



EGN

Erie Gay News



Primary Candidate Forum Recap

from NW PA Pride Alliance

On Thursday, April 16, NW PA Pride Alliance Inc and the Mental Health Association of Northwestern PA (MHA) jointly held a candidate forum at MHA's office, 1101 Peach St, Erie PA. The forum addressed both LGBT and mental health related issues.

Candidates attending included Elvage Murphy for Erie County Court of Common Pleas, John Morgan for Millcreek Supervisor, and Nathaniel Strasser for Magistrate, 5th Ward, as well as Erie City Council candidates Sonya Arrington, Gary Grack, Bob Merski, Rebecca Styn, Richard Wagner, and Jon Whaley. Trish Catalano, candidate for Erie County Council District 5, also participated. About 30 voters attended.

Thanks go out to Diana Ames for coordinating, Kelly Kidd for moderating, Matthew Robison for taking photos, Season Crannell, Rita Wheeler, LuAnn Gossett, Bill Grove, Lenny Ginney, Michael Mahler, and Michael Mooney for support.

GEAE Gives Back! to the MHA

from Will Koehler

Last month the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) held their first quarterly "GEAE Gives Back!" event of 2015.

This family-friendly event was held in order to benefit the Mental Health Association of NWPAs warming center and second-chance computers programs. Participants were encouraged to make donations of new underwear, all-weather boots, and used laptops. More than 50 people stopped by to share pizza, play duck-pin bowling, meet people from the MHA and GEAE, and have a lot of fun. Donations filled five large "lawn and leaf" bags with hundreds of pairs of underwear, about two dozen pair of boots, and five laptops.

We're looking forward to our next "GEAE Gives Back!" sometime in May or June to benefit the Crime Victim Center of Erie County and hope to see you there!



Leon Moses, Jeremy Snyder, Jeremy Bredeson, Phillip Cooke, Eric Linster, Russell Bowman (all members of the Between the Worlds community) at Drenched Fur's private after hours event at Splash Lagoon. Photo by Devin Lee.

Persad Center Art for Change Benefit on April 27

from Persad Center

Great art can transform the way people see the world. Join Persad Center on April 27 from 6 to 11 PM at Wyndham Grand Downtown Pittsburgh, 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh PA for Art for Change 2015 and experience the power of positive change.

Persad Center's signature fundraising event will feature verbal and silent auctions of paintings, photography, sculpture, furniture and jewelry. Over 1,000 art lovers gather to bid, mingle and enjoy food from some of Pittsburgh's finest restaurants.

One hundred percent of the proceeds benefit Persad Center's Free Care Fund, serving the LGBTQ community and people living with HIV. Tickets are on sale now at persadartforchange.com or for more information please contact Yas Hatcher at (412)441-9786 x226 or yhatcher@persadcenter.org. Persad Center is a human service organization whose mission is to improve the well-being of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning) communities, and the HIV/AIDS communities.

(continued on page 3)

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Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko
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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.

**PRINT EDITIONS AVAILABLE
 ONLINE**
www.eriegaynews.com
 Click on the PDFs for this &
 previous issues of EGN from 1992.
 Also, check out our Photo Galleries,
 Videos, Contests, Reviews & much more!

EGN Erie Gay News Rates & Data

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

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
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HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

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

**Erie Gay News is now included in
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THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel for hosting! Andrea, Bill, Johauna, Julie, Kim, Matthew Robison, and Rex Apps for folding; Andrea, Bill, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Julie, and Kim for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Community News

Report on LGBT Roundtable Project

from Will Koehler

Over the past two months, a steering committee from the Northwest PA Pride Alliance (NWPAPA) and the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) has organized and held two LGBT Roundtable discussions. The committee invited leaders from various LGBT organizations from Erie and the surrounding counties.

The project is off to a great start with 26 different people attending one of the first Roundtables with representation from about 15 different groups!

These first Roundtable discussions had two different purposes. One was to begin a multi-phased needs assessment for the greater Erie LGBT community conducted through the Edinboro University Social Work Department. The second purpose was to unite the various organizations serving different members of our LGBT community in order to provide a platform for communication and collaboration.

It is the intention of the steering committee that future Roundtable discussions will be held periodically in order to continue to provide this forum of collaboration for the benefit of our community.

If you are interested in hearing about future LGBT Roundtable discussions, or if you are interested in participating in future phases of the needs assessment, please contact Will Koehler at 732-1973 or wkoehler@edinboro.edu.

Weekly AA meetings

“Live and Let Live” an LGBT AA meeting is every Sunday at 7 PM at Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie PA., For more info, contact Charlene at (814) 504-1507 or cmn0626@gmail.com.

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See Website for Complete Schedule

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Drenched Fur 11 has record turnout

by Gary Snyder

The second weekend of April was the 11th where the Erie community hosted Erie's Exclusive Bear Weekend known as Drenched Fur. This year's theme was 'Pop Goes the 80s' where the 'Best Little Run for Fun' had a record turnout for the main event; an exclusive night time private event at Splash Lagoon, our local indoor water park resort. In addition to enjoying the fun wet times there, the weekend this year also included karaoke, daytime tours to local beer, food, and wine locations, as well as a comedy game show version of *Jeopardy*.

Erie has been hosting Drenched Fur for eleven years and allows men to appreciate themselves and each other in their natural masculinity. This year's installment for 2015 brought together hundreds of men from around the tri-state area and as far away as Belfast, Chicago, Houston, Orlando, and Toronto.

On Friday night, the guys also took over The Zone Dance Club for a TRON: GLOW party bar outing to help support Community Health Net, our local Northwest Pennsylvania medical service provider, by selling cutouts for one dollar each. The Zone will be posting/taking donations for them through the month of April allowing you to help donate for this worthy group as well.

The Drenched Fur 11 Committee did a fantastic job hosting one of the biggest events for Erie's GLBTQA community and thanks all the individuals and businesses that helped make this year a success. To find out more about Drenched Fur and to review our photo gallery from over the years, you can visit our website at www.drenchedfur.com. And don't miss out on next year's installment of DF12 to be held in April 2016!

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Kumu Hina showing on PBS in May

Kumu Hina is the story of **Hina Wong- Kalu**, a transgender native Hawaiian teacher and cultural icon who brings to life Hawaii's long-held embrace of mahu — those who embody both male and female spirit, and were traditionally respected as caretakers, healers, and keepers of ancient traditions.

The PBS series *Independent Lens* will air *Kumu Hina* in May (see below for listings in your area).

The film traces Hina's evolution from a timid high school boy to her position as a married woman and cultural director of a school that specializes in Hawaiian language, history and culture, located in one of Honolulu's grittier neighborhoods. As she contemplates who should lead the school's all-male hula troupe in their final performance, a surprising candidate presents herself: Ho'onani, a sixth grader who is proud to be seen as a mixture of boy and girl. As Kumu Hina helps Ho'onani negotiate the mixed reactions of her classmates and her family, the power of culture to instill a sense of pride and acceptance becomes clear.

The film also delves into Hina's pursuit of a dream of her own: a fulfilling romantic relationship. Her tumultuous marriage to a headstrong Tongan man offers insight into the universal challenge of loving somebody outside the norm and a deeper understanding of the true meaning of aloha – love, honor, and respect for all.

For more on this film, visit kumuhina.com

Filmmakers

Filmmakers **Joe Wilson** and **Dean Hamer** are familiar to our area because of their critically-acclaimed, award-winning documentary *OUT IN THE SILENCE*, which became a highly visible model for the use of film for social activism with wide distribution through public television, multiple digital portals, and over 700 community screenings. More about them at kumuhina.com

When to see it

Following are broadcasts for area affiliates. If your region isn't in here, check local listings at www.pbs.org/independentlens/

ERIE (WQLN) May 4 at 10:00pm

BUFFALO/WNY ThinkBright 5/6 at 8:00pm 5/7 at 1:00am and 9:00am 5/9 12:00pm. **WNED** 5/10 at 11:03pm, 5/15 at 4:00am

PITTSBURGH (WQED) May 4 (time unavailable)



Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar
www.eriegaynews.com

Apr 25 (Sat) - Camp Davis Opening Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) www.campdavisground.com.

Apr 25 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. (814) 823-1969. caitlyn_xpress@verizon.net. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Apr 25 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. Followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/

Apr 26 (Sun) - ACLU NWPA Annual Meeting (Erie, PA) Keynote speaker: Vic Walczak, ACLU PA Legal

Director. "From Michael Brown to Marriage Equality: The Civil Liberties Landscape in 2015" To RSVP, text or call 814-881-3788 with your name and phone number. You will receive a confirmation with full meeting details. (814) 881-3788. northwestchapter@aclupa.org. www.aclupa.org/chapters/northwestpa/.

Apr 26 (Sun) - Marriage in All 50 Candlelight Vigil (Erie Federal Courthouse, 17 S Park Row, Erie, PA) 7 - 8 PM. Sponsored by Pennsylvania Equality Project. On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, the US Supreme Court will hear oral arguments from the marriage equality cases from the 6th US Circuit Court of Appeals. We want to show the Court that the people are ready for marriage equality. info@paequality.org. www.paequality.org/.

Apr 27 (Mon) - Persad Center Art for Change 2015 (Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, 600 Commonwealth Pl, Pittsburgh, PA) 6 PM - 11 PM. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefit PERSAD CENTER'S Free Care Fund, serving the LGBTQ community and people living with HIV. Tickets persadartforchange.com. (412) 441-9786 x226. yhatcher@persadcenter.org. www.persadcenter.org/.

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For complete event details, reservations, maps & more, visit:

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Apr 27 (Mon) - Camp Davis Opens to the public (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) . (724) 637-2402. www.campdaviscampground.com.

Apr 28 (Tue) - PFLAG Meeting in Meadville (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. The meeting is co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. Info: (814) 724-6736 or srnocola@allegheny.edu (Stone UMC) or Rev. Carmen Emerson (814-724-4023 ext. 302, revcme@gmail.com (UU Meadville.)) www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/.

Apr 28 - Equality & Justice Day New York State Capitol, Albany NY "Join the largest statewide gathering of our movement and show the strength of the LGBT community in our state's capital." <http://prideagenda.org>

Apr 28 - Erie County Human Relations Commission for our 9th Annual Housing Seminar 8:30AM to 5:00PM (8:00AM registration) at the Hirt Auditorium, Blasco Library, 160 E. Front St., Erie, PA. \$10. Registration Requested. Continental Breakfast/

Lunch Included. RSVP by Friday, April 24, 2015. Please contact Charlotte Scalise at (814) 451-7021 Fax: (814) 451-7066

May 1 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Gigliotti's, 1325 State St, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. Facebook: G2H2/ERIE

May 1 - 3 (Fri - Sun) - Opening Weekend - Welcome Back Cinco de Mayo Cocktail Party (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 2 (Sat) - LBT Women go to see Comedian Basile (JR's Last Laugh, 1402 State St, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. \$20. Contact Kim at Eriebeans@aol.com to reserve a seat. <https://www.facebook.com/LBT-WOMENOFERIE>.

May 2 (Sat) - Flannels & Long Johns Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) Contact: Jim. (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdaviscampground.com.

May 3 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Beltaine Celebration (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Hwy, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM. Doors open

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at 5 PM, potluck to follow. Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.whisperinglakegrove.org

May 3 (Sun) - LBT Women meets - NOTE DATE CHANGE! (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com.

May 3 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) Elections will be held. Educational program will be Ask Ellen, the Social Worker. Contact: Joshua Crawford. (724) 290-9674 president@pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com/.

May 4 (Mon) - Kumu Hina on Independent Lens PBS. See page 5 this issue.

May 8 - 10 (Fri - Sun) - Retro Weekend - Awesome 80's Party (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 8 (Fri) - "Grace & Frankie" debuts on Netflix Long-time rivals Grace and Frankie are brought

together after their husbands announce they plan to get married. Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Martin Sheen, Sam Waterston. "Funny and also poignant and serious." ~Jane Fonda.

May 8 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 11 PM. Join the Bears for a night of fun and friends! Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. Venue (814) 452-0125. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.


May 9 (Sat) - Pajama & Robe Party (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) Contact: Jim. (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavicampground.com.

May 11 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News June 2015 print edition (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) Complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates at print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

May 11 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie PA) 7 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. Also meets 4th Tues. of the month at 7 PM at Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S. Main St. Meadville, PA. Contact: Alex Sphon. (814) 367-3311. pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/1.

May 12 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30pm. www.youngstownpflag.org

May 12 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner (Hooch & Blotto's, 8071 Peach St, Erie, PA) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and fun! Dinner is on your



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Calendar

own. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

May 13 (Wed) -Theology on Tap The Tap House at 7 PM.

May 13 (Wed) - J-Pride - LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. in Chautauqua Co., 31 Water St. Ste 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Drive into the big parking lot at the Gateway Center and drive to back of the building to the smaller rear parking lot. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044.

May 15-17 Imperial Court of Buffalo Coronation 2015 - 25th Anniversary www.imperialcourtofbuffalo.com

May 15 - 17 (Fri - Sun) - Friends & Family- 25th Anniversary Season Kick Off Party! (Jones Pond 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 16 (Sat) - Springtime St. Patty's Party (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavisground.com.

May 17 (Sun) - LBT Women go to Edinboro Art and Music Festival (Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St, Edinboro, PA) 11 AM. Just east of downtown Edinboro free admission Food and drinks available for purchase. www.Edinboroartandmusic.com Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 18 (Mon) - The Table Baseball Night (Erie Seawolves, 110 E 10th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Contact Jodi or reserve tickets through The Table website by May 11. pastrixjodi@gmail.com. www.thetableerie.com/.

May 19 (Tue) - Pennsylvania Primary Election 7 AM - 8 PM. Please remember to vote! See Voters Guide in this issue, page 11.

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814-440-1476 JWhite@albionboro.com

May 19 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, Griffin Room, 55 West Bay Dr Erie, PA) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of EGN. All ages welcome! info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

May 19 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie) 7 PM. Facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty Provides LGBTQA people the confidential opportunity to share what it means to be both a sexual and spiritual person. Contact: Rich McCarty. 1-866-229-1974

May 22 - 25 (Fri - Mon) - Memorial Day Weekend- In The Navy! (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 23 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Troika Russian Festival (Church of the Nativity, 109 German St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Free admission, Food and drinks available for purchase. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

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Calendar

May 23 (Sat) - Holiday Weekend - Dance Saturday and Sunday Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) Contact: Jim. (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavisground.com.

May 23 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones in Erie Co. region. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. (814) 823-1969. caitlyn_xpress@verizon.net. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

May 23 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. Followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/

May 24 (Sun) - Big Gay Picnic www.pittsburghpride.org/.

May 24 (Sun) - FACE Drag Show - NOTE DATE CHANGE! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Join Misty Kall and her girls for a phenomenal FACE SHOW with, for one night only, a very special guest: the Lake Erie Perch, Miss Velvet Lace! Come out and celebrate Memorial Day with them because they are gonna tear up the stage! (814) 452-0125.

May 26 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 1 PM. (724) 287-7731. www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork.

May 26 (Tue) - PFLAG Meeting in Meadville (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville,

PA 16335) 6 PM. The meeting is co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. For more info, call (814) 724-6736 or email sroncola@allegheny.edu (Stone UMC) or Rev. Carmen Emerson (814-724-4023 ext. 302, revcme@gmail.com). Venue (814) 724-6736. sroncola@allegheny.edu. www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/1.

May 27 (Wed) - J-Pride - LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. in Chautauqua Co., 31 Water St. Ste 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Drive into the big parking lot at the Gateway Center and drive to back of the building to the smaller rear parking lot. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044.

May 29 (Fri) - LBT Women go to Erie Ribfest (Perry Square, 6th and State Streets, Erie, PA) 5:30 PM. Free admission. Food and drink available to purchase. www.Erieribfest.com Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com.

May 29 - 31 (Fri - Sun) - Trailer Trash Weekend \$1.98 Beauty Pageant & Talent Show (Jones Pond 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) ! (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 30 (Sat) - Hag Drag Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA www.campdavisground.com.

Jun 6 - Erie Pride Picnic Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park.

LIGHTHOUSE JEWELERS



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Candidates for Erie County Council and Erie City Council were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

These were the questions for all races:

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Do you support the passage of SB/HB 300, which would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to include protecting LGBT individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation? Please explain.

ANTI-BULLYING

Do you support the PASS Act, which would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to include protecting LGBT individuals from bullying in public schools? Please explain.

OTHER

What would you like to let the Erie area LGBT community to know?

COUNTY COUNCIL District 1

Anti-Discrimination

Phil Fatica (D-Incumbent)

Yes, the County of Erie already recognizes the importance of protecting individuals from discrimination and it is time the rest of the state and country was on board.

Anti-Bullying

Phil Fatica (D-Incumbent)

Protection from any form of bullying in the schools is vital. Our nephew recognized the need to help kids who are in need of understanding their identity and helping them fight judgmental comments and bullying and he is one of the supporters of an organization to address these issues, "Live Out Loud." And so am I.

Other

Phil Fatica (D-Incumbent)

Erie County, through the Human Rights Commission, has in place a law which forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation. We are the only county between here and Pittsburgh which has such a law. As a current Erie County Councilman, I always have and always will proudly support this law.

COUNTY COUNCIL District 3

Not Responding: Fiore Leone (D-Incumbent)

COUNTY COUNCIL District 5

Not Responding: Kyle Foust (D-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

Trish Catalano (R)

Yes, I wholeheartedly support the passage of Pennsylvania House Bill 300. I also would support any Local, County, State or Federal bill that would provide the same protections across the board, to every member of the LGBT community.

Anti-Bullying

Trish Catalano (R)

Yes, I support the PA Safe School Act. But I also believe that if our President should use his authority to issue an Executive Order that would enact a law that would cover all of our students as well a every US Citizen. This law should protect them from harassment, stalking, bullying and cyber-bullying. The President ran on a platform for change and making a difference. He made promises to the LBGt community that he has not upheld. I think that an across the board law that protects all from harassment and bullying of every type, would do a lot to heal our country. One unifying law to protect every student and citizen from harassment, bullying, stalking, cyber-bullying and discrimination is what our country needs. It is revolting that our children are taking their own lives after being bullied because

they are different. Our schools, internet sites, social networks, and even the police do nothing because the law does not say that they have to. How many more of our children, brothers, sisters, friends or neighbors have to lose their lives before our government cares as much about US citizens as they do about foreign countries?

Other

Trish Catalano (R)

I believe that all US Citizens should have the right to: love, marry who they choose, be proud of their sexual identity, and to be free to adopt and raise a family.

I am a disabled female and I have been the subject of bullying, stalking and harassment because some view me as less of a person because I cannot use both of my legs. I also have many gay, bisexual, transgendered and cross-dressing friends. I have been a member of the Erie Sisters Group for many years, even though not as active as I would like, as well as a group in Buffalo where I grew up. While I cannot begin to understand what it is like to live in their skin, I have been there to laugh and cry with my LGBT friends. I can honestly say that if you would consider voting for me, I would be proud to represent you all and promise to be part of the solution.

COUNTY COUNCIL District 7

Anti-Discrimination

Carol Loll (R-Incumbent)

There should not be discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations for anyone. We are Erie County have the Human Relations Commission and have set forth By-laws for them to follow. This includes, that there will not be discrimination for anyone in the area of public spaces, housing and employment. I was on council at the time that this was passed and I supported its passage.

Anti-Bullying

Carol Loll (R-Incumbent)

I support any initiative to protect anyone from

bullying. Bullying can be very destructive to anyone who has been subject to it. It can have lasting negative effect to anyone confronted by a bully. Bullying can take many forms and methods and should be stopped any time it surfaces.

ERIE CITY COUNCIL

Not Responding: , Gary Grack (D), Mel Witherspoon (D-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

Sonya Arrington (D)

I urge the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to embrace the expansion of non-discrimination legislation by passing SB/HB 300. It is unacceptable for property owners, employers, and public facilities to discriminate against people based on their sexuality.

It is unfortunate that government must step in and create legislation of this nature. As a black woman, I certainly recognize the value of protection against discrimination. I believe all persons should have fair opportunities to obtain employment, housing and public accommodation.

Bob Merski (D-Incumbent)

I am for the passage of SB/HB 300, which would protect LGBT from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation. Discrimination because of who you are is wrong, and it shouldn't be allowed under the law.

Rebecca Styn (D)

I wholeheartedly support it. I believe that each of us should be treated equally under the law and would oppose any act passed by the government that denies anyone equal rights to pursue their own happiness.

Although as a member of city council, I would only indirectly be able to influence the outcome of a proposed state level bill, but what is great about local government is the difference a small governing body can make on the local residents. As a councilperson I would look to review all local anti-discrimination laws

and ensure that they cover discrimination against sexual orientation.

One such recent proof of the ability of local governments to enforce swift change where state and federal governments may fail is in the fast action of multiple municipalities throughout Indiana after the governor recently signed the harshest anti-gay legislation in years. Mayors of multiple cities, including Indianapolis, almost instantly, signed executive orders that would protect the LGBT citizens living and working in their cities.

Richard Wagner (D)

In response to question #1 as it pertains to passage of SB/HB 300 which would bring gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender people under the umbrella of the state's non-discrimination. As a human being I support this bill, and if elected to council not only will I support Bill 300 personally, I will make sure that legislators at all levels know exactly how I feel about the injustices that have and will continue to occur if this bill is not passed.

Jon Whaley (D)

I support SB/HB 300 completely. I am fully supportive of LGBT individuals in every sense and want to make it illegal to discriminate against them in these areas of housing, employment, public accommodations and ANY OTHER situation they may face. As noted below, I firmly believe LGBT individuals should be recognized as a protected class by federal law to protect them in all situations and any form of discrimination, and allow for severe penalties if discrimination occurs.

Anti-Bullying

Sonya Arrington (D)

As an advocate for youth, I believe very strongly that our schools play a large role in protecting children from bullying and discrimination. I urge the Pennsylvania Legislature to update the language of the Public School Code of 1949 to reflect the language of the PASS Act. I am very supportive of the fact that high school and college students originally conceived the PASS initiative.

Our youth, regardless of their sexuality, racial background, socioeconomic status, or any other factor used to divide and discriminate, should be able to receive an education free from harassment from their peers. School-wide positive behavior support programs are one way to support a positive and healthy learning environment in any educational program from preschool to high school.

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey figures from Erie County indicate that an unacceptably high percentage of our young people are suffering from depression and low self-esteem. Many cite bullying as an issue in their daily lives at school that affects how they feel about themselves and their school performance. Most troubling is the number who feel that life isn't worth living. Based on the statistics, some percentage of these young people are certainly struggling with sexual identity issues. I have attached the PAYS survey document for the Erie School District for you to examine. The chart on page 45 is very troubling.

Bob Merski (D-Incumbent)

I am for amending Public School Code to include listing protected classes, including LGBT students, but I also believe that the law shouldn't be exclusive to only those protected classes. For example, the boy or girl that gets picked on for being overweight or being poor- we don't have a protective classes for those characteristics, but they should have the same rights under the law as anyone else being bullied. I'm for listing protected classes, but wouldn't limit the law to only those protected classes (i.e. "including, but not limited to, ...").

Rebecca Styn (D)

I wholeheartedly support it. I recognize Pennsylvania state law leaves huge gaps in addressing the issue of bullying with weak or non-existent actions, and I would support any bill that would increase the awareness and permissible actions to stop all types of bullying if there were any instances of bullying, against LGBT or otherwise, which were going completely unrecognized, undocumented, and unpunished.

At a local level, I am also aware of the "Mayors for Safe Schools," that embodies Mayors, and Presidents of Borough Councils and Township Board of Commissioners across Pennsylvania. Local governing

☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

bodies have critical roles in protecting the welfare of young people in our communities and if it is currently not in the pipeline, if elected, I will work to try to get Erie on board as part of that coalition.

Richard Wagner (D)

In response to question #1 as it pertains to passage of SB/HB 300 which would bring gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender people under the umbrella of the state's non-discrimination. As a human being I support this bill, and if elected to council not only will I support Bill 300 personally, I will make sure that legislators at all levels know exactly how I feel about the injustices that have and will continue to occur if this bill is not passed.

Jon Whaley (D)

Absolutely agree 100%. Bullying of any kind is harmful and we should aim to stop it in schools as much as possible. Again, LGBT students must be included in protection just as race, sex and religion would be covered. As a father of 3 teen-agers, I understand how difficult school can be for teens (I was a geeky, gangly, "trying to fit in" teen once myself!), and I would have to imagine how much more stressful it can be for LGBT youth who are growing, changing, possibly confused, probably scared and maybe even hiding their true selves from parents and loved ones. These kids shouldn't face bullying from peers, the bullies should be told in school that it is wrong, and if they get bullied do this can be a remedy for them.

Other

Sonya Arrington (D)

Regardless of the outcome of this race, I will remain committed to Erie youth and promoting non-violence. In 2013, I sponsored a well-attended anti-bullying workshop at East High School and a forum on Cyber-Bullying at the Booker T. Washington Center. I will continue to work with young people in my Leadership, Empowerment, Accountability and Diversity (LEAD) program to encourage them to seek a positive path in life, to handle conflict appropriately, and to embrace the differences in those around them. I

empathize with the youth and adults I speak to, that we all need to reach out and have a spirit of togetherness and community with one another, to lay down the hate and the guns, in order to have a peaceful Erie.

Bob Merski (D-Incumbent)

I want the Erie area LGBT community know that I am a friend to the community. I believe the City of Erie is a good city, but it could be a GREAT city! It's going to take ALL of us working together to make it happen. Being a great city means having safe, clean streets and sidewalks, it means supporting local businesses, it means having good schools, it means encouraging inclusivity and celebrating diversity. Being a great city means having good jobs- the kind where you put in an honest day's work and have enough money after paying your bills to enjoy what the city has to offer with your family and friends. Most importantly, being a great city means having many great people contribute what they can for the betterment of the community. From business, to arts and culture; from academia to non-profits, from government to our places of worship, the LGBT community of has been a part of taking Erie from good to great. The work isn't easy, but the results will be worth it! This is bigger than me, and I need your help to improve Erie. I'm asking for your support and your vote on May 19, because together we can take Erie from good to great! To get involved with our movement for a better Erie, email me a bob@bobmerski.com and become part of taking Erie from good to GREAT!

Rebecca Styn (D)

Although Erie City Council does not have jurisdiction over state or federal laws, the number one thing I would do locally is to ensure that all local laws protect the LGBT community to the same extent as other protected classes, and to all citizens alike should be protected. I will continue, as I have for many years, to support the LGBT community and hope to see a future where these things mentioned above are no longer issues - because in my opinion all humans are equal and should be treated as such. I wish you continued good fortune in your quest for equality.

VOTERS GUIDE

Richard Wagner (D)

Lastly, what do you need to know about me? I am a lifelong city of Erie resident and a proud democrat. My concerns for the city are absolutely not specific to any group. My sole purpose in running is I see a city that is both distressed and stressed, and my every action as an elected councilman will be to provide a better quality of life, a safer city and an affordable city where everyone can prosper and be proud to call the city of Erie their home.

Jon Whaley (D)

I think the LGBT community should be recognized as a protected class by federal law, just as we protect citizens by race, religion, sex and more. I am against discrimination on any form and feel that a person's weight should also be included & protected.

Additionally, I was truly unaware of the ignorance possible under RFRA and I want that changed, here is PA and across America. I can understand some of the intent of the law, and trust me I am no legal scholar, but the loopholes it opens and the way it can allow people to discriminate under the guise of religious freedom is disgusting. I believe it started as a way to protect ones right to practice their faith but not at the expense of another person and it seems now to have been completely perverted. As shown in Indiana, a pizza shop owner feels they are able to refuse service to a gay couple because it disagrees with their religion and I think that is wrong and anti-American at its core. I think it should be illegal for anyone to be able to refuse to serve a gay couple or transgender customer.

I am very liberal and I support equal rights and equal opportunity for all citizens. At the same time, while I am in favor of smaller government and fewer laws, I think it's the duty for the government to regulate areas that won't regulate themselves, such as discrimination against LGBT individuals.



Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Ends
<i>Traveling the Two Lane</i>	April 24
<i>Boy Meets Girl</i> DVD	April 28
<i>grydscaen: tribute</i>	May 1
<i>The Last Five Years</i> DVD	May 5
<i>The Me I Never Was</i>	May 8
<i>The Glass Stiletto</i>	May 12

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Adventure</i> by Madeon	April 24
Derek Bishop <i>Bicycling In Quicksand</i>	April 28
Tori Amos 2 CD set; Anna Bergendahl <i>For You</i> Remix EPs	May 1
<i>Such Good People</i> DVD; Meghan Trainor <i>Dear Future Husband</i> ; Reba <i>Love Somebody</i>	May 5
<i>Kiss All The Bullies Goodbye</i> remix CD from Sir Ivan; Bernard Buie <i>LifeSaver Boxer Brief</i>	Mau 8
<i>Biscuit</i> remix CDs from Ivy Levan; <i>First Period</i> DVD	May 12

More contests at eriegaynews.com!

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events!

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