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### Event Highlights

Jan. 23 - [GLBTQ Youth Group, Modesto, CA](#)

Jan. 24 - [HIV Outreach Worker at SPC, Modesto, CA](#)

Feb. 9 - [LGBTQIA Student Conference at UOP, Stockton, CA](#)

Feb. 9 - [LGBTQIA Youth Conference: "Expression Not Suppression", Fresno,](#)

January 17, 2008

e-Pw brings you a glimpse of events near and far, from around your neighborhood to around our world.

### New SPC Community Calendar

We have revamped the [SPC Community Calendar on our website](#). Check it out!

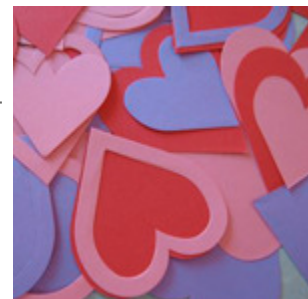
We are now using Google Calendar which offers more viewing options and allows us to post more details about events. Also, if you are a Google mail user you can add an event from the SPC Community Calendar to your personal calendar, post a comment, send yourself a reminder, and invite others. We hope that you will enjoy these new features.



Do you know of an event that should be posted on our Community Calendar? If so, let us know! Please send your event details to [calendar@stanpride.org](mailto:calendar@stanpride.org).

### Safe Places to Date for GLBTs

With Valentine's day coming up, SPC is looking for tips, suggestions, recommendations and stories about safe and comfortable places for GLBT couples to date in Modesto and beyond. Please keep your submissions positive. Anything you would be willing to share about your personal experiences would be appreciated. You will remain anonymous. A compilation of recommendations will be published in an upcoming newsletter, so stay tuned! Please



CA

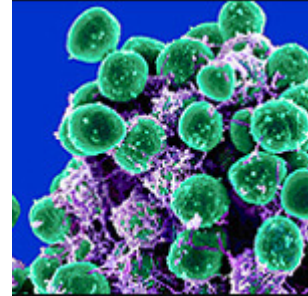
April 5 - [Spring Fling Dance, Modesto, CA](#)



send your recommendations to [info@stanpride.org](mailto:info@stanpride.org).

## New Staph Strain Circulating in Gay, Bisexual Men

(Excerpted from [All Things Considered](#), January 14, 2008, NPR.org)



Health officials are tracking a new type of infection with *Staphylococcus aureus* that is resistant to even more antibiotics than MRSA, the drug-resistant staph that has spread from coast to coast over the past seven years. (MRSA stands for "methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*".)

So far, nearly all recognized cases of the drug resistant staph have been among gay and bisexual men. The cases are showing up most often in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

That concentration - and the fact that many infections appear on the buttocks and the genital region - is leading researchers to suggest that MDR staph is being spread through sexual contact. That leads some to worry this new infection could stigmatize gay men once again.

"We are worried about the fact that this could be taken to mean that this is another gay man plague," epidemiologist Binh An Diep says. "This is really not what we want to push forth here. I think there's a message of hope - that just soap and water is the best defense against community-acquired MRSA infection."

[Read the full story . . .](#)

### More Resources

- **Listen** to an excerpt from [Talk of the Nation](#), January 16, 2008 - NPR's Health Editor Joe Neel discusses prevalence, symptoms, prevention, treatment, and answers listener questions.
- **Read** a [Q&A on Drug-Resistant Staph Infections](#).

## Rock the GLBT Vote in 2008

With the [California Presidential Primary Election](#) right around the



corner (Tuesday, February 5, 2008) we offer some resources for the 2008 election on GLBT issues and where Presidential hopefuls stand on them.

Primaries offer a unique opportunity for GLBT voters to speak decisively. Races are strictly partisan, reducing the possibility that conservative and liberal GLBT voters will cancel each other out. And turnout is low, thus increasing the weight of each ballot.

### **2008 Presidential Candidates: Where do they stand on GLBT issues?**

- [National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Report](#): Comprehensive analysis of 2008 presidential candidates' positions on LGBT issues.
- [USA Today: Presidential candidates on gay civil rights](#)
- Watch [video clips of candidates on Gay Marriage](#) from the [Visible Vote '08 Presidential Forum](#) hosted by the LOGO Channel in August 2007.

### **Perspectives and Opinions**

- [Who 'counts' in the GLBT community?](#)  
(*San Francisco Bay Times, December 6, 2007*) Just who "counts" when we say "gay" or "GLB" or even "GLBT"? And if we can't decide who we are, how do we know what "we" want from our movement?
- [Taking Stock of This Gay Election](#)  
(*Advocate.com, January 8, 2008*) Clinton, Edwards, and Obama all reached out to the community in different ways, leaving gay activists to choose which candidate's approach will produce results for LGBT equality.
- [Change? What Change?: The Primaries from a Gay Perspective](#)  
(*Huffingtonpost.com, January 15, 2008*) This is a critical election and in the long run, we will vote for the candidate we think will best run the country and eventually help us achieve full equality. But for now, it is only in the voting booth where LGBT people are full -- not second class -- American citizens. [More bloggers on Gay Rights at Huffingtonpost.com](#)

**"Expression Not Suppression" - Free Conference for LGBTQI and Straight Ally Youth on Feb. 9 in**

## Fresno

*Gay-Straight Alliance Network partnered  
with Community Link present ...*

**Expression Not  
Suppression**

### "Expression Not Suppression"

A FREE conference for LGBTQI and Straight Ally youth, ages 14-23, with two very exciting keynote speakers, informative workshops and literature, time to mix-it-up with local activists, an impressive drag show and an amazing Freedom to Marry Dance Party to end the day!!!



This **FREE event** will be held on Saturday, February 9th from 12am to 9:30pm (includes snacks and dinner).

Workshops include:

**Safe Sex**  
**How to Do Drag**  
**Trans 101**  
**Understanding Sex and Spirituality**  
**Queer Activism After High School**  
**Your role in Changing the Political Climate**  
**Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships**  
**Feel Yourself**  
**Coming OUT at home, school, work and church**  
**Queer People of Color**  
**Queer History of Fresno**

The location of the event is 2131 N Van Ness Blvd, Fresno, 93704

If you'd like more info or would like to help with planning, please call 559-268-2780 or email [robin@gsanetwork.org](mailto:robin@gsanetwork.org)

Join us in our fight to eradicate homophobia and transphobia in schools across the Central Valley and beyond!!!

**All interested youth should register at [www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org) after 1/14/08**

The SPC facility is open Wednesday through Saturday from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

*The mission of the Stanislaus PRIDE Center is to provide resources to strengthen and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties."*

The SPC has three areas of focus: Culture and Community; Education and Information; Health and Wellness. PRIDE stands for "People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Education".

SPC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Federal tax ID 20-2676088.

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