



2019 Recipient of the City of Reno Mayor's Rainbow R Award for Outstanding Service and contributions to the LGBTQ Community

After Pride edition July 26, 2022

Peavine Mountain Media



The local GLBT news and information source for northern Nevada and the eastern Sierra

### Northern Nevada Pride 2022

# 20,000+ attend the Biggest Little Pride during largest celebration of the rainbow in Reno

To say that this year's Northern Nevada Pride Festival and CommUNITY Parade was successful would be an understatement.

Attendance at the ninth annual Northern Nevada Pride was 13,500 shortly after the parade ended and by 2 pm that number had swelled to 20,000 with four hours left in the festival.

"We have been accused of monetizing the event," Manke said. "It will likely cost over \$100,000 to put on Pride. We also had to increase security and had additional new fees because of the size of the event."

Manke went on to tell the renogaypage that they pay their local entertainers and allow them the opportunity for exposure in the community during the 7 hour annual event.

Every year the question arises as to why Reno celebrates Pride in July, when national pride month is June. That answer is simple, Northern Nevada Pride



Stephanie Nicole LeDream and Miss Nevada Heather Renner ride in the CommUNITY Pride Parade in Reno

"We expanded Pride this year to include West First Street between West and Ralston," Jeremy Manke, President of Northern Nevada Pride told the renogaypage. "Northern Nevada Pride is an all volunteer run organization. We have over 200 people who donate their time to making this community event possible."

Northern Nevada Pride is the major fund raiser of the year for the local LGBTQ Community Center, OUR Center. The goal is to raise enough revenue to cover the cost of putting on Northern Nevada Pride and the annual expenses for operating the Center.

Also something new to the festival this year was a gate charge of \$5. Northern Nevada Pride decided to have the gate fee due to the large increase in expenditures the event encountered due to changes by the City of Reno and Washoe County Health Department. Previously, Pride attendees were simply asked to donate at the gate.

is part of Artown, Reno's annual month long celebration of the Arts and culture.

Manke said Northern Nevada Pride has outgrown Wingfield Park and that is why they expanded and added the First Street stage. The additional stage allows for local entertainers to do longer sets.

On the Amphitheater Stage, Stephanie Nicole LeDream, brought the house down has she has done for the nine years Northern Nevada pride has existed.

"It's surreal," Stephanie Nicole LeDream told the renogaypage. "it is hard to believe I have been doing this for nine years."

Northern Nevada Pride invited LeDream to host the entertainment stage when they started in 2014. At the time she lived in the San Francisco Bay Area. Today she lives in New Orleans.

"This is a Pride I fell in love with and would never want to miss it!" LeDream said. "I will be back every year as long as they will have me."

On the first street stage, newly elected Empress of Northern Nevada

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People, People everywhere at the parade and festival as 20,000+ attend photo courtesy of Diana Sion

## Shania elected to reign as Empress as SDC starts its XLVII year

The oldest LGBTQ social and philanthropic organization in the state of Nevada, The Silver Court, held its annual Coronation Ball June 11 to honor the reign of the XLVI Empress Sharpay. At the end of the event, elected by a vote of the people, was Shaina Taint, to continue raising money for charity, one dollar at a time.

There were two other candidates for Empress, this year: Chelsea Novak and Harleigh Ashley St. James.

The organization raises money through various fund raisers which have been bake sales, car washes, and drag shows. In recent years, the charity recipients have been announced at Victory brunch by the newly elected Empress.

Shaina announced her charities as OUR Center and ACCEPT (Access for Community & Cultural Education Programs & Trainings), Elected Board President was



Reigning Empress Shaina Taint

Billo Miller; Vice-President Rick Ross; Secretary Chelsea Novak and Treasurer Robert Douglas.

You can follow the Silver Dollar Court on Facebook.

Coronation XLVIII will be held in June 2023.



Nevada US Senator Catherine Cortez-Mastro address the crowd

## Proud Boys appear at Drag Queen Story Time



The Proud Boys demonstrating outside of the Sparks Library

Washoe County Library System started hosting Drag Queen Story Time in 2019. There were protestors. Protests have been common during this year's Drag Queen Story Time across the country. On June 26, Washoe County was on the protestors radar.

A person wearing the "Proud Boy" colors of yellow and black intimidated a large group of parents and children at the Sparks Branch of the Washoe County Library by carrying an armed rifle causing panic and people to surfer about in fear.

Earlier, three protestors carrying signs, were outside the event in the designated free speech area.

Sparks Police were several blocks away during the protest, but left the area.

When the gun man appear library officials called, but Sparks Police did not respond according to eye witnesses and library staff. Sparks Police said an officer responded to the incident when the rifle was reported.

The Library staff did have a security plan in place should an incident occur. Many LGBTQ events have been targeted by the Proud Boys organization.

The Proud Boys are a far right, neo-fascist all male group that promotes and engages in political violence.

Sparks Police did respond earlier to an incident where

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## Amodei votes NO to protect Marriage Equality



Congressman Mark Amodei

The District Two United States Congressional seat, which covers most of northern Nevada including Reno, is held by Republican Mark Amodei, who on July 19 voted against a bill that would extend federal protection for same-gender and interracial marriages.

The bill before the House of

Representatives was to protect marriage for all Americans, in light of recent US Supreme Court decisions reversing previous rulings, as in Roe v. Wade.

Justice Clarence Thomas has stated the court needs to review several rulings and reconsider them, among them same-gender marriage.

The Court in 2015 in the Obergefell v Hodges case ruled that states could not deny same gender couples the right to marry.

Amodei's reasoning for voting no violates trust with his constituents who sent him to Washington DC to represent them, not his or his parties beliefs.

"At the state level, this issue has been dealt with by the people of Nevada in a straight-

forward and transparent fashion," Amodei said in a statement released after the vote. "They did not ask for, nor do they need direction from a body of 435 individuals - 431 of whom are not from Nevada."

Nevadans, who Amodei represents, overwhelmingly approved a state constitutional amendment to define marriage as The State of Nevada and its political subdivisions shall recognize marriages and issue marriage licenses to couples regardless of gender.

As a representative of the people to the state of Nevada, Amodei should have voted for the bill as that is what Nevadans had already decided.

Nevada currently is the only

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# 2022 Pride

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Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve, Vice Mayor Neoma Jardon, Ashley Turley and Rick Caldieria celebrate Pride

Nevada, the Lake Tahoe Basin and Western territories, Shania Taint hosted the local musicians and bands.

"I can't believe this crowd," Tammy Jeners, of Reno said, who had come with several friends to the celebration of community. "I have been before but I don't remember this many people."

This year's pride set a new attendance record for the event topping the 20,000 attendee mark. The previous highest attendance was 15,000.

Manke said they could not have an event like they have without the support of their sponsors, patrons and entire community.

A continued issue that plaques the festival is long lines at food booths.

"it took over 40minutes to get my order," Lynn Brown told the-renogaypage. "the food vendors I think were prepared for the crowd there was."

Water has been a issue

in the past as Northern Nevada Pride tends to be held on on of the hottest days of the year. Manke said that this year they had ordered several pallets of waters to be prepared.

"This is amazing -- just look at all the people here to watch the parade," Terry Michell of Sparks said. "I can't believe how long this parade today is."

Jillian Helget, who is the co-chairman of the parade along with Meredith Tanzer said "Can you believe we had 110 entries in the parade this year? Last year we had 74 entries. They last entry this year crossed under the arch at 11:45 am. The parade started at 10 am.

The City of Reno returned the rainbow cross walk to under the Arch with its commitment to Diversity and inclusion. Public Works employees put down the colors of the rainbow under the Arch the day before the local pride celebration.

A Pride celebration was



The Rainbow Balloon Arch a symbol of Northern Nevada Pride is being launched to lead the Parade on Virginia Street in the Heart of Downtown Reno

first held in the Truckee Meadows in June 1987 in a secluded out of the way park along the Truckee River in Sparks. The group promoting it disbanded and the event became the All Community Picnic.

A group headed by Kaye Crawford started Reno Gay Pride in 1997 that ran for 19



Members of the Two Spirits Indigenous blessed Wingfield Park

years held the third weekend in August. The Pegasus Project was developed in 2013 which became Northern Nevada Pride. From 2014 to 2016, Reno had two pride celebration three weeks apart.

There was also a short run of Reno Rainbow Fest, a group of Pride parties held around Reno Gay Pride.

Northern Nevada Pride now stands alone with its COMMUNITY Pride Parade each July. Mark your calendar for July 22, 2023 for the next chapter as the event celebrates a decade of bringing the community together.

Wingfield Park may not be available for future Prides as the Arlington Bridge will be replaced over a two year period causing the Pride celebration to be relocated. Northern Nevada Pride is in discussions for a new site.



Passing out candy along the parade by City of Reno



Activity on the additional space added to Pride - West First Street



The assembly area for the start of the 11th annual COMMUNITY Pride Parade

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## Proud Boys

one of those in attendance said that they were assaulted. The claimant refused to press charges when Police did not pursue the matter when no charges were filed.

Sparks Police also said when police responded to the rifle incident the man with it had left the area. Nevada does have an open carry law which allows individuals except in government buildings, federal property, schools and airports, to carry. A library is a government building owned by Washoe County,

It was reported as the news of the event made wire services that in 2019 800 families participated. The first year saw over 800 people attend.

Following the June 26 event the Library tweeted: "#DragQueenStoryTime was a success," the library tweeted. "Sparks families came out today to meet Miss Ginger and join in the fun. Special

thanks to Austin from @SenCortezMasto's @SenCortezMasto's office for presenting Ginger with a very special proclamation! What an honor on this fabulous day!

In 2019, therenogaypage covered the single event in Sparks where the community was packed with kids and adults. Just over 820 community members showed up to support the event as protestors were expected. This year two Drag Queen Story Times took place: one in Downtown Reno on June 25 and one in Sparks on June 26. Both this year's events were well attended.

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state in the US to have marriage equality in its constitution. Many states constitution prohibit it and if the 2015 decision is overturned marriage equality in those states would be prohibited.

Amodei is up for re-election



Members of the Reno Police Dept. sporting the rainbow

## Amodei NO

this November and faces Democrat Mercedes Krause. District Two has never sent a Democrat to Congress. Nevada's three other congressional representatives are democrats who voted to support the bill.



Parade Grand Marshall Christopher Daniels aka Miss Ginger Devine



The Reigning Empress of the Silver Dollar Court Shania Taint



Tradition dictates the Parade lead entry is Dykes on Bikes