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News From Around PA
Bethlehem City Councilman Bryan Callahan introduced the “Appropriate Mental Health Services Ordinance” during a recent meeting. If passed, it will ban talk therapy within the city limits for minors with unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion. Adrian Shanker, executive director of the Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Community Center, worked with Councilman Callahan to introduce this ordinance.

The Wolf administration and DCED have removed the nondiscrimination statement that included gender, gender identity and sexual expression language from the EITC and OSTC guidelines and applications.

Transgender writer releases novel that portrays a revolutionary soldier as transgender saying, “I dove into the facts of her life and found that there wasn’t a lot that was verifiable. She tells us what she did in a memoir, but a lot of this is clearly made up.” The novel was still written as fact and presented as part of “Fierce Females” at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

News from National Scene
GLAAD has released its sixth annual Studio Responsibility Index analyzing the seven top-grossing studios for positive representations of gay and transgender characters in last year’s releases. The report condemned Hollywood for a year-to-year decline in LGBT characters on the big screen and made the following demands: “make sure that 20% of annual major studio releases include LGBTQ characters by 2021, and that 50% of films include LGBTQ characters by 2024.” The report acknowledges the entertainment industry has the “unique power” to “change hearts and minds.”

NFL’s new rule concerning national anthem: players are required to "show respect for the flag and the anthem" while on the field, but they can choose to remain in the locker room.

U.S. District Court Judge Arenda Wright Allen, an Obama appointee, denied the Gloucester County, Virginia School Board’s motion to dismiss Gavin Grimm’s civil rights lawsuit, maintaining that Title IX and the Constitution protect transgender students from exclusionary bathroom polices.

An Oregon student suspended for wearing a “Donald J. Trump Border Wall Construction Co.” T-shirt has sued his school, claiming the punishment violated his First Amendment right to free speech.

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