag — queens, kings, things. I can't wait for round two. We have more kings competing than ever before."

After performances from all of the contestants and a surprise on-stage challenge where the performers had to make and model a garment using items from the dollar store, Ophelia Payne and Marina Flowers were named the top two of the night. They lip-synched to Lady Gaga's Abracadabra and Ophelia Payne was declared the winner. In a twist, Marina Flowers was also chosen to advance to the finale. "Each season I get to choose one performer to advance directly to the finale, and I was really impressed by Marina's look and performance," said host Cherry Falwell. In addition to advancing, both performers won a booking in Cherry's December 12th show at French Creek Coffee in Meadville. Round

two is coming early next year at Voodoo, date to be announced shortly.

## HIV Task Force World AIDS Day Change

*Erie County HIV Task Force*

Due to the changes in staffing and funding for HIV prevention and care services across Pennsylvania which affected our NW region, the Erie County HIV Task Force along with local member partners will not be hosting the annual World AIDS Day Memorial Event. The reduction of Ryan White funding that supports them created a significant amount of extra work with a reduced workforce for September thru November.

The ECTHF is pausing their efforts with awareness events to take stock of the changing landscape and how to proceed in the coming year. Local providers of prevention and care services are looking at their own priorities to determine how to best serve Erie County. The World AIDS Day Memorial event has been an important piece of community awareness while honoring those no longer with us whose lives matter. The ECTHF looks forward to bringing back the event next year and welcome community feedback and involvement. For more information, contact the EC HIV Task Force by email at [admin@echiv.org](mailto:admin@echiv.org) or give us a call at 814-315-3375.

## Cleveland, Erie, and Pittsburgh LGBTQ Seniors Meet for the First Time

On Friday, Nov. 14th, members of Aging with Pride Erie, Older Wiser Leaders (OWLS) of the Persad Center, Pittsburgh, and Rainbow Pioneers from the LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland met for the first time to get to know each other, discuss mutual concerns, and plan for the future. Hosted by the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, approximately 30 people came together for discussions, lunch, and a wonderful afternoon spent at the Cleveland Art Museum. Everyone agreed that there should be more collaborative planning in the future as people discussed issues facing older LGBT individuals in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio.

Founded in 1975, the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland (<https://lgbtcleveland.org>) is located in a beautiful, modern building and offers services to all members of all ages of the LG-



## 'Tis the Season

FEATURING EXCERPTS FROM THE  
NUTCRACKER & PERFORMANCE BY  
THE JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
D'Angelo Performing Arts Center



**Dec. 5, 7:00pm**

**Dec. 6, 11:00am & 7:00pm**

## Concert Choir Performance

Christ The King Chapel



**December 7, 3:00pm**

## Christmas Gala

WIND ENSEMBLE & THE  
MERCYHURST CIVIC ORCHESTRA  
D'Angelo Performing Arts Center



**December 7, 4:30pm**

Admission: ADULT: \$15; SR.,  
NON-MU STUDENT, FAC/STAFF: \$10;  
MU STUDENT: \$5

DONATIONS ACCEPTED



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BTQ community in Greater Cleveland. While there, members of Aging with Pride participated in a Tai Chi class, visited an on-site medical clinic, viewed a youth art show, saw a small computer lab, and had a delicious lunch provided free of charge.

## **CARIE Presentation on Medicare Fraud Prevention to Aging With Pride**

On Saturday, November 15, members of Aging with Pride heard a speaker on Medicare fraud prevention at Werner Books and Coffee. 3608 Liberty, Erie, PA. Monica Vanderhoof, a volunteer with CARIE (Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders), presented information on how to detect and protect yourself from fraud. She also answered several questions from the audience.

## **Mark Hoovler named to the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council**

Mark Hoovler has been appointed by Governor Josh Shapiro to Pennsylvania's Long-Term Care Council. The council provides recommendations to improve regulations, licensing, financing and the delivery of long-term care services to the state's elderly.

Mark's appointment arose from his personal, hands-on experience as an elderly and disabled primary caregiver. As such, he gained abilities and strengths in the areas of physical disability, mental delay and communication with older people. He was also chairperson of the Erie County Human Relations Commission.

Of particular interest to Eie Gay News readers is Mark's involvement with matters that impact our community. He was president of PFLAG Erie for 12 years and PFLAG Pennsylvania state coordinator (PFLAG is the oldest organization in the US dedicated to the support of parents, family, friends and allies of the LGBTQ community). He was also active in the NW PA Pride Alliance,

Mark obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, which led to his employment with PNC Financial Services. He was a branch manager for four years, but then was promoted to PNC Business Banking, where he served as an officer and a vice president for some 24 years. It was there that Mark

gained his experience in small business and non-profit financial affairs.

"I am honored and humbled by the governor's appointment to this important and sensitive council," said Mark. "I worked as a personal friend of the late John Daly King, who was in a long-term care facility for the final 15 years of his life. During that time, I experienced wonderful care plan team meetings with the medical staff and physical therapists who attended to John. We organized activities and social outings. We addressed John's personalized nutritional and dietary needs. At times, I even met with the facility's spiritual advisor, as well as the financial and insurance staff. My pride comes from John himself, who told me, 'Be strong, brave, and remain steady for others in the future.' That has been the philosophy I have carried with me and hope to instill in others."



*On Saturday, November 22, TransFamily of NW PA celebrated their annual Transgiving Potluck at Erie Food Co-Op. 1346 W 26th St, Erie, PA. The group provided turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. Everyone had a great time enjoying delicious food and wonderful company!*



*G2H2 held its monthly get-together on Friday, November 7, at Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State Street, Erie, PA. The group usually gathers on the first Friday of each month. The next G2H2 will be on December 5 at Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe.*



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# Calendar

For latest updates, see [www.eriegaynews.com](http://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](http://www.aaeriepa.org) or contact [jmwilliams3603@aol.com](mailto: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.*

*Thursdays- LGBTQIA+ Discussion Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 1 PM. This is a no-cost group facilitated by an experienced moderator and member of the LGBTQ+ community. This is also a place to share our struggles, journeys, triumphs, and setbacks and an opportunity to find community and support each other. Mental health and substance use present unique challenges to our community. For questions contact Michelle Wolf at [wolfme@upmc.edu](mailto:wolfme@upmc.edu) or 716-465-8736*  
*Zone Thirsty Thursday (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Quench your thirst. Doors open at 8 PM. No cover: Cash only. 21+ with ID. Please drink responsibly. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.*

*Zone Friday Night Dance Party, 133 W 18th St, 7 PM. With DJ Joe. Kick off the weekend! 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. 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.*

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

**Nov 27 (Thu) - 3rd Annual Free Thanksgiving Celebration** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 3 PM - 8 PM.

**Nov 28 (Fri) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Group** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Group for adults who identify as LGBTQIA+ in a casual environment where we can discuss current events and get to know each other in this new and improved monthly group! Light refreshments and snacks available. FREE!

**Nov 29 (Sat) - Star Sirch Productions Karaoke** (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 9 PM - 1 AM.

**Nov 30 (Sun) - Anthology Book Signing with Tess Carletta & Carolina Cruz - An Outstretched Hand** (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM - 3 PM.

**Dec 1 (Mon) - World AIDS Day** World AIDS Day is held on the 1st December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988

**Dec 1 (Mon) - Monthly Free HIV Testing at Full Spectrum** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 1 PM - 4 PM. Help raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing to fight the spread of HIV virus. Free Condoms, HIV Prevention and support. Tests are confidential and use a small finger prick. Tests are provided by The Warren City Health Department.

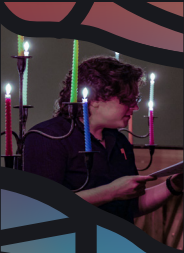
**Dec 1 (Mon) - Light the Night World AIDS Day** (St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 410 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5:30 PM. World AIDS Day on December 1st is an annual day of remembrance on the impact of HIV/AIDS in our community. We will be gathering as a community to remember those lost, reflect on the history of the road that lead us to where we are, and celebrate the hero's that have helped us on the way, rejoice in the scientific advances that are allowing us to know undetectable is a reality. We will gather on Monday, December 1st at 5:30pm in the Undercroft of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Our service will be followed by a procession to AIDS Memorial Park at East 3rd Street and Potters Alley. We will celebrate the new placement of the historical plaque from 1998 in the newly renovated park. Red Ribbons and Red Glow Sticks will be provided at the event. Warm



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beverages will be provided during and after the event. This event is sponsored by Jamestown PRIDE, PFLAG Chautauqua, Jamestown Renaissance Corporation and St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

**Dec 1 (Mon) - Full Spectrum Transgender & Nonconforming Round Table** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Trans led group that provides an accepting and inclusive space for transgender, nonconforming, and gender questioning adults, to find support and make connections with others. 18+ only please - Light Snacks and refreshments provided.

**Dec 3 (Wed) - Erie Queer Happy Hour** (Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. Let's toast to the end of the year! Join us for our final Erie Queer Happy Hour of 2025! The NWPAPride Alliance is wrapping up the year at a local favorite, the Ugly Tuna Tavern. Come raise a glass with us, celebrate the season, and connect with your community one last time before the holiday buzz begins. It's the perfect casual setting to see friends and make new ones. Everyone is welcome to join in the festive fun. We can't wait to celebrate with you

**Dec 4 (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>

**Dec 4 - 5 (Thu - Fri) - PA Mental Health Professionals serving LGBTQ+ communities 1** (Microsoft Teams) Dec 4 at 6:30 PM and Dec 5 at 12 PM, See article in this issue.

**Dec 4 (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>.

**Dec 5 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets** (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM

**Dec 5 (Fri) - Pissi Gabune's Crazy Carnival** (Boro Bar, 117 Meadville St, Erie, PA 16412) 9:30 PM. Hosted by Pissi Gabine. Featuring Snarebear and Veronica Ville. 21+ with valid ID.

**Dec 6 (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.

**Dec 6, 12 & 13 - BGMC/NCTM Presents: Joyful & Triumphant** (Various venues) Ring in the season with the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus and Nickel City Treble Makers!

**Dec 6 (Sat) - A Not So Silent Night: PPC Holiday Concert 2025** (East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15406) 7:30 PM. The holidays sparkle with joy, light, and meaningful reflection - and your Pittsburgh Pride Choir is ready to celebrate in style! Join us for an evening filled with soaring holiday songs, festive dancing, and just the right touch of tinsel. More than 120 voices strong, the Pittsburgh Pride Choir brings the magic of the season to life on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Can't make it in person? You can still share in the celebration through our live-streaming option!

**Dec 6 (Sat) - Slay the Night - Holiday Drag Show!** (Cork n Screw Wines, 237 Seneca St, Oil City, PA 16301) 8 PM. Let's come together to celebrate to support the LGBTQ+ community with a fabulous drag show fundraiser to Slaaaaaay the Night this holiday season! Venango Pride invites you to join us for: Slay the Night - Holiday Drag Show Fundraiser! Fabulous drag performances, dancing, light refreshments, and a festive good time in downtown Oil City! Featuring Performances by: Miss V, Grace, Scarlet, and Kaotica! Doors Open: 7:30 PM. Dancing & Festivities Start: 8:00 PM Show Ends: ~11:00 PM Tickets: General Admission: \$15. VIP: \$50 - Get VIP seating, extra attention from the queens, a signed flyer, and a free drink (wine, cocktail, or mocktail)! Limited VIP seats available - 1 SHOW ONLY! Extra Fundraiser Fun: Bring cash to tip the queens, enter our 50/50 raffle, win prizes in our basket raffle, purchase Venango Pride merch, and more! 18+ Adults Only Event | ID Required. Accessibility Info: Wheelchair friendly, ADA bathrooms. Email [venangopride@gmail.com](mailto:venangopride@gmail.com) for more info. Fundraiser Purpose: All proceeds support Venango Pride! Your support helps fund community events, outreach, and resources for the LGBTQ+ community in Venango County. Celebrate love, diversity, and equality while enjoying a night of amazing entertainment. Spread the word, bring your friends, and let's make

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**Dec 7 (Sun) - Rebecca Mae's Drag Brunch 2.0** (Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W 14th St, Erie, PA 16501) 11 AM. Hosted by Rebecca Mae. With Sapphire Dupree, Alysın Wonderland, and Anhedonia Delight. Doors at 11 AM. Tickets are \$20 per person

**Dec 7 (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.

**Dec 7 (Sun) - World AIDS Awareness Gospel Concert** (Second Baptist Church, 757 E 26th St, Erie, PA 16504) 4 PM. Come join us for an evening of uplifting music and powerful messages at the Second Baptist Church. This event is dedicated to raising awareness about AIDS and supporting those affected by it. Let's come together as a community to show love and compassion to those in need.

**Dec 9 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #134** (Oasis Pub & Tiki Bar, 3122 West Lake Rd, Erie, PA) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter Genco (814) 384-9785

**Dec 9 (Tue) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting** (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:00 PM. This is a safe, inclusive space where allies and queer community members 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>.

**Dec 9 (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.

**Dec 9 (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.

**Dec 10 (Wed) - Human Rights Day**

**Dec 11 (Thu) - 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

**Dec 11 (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.

**Dec 11 (Thu) - Drag Queen Bingo** (Kellar's Magic & Comedy Club, 1402 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM.

**Dec 12 (Fri) - Happy Birthday, Cherry!** (French Creek Coffee and Tea Co., 285 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) Come celebrate Cherry Falwell's birthday! Hosted by Cherry Falwell. Featuring performances by Snarebear, Pissi Gabune, and the birthday girl, Cherry Falwell. Also from Drag Star season two, your round one winner Ophelia Payne, and wild card pick Marina Flowers. You won't want to miss this one! Doors open at 8 PM, show starts at 9 PM. \$5 cover / 18+ to enter / 21+ to drink. P

**Dec 13 (Sat) - 6th Annual Full Spectrum Holiday Hangout** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 7 PM. Free, family-friendly event for the entire community. Holiday Cookies, Holiday Music, Drag Story Hour, Crafts, Ugly Sweater Contest, Free Pizza, Soda Pop, and Hot Cocoa

**Dec 13 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Group Bimonthly Meeting** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 9 PM. Changing rooms will be available if needed.

**Dec 13 (Sat) - ASCEND Erie Affinity Session for QFTW** (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM - 10 PM. Join ASCEND as we celebrate our diverse communities with Affinity Sessions - climbing sessions dedicated to individuals who haven't always had equal access to or treatment within the sport. It's a space dedicated to intentional inclusivity, not exclusivity, and we invite you to participate and be a part of these efforts. Sessions are the second Saturday of the month and alternate between BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) in odd-numbered months and QFTW (Queer, Femme, Trans, Women) in even-numbered months. Please register for session at <https://www.ascendclimbing.com/programs/community/>



community-schedule or by contacting the front desk. These FREE climbing sessions are intended only for those in our community who identify with these affinity groups. Rental gear included.

**Dec 13 (Sat) - Star Sirch Productions Karaoke** (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 9 PM - 1 AM.

**Dec 14 (Sun) - Bricks & Booze: An Adult LEGO Building Night** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 9 PM. Join our friends from the Northwest Pennsylvania LEGO User Group (NWPALUG) for a casual, creative night here at The Zone. Bring the cool sets you just bought, show off your finds, and just relax with other adult builders. You can bring your own bricks or just come and play with ours! This is a 21+ only night, please bring your ID. No cover charge to build and hang out! The bar is cash only.

**Dec 15 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News January 2026 print edition (#362)** (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, December 23. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at [www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php](http://www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php)

**Dec 16 (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

**Dec 16 (Tue) - Radiant Faith** (Cathedral of St Paul, 134 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM. 6:00 P.M. Gather around our table with the support of Compton's Table. This shared meal is more than nourishment-it's a time of fellowship, connection, and belonging. You are welcomed into a community where you are seen, valued, and loved. 7:00 P.M. Radiant Faith: A queer-centered gathering of worship, wonder, and welcome. Our gatherings are for spiritual seekers and offer a Christian-rooted encounter with the Divine-one who dwells within us and in the sacred connection we share with one another.

**Dec 18 (Thu) - Queer Open Mic** (Compton's Table, 1304 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 10 PM. Come hang out at our monthly open mics! FREE! BYOB (wrist bands provided for anyone with alcohol). if you want to register as a performer, email [info@comptonstable.org](mailto:info@comptonstable.org)

**Dec 18 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona** 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook,



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YouTube, and TikTok. <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

**Dec 19 (Fri) - Erie VA LGBTQ+ Veterans Coffee Social** (Erie VA Medical Center, 135 E 38th St, Erie, PA 16504) 10 AM. The Erie VA Medical Center will have a coffee social for LGBTQ+ veterans 3rd Floor Conference Room, 3A room #332 at 135 E 38th St., Erie, PA 16504. Times are subject to change based on availability. The Coffee Social is meant to bring Erie's local LGBTQ+ Veterans together to connect and foster ongoing relationships of support and friendship. Veterans will learn about VA services available including: Hormone treatment, Substance use/alcohol treatment & tobacco cessation treatment, Treatment and information on prevention of sexually transmitted infections/PrEP, Mental Health, and Fitness (Diet and Exercise). For more information, contact Brittany Miklos at 814-844-5944. This event is open to all LGBTQ+ Veterans in all counties served by the Erie VA. LGBTQ+ Veterans interested in enrolling in VA Healthcare are encouraged to attend.

**Dec 19 (Fri) - Game Night** (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM. Part of Journey: Healing Together's Wellness Weekend.

**Dec 19 (Fri) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Young Adult Group** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5 PM. Sponsored by Natura Behavioral Healthcare! For young adults 18-24 who identify as LGBTQIA+ and questioning. FREE! Doors open at 5pm, light refreshments and snacks available! With Reanna Torres, LPC with Natura Behavioral Health and Katie from Full Spectrum Community Outreach

**Dec 20 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together - Crafternoon** (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 11 AM - 2 PM. Part of Journey: Healing Together's Wellness Weekend.

**Dec 20 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Here We Go Again by Alison Cochrun** (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

**Dec 20 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together- Dissociative Identity Group meets** (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 3 PM - 5 PM. For those with or family members of those with Dissociative Identity Disorder. Part of Journey: Healing Together's Wellness Weekend.

**Dec 21 (Sun) - Journey to Recovery** (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 12 PM - 1:30 PM. Hear Q+ Community Members share their lead and how being queer impacted their Journey

to Recovery. Part of Journey: Healing Together's Wellness Weekend.

**Dec 21 (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.

**Dec 21 (Sun) - Full Spectrum FREE Food Pantry** (Open to Anyone) (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 2 PM - 4 PM. Join Full Spectrum community for our free monthly Food Party. This pantry is open to everyone not just members of the LGBTQIA+ Community. If you are a member of the LGBTQIA+ Community, please contact us for support with food and other services any time of the month text/call: 330.718.1859 NO RSVP REQUIRED.

**Dec 22 - 23 (Mon - Tue) - Alaska Presents A Very ALASKA Christmas Show** (Erie Playhouse, 13 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16501)

**Dec 23 (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!

**Dec 26 (Fri) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Group** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Group for adults who identify as LGBTQIA+ in a casual environment where we can discuss current events and get to know each other in this new and improved monthly group! Light refreshments and snacks available. FREE!

**Dec 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (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!

**Dec 27 (Sat) - Star Sirch Productions Karaoke** (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 9 PM - 1 AM.

**Dec 31 (Wed) - M & J's Lounge 15th Annual New Year's Eve Party** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Reservation is required. Tickets are \$50.00 each, or \$95.00 for two. Included is an all-you-can-eat buffet and champagne at midnight. We're only selling 70 tickets. All party supplies included and one 8x10 photo. We know how to start the New Year



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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.  
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# 5

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