



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Compton's Table raises over 78K for their capital campaign. Compton's Table board members with Adrian Shanker. See story on page 4.

Come Out and Support the Annual Warm Coat & Boots Drive

by Bobbie Fenno

As the winter chill settles in, it is time to come together to support our community once again. The annual Warm Coat and Boots Drive will take place on Saturday, January 31, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life.

Community members are invited to stop by and donate new or gently used winter coats, boots, hats, gloves, and other cold-weather essentials. All donated items will be given to Community Shelter Services and distributed to individuals and families in need throughout the Erie area.

This year's drive is supported by a broad coalition of local queer and ally organizations, reflecting the strength and care of Erie's LGBTQIA+ community. Participating organizations include:

Aging With Pride; Ascend Climbing/Queer Scouts; Bears Do Dinner; Central Outreach Wellness Center (Erie); Compton's Table; Erie Gay News; Erie Trans Picnics; Free Mom Hugs; G2H2; Journey to a Trauma Informed Life; LBT Women; The LGBT Fund of The Erie Community Foundation; NW PA Pride Alliance; PrideFuel & Allies; TransFamily

of NW PA; Wabtec's Pride ERG; Werner Books & Coffee; Wheel Design; and The Zone

Together, these organizations are helping ensure that vital winter gear reaches those who need it most, while also demonstrating the power of collaboration and community care. If you have any questions or are an organization interested in participating, please contact Michael Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com.

Continuing the Conversation: You're Invited

January 13, 2026 – 5:30 p.m., The Erie Community Foundation

Over the past few months, the LGBT Fund of The Erie Community Foundation has been on a listening tour with leaders of local organizations, allied businesses, religious congregations, and others who serve and support the Erie region's LGBTQ+ community.

In these listening sessions, the groups have been sharing their aspirations, challenges, and perspectives on the needs of the Erie region's LGBTQ+ community. The aim of the outreach is to explore ways the LGBT Fund might help strengthen the work these groups are doing to make life better for LGBTQ+ individuals in our region.

To continue the conversation and hear from even more organizations and individuals involved in the LGBTQ+ community, the LGBT Fund is planning a gathering Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Barn Boardroom of The Erie Community Foundation. The board of the fund invites all interested individuals to take part in the gathering.

"Whether you've worked with the fund before or not, if you're affiliated with an organization, business, or group that is connected to or supportive of Erie's LGBTQ+ community, we welcome you to be part of the discussion," Shari Gross, a member of the LGBT Fund board, said. "We hope to have productive dialogue about opportunities for collaboration, ways we could all stay connected, and how the LGBT Fund

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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.



EGN Rates & Data

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

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$80 - \$72 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
FULL PAGE	\$250 - \$225 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.
 Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.
 All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Bobbie Fenno, David Perry, Deb, Holly Swope, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Laurie Finch, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Andrea Shaffer, Brett Staskiewicz, David Perry, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, 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.

might help going forward.”

RSVPs to the gathering are not required but are encouraged. Please email LGBT@ErieCommunityFoundation.org

About the LGBT Fund

Leveraging the generosity of its donors, the LGBT Fund of the Erie Community Foundation focuses on advancing the Erie region’s LGBTQ+ community through grants to organizations, scholarships to individuals, and support of grassroots initiatives.

EGN to Highlight Volunteers Beginning in 2026

by Bobbie Fenno

Starting in 2026, Erie Gay News will begin offering volunteers the option to have their name and photo featured on our website. This will be a new way to recognize the people who help keep our publication and community events running strong.

Whether you help fold each issue of EGN or lend a hand at one of our many community events throughout the year, we want you to feel seen as part of what makes this publication possible. Our

volunteers aren’t just helpers, they’re our chosen family, and they’re the heart of the work we do together.

A staff member will be available at EGN folding sessions and other events to take photos for anyone who wishes to participate. Sharing your name or having your picture taken is entirely optional.

As we look ahead, we hope this new feature helps celebrate the spirit of service, connection, and pride that defines our community. Together, we can do even more for our queer family, and EGN is excited to honor those who help make it happen.

Virtual Town Halls for LGBTQ Youth

The Governor’s Advisory Commission on LGBTQ Affairs* will hold two virtual town halls in January to hear specifically from LGBTQ+ youth. (In middle and high school only) You may attend either the session on Wednesday, January 14 at 4:00 PM or the session on Tuesday, January 20 at 4:00 PM. 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.

Become a Foster Parent!

FosterNWPAKids.org



Family Services of NWPA



Jen and Katie - Erie, PA

*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>

Your Voice is a Powerful Tool - Out: The Community Survey Launches!

Erie Gay News is proud to join more than seventy local and national community-based organizations to launch Out: The Community Survey. This is a totally volunteer collaboration between researchers and LGBTQIA+ community organizations to make sure the historic events of 2025 get documented for our communities. The U.S. federal government has terminated all LGBTQIA+ research - so it's time to go back to our roots and do it ourselves! How can you help? Take 30 minutes to make sure you participate in the survey today and share it with your friends and family too.

Aging With Pride Members Speak at PA Statewide Webinar

Aging With Pride members Dale Allgeier and Kemlyn Brazda spoke at the PA Link to Aging and Disability Resources Monthly Webinar for December 2025. Their presentation covered unique and not-so-unique aspects of aging as experienced by members of the LGBTQ+ community. They discussed what groups like Aging With Pride are doing to improve aging within the community, as well as remaining challenges.

Approximately 90 individuals from across Pennsylvania viewed the webinar. Participants asked several questions, ranging from Aging With Pride's geographic reach to support for nursing home residents who are coming out to their roommates.

NWPA Zoom Gathering

The Pennsylvania Equality Project will be holding a Zoom meeting on January 6 from 7 until 8:30 PM for LGBTQ+ folks who live in northwest Pennsylvania. The goal of the meeting is to gather feedback about issues that are happening locally

and legislative action happening in Harrisburg that impacts LGBTQ+ lives. This will be an informal meeting to provide a forum for people to share their stories and develop advocacy strategies for addressing topics such as affordable and sustainable housing, discrimination, youth-related issues, healthcare, and more. For additional information, check out our Facebook page @paequalitypro.

Compton's Table Surpasses Capital Campaign Goal

By Tyler Titus

Compton's Table has successfully concluded their Capital Campaign, surpassing its original goal and marking a significant moment for the organization. What began as an ambitious effort to raise \$50,000 in six weeks ultimately brought in more than \$78,000, demonstrating overwhelming community support for the organization's mission.

The campaign drew contributions from more than 270 donors across 19 states and three countries. Organizers emphasized that the response was not just about financial generosity, but about shared values and collective care for queer and trans people who deserve spaces where they are safe, affirmed, and centered.

"This campaign reminded us how deeply people believe in our community and in what's possible when we show up for one another," said founder Dr. Tyler Titus. "Every gift was a message that our lives matter and that Erie deserves spaces rooted in care, dignity, and belonging. We are incredibly grateful and honestly humbled by the love that carried us past our goal."

Funds from the campaign will support the next phase of Compton's Table's long-term vision to establish a permanent home that can serve as a stable, welcoming anchor for community programs and connection. The organization also shared that a new partnership will be announced in the coming year to help guide these next steps.

Leaders at Compton's Table expressed heartfelt thanks to donors and supporters, noting that the campaign's success reflects a growing commitment to building a more inclusive and caring community for all.



Celebrate Aging with Pride

by Peter Genco

Aging with Pride (AWP) acknowledges individuals and/or businesses who demonstrate their commitment to assisting the “seasoned” members of the LGBTQ+ Community. On November 30, 2025, AWP presented a Recognition Award to Erin Phillips, Managing Editor of Erie Reader. She wrote an article in the June 2025 issue titled “Aging With Pride: Erie’s Queer Senior Social Club”. She interviewed several members of AWP and provided a well-received informational article about the group and the social needs of the elders in our community.

Community Spotlight: New Castle Prism Initiative

by Bobbie Fenno

Part of our broader regional community, just a bit farther south, a newer organization is stepping up in powerful ways for queer residents. In a county where access to affirming resources can be limited, the New Castle Prism Initiative is working to ensure LGBTQIA+ people and other marginalized community members are seen, supported, and celebrated.

Run by queer individuals, the New Castle Prism Initiative is an LGBTQIA+ outreach program dedicated to uplifting and advocating for queer people across Lawrence County and surrounding areas. Operating as a committee under Rustbelt Revitalization, the group has quickly become a vital hub for connection, mutual aid, and visibility.

At the heart of the initiative is the Pauly Likens Memorial Sanctuary, a free community closet designed to meet real, everyday needs. The sanctuary offers gender-affirming items, clothing, hygiene products, harm reduction tools, first aid kits, wigs, makeup, and more - all provided at no cost. It is intentionally low-barrier, welcoming individuals exactly as they are.

Food access is another core focus. The organization runs an in-house food drive every other Wednesday from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m., offering groceries alongside a hot meal donated by local restaurants. During these evenings, community members can also access the Pauly Likens Memorial Sanctuary, making the event both practical and deeply communal.

Beyond direct services, the New Castle Prism Initiative prioritizes joy, creativity, and connection. Fundraising events such as Drag Bingo, Dolls Night, and Drag Brunch help sustain programming while celebrating queer culture. Free community events, including movie nights, game nights, book club gatherings, and a transgender coalition, provide consistent opportunities for people to build relationships and feel a sense of belonging.

Support across generations is also central to the organization’s mission. Monthly support groups are offered for LGBTQIA+ elders, parents of LGBTQIA+ children, a general LGBTQIA+ group, and a transgender support group, ensuring that no one has to navigate their journey alone.

Looking ahead, the initiative plans to host quarterly drag shows for new and beginner performers, creating accessible entry points for those interested in exploring performance in a supportive environment. On January 14 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., the group will also host a community health fair, expanding access to health-related resources and information.

One of the organization’s largest undertakings is New Castle Pride in the Park, scheduled for June 6, 2026, from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. The all-day event will celebrate LGBTQIA+ pride, visibility, and resilience, and the planning committee is currently seeking



vendors interested in participating.

Through mutual aid, advocacy, and celebration, the New Castle Prism Initiative is building more than programs, it is building a community rooted in care, dignity, and pride. More information about upcoming events, volunteering, and ways to get involved can be found at newcastlepride.org.

Spreading the Tea: Erie Gay News Catalogued in International and Domestic Queer Archives

Recently, editor Michael Mahler mailed out packages containing copies of all twelve 2025 monthly editions of Erie Gay News bound for their new international homes. The packages are part of the continued record of queer life in this region at IHLIA LGBTI Heritage in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and also The Arquives in Toronto, Canada.

For more than 30 years Northwestern PA, Western NY and Northeastern OH's queer residences have been able to rely on Erie Gay News as a source of news, events, information, support and affirmation. Each month, roughly 1,300 copies of the newsletter are printed, folded and then distributed to 120 distribution sites. If you, your company, or your organization would like to let the wider queer community know about an event you have had or will be having, send the newsletter your articles or information.

Deadline for articles or information for the good of our queer community is the 15th of each month and can be submitted via email to info@eriegaynews.com along with your name, contact information, and how you wish to be credited for your submission (whether by full name, first name only, or not at all). Anonymously sent materials will be treated as suspect. Any contact information you send in with your submission will be kept in strict confidence and will never be used for any purpose other than to verify or discuss any needed changes to your submission. By submitting an item, you are granting permission to publish that item openly on this website and on the pages of our printed publication. Please send in only items that are original to yourself, are "public domain," or have been granted permission to publish on this website by the originator of that item.

Compton's Table Brings Chat & Chill to Ascend Rock Climbing

By Tyler Titus

On December 20, Compton's Table took its popular Chat & Chill program on the road, partnering with ASCEND Rock Climbing to create a welcoming and affirming third space for queer and trans community members in Erie.

The event invited participants to try indoor rock climbing or simply spend time connecting with one another in a relaxed, pressure-free environment. Organizers emphasized that participation was flexible and that climbing was optional. By meeting outside of Compton's, the team aimed to foster connection, confidence, and joy in a setting that felt fun and accessible.

"Creating third spaces is essential to community health," said Dr. Shraddha Prabhu (she/her), board member. "Not everyone feels safe or seen in traditional public spaces. Bringing Chat & Chill to Ascend was about expanding where belonging can exist and reminding people that they deserve to take up space, try new things, and be supported exactly as they are."

Compton's Table shared appreciation for Ascend Rock Climbing's partnership and commitment to inclusivity, noting that collaborations like this help broaden opportunities for connection and wellbeing. The organization will continue hosting Chat & Chill events throughout the year, offering free, affirming opportunities for community members to gather, build relationships, and simply enjoy being together.



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conversation about the needs
of Erie's LGBTQ+ community.

JAN. 13 • 5:30 PM



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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.

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 LGBT+ 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 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 Flow, 133 W 18th St, 8 PM - 10 PM. Hosted by Ashen Grove. Join in on the fun of dancing with ribbons, poi, levi wands, and more! Doors open at 8pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. The Zone is CASH ONLY! ATM on site. 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.

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. (Also on Jan 10 & Jan 24)

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!

Jan 2 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Lavery Brewing, 128 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Let's welcome 2026.

Jan 3 (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.

Jan 3 (Sat) - Villains Night (Third Independent Presbyterian Church, 1315 E Washington St, New Castle, PA 16101) 8 PM - 11 PM. CALLING ALL VILLAINS, DIVAS, & DELIGHTFULLY WICKED QUEENS! The New Castle Prism Initiative is THRILLED to kick off 2026 with a night of pure chaos, charisma, and camp. Doors open at 8 pm, show starts at 9 PM. Get ready for a fierce, electrifying evening hosted by the wickedly fabulous Ophelia Bottom & Kitty K Bottom! Featuring jaw dropping performances by Max Queeriosity, Fancy Shayne, Wicked Wiz, The Gawdess Jodi, and Haley Comet. From dark magic to chaotic glamour, these performers are bringing villain energy like you've never seen before. Come dressed in your most evil, iconic, or over the top look or just come ready to cheer, laugh, and live your best queer life! Support LGBTQIA+ programming, celebrate local drag, and start the year with a bang! Join us for a night that promises mischief, mayhem, and unforgettable moments. Presented by The New Castle Prism Initiative building community, celebrating identity, and bringing fabulous events to our city.

Jan 4 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting



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(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.

Jan 5 (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.

Jan 5 (Mon) - Full Spectrum Transgender & Non-conforming 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.

Jan 6 (Tue) - Erie Queer Happy Hour (Lavery Brewing, 128 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM.

Jan 6 (Tue) - NWPA Regional LGBTQIA+ Gathering (Zoom) 7 PM - 8:30 PM. This is your chance to gather, get acquainted, and share your ideas and thoughts about what matters to you and the broader LGBTQIA+ community. We want to provide an outlet, so your voices are then shared in Harrisburg.

Jan 7 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner #135 (Golden Wok Chinese Restaurant, 3202 Pittsburgh Ave, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter Genco (814) 384-9785

Jan 8 (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.

Jan 8 (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.

Jan 10 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls Presents A January Jolly - A Post-Holiday Celebration (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 8 PM. \$8.00 door cover. \$7.00 COLORS discount. 21+ with valid ID. COLORS Cafe

will be available!

Jan 11 (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.

Jan 12 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News February 2026 print edition (#363) (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, January 20. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php

Jan 13 (Tue) - LGBT Funds Community Conversation (The Barn Boardroom of The Erie Community Foundation, 459 W 6th St, Erie, PA 16507) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. YOUR VOICE MATTERS. Join local organizations, allies, and supporters for a conversation about the needs of Erie's LGBTQ+ community. RSVPs to the gathering are not required but are encouraged. Email: LGBT@ErieCommunityFoundation.org

Jan 13 (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.

Jan 13 (Tue) - The New Castle Prism Initiative Book Club (Third Independent Presbyterian Church, 1315 E Washington St, New Castle, PA 16101) 6 PM - 8 PM. Come be part of our monthly book club held on the second Tuesday of every month at The New Castle Prism Initiative! Each month, we'll dive into a new novel to read and discuss together. This month's pick: The Color Purple by Alice Walker. Bring your thoughts, your favorite snacks to share, and an open mind! Book Club is free and open to everyone

Jan 14 & 20 (Wed) - PA LGBTQ+ youth listening session (Microsoft Teams) 4 PM - 5:30 PM. The Governor's Advisory Commission on LGBTQ Affairs* will hold two virtual town halls in January to hear specifically from LGBTQ+ youth. (In middle and high school only) If you are unable to attend the Jan 14 session, please register for the second session on

Jan 20, 2026 here. 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>

Jan 15 (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! FREE! BYOB (wrist bands provided for anyone with alcohol). if you want to register as a performer, email info@comptonstable.org

Jan 15 (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>.

Jan 16 (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.

Jan 16 (Fri) - Game Night (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM. Part of Journey: Healing Together's Wellness Weekend.

Jan 16 (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



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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

Jan 17 (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.

Jan 17 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Do Not Say We have Nothing by Madeleine Thien (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM . Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Jan 17 (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.

Jan 18 (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.

Jan 18 (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.

Jan 18 (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.

Jan 20 (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

Jan 20 (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.

Jan 20 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. Volunteers are very much welcome and needed!

Jan 23 (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!

Jan 24 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Brunch (Give A Crepe. La CrepErie, 1909 Chestnut St, Erie, PA 16502) 11 AM - 1 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBTQ+ members and allies, is meeting for brunch. Everyone is on their own for the meal. RSVP to Peter at (814) 384-9785 (text or voice).

Jan 24 (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!

Jan 27 (Tue) - Holocaust Remembrance Day Day to remember all of the victims of the Nazi era.

Jan 28 (Wed) - Meadville Queer Happy Hour (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 9 PM. Find community and fun at NWPA Pride's Meadville Happy Hour! Join NW PA Pride Alliance for drinks & laughs. Everyone welcome

Jan 29 (Thu) - G.A. Family Services 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.

Jan 31 (Sat) - Erie Queer Community Warm Coats & Boots Drive (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 11 AM - 1 PM. A broad coalition of regional Queer and allied organizations will

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be collecting new and gently used warm coats and boots for Community Shelter Services. All clothing and other donations are gratefully accepted! Please enter by the rear door off of the 11th Street parking behind Journey.

Jan 31 (Sat) - Who Wants To Be A Drag Star - Season 2 Round 2 (Voodoo Brewing Co, 834 Bessemer St, Meadville, PA 16335) 8 PM - 11 PM. Watch five drag performers battle it out for their spot in the spring finale! Drag Star is back for season two! Join us at Voodoo Brewing Co in Meadville for a night of glitter, glamour, and great food and drinks. Watch five drag performers battle for their spot in the spring finale. Hosted by Cherry Falwell featuring performances by head judge Lady Travesty and guest judges Poundcake and Priscilla Godzilla. Also featuring season one winner Hydroxy-zine, season two round one champ Ophelia Payne, and wild card pick Marina Flowers. DOORS: 7PM, SHOW: 8PM. 18+ to enter, 21+ to drink.

Jan 31 (Sat) - Prism Night at Le Resto (Le Resto, 14 N Mercer St, New Castle, PA 16101) 8:30 PM - 1 AM. Hosted by The New Castle Prism Initiative & Le Resto. Join us for an unforgettable night of drag, community, and celebration at Le Resto! Prism Night brings fabulous performances, vibrant energy, and a welcoming space to celebrate LGBTQIA+ artistry and joy. Hosted by: Ophelia Bottom. Performances by: Kitty K Bottom, Adele Pickle, & Eden Hearts. Special Event Menu: Le Resto will be featuring a special cocktail menu along with a limited appetizer menu available during the event. Kitchen closes at 11:00 PM, so arrive early to enjoy food and drinks! Doors Open: 8:30 PM. Show Starts: 9:00 PM. Bar Open Until: 1:00 AM. Cover: \$10 Door Fee. Come out, support local performers, sip something fabulous, and celebrate community with us. This is a 21+ event.



NW PA Pride Alliance held its Meadville Happy Hour on November 26, 2025, at Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut Street. Meadville Happy Hours will continue to be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Julian's.



On December 18, members of Aging With Pride and friends gathered at the home of Blane and Randy for a delightful and friendly holiday dinner. This was the third year in a row for the holiday dinner. The catered meal was delicious, and the company was terrific. Everyone had a great time!



G2H2 held its monthly get-together on Friday, December 5, 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 January 2 at Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W 12th St, Erie, PA.



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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.

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