



# Rainbow Connection

Prairie Pride Coalition

Fall 2017

## 2nd Annual Gay/Straight Alliances "Back to School" Picnic September 20

Three local organizations including PPC are sponsoring a back to school picnic from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20 under the pavilion at Underwood Park, 214 Jersey Avenue in Normal.

The picnic, also sponsored by the Central Illinois Pride Health Center and Bloomington/Normal PFLAG, is our way of welcoming back to school the students who are part of the local high school gay/straight alliances (GSAs). Invitations have been sent to all of the school districts in McLean County and we anticipate a similar crowd to last year when more than 70 students and advisers attended.

The three organizations are providing food, drinks, activities, and information about their organization offerings. Attendance is free.

Are you a high school student but not a member of a GSA? Feel free to join us anyway and learn how you can get involved!



## McLean County Health Department Receives PrEP Grant

by Erin O'Malley, McLean County Health Department

The McLean County Health Department has been chosen by the Illinois Department of Public Health as a demo site to gauge our community's interest in PrEP (Pre Exposure Prophylaxis) for HIV prevention and PrEP access.

PrEP is medication taken daily to prevent HIV transmission. Daily PrEP use reduces HIV infection through sex by more than 90 percent. In other words, the one-pill-a-day medication is highly effective!

In the next year the health department will be actively assessing the need and demand for PrEP in our community. So far there has been much interest in PrEP; the health department has been referring individuals for some time now

and are excited to be part of the PrEP Project.

MCHD really would love to hear from the community. Please let us know your thoughts, interests, questions and referral/ assistance needs by calling Erin at (309) 888-5478.

## October 11 Chipotle Fundraiser for Student Scholarship Program

Join us from 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11 at the Bloomington Chipotle store for a fundraiser to build our newly-established high school scholarship program.

That evening, when you bring in the fundraising voucher (located within this newsletter) and present it to the cashier Prairie Pride Coalition will receive 50 percent of proceeds from your sale. Please keep in mind that you

*Student Scholarship continued on page 2*

More important dates coming up on the next page 

## Scholarship continued from page 1

must have the voucher in hand to participate in this fundraising opportunity.

PPC has established this scholarship program to award funds to local high school students who are members of their school's gay/straight alliance. All proceeds from the October 11 fundraiser will go directly to support students who are doing great things in their school and to help them finance their education after high school.

PPC believes strongly in this effort to support our LGBTQIA+ youth and we hope you will join us on Oct. 11!

Bring the coupon below or a photo of it on your smart phone. Or, just tell the cashier you're supporting this cause.

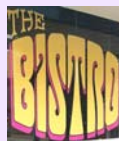
# CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Prairie Pride Coalition. Come in to the Chipotle at **305 N. Veterans Pkwy. Suite 101** in Bloomington on **Wednesday, October 11th** between **5:00pm** and **9:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Prairie Pride Coalition.



If placing an order online during your fundraiser, please note you must choose the pay in-store option and inform our cashier of your participation before paying. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.



## Afternoon Tea Party at Bistro September 10

An afternoon drag show tea party featuring Tiffany T. Hunter (Miss Continental 2015) and MaKena Knight will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Bistro in downtown Bloomington.

Sharon Sharealike will emcee and DJ Tom Rakestraw will staff the booth for this event.

If you don't like the late-night drag shows consider coming to the Bistro Sunday afternoon for some great performances!

## September 14-23 Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Ernest" at Heartland Theatre



Heartland Theatre Company is staging Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Ernest* through September 23 for three weekends.

Directed by Don LaCasse and featuring actors Kathleen Kirk, Jessie Swiech, Emilia Dvorak, Julie Riffle, Dean Brown, Tim Olsen, Kyle Redmon, Chuck Pettigrew and Larry Eggan, *EARNEST* is Oscar Wilde's most lauded work, and perhaps the wittiest comedy in the English language. Carefree young bachelor John Worthing resides outside London and invents a fictitious brother, Ernest, whose wicked ways afford him the excuse to frequently venture into the city. Chaos erupts when he discovers that his scheming friend and confidante, Algernon Moncrieff has also assumed the same identity for reasons of his own.

**Remaining performances are at 7:30 p.m. on September 14, 15, 16, 17 and 21, 22, and 23; and 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday, Sept. 17 and Saturday, Sept. 23.**

To reserve tickets call 309-452-8709 or e-mail [boxoffice@heartlandtheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@heartlandtheatre.org). General admission tickets are \$15, senior discount tickets are \$13, and student discount tickets are \$5. Reservations are

strongly recommended.

The Heartland Theatre is at 1110 Douglas Street in the Community Activity Center on the campus of One Normal Plaza. For additional information visit [www.heartlandtheatre.org](http://www.heartlandtheatre.org)

## September 12 Central Illinois Potluck for **PRIDE** LGBTQ+ Parents and LGBTQ+ Children

The Central Illinois Pride Health Center will sponsor a potluck from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12 for LGBTQ+ parents with children and parents with LGBTQ+ children 12 y/o and under.

A nachos bar will be featured and those attending are asked to bring a dish to share. Yard games will be available but attendees should feel free to bring something fun for the kids. This is an opportunity for parents and children to have a safe, supportive space to be themselves and support one another. Be ready to have fun!

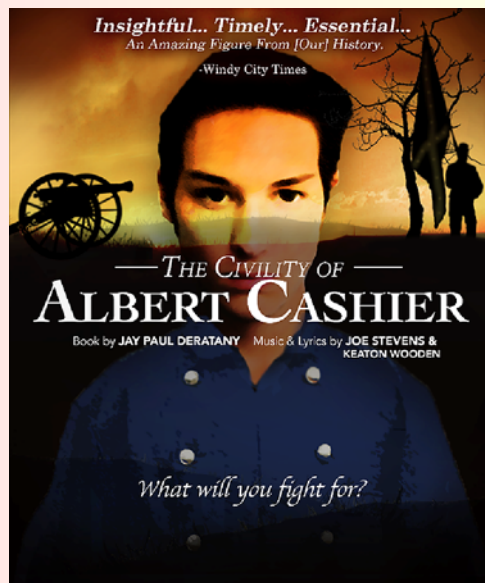
For the location of the potluck e-mail [cipridehealthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:cipridehealthcenter@gmail.com)

## September 17 Museum, Prairie Pride Coalition Host Chicago Trip to Albert Cashier Musical

The McLean County Museum of History is hosting a bus trip to see

*Cashier cont. on page 3*





“The Civility of Albert Cashier”, a limited-run musical that focuses on the life of a Central Illinois Civil War soldier who defied contemporary gender roles. A matinee performance, the show will be held at **4 p.m. Sunday, September 17 at Stage 773 in Chicago.**

The Prairie Pride Coalition is offering a limited number of scholarships for local high school students. For more information contact [info@ppc-il.org](mailto:info@ppc-il.org).

Born Jennie Irene Hodgers, Albert D.J. Cashier (December 25, 1843 – October 10, 1915) was an Irish-born immigrant who moved to Illinois and lived under a male identity before enlisting in the 95th Illinois Infantry during the American Civil War. Cashier maintained his secret throughout the war and for most of his adult life until a doctor discovered Cashier’s biological gender following an injury.

Cashier’s male identity was part of his life before and after the war, leading current scholars to reconsider the female narrative that has long framed his legacy. Despite a challenge to his Army pension and being forced to spend his final days dressed as a woman in a state asylum, Cashier was buried with full military honors in his Union uniform and a tombstone reflects his name as “Albert D.J. Cashier, Co G, 95 Ill.”

The trip is sold out but to get on the waiting list call 309-827-0428. The cost of \$65 covers bus transportation and ticket cost.

You can go to the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertCashierTheMusical> to learn more about the musical.

## October 27-29 Normal Community West to Stage “The Laramie Project”

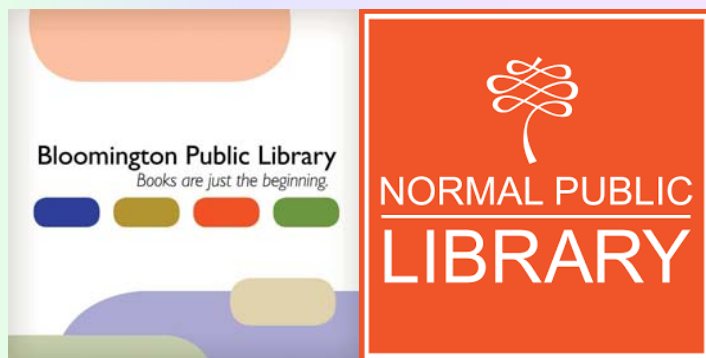
The Theatre department at Normal Community West High School will be presenting The Laramie Project at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 27 through Saturday, October 29 in the Normal West Auditorium (501 N. Parkside Rd. in Normal).

In October 1998 Matthew Shepard was kidnapped, severely beaten and left to die, tied to a fence on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. Five weeks later, Moisés Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie, and over the course of the next year, conducted more than 200 interviews with people of the town. From these interviews they wrote the play The Laramie Project, a chronicle of the life of the town of Laramie in the year after the murder. THE LARAMIE PROJECT is one of the most performed plays in America today.

Tickets will be \$5.00 for both students and adults. Pre-sale tickets will be available two-weeks before the show. You may arrange reserved tickets by contacting Ryan Kerr at [kerrr@myunit5.org](mailto:kerrr@myunit5.org) starting October 16. Please email the same address with any questions about the production.



Check out the displays in both the Bloomington and Normal public libraries. You'll find tables with selected LGBT topics that you will be able to borrow with your library card. Also, on the lower (entrance) level of the Bloomington library you will see a display case with LGBT materials.





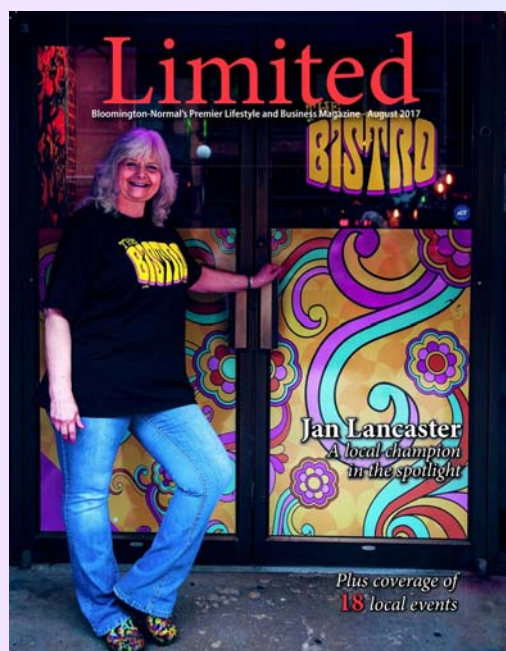
## Update on B/N Area LGBTQIA+ Business & Resource Directory

Many of you have been asking about the LGBTQIA+ Business and Resource Directory and how to get materials or be listed in the directory.

After a successful roll-out in June we ran into some glitches...mostly due to a lack of volunteer help to distribute and update the materials. We are hoping to release a second edition of the directory late this fall with new entries from those of you who contacted us after the first edition went to press.

Another issue we've heard is that the static cling decals that businesses and resources are to display at their entrances do not show up well in the windows. We are working with the printers to craft a new static cling decal that will be more prominent and noticeable.

If you would like to help with this project please contact us! This will be an ongoing effort and we need assistance to keep the directory a living, breathing document. If you are interested please contact us at [info@ppc-il.org](mailto:info@ppc-il.org).



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**Send Correspondence to:**  
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**or e-mail**

Send newsletter submissions to  
[info@ppc-il.org](mailto:info@ppc-il.org)

All submissions subject to PPC board approval and to timeliness of inclusion.

## Community Presence in B-N's own "Limited" Magazine

Not once, not twice, but three times local people and groups have been featured in Bloomington-Normal's Premier Lifestyle and Business Magazine.

First, PRIDE at ISU's 19th Annual Charity Drag Show had a two-page photo spread taken at their March 31 drag show, in the May issue.

Central Illinois Pride Heath Center had their photo spread from the April 23 Fundraising Afternoon Tea Party at the Bistro, in the June issue.

In the August issue, Jan Lancaster was featured in a two-page cover story, as an activist, an advocate, and a documentary star.

