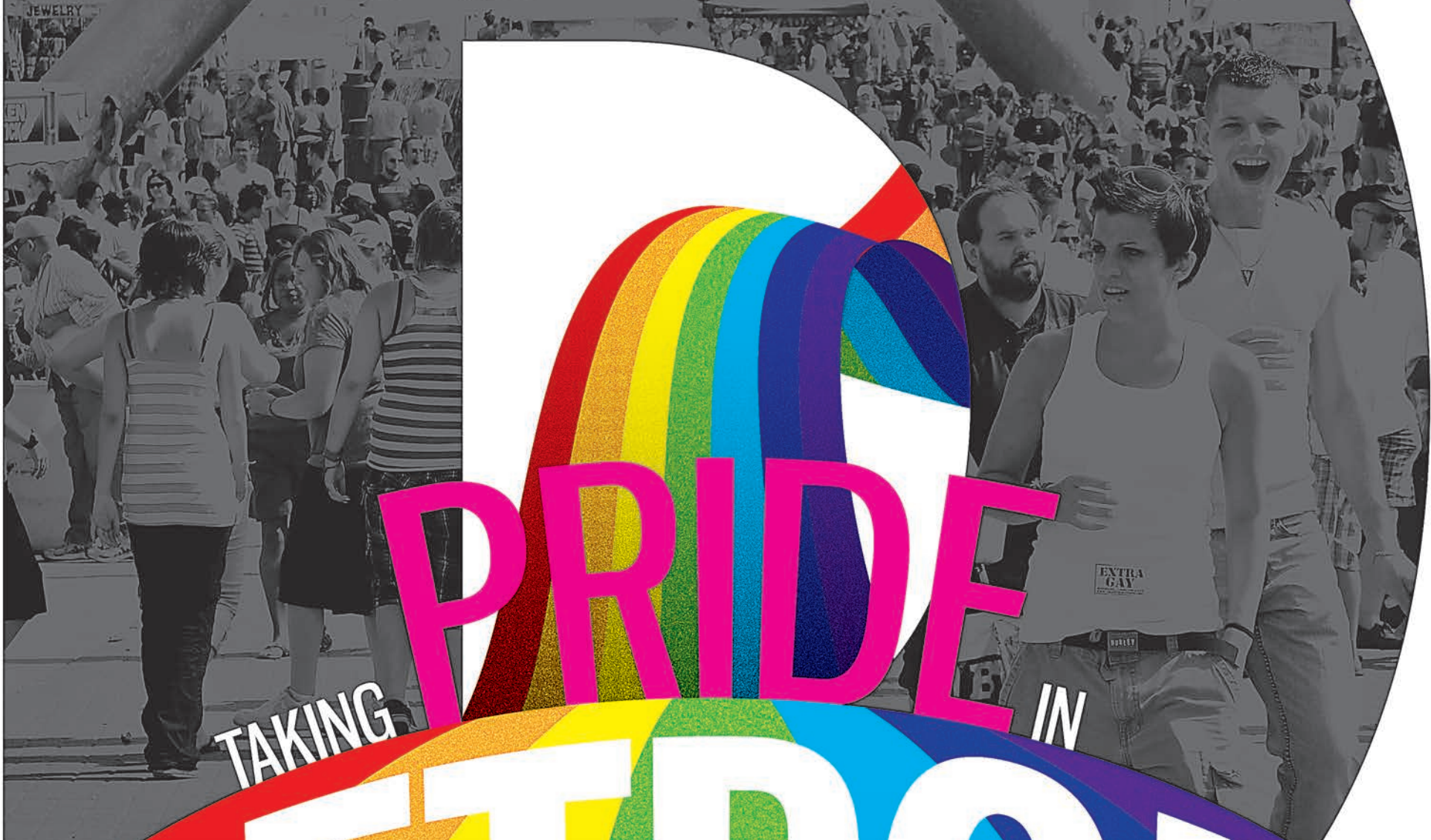


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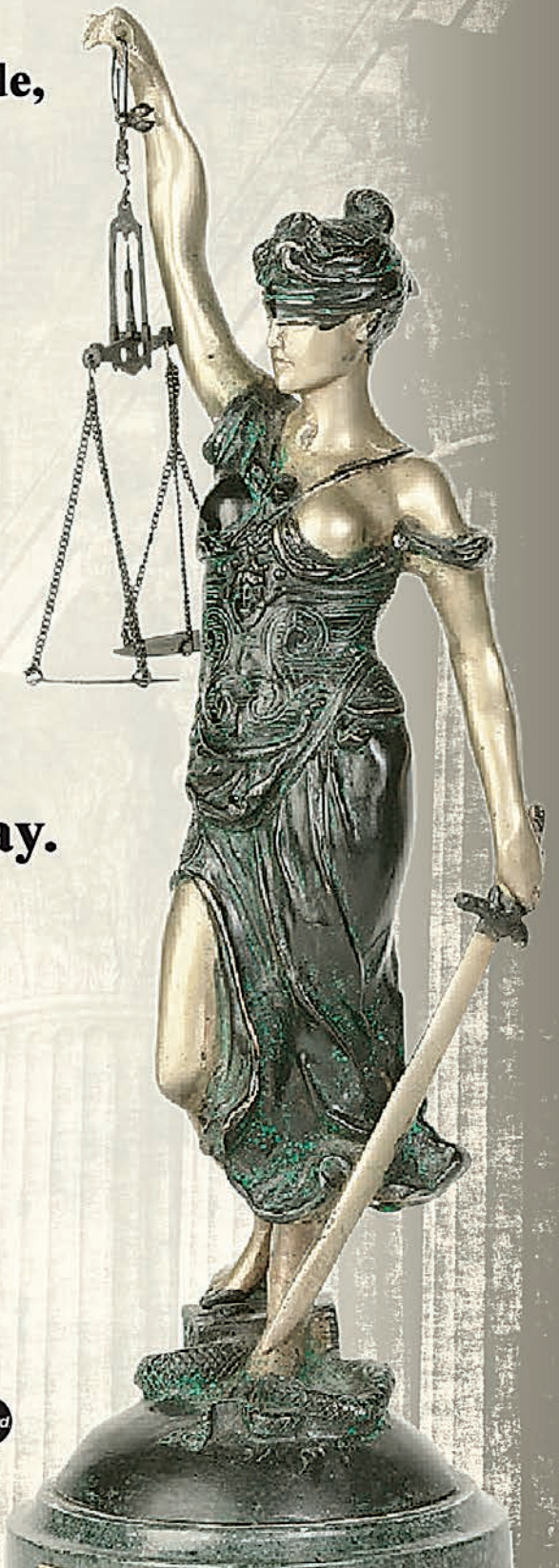
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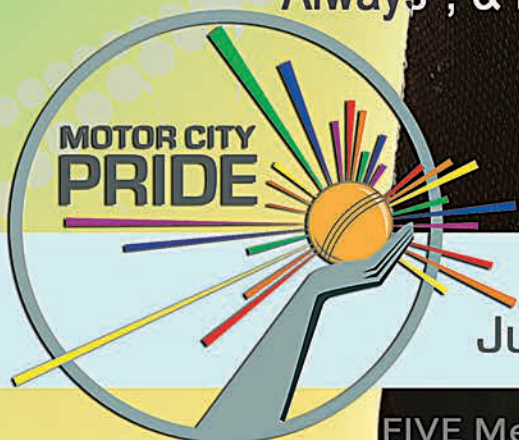
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MOTOR CITY PRIDE GUIDE

Pride Guide Table of Contents on pg. 9

NEWS

- 28 Ferndale Pride kicks off Pride month
- 30 Snyder encourages legislature amend civil rights law
- 31 ACLU asks court to order state to recognize LGBT marriages
- 32 Gallup Poll sees rise in LGBT acceptability
- 35 Four seek to bring LGBT representation to Michigan
- 42 James Pascoe dies at 77
- 46 Building an equality database
- 48 Greg Grobis calls Detroit and Holland home

OPINION

- 9 Viewpoint
- 46 Creep of the Week
- 49 Parting Glances

LIFE

- 50 The man behind the beard
- 53 No checkmate for this 'Red King'
- 56 Hear Me Out: Mariah Carey
- 58 Happenings
- 58 Puzzle
- 62 Reconciling in Christ
- 65 Woodward wildflowers
- 72 Classifieds

“Part of the reason I’m in theater and I enjoy teaching at UDM is I really believe we have to fight for justice for everyone. Everyone deserves justice. That’s a core value of why I enjoy working at UDM and Hope. I think we share those values, and we share those values inside the art we produce.”

– Greg Grobis, pg. 48



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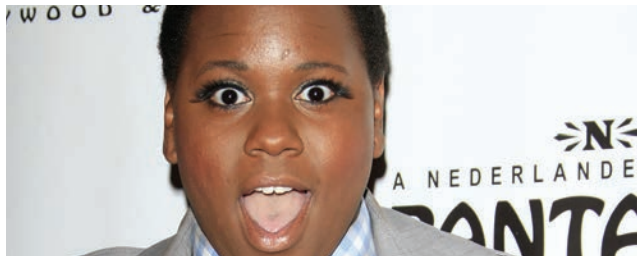
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MOTOR CITY PRIDE TABLE OF CONTENTS



11 ELECTRIC BELL

How an '80s icon changed the gay community forever



18 THE UNSTOPPABLE ALEX NEWELL

'Glee' star on being a diva, playing Pride & Bill O'Reilly



21 SUMMER PRIDE CALENDAR



22 THE QUEENS OF YPSILANTI

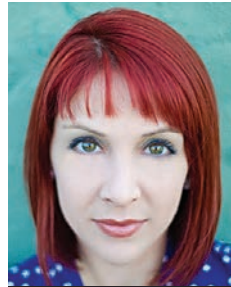
Boylesque makes Motor City Pride debut



26 RINGWALD QUEERS UP SUMMER WITH GAY PLAY SERIES

Returns for fifth fabulous year

Inevitable Equality – With All Of Your Help



BY EMILY DIEVENDORF

This is PRIDE. Have you checked the score lately? We are winning hearts and minds. Winning the argument. People are coming to know us and stand with us. We are working on several fronts at the same time. We're teaching and changing the landscape. Michigan has now seen over 300 couples tie the knot and we are experiencing real movement on winning marriage equality for the long term. The Governor is asking legislative leadership to put amending our state civil rights act to include protections for the LGBT community on the legislative agenda before the end of the year. We have debuted a statewide public education campaign, Michigan for Marriage, to tell our stories of why marriage equality matters. This is a great time to breathe, for ten seconds only.

Tag back in, because I've noticed something. Beaming grins that are full of hope and awe and relief report that equality is...INEVITABLE. First, feel that joy and know that it is rightfully ours to own. Second, throw up the Red Flag.

Remember, in these moments of assumed inevitability, the great weight of our choices, the intrinsic value of every moment, and the damage that comes with stagnation. When we interpret that sense of inevitability as a ticket to ride we become dangerous because in LGBT social justice the battle we are fighting to win isn't to gain something shiny and new to compliment a whole. We are fighting for our lives. We are working every day to fill a void that unfilled is harm perpetuated, a wound enflamed and casualties multiplied.

In ancient Greece there was a soldier and student of Socrates named Xenophon. A huge army was pursuing

Xenophon and in a strategic decision he chose to march his own army to spot where they would be backed up to a cliff. His soldiers questioned this choice but Xenophon assured them that the approaching army would know them to be formidable because they now had no choice but to fight to the death. The LGBT communities don't have to look far to find our cliffs, our reasons to pour heart and energy into winning equality and fairness in our state, because our cliffs are our lives as is. Our cliffs are continuing to be denied the ability to give loving homes to the thousands of kids in Michigan's foster care system, getting fired for who we love or for just expressing our gender in a way our employer doesn't like, getting harassed or assaulted or murdered

attending the weddings that happened on Saturday, March 22. Make no mistake, it was no accident and there was no one person behind it. For that one day of beauty and love to happen we needed the DeBoer-Rowse family and their legal team, Equality Michigan, Affirmations, Inclusive Justice, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion, Michigan UU Social Justice Network, National ACLU, GLAD, Freedom to Marry, four county clerks and many others. Those engaged in making March 22 happen had no other option, because not finding a way for fairness and love if and when a window opened up for Michigan couples was the unfathomable drop to the rocks that wasn't even a choice.

Author E.M. Forster once wrote,

“The part that may be missing is you. Equality is inevitable only if you accept inevitable as eventual and when stopping harm to our families is the end goal; “eventually” is not an option. We have no choice but to fight for our lives, to join the effort and to take the LGBT communities both far and fast together.”

because of our sexual orientation or gender identity, getting bullied in school because of who we are, or getting treated like a criminal because of our HIV status.

There is an African proverb that says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Michigan's LGBT movement has figured out that we cannot wait to address discrimination in bolder ways than ever before. Beyond that sense of urgency the movement is also doing something else that is rarely seen by the public and is hardly ever recognized – it is learning to come together as a coordinated, cohesive organism for change that is empowered by complementary parts. This regrouping has made our movement a machine that is healing itself.

Many of you had the privilege of

“There's never any knowing - how am I to put it? - which of our actions, which of our idlenesses won't have things hanging on it forever.”

The part that may be missing is you. Equality is inevitable only if you accept inevitable as eventual and when stopping harm to our families is the end goal; “eventually” is not an option. We have no choice but to fight for our lives, to join the effort and to take the LGBT communities both far and fast together.

This week, join Equality Michigan, with Pride, in celebrating the immense progress we are making together. By next June let's have given the movement a hundred reasons to be even Prouder. Welcome to Motor City Pride 2014!

Emily Dievendorf is Executive Director of Equality Michigan. She can be reached at emily@equalitymi.org

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There are no barriers to cross. All I have in common with the uncontrollable and the insane and the evil I have surpassed. My pain is constant and sharp. I want no one to exact this world. I do not want a better world for anyone. This is my confusion. I don't want anyone to escape. I have no new knowledge of myself. This confession has meant nothing. My kind of trouble is me...Richard Rollins.

Paraphrased from the film American Psycho (2000)

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How An '80s Icon Changed The Gay Community Forever

BY CHRISTOPHER J. TREACY

I'll never forget the first time I saw Erasure perform. It was at The Ritz in NYC, 1987. I was 17 years old, and singer Andy Bell took the stage in what could only be described as a red rubber diaper. Any doubts I'd had about what he was up to suddenly vanished: Andy Bell was an unapologetic, flaming homosexual.

Up until that point, I wasn't quite sure. It was the '80s, after all. Though flamboyance characterized the look

of bands like Depeche Mode and Duran Duran, it was all ambiguous nonsense ... straight boys playing fey, sporting angular haircuts and marketing themselves as "possible" to anyone willing to stare. But Bell's voice always rang with a degree of authenticity that the others lacked. He was tripping off my gaydar, though I'd never heard that term and wasn't sure if I believed any such internal barometer actually existed.

There was something surreal about Andy Bell, and part of me couldn't believe that my hunch might actually

be accurate, that I wasn't wishfully imagining things. Was he for real?

Andy Bell helped me. He was a pioneer. He took one for the team. Nearly 30 years later, it's no longer that big of a deal when a pop star admits to being something other than heterosexual. But Bell, now 50, helped make that happen, so it makes perfect sense for him to be headlining Motor City Pride this year. Erasure has been a sturdy vehicle for Bell's instantly recognizable pipes, and musical partner-in-crime, Vince Clarke (Yaz,

MOTOR CITY PRIDE

Andy Bell

8 p.m. June 7
Pride Stage, Hart Plaza
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Depeche Mode), has been a most willing and tolerant fag hag.

Twenty-five million records sold worldwide and over 30 Top-40 hits in the UK is nothing to scoff at, but the first Erasure album, 1986's "Wonderland," wasn't initially

successful. Curiously, it wasn't until a year later that things began to pick up for the duo, which coincided with Bell's decision to turn up the volume on his image.

"I did worry a bit and was quite nervous at first," he says during our recent exchange. "Vince kind of guessed, but he thought it was cool, and the label didn't say anything. We were very lucky." But by the 1987 U.S. tour, he says, "I made a conscious effort to make it totally obvious and unapologetic."

See Andy Bell, page 16

What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozone, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John's wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

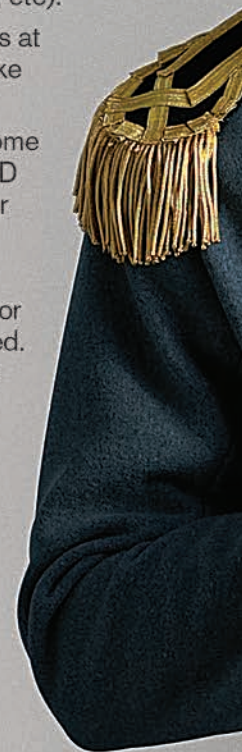
The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.





STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Atripla®, Combivir®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®, Truvada®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
 - bepridil hydrochloride (Vascor®, Bepadin®)
 - bosentan (Tracleer®)
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®)
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
 - colchicine (Colcrys®)
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium®)

- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- disopyramide (Norpace®)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

Issued: October 2013



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**West Michigan Pride Parade and Festival
June 14th, 2014 CALDER PLAZA**

Pride Parade noon-1:00pm • Pride Festival 1:00pm-10:00pm

► Andy Bell

Continued from p. 11

When Bell says Erasure was lucky, he's not kidding. They hit the jackpot, being signed to Sire in the States (Mute in the U.K.) – an eclectic label that had been acquired by Warner Bros. in the late '70s. Sire seemed to thrive on envelope-pushing artists, eventually signing Madonna. So if any label with major distribution would be comfortable with an openly gay front man, Sire was the one. That the group eventually became a financial boon has helped them hang onto a record deal longer than most of their synth-pop peers. But that's a double-edged sword: Erasure achieved success at a time when selling records was a viable source of income and touring costs were usually subsidized by the label, which has made transitioning to the new digital regime tough on both artist and audience.

"I don't think it will recover," Bell says of the current state of the music industry. "Artists have literally become 'artists' in their own right – we don't even own our own masters. So, all we can do is play live and make new recordings to try and keep people interested. You need to be very dedicated! Because of the onslaught of reality television and the lack of true quality music shows, it's very difficult to reach a new audience. Our original fans like to have hard copies, so it's challenging for us to cross into digital sales."

"We've never really been included in the mainstream rock press, either, which means I have to do thousands of local radio and gay press interviews with every project. It makes me wonder if people only buy what they've seen on television, which is very sad. Everything has become totally homogenized – it's fast food music. We have all become fast food products."

Over the years, Bell has had the distinction of being named an Ambassador for the Hetrick Martin Institute (i.e. Harvey Milk High School) in New York and has been given the keys to the city of San Francisco. Naturally, he's honored to headline at Pride. But he's also of two minds about the season and feels the community needs more outreach regarding addiction.

"It's a shame when the Pride celebrations start to become too big and commercialized, but it goes hand in hand with our own success," he says, noting that Pride in his native U.K. is exactly the same, but with an even heavier accent on drinking. "We have to pay for policing and cleaning up, etc. So the money has to come from somewhere. It is great to see the growth, but you can't help but feel nostalgic for the innocent, naive days. One thing I don't think we've really



ever addressed properly is drug use within the community. It kind of goes hand in hand with low self-esteem, and there's a sense of hedonism when you first come out that's so inviting. I think we push it to the back of our minds because we all just want to be beautiful and fabulous. The only places I've seen posters for help with Crystal Meth is either at the sexual health clinic or the entrance to a club. Young people find it very hard to listen to the likes of us elders, but maybe we should try reaching out a bit more."

With 15 full-length Erasure studio releases (their 16th, "The Violet Flame," is due Sept. 23), as well as several live sets and numerous EP's, the duo has run the gamut, from ABBA covers to Christmas music. But Bell isn't done yet. He's also put out two solo collections, "Electric Blue" (2005) and "Non-Stop" (2010), and would love to expand beyond synth-pop should he find the time.

"I still think the idea of an Erasure musical is a good one, but it wouldn't be a hits-fest," he says, as if the idea had been previously shot down. "It'd have to be some left-field story using some of our more beautiful songs as dialogue. Otherwise, I love the thought of a horror film with only Erasure as the soundtrack."


"Frankly, though, I get a bit fed up with releases being so scrunched up together," he continues. "If I could, I'd really like to take time out on something much more personal and less commercial – a few strings, torch songs and ballads, perhaps. I would like people to hear that my voice is very versatile, sweet and healing. I'd quite like to show so-called 'crooners' how it should be done ... properly."

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The Unstoppable Alex Newell

'Glee' Star On Being A Diva, Playing Pride & Bill O'Reilly

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Actor, singer, dancer – Alex Newell comes with a lot of labels. He's been called our next "Dreamgirl." A hero for the black transgender community. "Unique." And according to Bill O'Reilly, an advocate of gender confusion.

But Newell says, simply, he's "just Alex" – a boy from a modest gospel upbringing in Lynn, Mass., who likes to go out and get "turmed up" in stilettos.

"I feel like labels aren't as important as people like to think they are. Labels don't define a person," he says. "Who they are on the inside defines them – not who they are in the outside."

Labels aside, Newell – our celebrity guest at this year's annual Motor City Pride festival – is focused on living out loud through his music.

"The performance is going to be fun and exciting. Some Beyoncé may show up. Some Ariana Grande. Iggy Azalea. But at the end of the day it's going to be fabulous and amazing," says Newell of his many inspirations.

As Newell explains, we can all benefit from occasionally channeling our inner diva. He certainly has.

Living in Hollywood, Newell fits right in with the glitz and glam. He wears heels, wigs, sparkles and a "I do what I want" attitude.

"I'm a diva. I know that I am. I've always been a diva," Newell says. "It's perfectly fine. I laugh at myself before anyone else can laugh at me, and I get angry with myself before someone else can get angry with me. But then I also love myself before anyone else can love me."

He explains, "So no matter what people say, whether it be hateful, spiteful or loving, it doesn't affect me that much, or at all."

Though he didn't win Oxygen's "The Glee Project," a competition/audition for a role on Fox's "Glee," he certainly owned it, which explains why he became a standout star. "I was kind of the Jennifer Hudson of 'The Glee Project,'" Newell told Out.com.

Appearing during the third season of "Glee" as Wade "Unique" Adams, he was an instant fan favorite as a black gay male with a fierce alter ego, making him one of just a few transgender role models on TV. Although Newell is not transgender, he relates to Wade's uniqueness.

"I relate to my character in that we both give the same message and are true to ourselves," Newell says, explaining how he refuses to be boxed in.



Alex Newell headlines Pride on June 8. Photo: Ricky Middlesworth

MOTOR CITY PRIDE

Alex Newell

6 p.m. June 8
Pride Stage, Hart Plaza
1 Hart Plaza, Detroit
MotorCityPride.org

"I don't see myself as a black gay male. I see myself as Alex Newell," he says. "(I) don't label or categorize anyone. I feel like we are all people and that's what matters."

Recently signed to Atlantic Records, he's been busy working on an album since the earlier part of the year, which he says will be like pop and R&B "smashed together."

"A lot of throwbacking," he says. "Kind of like 'Good Vibrations' from the '90s."

But these days, it's not just about the album. It's about the album title too. Perhaps something along the lines of "Me. I Am Alex..."? Or "Unique"?

"It will never be 'Unique,'" Newell says, laughing. "I don't think I own the rights to

that name. I don't want to conform to just being my character all the time. I want to branch out, separate myself from the show and make my own name for myself, and just kind of breathe and grow up. It's time for the wings to come off."

While he does so, he won't let anyone rain on his parade. Speaking on Bill O'Reilly's claims that his "Glee" character contributes to gender confusion, Newell says, "For him to sit there and say things that are ignorant is just crazy – kids have been playing dress up since the beginning of time."

Adding that he avoids all media talk about him and his "Glee" character, he says, "You can sit there and live your life in front of a computer screen, letting other people judge your work, but I'm here to educate people and tell them what actual trans teenagers go through in high school. Like RuPaul, I try to send a message of loving yourself. You have to love yourself before you love anyone else."



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BTL Photos: Andrew Potter



Summer Pride Calendar

JUNE 6

Inaugural Gala

Presenting Organization: HAVEN
 Time: 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Detroit Troy Marriott, 200 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy
 Contact: <http://haven-oakland.maestroweb.com> or events@haven-oakland.org
 Tickets start at \$150

An event honoring HAVEN's long history of providing hope to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Cocktail attire.

JUNE 7

Bears in Speedos Carwash

Presenting Organization: Motor City Bears
 Time: 12 p.m.
 Location: Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
 Contact: www.meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears

Motor City Pride

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan
 Time: 2 p.m.
 Location: Hart Plaza, Detroit
 Contact: www.motorcitypride.com
 Tickets: \$5
 Featuring Andy Bell of Erasure

JUNE 8

Motor City Pride Parade

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan
 Time: 11 a.m.
 Location: Fort and Grisworld, Detroit
 Contact: www.motorcitypride.org

Motor City Pride Ride

Presenting Organization: Dykes on Bikes
 Contact: www.dykesonbikesdetroit.com
 Contact for more information or find them on Facebook

Motor City Pride

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan
 Time: 12 p.m.
 Location: Hart Plaza, Detroit
 Contact: www.motorcitypride.org
 Tickets: \$5
 Featuring Alex Newell from "Glee"

JUNE 13

Kalamazoo Pride

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC)
 Time: 5 p.m.
 Location: Arcadia Creek Festival Place, Kalamazoo
 Contact: www.kglrc.org/pride
 Tickets: \$7-10.
 Sponsored by Bell's Brewery. Featuring drag queens, Lady Bunny and Manila Luzon, DJ Matt Downey, ABBA Salute and more.

JUNE 14

Kalamazoo Pride

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC)
 Time: 1 p.m.
 Location: Arcadia Creek Festival Place, Kalamazoo
 Contact: www.kglrc.org/pride
 Tickets: \$7-10.
 Sponsored by Bell's Brewery. Featuring drag queens, Lady Bunny and Manila Luzon, DJ Matt Downey, ABBA Salute and more.

West Michigan Pride Festival

Presenting Organization: The LGBT

Pure Detroit, Detroit's culture shop since 1998, is showing its Motor City Pride by offering two free hour-long tours of downtown Detroit to showcase some of its storied past and gorgeous architecture, as well as some important local LGBTQ history. The tours will take place during Pride at 3 and 5 p.m. Saturday, June 7, launching from the MCP Information booth at the foot of Woodward in Hart Plaza.

Pure Detroit also offers free tours of the landmark Guardian and Fisher Buildings every Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Urban planner and Pure Detroit tour guide Michael Boettcher has been showing people around Detroit for more than 20 years. He'll lead the two Guardian tours as well as the afternoon's Pride tours. Come have fun learning more about Detroit and the LGBTQ community at the same time.

Network of West Michigan

Time: 1 p.m.
 Location: Calder Plaza, Grand Rapids
 Contact: www.grlgbt.org
 Pride Parade at 12 p.m. before festival.

JUNE 20-29

World Pride 2014

Presenting Organization: Pride Toronto
 Location: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

See Pride Calendar, page 23

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(From left) Chanel Hunter and Jadein Black

The Queens Of Ypsilanti Boylesque Makes Motor City Pride Debut

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

For local drag performers, Pride when you show the community what you've got. When you're one of the newest drag revues around, it's important you start sickening, leaving the crowd gagging. With their upcoming Motor City Pride debut performance, the queens of Boylesque plan to do just that.

Catch the girls of Boylesque at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. June 7 on the Festival Stage (in between, at 5 p.m., they'll also grace the Pride Stage). Still can't get enough Boylesque? Watch them as they put on a pre-Pride show at 9:30 p.m. the night before at Necto in Ann Arbor.

When Ypsilanti-based queen and Boylesque creator Chanel Hunter came up with the idea for the show in 2012, she saw an opportunity to make Ypsilanti as queer as its neighboring city, Ann Arbor.

"I felt like there was a hunger for drag here in Ypsi," Hunter says.

From the ease at which Boylesque went from merely an idea to spotlight realness, it appears she was right. Together with fellow queen and co-founding business partner Jadein Black, they set the wheels in motion. "We pitched it to a bar owner and, before you know it, we had a monthly standing invitation to perform."

MOTOR CITY PRIDE

Boylesque

3, 5 and 6:30 p.m. June 7
Pride / Festival Stages, Hart Plaza
1 Hart Plaza, Detroit
motorcitypride.org

From the very beginning, Boylesque was a hit, drawing up to 200 people for each of their monthly first-Sunday performances at Woodruff's in Ypsilanti.

"To draw 75 to 200 people on a Sunday night in Ypsilanti," she says, "that's a pretty good turn out."

Now that the Depot Town hotspot has shut its doors for good, they've found a new home in downtown Ypsilanti — the Tap Room. In just under two years, they've been able to amass a solid fan base and community support.

"We have a huge following of people who come out for every single show," Hunter says. "It's made us appreciate the town we live in. Boylesque is more than just another drag show; it's like a family here in Ypsilanti."

A family that just keeps growing. They've now added a second recurring Boylesque show at Necto in Ann Arbor. They also have a sister show, Detroit Divas, in Jackson.

With the success they've seen, Boylesque's classic drag party style and heavy audience inclusion is leaving spectators stunned, according to Hunter. "Boylesque is definitely about having fun and good times with friends and family in the community. Lots of good ol' fashion drinking and dancing."

It doesn't hurt, of course, that past shows have featured alum from "RuPaul's Drag Race," like Gia Gun, along with top Michigan talent like Stacey Cadet and title-snatching Kentucky-based queen Bianca Nicole.

For Boylesque's Pride gig, the roster looks to be just as hot. They'll be bringing in queens from all over the state, including some from Jackson and Port Huron. Along with Black and Hunter, expect to see Dominique Polo, Victoria Sanchez, Dazzle Dior, Porsha DelRay, Andi Drogenous and Ani Briated.

Understandly, it's a good time to be in Boylesque. For a troupe that hasn't even reached its second-year anniversary, Hunter is already thrilled by the troupe's success.

"I've got some really talented girls that people in Detroit don't usually get to see," she says. "We feel very thankful and blessed that we're being given the opportunity to be on such a giant platform."

Church Hosts Ice Cream Social For Rural Michigan LGBTQs

ARMADA - The Congregational United Church of Christ of Armada (Congregational UCC) will embrace and celebrate diversity this Saturday. LGBTQ people of rural areas of Macomb, St. Clair, Lapeer and other counties who are seeking a safe and welcoming place to worship and celebrate are invited to attend the upcoming event.

The congregation will host a "What's Your Preference" ice cream open house. The event is themed around God loving all his children, no matter their preference. The church's council president, Mike Ingram, says, "There will be many flavors of ice cream and toppings, just as there are many flavors of God's children. Everyone and anyone is welcome."

Armada's Congregational UCC has been faced with controversy in the past for having yard signs reading things like 'God loves me and I'm gay,' and 'God loves me and I'm divorced.'" Ingram notes, "This may not seem like a big deal, but to openly support our LGBTQ friends of all backgrounds is quite a leap for a small town like Armada."

The ice cream open house will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday, June 7 at Congregational UCC of Armada, 73966 S. Fulton, Armada. For more information, contact congucc@att.net, visit www.armadacongregational.com or find them on Facebook.

► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 21

JUNE 24

Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards Banquet

Presenting Organization: Perceptions and Equality Michigan

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Andersen Enrichment Center & Garden, 120 Ezra Rust Ave., Saginaw

Contact: www.equalitymi.org

The evening will include an appetizer reception; dinner and a Pride Program with presentation of Awards.

JUNE 25-28

Shore to Shore Equality Ride

Presenting Organization: Affirmations

Location: Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale to Saugatuck

Contact: www.goaffirmations.org

The Equality Ride is a four-day bicycle adventure that will start in Ferndale and conclude with a closing ceremony in Saugatuck.

JUNE 27-30

World Pride Toronto Ride

Presenting Organization: Dykes on Bikes

Location: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Contact: www.dykesonbikesdetroit.com

JUNE 28

Holland Area Pride

Presenting Organization: Holland Pride

Location: The Grounds of Centennial Park and Park Theater, Holland

Contact: www.hollandareapride.com

Headlined by comedienne Jennie McNulty

JUNE 28

Flint Pride in the Park

Presenting Organization: Flint Gay Pride Society

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: Pavilion Rink & Adjacent Riverfront Park, Flint

Contact: www.facebook.com/flintgaypride

Suggested Donation \$5

JULY 18-20

Windover Ride

Presenting Organization: Dykes on Bikes

Location: Windover Camp Ground

Contact: www.dykesonbikesdetroit.com

Women's only camp ground. Fees apply.

JULY 22

Candlelight Vigil

Presenting Organization: KICK

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or hotterthanjuly.org

Part of Hotter Than July

JULY 23

Boat Ride

Presenting Organization: KICK

Time: 6:10 p.m.

Location: Rivard Plaza, Downtown Detroit Riverwalk, Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or hotterthanjuly.org

Tickets: \$55

Part of Hotter Than July

JULY 24

Film Festival

Presenting Organization: KICK

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Cass City Cinema, 3420 Cass Ave., Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or hotterthanjuly.org

See Pride Calendar, page 24

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► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 23

Tickets: \$20

Part of Hotter Than July

JULY 25

Annual Gathering on LGBTQ

Issues

Presenting Organization: KICK

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: Michigan State University, 4707 St. Antoine St., Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or hotterthanjuly.org

Free with Required Registration

Part of Hotter Than July

Friday Night Event

Presenting Organization: KICK

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: TBD

Contact: 313-285-9733 or hotterthanjuly.org

Part of Hotter Than July.

JULY 26

Palmer Park Picnic

Presenting Organization: KICK

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Palmer Park, Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or hotterthanjuly.org

Part of Hotter Than July.

JULY 27

Worship Service

Presenting Organization: KICK

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: WHOSOEVER Ministry, 2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Contact: 313-285-9733 or hotterthanjuly.org

Part of Hotter Than July

Sunday Brunch

Presenting Organization: KICK

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: TBD

Contact: 313-285-9733 or hotterthanjuly.org

Tickets: \$50-90

Part of Hotter Than July

AUG. 9

Transgender Picnic in the Park

Presenting Organization: Transgender Michigan

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Donald Red Geary Park, Ferndale

Location: Meet at Affirmations, Ferndale

Contact: www.dykesonbikesdetroit.com

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Michigan Pride Festival

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Old Town, 206 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing

Contact: www.michiganpride.org

Michigan-based musicians, food, games, crafts and more. All ages welcome.

March to the Capitol

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 12 p.m. Set-Up

Location: 200 N. Grand Ave., Lansing

Contact: www.michiganpride.org

The March will be held rain or shine and should last approximately 30 minutes.

Commitment Ceremony

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: State Capitol Steps, Lansing

Contact: www.michiganpride.org

Rev. Kent Lederer of Unity of Greater Lansing will lead a group-style commitment ceremony in which couples will receive a certificate following the ceremony

Rally at the Capitol

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: State Capitol, Lansing

Contact: www.michiganpride.org

Michigan Pride's Capitol Rally will celebrate the LGBTQ community's progress in achieving civil rights and uniting against housing, workplace and marriage discrimination.

Hotter Than July: Detroit's Black Gay Pride Celebrates 19 Years Next Month

It's year 19 and the theme is Happy Together. KICK, the Agency for LGBT African Americans, which produces the annual week-long celebration, has been holding Hotter Than July planning committee meetings since January.

"It's still unique as the only black Pride that's a multi-day event that isn't just focused on parties," said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of KICK. "We've now rebranded as a social justice rally. We're addressing issues around employment, health and education and changing laws. This year we are working on LGBT health data collection, charting African Americans around their health. And we're also collecting more petitions for the Elliot Larsen Act."

KICK has also expanded their LGBT in the D visibility campaign.

"We will have three billboards up during the month of July that highlight Southeastern Michigan residents and the HTJ activities," Lipscomb said.

KICK is already looking ahead toward HTJ's big anniversary next year.

"We're really excited about the 20th anniversary next year," said Lipscomb. "We already have our thumbprint on that. We're very excited about what that looks like."

To get involved in planning this year's HTJ – or next year's, for that matter – email Detroit@e-kick.org. See the Pride Calendar for the week's events.

– Jason A. Michael



BTL Photos: Jason A. Michael



AUG. 8-10

Windsor-Essex Pride Fest

Presenting Organization: Windsor Pride

Location: Riverfront Festival Plaza, Downtown Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Contact: www.wepridefest.com

Contact: 855-345-TGMI or transgendermichigan.org

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AUG. 17

Cement City Ride

Presenting Organization: Dykes on Bikes Detroit

Time: 10:45 a.m.

AUG. 22-23

White Party

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Old Town, Lansing

Contact: www.michiganpride.org

Tickets: \$10

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One of this year's GPS events features "Shrew," Slipstream Theatre Initiative's all-male take on William Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" featuring (left to right) Miles Bond, Brenton Herwat, Bailey Boudreau and Steve Xander Carson. Photo: Brandy Joe Plambeck.

Ringwald Queers Up Summer With Gay Play Series

The fifth installment of The Ringwald's wildly popular Gay Play Series returns for a special anniversary edition featuring a slate of one-act plays by all-Detroit playwrights. GPS will run for two weekends, June 20-June 30, at The Ringwald Theatre in downtown Ferndale.

The 2014 GPS will kick off at 8 p.m. June 20 with a special screening of audience favorite "Southern Baptist Sissies - The Movie!" Filmed live last year in Los Angeles and featuring Emmy Award winner Leslie Jordan and Willam Belli (of "RuPaul's Drag Race" fame), Del Shores' "Southern Baptist Sissies" has played The Ringwald three times over the past seven years, always to great acclaim. The theater is thrilled to be able to screen the movie for the opening night kickoff.

The original One Act Festival will kick into gear on June 21 and will repeat June 22, 28 and 29.

Artistic director Joe Bailey said, "Of all the submissions received this year, the best were from our own hometown. So it made sense, for the fifth anniversary of GPS, to celebrate the talent here and to make it a complete Detroit playwright lineup."

The 2014 One Acts are:

- "Make Room for Stu" by Bitch and Fag (Tara Rase & Mark Sobolewski)
- "The Shelter" by Josh Campos
- "Let Go, Larry" by Jeff Mansk
- "The Choice" by Dave Davies
- "Monster" by Mike McGettigan
- "At the Food Court" by Kim Carney

- "Who's on Dick?" by Marty Shea
- "Mom is so GLAAD" by Margaret Edwartowski

As always, audience members will vote for their favorite script. The winning script will receive an additional performance at the closing ceremonies at 8 p.m. June 24. Audience members will also be asked to vote for a favorite performances and director.

Also, as part of the festival, Monday, June 23 brings to The Ringwald stage the newest Shakespeare outing from Slipstream Theatre Initiative: "Shrew." On the heels of its successful all-male production of "Twelfth Night," Slipstream is at it again, this time tackling Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew." Using an all-male cast, Slipstream is creating the play in a world of dominance vs. submission, where it is not a battle of the sexes, but a battle for control in general.

Using an S&M theme and taking advantage of the adaptable space of The Ringwald stage, this production of "Shrew" is a bit unlike any you've seen before. The question you'll be asking yourself is not "was she really tamed?" but rather "where did they get all that bondage gear?!" The cast features Steve Xander Carson, Alexander H. Trice, Miles Bond, Emilio Rodriguez, Dick Ward, Ryan Ernst, Michael Lopetrone, Bailey Boudreau, Brenton Herwat and newcomer Michael Soave, with direction and costume design by Boudreau. The play has been sliced

from its standard three hours to a mere hour and 15 minutes and will be sure to have you seeing the Bard in a whole new way: in leather and lace.

Friday, June 27 at 8 p.m. marks the return of hometown hero Vince Kelley in an all-new concert, "Pop Tart!" Enjoy the vocal stylings of Kelley as he works his way through an all-pop concert featuring songs by Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry, Britney Spears, and many more. This will mark Kelley's first Detroit appearance since moving to New York City last year.

Saturday, June 28 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 29 at 3 p.m. will feature all eight one-act plays both days.

The festival will conclude at 8 p.m. Monday, June 30 with the awards ceremony, a repeat performance of the audience-voted favorite one act, and a fierce lip-sync battle, "Lip Sync for Your Life." This promises to be an evening of awesome lip-synced performances wherein participants will, almost-but-not-quite-literally-lip sync for their lives!

Admission to individual events during this year's GPS will be \$10 per event. A \$30 All Pass (which gets you into all events during both weekends) will also be available.

Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theater box office. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances; tickets can be purchased with cash, Visa or Mastercard.

The Ringwald Theatre is located at 22742 Woodward Avenue in the Times Square of downtown Ferndale.



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Ferndale Pride Kicks Off Pride Month 2014

BY AJ TRAGER

FERNDALE – There couldn't have been more perfect weather for Ferndale Pride this past Saturday. It was hot, really hot, both the weather and the people. Celebrations lasted all day and well into the evening. There were hula hoopers and Queens of Drag, beer and booths aplenty and a main stage ripe with energy that kept Pride attendees dancing all throughout the scorching day.

Over 80 different organizations came out to show their support for the LGBT community passing out the usual stickers, informational pamphlets, pens and, of course, plenty of condoms and safe sex packets. Among the list of participants were Transgender Michigan, Dykes on Bikes Detroit, Mr. Friendly, Allstate, GLSEN, Motor City Bears and AIDS Walk Detroit/HELP just to name a few.

Starting off the festivities was the Rainbow Run 5K before the opening ceremony at 1 p.m. Participants could be seen all day sporting heavy coats of pink, orange, blue and green, saturated from head to toe and really showing their LGBT support. Bride Stripped Bare took the stage just after 1:30 p.m. and it was all glam until sundown.

It was also the first day of Affirmations' Ally Rush Week and things looked to be going quite well, the Center was rocking it all day. If you saw somebody in a black shirt that said "Peer Educator," you ran into the Affirmations street team. They had loud horns and enthusiastic stickers that said "EXTRA QUEER," "EXTRA BI," "EXTRA TRANS," OR "EXTRA ALLY," and a photo stand to get your pic taken next to the hard working Affirmations team.

"Well it's the first day of Ally Rush Week and it's going really well," Director of Communications Cass Varner said. She was standing outside with Director of Development Angela Gabridge, manning the photo station.

"Yeah, turnout so far has been great," Gabridge said. "This is going to be a great week for allies."

Around 4 p.m. the humidity reached a peak while the Wedding and Commitment Ceremony came to a close. But Pride kept on going with the same ferocity it brought at the beginning of the day.

John Cox, Mark Queentry and Blake Scheer were there with their friends, refreshments in



Left to right: Jessica Roshek, Kathy Adamek, Pam Kwiatkowski and Michell Reeve after the Rainbow Run.



Mr. Friendly Team BTL photo: AJ Trager

hand, sunglasses on their faces. They've been coming to Ferndale Pride for years and live right around the corner from Nine Mile and Woodward. This past March, Scheer married his longtime partner.

"We got married March 22. So we're legal," Scheer said with a smile.

"I was there and got the marriage license and I think it was about an hour after that, they were like 'no,'" Scheer frowned. "People are just tired of it (the marriage ban), and they want to be out here and show their support and be seen. And they want to show that, you know what, love is love and I think it definitely helps."

Collectively they all thought Pride was bigger this year and better than the last. And they want to see it continue to grow.

"It seems like more people are out and about. Seems to be more festive, and not having the beer garden thing doesn't seem

to be a big deal. And it's a beautiful day," Queentry said. "It's a beautiful day in Ferndale."

"There's definitely more people. More booths. And I think the overall vibe is a lot better, too. With the (marriage) ruling and everything that we're kinda waiting on, I think a lot of people are out here to show their support," Cox said. "I want to see it keep getting bigger. Ferndale Pride back to where it was. Expand."

And what are they doing after pride? "Well, that's a personal question," Cox joked. But they do plan to barbeque and continue their Pride celebrations.

Walking past Rosie O'Grady's was a couple holding hands and pointing at a cutie in a rainbow tutu. A sign on Lashae Wright's shirt read, "I'm with her" and had an arrow pointing towards Simone Brown who had the same sign, "I'm with her." This was their first Pride and they found the experience to be fun and really different.

"I like the environment. It seems open. I like how they make you feel comfortable," Wright said.

They were both surprised at the amount of religion-oriented booths and would like to see less of those in the future. The two plan on attending Motor City Pride next week and are ready to see how different Pride looks in the big city.

When BTL met up with Rachel Weisserman and her friend and Pride virgin Kasenia Malkin, they were petting one of the many pups that came out to Ferndale to show their LGBT support. Weisserman had a purple tank on with a rainbow necklace whereas Malkin was all color in a floral dress.



LaShae Wright and Simone Brown. BTL photo: AJ Trager



"I'm loving it. Really enjoying people watching," Weisserman said. "Being in a place where I know everybody is going to be queer or queer friendly or something like that, it's nice to be the majority for once. For one day. So I love that."

Malkin told BTL that she was still getting her sea legs for the "whole Pride thing" but she was excited and having a blast. The two would like to see more interactive activities added to the event schedule for next year, some kind of mixer or game to get attendees interacting.

Pride might be fabulous but, with the recent decision on gay marriage in Michigan, the push for equality was on everybody's radar.

"I've seen a lot of people who are very much pushing the marriage idea. I think now that it happened for a while people are more committed to it than ever. I think getting that taste made people see that it was possible. I think it's just going to encourage people to fight for their rights," Weisserman said.

"Everybody here is beautiful," Weisserman added.

"She actually stole my comment. I was going to say everybody here is sexy," Malkin laughed.

If you weren't there you missed out. But Pride isn't over yet for Metro Detroit. Motor City Pride happens this weekend, downtown Detroit in Hart Plaza.

For more pictures of Ferndale Pride and to see more stories visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ferndalepride?fref=ts>



Nikk Selik was one of the speakers at the rally. BTL photo: Paulette Niemiec

Time Right For Transgender Rally At Ferndale Pride

BY PAULETTE NIEMIEC

The time was right. In fact, the time couldn't have been any more perfect than now for a rally for transgender rights at Ferndale Pride in downtown Ferndale last Saturday. The first ever Pride rally for transgender rights, sponsored by Transgender Michigan, came one day after Laverne Cox made history as the first transgender woman on the cover of TIME magazine, and people were excited.

"This is the time for transgender rights, right now!" screamed Rachel Crandall-Crocker, founder of the well known organization which gives support and provides counseling and resources for those who consider themselves to be gender non-conforming. Crandall-Crocker started the rally at 6:05 p.m. on the main stage located near Woodward Ave. A crowd of approximately 100 people gathered to hear speeches given by Crandal-Crocker and two others who wanted to rouse up support for the transgender community.

"When I came out as transsexual at work, I got fired because they didn't want a transsexual. Nobody would hire me. I was pissed. I was real pissed," yelled Crandall-Crocker who explained to those in attendance, "I was so angry, I decided to found Transgender Michigan and help others like myself who are suffering simply because of their gender identity."

Crandall-Crocker referenced Cox's appearance on the cover of TIME and the decision last week by Medicare to lift the 25-year ban on providing medical coverage for sexual reassignment surgery for the transgender population. The audience responded with rousing cheers and applause. With the crowd emotionally charged, she handed the microphone to Jay Elbrecht a trans-man, who along with his wife Carla Manion, attend transgender rallies and events all over southeastern Michigan to demonstrate support for the transgender community.

Standing on stage wearing a cowboy hat and waving the pink and white striped transgender flag, Elbrecht told the crowd, "It takes all of us to make this community." He urged the mostly gay and lesbian crowd, "Please don't throw the transgender (community) under the bus. We need to stand together so all of us can get the equal rights we need. We are a community that is united. Not divided!"

With people literally dancing in the street, shouting and yelling statements of support, Elbrecht turned things over to another trans-man, Nikk Selik. Selik, 25, continued to energize the already vocal crowd with emotional pleas to those

See Rally, page 45

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Second Parent Adoption Forum

The Federal Sixth Circuit Court in Cincinnati will be hearing arguments this summer not only on the right of Michigan same-sex couples to marry, but also on the right to adopt each others' children. Learn more about this issue, from both a legal and a personal perspective, at a Second Parent Adoptions forum June 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church located at 23925 Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

Speakers will include Jay Kaplan, attorney with Michigan ACLU's LGBT Legal Project and one of the litigants in the federal appeals case; State Rep. Jeff Irwin, who introduced legislation to legalize second parent adoptions in Michigan and Jason and James, a couple married on March 22nd, the day after U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman struck down Michigan's ban on same sex marriage. Jason and James are parents of Nora, a one year old infant.

This event is sponsored by the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network and the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church. Register online at www.uujustice.org/conferenceregistration2.html or call Randy Block at 248-549-5170. Donations will be gratefully accepted to cover event expenses.

TROY

HAVEN Event Set To 'Raise The Roof'

Raise The Roof is HAVEN's inaugural gala which takes place June 6th at the Detroit Marriott Troy. This signature event will honor HAVEN's long history of serving victims of domestic and sexual violence and will kick-off the next chapter in the organization's history by celebrating the construction of their new facility and new way of servicing victims.

The event promises to be a glamorous, fun-filled evening that incorporates a seated dinner, silent/live auction and entertainment.

Registration opens at 6:30pm. Cocktail attire. Afterglow party doors open at 9 p.m. Individual tickets start at \$150. Visit <http://haven-oakland.maestroweb.com/> or contact Carrie Copeland at 248-322-3705 or events@haven-oakland.org.

DETROIT

Annual Gathering Of LGBT Issues Seeks Workshop Proposals

Hotter Than July, Detroit's annual African-American LGBTQ pride event and the nation's second oldest African-American LGBT social justice rally, is hosting the Annual Gathering of LGBTQ Issues conference this July. This year's theme is "Happy Together." The conference will provide the community and area youth with the history of LGBTQ African-Americans in Metro-Detroit. Focus will be on how the group has endured and achieved, with an emphasis on how "we are now, and how we plan to move forward."

Slots are still available for those interested in running a workshop at the event. Any interested in doing a workshop should review this year's mission and goals found at www.hotterthanjuly.com and contact Cornelius Wilson at 313-942-2803 or belcrest5440@yahoo.com.

The event will be held on Friday, July 25 at the Michigan State University-Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward Ave., Detroit. The conference is part of the week long Hotter Than July Pride Festival.

Extended briefs are available online at:
>> www.PrideSource.com

Snyder Encourages Legislature To Take Up Amending Civil Rights Law

BTL STAFF REPORT

MACKINAC ISLAND

— May 29, at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference, Gov. Rick Snyder came out in support of an amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) to include language on sexual orientation and gender identity protections.

"I don't believe in discrimination," Snyder said in an interview with Crain's Detroit Business writer Chris Gautz. "I hope that's something the legislature will take up sometime this year."

Changing the law will make it illegal for an employee to be denied employment or fired for being gay. It's been a long time coming. Currently the law prohibits employment, public accommodations, public services, education and housing discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, weight, height and arrest records but it doesn't include sexual orientation and gender identity protections.

House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) told the Detroit News that he welcomed the governor's stance. However, Bolger said he was still researching how to find a way to balance religious liberty issues with employment and housing protections for LGBT Michiganders.

"It's a difficult balance to strike, but it's an absolutely necessary balance to find," Bolger told the Detroit News.

MLive reported that Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville (R-Monroe) is interested in looking at amending the 30 year old law.

"The intent when it was created, I think, was to eliminate hatred and discriminating against somebody for something that has nothing to do with their job qualifications," Richardville said. "Sexual orientation has nothing to do with job qualifications, so I'd consider it. There may be other things we have to consider adding as well."

Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer of East Lansing welcomed Snyder's support Thursday in a backhanded way.

"I do not know if we have the business



community, the election year or an honest ideological progression to thank, but I am glad to see that the governor is finally on board with offering basic civil rights protections to all Michigan citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity," Whitmer said in a statement, noting Snyder has opposed domestic partner benefits for state employees and gay marital equality.

“Michigan’s business community is sending a very clear message about the importance of workforce diversity to our state’s future.”

- President and CEO of the Detroit Chamber, Sandy Baruah

The move comes weeks after business leaders launched an effort to push the legislature to pass the amendments.

Present at the policy conference were President and CEO of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Congress, Rick Baker and President and CEO of the Detroit Chamber, Sandy Baruah who both came out in support of changing the law. According to Crain's Detroit they announced that their chambers

were joining the Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition in advocating for a change in legislation.

"Michigan's business community is sending a very clear message about the importance of workforce diversity to our state's future," Baruah said in a statement. "We are in a global war for talent, and need the best and brightest workforce to compete in the 21st century economy, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. We are committed to a Michigan where all are free and welcome to contribute to our economic comeback."

The Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition and Business Leaders for Michigan spearhead the push to end employment discrimination. Other companies who have come out in support of the ELCRA amendment include: Chrysler Group LLC, Google, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Consumers Energy, Herman Miller, PDNOS, Steelcase, Strategic Staffing Solutions, Whirlpool Corp, Clark Hill PLC, Irwin Seating Company, Issue Media Group, Kellogg Company, Pfizer, Professional Property Management, Dow, AT&T and Slow's Bar BQ.

RESOURCE

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>> <http://dontchangeyourself.com>

ACLU Of Michigan Asks Court To Order State To Recognize LGBT Marriages

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – On May 22 the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan filed a motion for preliminary injunction asking the federal district court to require the State of Michigan to recognize the 300 LGBT marriages performed March 22. The couples were legally married after the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *DeBoer V. Snyder* declaring the Michigan Marriage Amendment was unconstitutional.

A few days after the *DeBoer V. Snyder* decision, Gov. Rick Snyder announced that the state would not recognize the marriages for purposes of providing state benefits that are afforded to married couples. His statement was followed by a response by the federal government that it would recognize the marriages for legal purposes.

A preliminary injunction is a request by one party in a lawsuit that prevents the other party from pursuing a course of conduct until the conclusion of a trial. The State of Michigan has until June 5 to file its initial answer to the lawsuit.

“At the heart of this case is the fundamental right of lawfully married couples to enjoy the benefits of marriage,” Jay Kaplan, staff

attorney for the ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project said. “The state cannot strip a married couple of recognition after it issues a valid marriage license.”

The trial in question is *Caspar v. Snyder*, the lawsuit filed by the ACLU of Michigan on April 14 on behalf of eight legally married couples whose rights were denied by the State of Michigan. The lawsuit argues that the state violated the couples due process and equal protection rights by refusing to recognize their lawful marriages.

Kaplan isn’t the only attorney representing the Caspar group. ACLU cooperating attorneys Julian Mortenson and Andrew Nickelhoff and ACLU attorneys Daniel Korobkin, Brooke Tucker, Michael J. Steinberg, John Knight and Kary Moss will also get their hands dirty in a fight for LGBT marriage equality.

The same type of thing is happening in Utah. The State of Utah had refused to recognize the legal marriages of same-sex couples after the State’s ban on marriage equality was struck down as unconstitutional.

However, last week a federal district court in Utah ordered the state to recognize those marriages in another ACLU case, holding that Utah’s invalidation of those marriages was unconstitutional.

Anti-Violence Report Shows Decline In Number Of Reporting Survivors

A More Tolerant Michigan The Reason

BY AJ TRAGER

A new report from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), titled *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate Violence in 2013*, shows a decline in reporting survivors for the second year in a row in Michigan. However, the decrease in reports is due in part to a reduction of Equality Michigan staff during the final quarter of 2013.

Michigan’s numbers remained similar to those found in the NCAVP national numbers. The majority of victims and survivors that identified as cisgender, gay and male all

decreased by a small amount. Women-identified victims and survivors remained steady, however, taking into consideration the reduced number of reports received in 2013, it actually meant the number of women-identified survivors and victims had increased.

The report broke the stats down by race and age as well. Reports received by survivors under the age of 30 remained similar year to year, decreasing only by five reports to 39; however, reports by survivors over the age of 30 years more than doubled from 22 in 2012 to 47 in 2013.

White survivors and victims accounted for

See *Anti-Violence Report*, page 36



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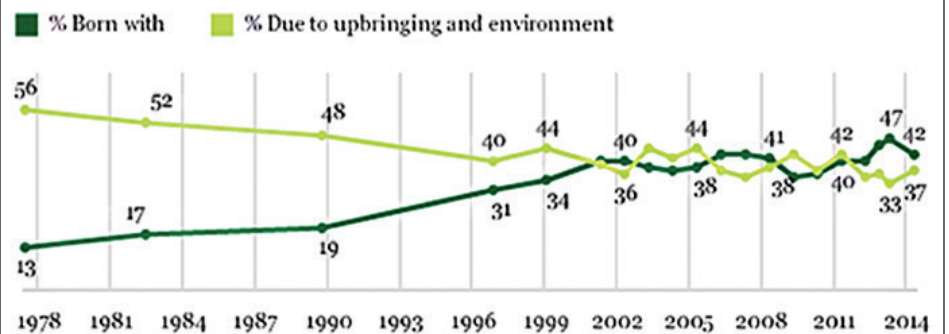
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1977-2008 wording: In your view, is homosexuality -- [ROTATED: something a person is born with, (or is homosexuality) due to factors such as upbringing and environment]?

New Gallup Poll Sees Rise In Moral Acceptability Of Gay And Lesbian Relations

BY LISA KEEN

Public opinion on same-sex relations has improved more dramatically than it has on any other controversial issue with strong moral sensibilities, according to data released May 30 by the Gallup Poll organization.

When asked to indicate, "Do you believe that, in general, the following are morally acceptable?" 58 percent said yes on "gay and lesbian relations." That's up from 18 points, from 40 percent in 2001, when the question was first asked. (And 40 percent in 2001 wasn't the lowest year for the issue. In 2002, moral acceptability of "gay and lesbian relations" was at 38.)

"The sharp rise in the share of the public viewing [gay and lesbian relations] as morally acceptable is unmatched by any of the other items on the Gallup survey," said Patrick Egan, a New York University professor of politics who specializes in public opinion and LGBT demographics. "This reflects broader positive movements in American public opinion on gay rights and gay people than we've been seeing over the past two decades."

Williams Institute Scholar Gary Gates notes that the Gallup findings on moral acceptability are consistent with the Gallup findings last week that 63 percent of Americans support allowing same-sex couples to adopt children and with the recent Gallup poll finding 55 percent support allowing same-sex couples to marry.

"The findings across these three polling questions suggest that Americans' growing support for same-sex relationships and families is not just confined to a sense of moral acceptability, but also translates into increasing support for formal legal equality," said Gates.

In the May 30 poll, "gay and lesbian relations" was one of 19 "moral issues" on which respondents were asked to weigh in. Its acceptability level (58 percent) matched that of buying and wearing fur, having a baby outside of marriage and (at 57 percent) medical testing on animals.

The issue that has seen the greatest improvement in public acceptability, after "gay and lesbian relations," is having a baby outside of marriage. It rose 16 points between 2001 and 2014. Sex between an unmarried man and woman rose 13 points in acceptability.

Of the 19 issues, birth control had the highest acceptability rating (90 percent), followed by divorce (69 percent) and sex between an unmarried man and woman (66 percent).

Married men and women having an affair ranked the lowest of 19 categories at seven percent, followed by cloning humans (13 percent) and polygamy (14 percent).

Public acceptability went down on only four issues: medical testing on animals (eight percent), the death penalty and wearing fur (two percent), and gambling (one percent).

See Gallup, next page

► Gallup

Continued from p. 32

Opinion about abortion went unchanged between 2001 and 2014, with 42 percent of the public saying it was acceptable.

Gallup has been conducting its “Values and Beliefs Poll” every May since 2001. This year’s poll was conducted by telephone on a random sample of 1,028 adults in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The margin of error is plus-or-minus four percentage points. The sample is weighted to match national demographics.

In the first four years of the survey, Gallup asked people about the moral acceptability of “homosexual behavior.” In those years, the response ran between 38 and 44 percent. For three years (2006-2008), it asked about “homosexual relations.” The response ran from 44 to 48 percent.

“The findings across these three polling questions suggest that Americans’ growing support for same-sex relationships and families is not just confined to a sense of moral acceptability, but also translates into increasing support for formal legal equality.”

- Williams Institute Scholar Gary Gates

Beginning in 2009, Gallup asked about “gay and lesbian relations.” The improvement between 2008 (48 percent) and 2009 (49 percent) was only one percentage point.

Egan noted that the term “gay and lesbian relations” is “definitely a vague” one. So some respondents might interpret it as sexual relations and some might interpret it as same-sex relationships.

“My sense is that respondents are

interpreting the item as an invitation to render moral judgment on gayness writ large,” he said.

The biggest one-year leap in improvement came in May 2003, when 44 percent of the public said “gay and lesbian relations” were morally acceptable, up six percentage points from the low of 38 percent. The second biggest leap came in May 2013, when it showed a five percent jump over the previous year. (The 2013 survey was completed two days before President Obama gave his nationally broadcast interview to ABC’s Robin Roberts, expressing his support for same-sex couples being able to marry.)

May 2013 was the high point in acceptance. Polling this year showed a one-percentage point decrease, to 58 percent. This year’s poll was conducted May 8 to 11, just as an Arkansas judge declared that state’s ban on same-sex couples marrying to be unconstitutional and national media attention was riveted to openly gay National Football League draftee Michael Sam sharing a kiss and hug with his boyfriend.

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Four Seek To Bring LGBT Representation To Michigan

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Reprinted courtesy of the Washington Blade

WASHINGTON DC - Michigan currently has no LGBT representation in its state legislature, but a quartet of gay candidates running for office is seeking to change that in the upcoming election.

The four out candidates running for seats in both the State House and Senate say their election would help enact pro-LGBT laws in a state that lacks any substantive protections for LGBT residents.

Rudy Serra, who served as a district judge in Michigan and is running to represent District 27 in the State House, said it'll take openly gay legislators like himself to advance non-discrimination protections - in addition to getting rid of bad laws.

"It's my understanding that there has never been a state that has added sexual orientation to its civil rights statute without at least one openly LGBT person in the legislature - ever," Serra said. "To the extent that that's true, Michigan still has a sodomy felony. We still have a gross indecent felony. We have all kinds of laws that were declared unconstitutional. We know they're obsolete, and the folks in the legislature still won't repeal them."

The four candidates spoke to the Washington Blade during a roundtable May 29 at the offices of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which has endorsed each of the contenders.

In addition to Serra, the other openly gay candidates running for office are Jon Hoadley, a gay Democratic activist and candidate to represent District 60 in the Michigan State House, Garnet Lewis, a board member for Northern Michigan University and candidate to represent District 32 in the Michigan State Senate and Jeremy Moss, a Southfield City Council member who's running to represent District 35 in the Michigan State House.

If even one of the candidates were elected, it would bring LGBT representation to the Michigan Legislature for the first time in seven years since former Rep. Chris Kolb was term-limited out of office.



Four openly gay Michigan candidates visited the Victory Fund in Washington, D.C. last week. From left Attorney Rudy Serra running for the District 27 for Michigan State House, Jon Hoadley, a gay Democratic activist and candidate to represent District 60 in the Michigan State House, Jeremy Moss, a Southfield City Council member who's running to represent District 35 in the Michigan State House, and Garnet Lewis, a board member for Northern Michigan University and candidate to represent District 32 in the Michigan State Senate. Photo courtesy of The Victory Fund.

On the agenda for the candidates is amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976, which prohibits discrimination based on employment, housing and public accommodations in Michigan, so that it includes protections for LGBT people.

Hoadley, former head of the now-defunct National Stonewall Democrats, said adding the voices of LGBT people to the legislation would be key in efforts to change the law.

"Folks, I think, have been really smart over the last few years at building a base of support in the faith community, at building the support at the local level, at having allies working with LGBT folks to tell stories about ordinances," Hoadley said. "Having LGBT folks in the legislature could be the final asset actually to get over the finish line."

Hoadley led efforts in 2009 to legalize at the ballot a LGBT non-discrimination ordinance in the City of Kalamazoo. Since that time, an additional 16 municipalities have added similar protections, making for a total of 33 in the state and extending protections to more than 368,000 people, he said.

Just this week, efforts to amend Elliott-Larsen to include LGBT people got a boost when Michigan Gov. Rick

Snyder encouraged the state legislature to take up such a proposal before the year's end.

"I don't believe in discrimination," Snyder told Crain's Detroit Business during the Mackinac Policy Conference in northern Michigan. "I hope that's something the legislature will take up sometime this year."

Still, Snyder assumes this new position as he and Attorney General Bill Schuette continue to defend Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage in court. They appealed a court decision that briefly granted marriage equality in Michigan to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and won't grant benefits to the more than 300 same-sex couples who wed in the state, even though the state recognizes them as legally married.

For Lewis, the administration's continued defense of the marriage law demonstrates that Snyder and Schuette are out of touch with Michigan and acting out of concern of the far right.

"It's really a moot point, in my opinion," Lewis said. "It's ridiculous for them to be wasting their time and energy to be appealing this. I strongly believe, and I know that we have the data to show, the majority of the folks in Michigan are



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See LGBT Representation, page 36



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► Anti-Violence Report

Continued from p. 31

the majority of reports made to the agency, totaling 58 percent. Black victims and survivors were the second largest reporting group at 19.75 percent. Latina survivors remained in the same margins as last year, with four reports. The Arab/Middle Eastern survivors increased by two reports and Asian/Pacific Islander survivors increased by one report.

Anti-transgender bias nearly doubled in 2013 from nine reported in 2012 to 17 reports last year. The vast majority of anti-transgender incidents reported were committed against transgender women - 14 of the 17 reported for the year - one of whom was brutally murdered and stuffed in a garbage dumpster. The NCAVP seeks to implement increased programming that aims to demythologize the trans experience and eliminate the root causes of violence as a way to combat anti-transgender violence around the country.

Predators And Social Media

Social media has played a role in the ways predators target LGBT people. There was a 50 percent increase of anti-HIV bias incidents from 2012, which generally entails outing someone's HIV status to coworkers, family, friends or the world via social media. HIV-shaming is highly invasive and is criminally punishable.

Predators have also been targeting gay men on "hook-up" sites with the intent to blackmail or to steal their identities. This past year Equality Michigan collaborated with local and federal authorities to bring justice to a youth survivor that was threatened, stalked, harassed and forced to perform sexual acts for the benefit of an online predator.

This past year Equality Michigan collaborated with local and federal authorities to bring justice to a youth survivor that was threatened, stalked, harassed and forced to perform sexual acts for the benefit of an online predator.

In the workplace LGBT people can be fired for being who they are and, as in previous years, harassment and discrimination by an employer and/or coworker remained steady at 29.8 percent of all known offenders. Second comes landlord and tenant incidents at 20.9 percent and acquaintance/friend reports at 17.9 percent of all known offenders.

In the year ahead, Equality Michigan will look to increase education of mainstream organizations, including law enforcement and service providers, target outreach to the most marginalized community members and continue to build collaborative relationships with Michigan community partners. But as the findings show, we have a long way to go.

The NCAVP works to prevent, respond to and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected communities. Read the whole report and get more information on the group, visit www.avp.org/about-avp/coalitions-a-collaborations/82-national-coalition-of-anti-violence-programs

► LGBT Representation

Continued from p. 35

supporting marriage equality now, so I see it as this kind of this nagging fear that some of these folks on the right have."

But it's not just LGBT issues that are of concern to the candidates. Other issues include raising the minimum wage and labor issues.

Moss, who served as LGBT director for an initiative to enshrine collective bargaining rights into the state constitution before legislation was passed making Michigan a "Right to Work" state, said labor and LGBT issues go hand-in-hand in the state.

"The only protections that the LGBT community does have because it's not enshrined in the constitution has been through collective bargaining," Moss said. "So we've been seeing a really growing coalition between the LGBT community and labor, which

obviously has a huge historic significance in Michigan in building the middle class. It's important to know that labor has partners in us, and vice-versa."

For Hoadley, it's important for everyone to be on board with rights for the LGBT community because those who remain opposed will be left behind as time goes on.

"For the generation that is as large as Baby Boomers, and will be the largest element of the consumer economy in 2015, being anti-gay just isn't cool," Hoadley said. "There are real consequences. People pay attention to that. For politicians staying on the wrong side of equality, there will be consequences to pay for that at the ballot box."

Chris Johnson is Chief Political & White House Reporter for the Washington Blade. Johnson attends the daily White House press briefings and is a member of the White House Correspondents' Association.

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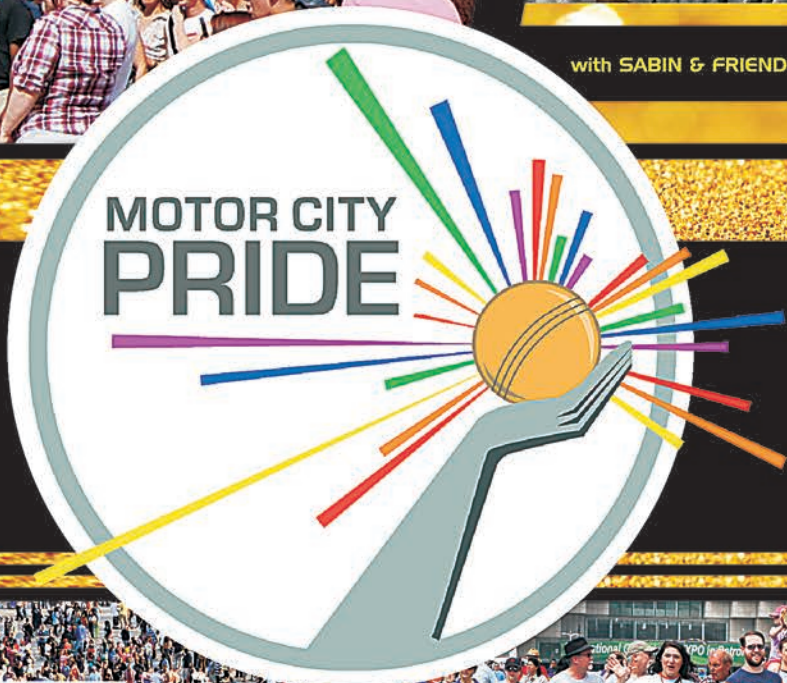
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2:00 PM	Wedding Ceremony
2:30 PM	Harvey Milk Stamp Presentation
3:00 PM	Little Animal
3:45 PM	Sabin & Friends
4:15 PM	The Infatuations
5:00 PM	Boylesque
5:30 PM	Mike Munich
6:15 PM	Sabin & Friends
6:45 PM	Tunde Olaniran
7:30 PM	Drag King Rebellion
8:00 PM	Andy Bell

Sunday, June 8, 2014

11:00 AM	House Mix
Noon	Parade Drag Review
1:00 PM	ArtLab J
1:30 PM	Sing Out Detroit
1:45 PM	Outerspaces
3:00 PM	Equality Michigan
3:30 PM	Killer Flamingos
4:45 PM	God Des & She
6:00 PM	Alex Newell

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Saturday, June 7, 2014

3:00 PM	DJ Nikoli
4:15 PM	DJ Chico
5:30 PM	Mike Trombley
6:45 PM	DVJ Mark
8:00 PM	DJ Jace

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Noon	Jason Ricketts
1:30 PM	Sarena Tyler
3:00 PM	Michael Aaron
4:00 PM	John Cruz
5:00 PM	Josh Karmin

Festiva

Saturday, J

2:00 PM	Pastel Arso
2:45 PM	Announcer
3:00 PM	Boylesque
3:15 PM	Keyon La D
4:00 PM	Drag King I
4:30 PM	The Gator
5:15 PM	Sabin & Fri
5:45 PM	Matt Wixso
6:30 PM	Boylesque
7:00 PM	Marquis

Sunday, June 8, 2

12:30 PM	Interfaith S
1:00 PM	Beautiful S
2:00 PM	Mike Medo
3:00 PM	Mother Cyk
4:00 PM	Stacey Hal

Riverfront Pa

Saturday, June 7, 2

2:00 PM	Kimo Fitnes
3:30 PM	Line Dancin
5:00 PM	Maestro

Sunday, June 8,

Noon	Tea Dance
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Sandy Mulligan and the Gypsies
Nikki Holland
6:30 PM Affirmation's Prevention Ball

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

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Juda
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Boom
Mary Jane
Rock Star
Veronica Versace
King Q Sanchez
Kortlyn
Memphis Payne
Gabiella Galore
Coby Haze
Diamonique Marcus
Natalie Cole
Destiny Deville
Mae James
Dominque Polo
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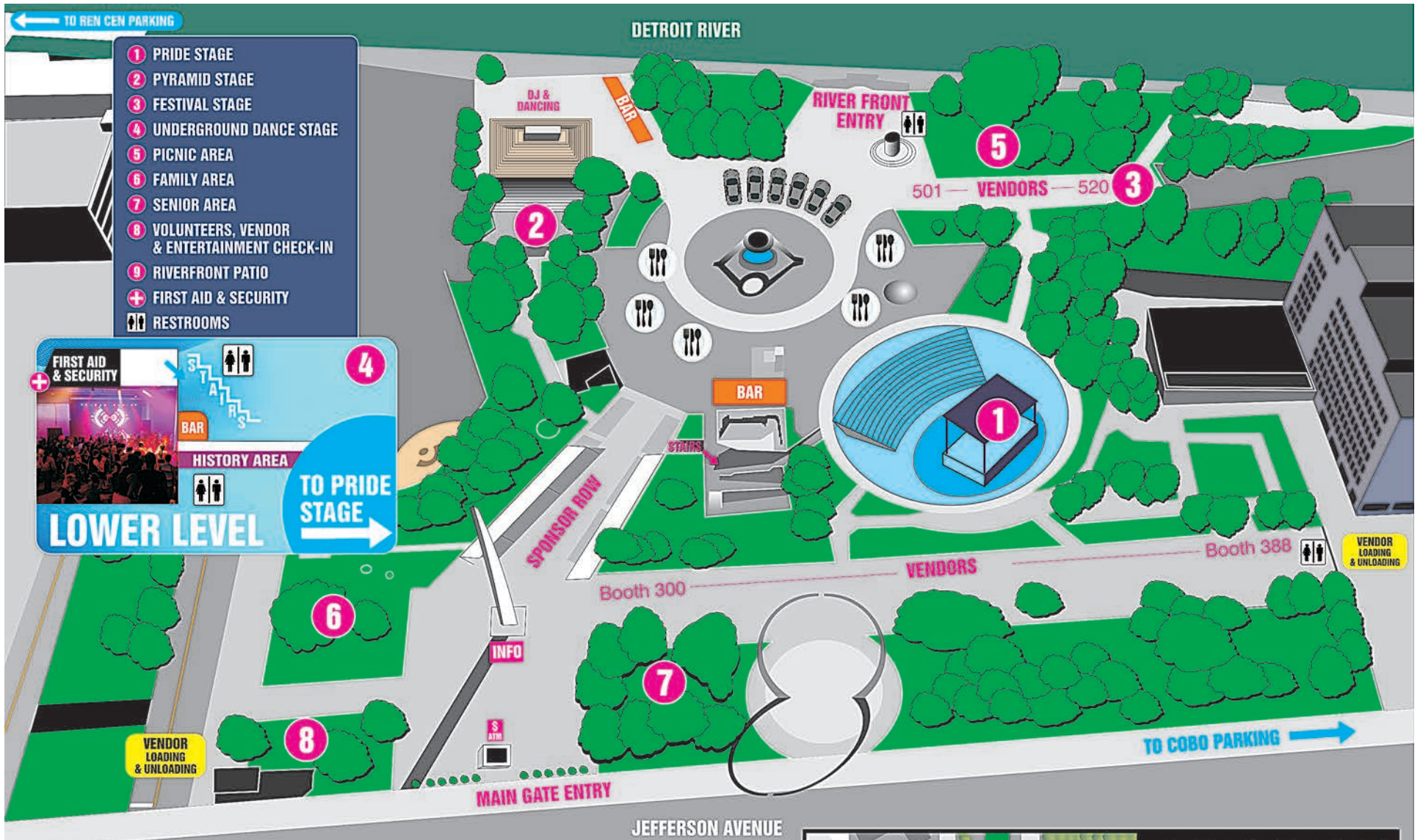
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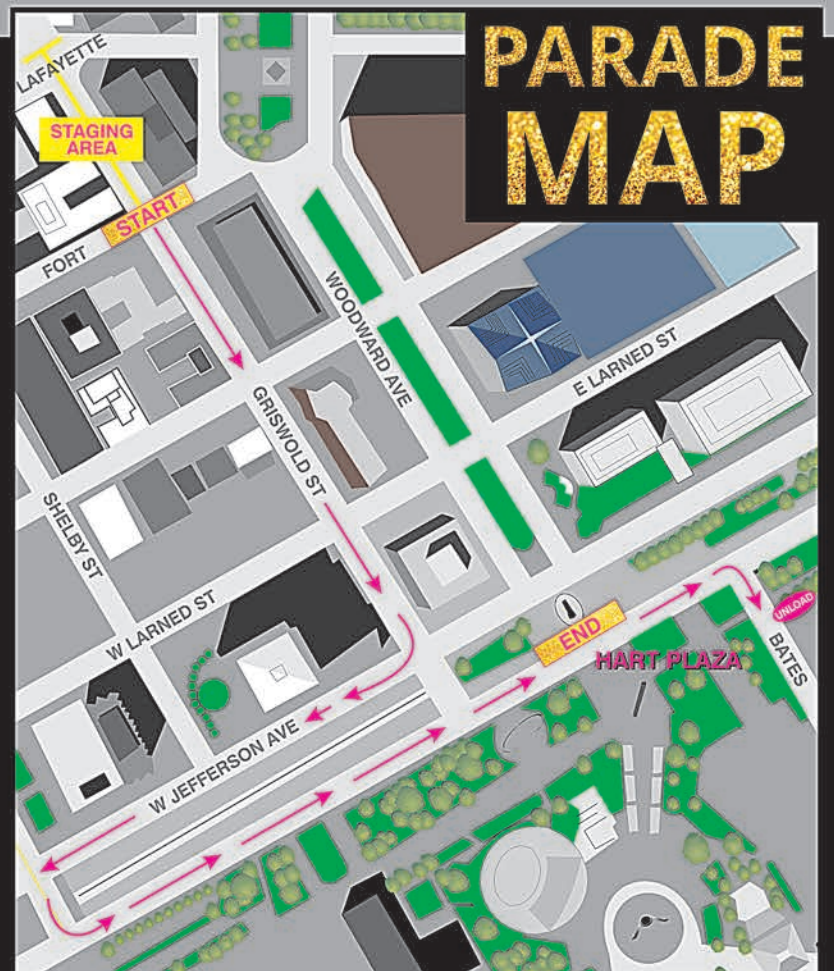
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James Pascoe, Who Performed As 'Jerri Daye,' Dies At 77

BY TIM RETZLOFF

James Pascoe, a star Detroit female impersonator at the Diplomat Lounge and the Gold Dollar Show Bar during the 1960s who later worked clubs from Vancouver to Atlantic City, died May 31 in Las Vegas, where he had resided for many years. He was 77. According to his longtime friend Dave Hummel, Pascoe suffered a stroke a week before his death.

Born in Detroit on September 16, 1936, James Burrell Pascoe was raised by his grandparents, Artemas and Doris Brandow, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. While in high school, he took up ice-skating as a creative outlet and a reprieve from the bullying he got from his classmates for being different. As a teenager, he found clandestine homosexual opportunities even in the Upper Peninsula of the 1950s. "I was a very pretty boy, and I had a very pretty tush from skating. I met lots of people," he recounted in an oral history interview conducted in 2012.

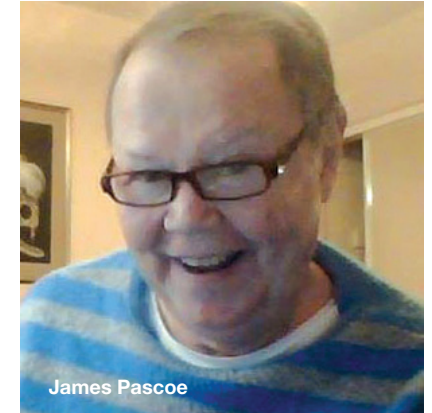
Also during his high school years, Pascoe discovered the gay scene in Detroit around Farmer and Bates streets downtown. Pascoe soon made regular weekend jaunts to the Motor City with friends by Greyhound bus, a 350-mile trip. "There was a little restaurant on the corner called the Hub Grill, and all the teenagers, gay teenagers used to hang out there," Pascoe recalled. "Well, I found another world. Look at all these people, what they're doing, how much fun they're having. So it really opened up a whole new world."

Pascoe soon began hitchhiking to New York, where he made his initial entrée into show business at age 17. While skating in an ice show at Madison Square Garden, he took a serious fall. A collapsed lung forced him to withdraw from the performance, and a doctor told him he should stop skating entirely. Some friends who performed drag at the famed 82 Club suggested that, since he could balance himself on blades, he should try high heels. He adopted the name "Jerri Daye" and began a forty-year career as a female impersonator.

Following stints with the Jewel Box Revue and at clubs throughout the country, Pascoe eventually landed back in Detroit where, in 1961, Jerri Daye was featured at the Diplomat Lounge. Known



Jerri Daye 1962



James Pascoe

as "The Face," Daye appeared with such other local mainstays as Bobbi Johns, Win Wells, Toni Albright and Fat Jack. Sunday afternoons the cast put on musical extravaganzas, drag versions of such Broadway hits as "Carmen" and "Hello Dolly." The shows made the Diplomat, owned by Sam "Bookie" Stewart and Morrie Weisberg, one of the most popular gay bars in the city at the time.

Dave Hummel of Traverse City performed at the Diplomat in a comedy pantomime duo before joining the regular troupe of impersonators. He worked with Pascoe from 1959 to 1968, and in recent years, resumed contact with his old friend. "I'm so glad we reconnected the last couple of years even if it was via long distance," Hummel said in an email. "We talked every week and it was like 50 years had vanished. Even his voice was the same, as well as his wonderful sense of humor. It seemed like we had never lost touch."

In the early 1960s, several of the Diplomat performers moved on to the Gold Dollar Show Bar on Cass Ave. "Most of the clientele at the Dollar were straight. And a lot of neighborhood people," remembered Pascoe. "That was a terrible neighborhood, and there were a lot of gangsters, I mean really serious guys with guns and stuff, and they just adored the show, they just loved us." In the meantime, Pascoe continued to perform stints out of town. He stopped playing the Gold Dollar after it changed hands in the late 1960s and the acts became, to his mind, sleazy. "This isn't show business, honey," Pascoe told the new owner.

Pascoe happened to be in New York at the time of the Stonewall Riots in 1969 and felt particularly proud of the street

Pascoe happened to be in New York at the time of the Stonewall Riots in 1969 and felt particularly proud of the street queens who fought back against police harassment.

"It changed the world. It changed the world. People said, that's enough."

queens who fought back against police harassment. "It changed the world. It changed the world. People said, that's enough," he said.

In subsequent years, Pascoe continued to dazzle audiences around the country. He appeared with Danny Windsor in Atlantic City in the 1970s, and boasted engagements from Joliet, Illinois and New Hope, Pennsylvania to London and Berlin. By the mid-1980s, he landed on the Las Vegas strip where he headlined at Bogie's Speakeasy Restaurant and Disco. He retired Jerri Daye from the stage in the mid-1990s, but went on to handle VIP services for Siegfried and Roy until 2003.

Two years ago, reflecting back on his life, Pascoe marveled at the changes he had seen since he was a teenager in the 1950s. "I've watched things turn around in my age a great deal, when you'd just be so ashamed and so afraid to let anybody know you were gay," he said. "But I was in a business where nobody really cared."

According to his domestic partner, Alex (Alika) Borge, Pascoe requested no memorial. He has been cremated and he asked that his ashes be scattered in New York City.


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Health Equity Council Forms

Providers To Address LGBT Health Disparities

BY BTL STAFF

FERNDALE – On May 28, the new Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Health Equity Council of Southeast Michigan, geared towards systematically impacting the health of local LGBT communities, met for the first time with LGBT community organizers to begin identifying and addressing the issues that put LGBT people at risk. The Council is the first of its kind and is comprised of roughly 50 healthcare professionals.

This project comes with a three-year grant from The Jewish Fund with a goal of working towards closing the healthcare gap for LGBT people.

“We are looking to create institutional change on this and that means working hand-in-hand with healthcare systems professionals,” says Project Director Kathleen LaTosch. “We have an open invitation for representatives from key healthcare and LGBT organizations in the region to join us in this effort.”

“We are looking to create institutional change on this, and that means working hand-in-hand with healthcare systems professionals.”

- Project Director Kathleen LaTosch

The Health Equity Council is coordinated by Affirmations and will meet six times a year. Members of the Council include: healthcare providers, health system administrators, diversity and inclusion professionals, LGBT community organizers and LGBT community members.

“We just scratched the surface on health disparities in the LGBT community,” Council Member and Service Provider David Ponsart said. “What I know from my clients is that many of them don’t even know what services they should be getting. This is so huge it’s almost overwhelming.”

LGBT Older Adult Summit June 21

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The Fourth Annual LGBT Older Adult Summit comes to Detroit June 21. The event is organized by the LGBT Older Adult Summit Planning Committee. The gathering will look at senior employment and volunteer opportunities, along with sharing information about housing, isolation issues, independent living, financial security and HIV/AIDS. This year’s summit features the theme “Living In the Spirit of Now.”

The keynote speaker, Walter Woods, currently heads the AARP Foundation’s development of high impact solutions for keeping struggling Americans 50+ engaged as they age. He is the Vice President of the foundation’s Impact Program - Isolation, working to connect millions of American seniors to the resources they need.

The Fourth Annual LGBT Adult Summit will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the MSU Detroit Campus, 3408 Woodward Ave. The event is free of charge and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Register for more information online at bit.ly/R9gKEm or contact Judy Lewis at jlewis@goaffirmations.org.

Seeking Stories To Share

As part of the conference, the LGBT Older Adult Coalition is currently seeking LGBT

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9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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(2 blocks south of MLK Blvd)

>> Register online at: bit.ly/R9gKEm

older adults who would like to participate in a story-building project. Interested parties will have an opportunity to have their story captured on film at the summit. The stories are being gathered to support a public awareness campaign about the needs of LGBT older adults to be launched this fall in collaboration with the three Area Agencies on Aging serving the region. Interested parties must apply online by June 13 at: <http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=ho1xns174ns8iar489974> or by visiting the LGBT Older Adult Facebook page. For more information, contact Project Director Kathleen LaTosch at 248-812-9202 or email klatosch@gmail.com.

The event, sponsored in part by BTL, KICK, Affirmations Senior Koffee Klatch and more, is a community and social gathering for LGBT seniors.

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Federal Board Overturns Medicare Exclusion of Transition-Related Care

BY AJ TRAGER

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Department Appeals Board decided today that the exclusion of transition-related medical procedures in a 1989 Medicare policy did not reflect standards of care and is unreasonable and invalid based on today's science.

Like many other services under Medicare, decisions regarding transition-related care will now be decided on an individual basis. The ruling is final and cannot be appealed by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

This doesn't mean Medicare will cover all reassignment surgery, but instead eliminates the national rule that transition-related surgeries can never be covered, regardless of medical need. Nor can Medicare automatically deny individuals access to this coverage.

"Today's ruling represents the medical community's clear understanding that gender dysphoria is a serious medical condition, and the government should not stand in the way when doctors recommend treatment," Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) Mara Keisling said in a statement following the ruling.

"This ruling comes from an independent panel who've studied the science on transgender healthcare. Today, this panel ruled that Medicare cannot flat-out exclude medically-supported treatments for transgender people," Keisling said. "Science and fairness are winning over outdated biases. NCTE will continue to advocate for access to medically

necessary care for all transgender people."

Medicare adopted a National Coverage Determination categorically excluding "Transsexual Surgery" from coverage in 1989. Whereas other services in Medicare were determined on an individual basis, transition-related procedures were automatically denied. The adaptation disregarded a person's individual medical conditions and needs.

Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Rea Carey, came out in support of changing the policy.

"The dominos of discrimination against transgender people are falling rapidly. Today's ruling that transgender Medicare patients should have access to the medically necessary care their doctors prescribe, including transition-related surgeries, is a truly historic victory in the long struggle for full and equal

access to medically necessary health care for transgender people. We know all too well the financial and social barriers transgender people experience in accessing the care they need, including a majority of transgender people being excluded from fully-inclusive medical coverage because of their gender identity," Carey said.

According to transequality.org, the ruling will neither affect private insurance plans nor Medicaid and applies only to Medicare. The NCTE expects to see more and more plans provide the medical care transgender people need. Major medical associations are already calling for the elimination of transgender exclusions in health plans.

For more information, see www.transequality.org

“ This ruling comes from an independent panel who've studied the science on transgender healthcare. Today, this panel ruled that Medicare cannot flat-out exclude medically-supported treatments for transgender people. ”

- Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality Mara Keisling

► Rally

Continued from p. 29

in attendance to accept themselves. Selik's message was for people who are transgender not to get discouraged from expressing their gender identity and completing their transition if they couldn't have genital surgery. "It's not what's in your pants that counts, it's about who you are inside," he said, while explaining how he's been transitioning for five years and has had three surgeries on his chest, but can't afford the very expensive female to male genital surgery.

"This is why what Medicare has done is so important," explained Crandall-Crocker afterwards. "Now people who can't afford surgery may be able to if other insurance companies, including Medicaid, follow the lead of Medicare."

"This is an exciting time to be transgender," Crandall-Crocker reminded the audience. "With all that is happening, it's important that you stand up with pride for who you are." As all three representatives of the transgender community left the stage, one couldn't help but feel perhaps the time has come for all of America to recognize the rights of those who are trans.



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Creep of the Week

Kevin D. Williamson

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Whooo-oooo-whooo-oooo! It's the gender police! Chief Inspector Kevin D. Williamson has put a warrant out for Laverne Cox because she isn't taking the Cox part of her name literally enough.



Kevin Williamson

Williamson has laid out his case against Cox in a May 30 diatribe on National Review

In other words, "sex" is real, "gender" is some kind of liberal psychobabble.

Online titled, dickishly, "Laverne Cox Is Not a Woman."

As you know, Cox, who stars as Sophia Buset on *Orange is the New Black*, appeared on the June 9, 2014 cover of Time magazine next to the headline, "The transgender tipping point."

Williamson will simply not stand for this.

"Cox, a fine actor, has become a spokesman — no doubt he would object to the term — for trans people," Williamson writes.

Note Williamson's flagrant use of the male pronoun, a fine way to tell a trans person, "I completely reject your existence and your right to your own identity" and also, "Fuck you."

And, yes, I'm sure Cox would object to the term "spokesman," you asshole, since she's a woman.

Also, Cox has been clear in talking about her experience that every transgender person's story is different, so she's hardly claiming to be the end all be all of trans folks.

According to Williamson, it all comes down to semantics.

"The infinite malleability of the postmodern idea of 'gender,' as opposed to the stubborn concreteness of sex, is precisely the reason the concept was invented," he writes. "For all of the high-academic theory attached to the question, it is simply a mystical exercise in rearranging words to rearrange reality."

In other words, "sex" is real, "gender" is some kind of liberal psychobabble. So if you're born

with a penis, you're a man. End of story. Amen.

Cox has elected not to talk publically about her genitals, as it's her business. But some people simply don't know what to do with not knowing. It's the classic Schrödinger's penis experiment. If you don't know whether or not she has a penis, how do you know whether or not she's a he?

Williamson skirts the issue by declaring, "Regardless of the question of whether he has his genitals amputated, Cox is not a woman, but an effigy of a woman." In other words, Cox is pretend. A department store dummy. A man playing dress up.

And let's talk about the use of the word "amputated" here. It's clear Williamson has no tolerance for ambiguity and, indeed, rejects any and all ambiguity in the realm of sex and gender, but a man does not magically become a woman via getting his dick chopped off. Only the willfully ignorant think of a so-called "sex change operation" this way.

Just like only the willfully ignorant argue that a man or woman must have "the right" genitals in order to identify as a man or a woman. It's a shitty position to put trans folks in. The prevailing attitude is if a woman has a penis, then she's not really a woman. But if a woman used to have a penis, then she's a man who chopped off his dick.

And if a penis is truly the mark of what makes a man a man, what of men who have lost their penises via car accidents or cancer or botched surgeries? Do they automatically become female?

Obviously not. And I suspect Williamson would agree and that he would also argue that men who lose their penises involuntarily are in no way similar to someone who elects to have gender reassignment surgery. Those people, he says, are sick.

He writes, "[T]o amputate healthy organs in the service of a delusional tendency is the moral equivalent of meeting a man who believes he is Jesus and inquiring as to whether his insurance plan covers crucifixion."

Zing! Translation: transgender people are just crazy!

If Williamson believes that the genitals you were born with hold the key to your sex, then there's no way for me to tell if he's really a man until he Snapchats me some dick pics.

Building An Equality Database

Equaldex Offers Global Collaborative Website For LGBT Rights

BY AJ TRAGER

LOS ANGELES – What did you do by the time you were 25? Perhaps you graduated from Graduate School or were able to pay off your first car? In a time when 20-somethings from around the country are faced with financial struggles and the adventure of growing up, Dan Leveille, a website developer from Los Angeles, has created an online database for LGBT rights and legislation from around the world called Equaldex.

Equaldex in its current form is rich in graphics, extremely easy to navigate and very user friendly. The main page shows a world map with different LGBT concerns listed at the top of the page and includes links to which countries allow LGBT couples or individuals the ability to adopt, marriage equality, military involvement, housing and employment discrimination, which places still practice conversion therapy and if one can legally change their gender. Click on a country and it will bring up their LGBT profile. Leveille also chose to include a profile breakdown of each U.S. state.

"I had so many ideas that it was really hard to settle down on the minimum viable product that I could have," Leveille said. "Kept thinking if I could have this or if I could have that... but it was really about defining what really needs to be in the site to make it launch."

Leveille thought of the project back in 2009 when he was attending the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. He's worked on it sporadically since then and after releasing an alpha "test" site, he decided it was ready to launch in February of this year.

"Back in college I found myself asking which states offered LGBT rights and which states didn't. I tried to Google it and it was hard to find. There was no resource that put the information together. So I decided to make a site that shows the laws in the country. And thought, 'There is a much bigger project and opportunity here,'" Leveille said.

The website works to fact check itself. A user enters in information about a country or region and other users will either report that post or



Equaldex creator Dan Leveille

verify that the information is correct. In other words, the more it is used, the more accurate it will become.

Users can search by country or region or view events in a time line format.

Leveille wants to find more ways of comparing countries and see how the data looks across maps and diagrams. Maps, after all, are Leveille's favorite aspect of the website. He likes them because they are so visual.

"There are people who have done a lot of research over smaller countries where the laws are more undefined. You search for gay marriage in some small country and it [search results] doesn't say anything. Even the laws don't say anything," Leveille noted. "In smaller countries, there is a lack of information. I feel like in this day and age if there is a lack of information, there probably isn't much clarity anywhere."

A lot of people, especially in social media, are looking for short quick information. Having a largely info-graphic based website, making things so visual and easy to understand is extremely important to Leveille.

"People have short attention spans on the Internet," Leveille joked. "They want easily consumable information."

Equaldex is extremely adaptive and has been gaining popularity. Four months after its launch it already has a user base of 700 and over 300,000 visitors. Contributing users come from all over the world but the majority are located in the US and the UK.

"We're trying to get an international audience," Leveille said, "but it's a little tough getting into the smaller countries. We've got users who have experience in say African countries, for example, where they have done extensive research."

As a collaborative knowledge

base for the LGBT rights movement, Equaldex combines Internet crowdsourcing techniques with recent and innovative surveys and studies that focus on the LGBT community on a global scale.

base for the LGBT rights movement, Equaldex combines Internet crowdsourcing techniques with recent and innovative surveys and studies that focus on the LGBT community on a global scale. Crowdsourcing builds a community, Leveille said, where people are all looking for the same type of information.

Leveille is constantly working on the website. He says he spends on average of two hours a night updating the site. Recently, Leveille launched a new part to the website that includes organizations from around the country and the world at large. But the collection is in its prototype stage, with less than 50 organizations hyper-linked from Equaldex.

Like the Internet, Equaldex is always changing and always evolving. Leveille wants to add in more features to the site. He's currently working on a news system where people can submit news articles on a particular place, much like Reddit or Hackernews. These websites have the community shape the content; other users will "up vote" the post to keep it in the public eye, or "down vote" the article and push it down the viewing list. He's also trying to think of a way to pull public opinion data from users.

"Ask them questions about how they feel in their country, if they are comfortable holding hands with their same-sex partner on the street, was it easy to come out, basically get more personal information," Leveille pressed.

For more information visit www.Equaldex.com or go to their facebook

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Nerds Under The Rainbow

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – Bringing local nerds together, Nerd Nite, a monthly event held in the Tangent Gallery in Detroit, centers on fun yet informative 18-21 minute presentations. In celebration of Pride, Nerd Nite will focus on LGBT issues and feature LGBT presenters on June 12.

The Detroit chapter was established in 2013 by Co-Bosses Liz Lamoste, Jensie Wight Simkins, Josh Diskin and Bubba Ayoub. They each have day jobs but spend their free time “nerding out.” The group showcases diverse topics from conversations about alternative relationship styles titled “I Love You, You, and You - Demystifying Polyamory,” to more comical presentations like “Decoding the Dead: A Zombie’s Guide to Postmodern Analysis.”

“June is Pride,” Lamoste says, “All of our themes in the past have been squarely science or literature and that is great and awesome. We just think there is something different we can do with an LGBT theme that we haven’t done before.”

Leading the presentations will be Dr. Marc Breedlove, a professor of neuroscience at Michigan State University. His talk titled “Whom Do You Love: The Biology of Sexual Orientation” will discuss his recent kickstarter campaign exploring evidence that non-social factors such as the pre-natal environment affect the likelihood that a person will be gay. Other presenters have yet to be announced.

“Perhaps we’ll talk about the history of the LGBT rights movement in Detroit. There are so many different things that we can say. Such as, can you tell me how rainbows work, scientifically?” Lamoste said.

The group wants to be inclusive and welcoming to everyone. Lamoste cannot say for certain if there are any LGBT members in the group, but as a whole, Nerd Nite focuses on inclusion and providing a fun space that is wonky, nerdy and casual.

“This is a safe space for not just LGBT, but for everyone in general. Some presenters are really nervous about their presentation topic. I make it very clear at an event that it is a fun, safe informal space to learn, participate and observe new conversation topics,” Lamoste said.

Nerd Nite meets monthly in 75 cities across the world and brings together people with different passions and interests to learn about new things in a safe environment.

“Everyone experiences things differently,” Lamoste said. “Audiences can support someone they know who is presenting, or they can learn something different while spending 20 minutes thinking about a different topic. It’s something people don’t do on a day-to-day basis.”

Nerd Nite Detroit will host their next event June 12 at the Tangent Gallery located at 715 E Milwaukee St., Detroit. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with presentations beginning at 7 p.m. There is a \$5 cover and attendees must be 18 years of age or older. Both food and alcohol are available for purchase at the Tangent Gallery.

For more information on Nerd Nite, visit the event website at www.facebook.com/events/1411866675764633.

Greg Grobis Calls Detroit And Holland Home

Sometimes Two Jobs Are The Perfect Match – Even When They Are On Opposite Sides Of The State

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Greg Grobis is a man in constant motion as he travels between Detroit and Holland holding down two complementary jobs in the theater. After years of doing both, he’s still as passionate as ever.

During the school year, Grobis teaches theater at the University of Detroit Mercy and is the director of marketing and management for its theater program. He is also the director of marketing at Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in Holland, a job that is part-time throughout the year and full-time from mid-May to August. With an apartment in both places, Grobis makes the 2.5 hour drive weekly.

Grobis, who is originally from Indiana, came to Michigan to attend Wayne State University’s theater graduate student program where he met his partner of nine years. He graduated in 2008, right in the middle of the recession. He landed at the University of Detroit Mercy, starting out in a staff position running the theater. When a tenured teacher retired, he stepped into her shoes and began teaching.

“I always wanted to go to New York or work on tours – and I did that and loved it,” Grobis said. “But when I started teaching at the college level, it was wonderful to see the students come to life, especially around the arts. I’m going up for tenure and promotion this fall.”

It was while at Wayne State that he started spending his summers working for regional theaters, and where he first got introduced to Hope Summer Rep.

“I spent my third summer (at Wayne State) as director of marketing and (public relations) at Hope Summer Rep over in Holland,” Grobis

There are those who might question what sort of working environment a gay man might find at a Jesuit Catholic college and a Dutch Reformed Church college, but Greg Grobis is enthusiastic about both places.

said. “I’d been attending shows, as my partner grew up there and went to college over there. They needed someone to do marketing for them and I was interested, and it really turned out to be a great match.”

Now he is able to take his theater administration students at UDM and have them work as interns and on actual projects for Hope Summer Rep.



There are those who might question what sort of working environment a gay man might find at a Jesuit Catholic college and a Dutch Reformed Church college, but Grobis is enthusiastic about both places.

“Being a Jesuit college and university, at the core of what UDM is, is valuing human life, valuing knowledge and being able to discuss viewpoints that are different from their own. UDM is a welcoming community in that regard,” Grobis said. “We can work on the arts and focus in on the stories we are telling on stage and how that impacts the community.”

Grobis said he also teaches classes in the women and gender studies program and is involved in Spectrum, a gay organization on campus.

“Part of the reason I’m in theater and I enjoy teaching at UDM, is I really believe we have to fight for justice for everyone. Everyone deserves justice. That’s a core value of why I enjoy working at UDM and Hope. I think we share those values, and we share those values inside the art we produce.”

He says the situation is similar in Holland, which is set in a Protestant Dutch Reformed community.

“I’ve experienced a welcoming community in the arts scene there, even though the reputation is otherwise, but there are so many great people fighting for justice,” Grobis said. “Hope is about the hope of a sense of justice. They focus on family-friendly theater which is uplifting and challenging at times. They offer true perspectives on what is going on. This season is a great example – ‘The Sound of Music’ next to ‘A Raisin in the Sun.’ People in Holland are buzzing about it in a great way.

“Part of the reason I’m in theater and I enjoy teaching at UDM, is I really believe we have to fight for justice for everyone. Everyone deserves justice. That’s a core value of why I enjoy working at UDM and Hope. I think we share those values, and we share those values inside the art we produce.”

That is a conversation we can grow upon.”

Grobis also raves about the theater community that has been created in Holland by Hope bringing in artists and interns from such places as the Guthrie and other top theater programs in the country. He says they are one of the largest summer programs in the state, with 120 guest artists and more than 100 performances of six different shows. They sometimes perform up to four shows a day, with an intern possibly being involved in two or three of them.

Grobis said he wishes people in Detroit would know how “mind blowing” the talent is in Holland each summer.

“That’s why I love HSRT – there is that creative environment,” Grobis said. “After the rehearsal, everyone is out doing something: discussing the arts, reading plays, working on the cabaret, doing a staged reading. It is such a wonderful theater environment. In Holland, it is so small, you stick together a little more in a smaller community.”

Lost Language Of S/he



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

As a post-pubescent teenager growing up on Detroit's Peterboro Street - just down the block from still-standing Burton Elementary School, recently turned movie and music theater venue - I spoke a made-up language called Quinish.

I have no idea why we who "spoke" it - I think that there were about three of us close buddies - one of whom I was more than aurally intimate with - that called it Quinish.

In a neighborhood somewhat streeety and just a little, watch-out! rough and tumble, our shared secret language acted as both bonding and buffer. All for one. One for each other. Call the Quinish Embassy! Ereh omesc roublet!

Maybe the Quinish title gave our conversation an international flavor and conferred upon us speakers a certain hoped for worldly sophistication (It was cheaper and faster than memorizing Berlitz Spanish body parts and cuss words. Cajones, notwithstanding.)

We speakers of Quinish were under the delusion that it kept our devious plans and caustic commentary about too noisy adults off-limits to them. And! Quinish was simplicity itself. Take the first letter of a word, put it at the end of that word and

Do keep it in mind, that there actually was a time, mid-last-century, when one could coily ask the question, "Are you gay?"

speak the hybrid vowel-cruncher as fast as possible.

There were of course competing "secret" street languages. Pig Latin is one, and more than likely still in the intellectual acumen of most of my PG readers. There's also Carney Talk, a patois of side-show barkers who needed to identify the proverbial, "There's a sucker born every minute."

QUINISH: Et-guh hoos-wuh werekuh. PIG LATIN: Et-gay Oos-hay Were-quay. CARNEY TALK: Gee-as-sit Who-as-zits G-as-ay (Excuse my ineptness with Get-Who's-Gay requisite accents. My language skills are somewhat rustic, er, rusty with age and viable cocktail party or brunch usage opportunities.)

It pleases me to no end - six decades now since speaking historic Quinish - to hear occasionally spoken these days the Lost Language of S/he. For many of us old timers it is the language of gay/lesbian survival. The verbal tool for honing our Goddess-given, innate gaydar. Closet speak that often works.

(Do keep it in mind, that there actually was a time, mid-last-century, when one could coily ask the question, "Are you gay?" And, believe it or not, get the frequent answer, "Yes! I'm happy aren't you?") As for the Lost Language of S/he: it is, like Quinish, camouflage itself.

If you want to keep straights out of your personal, private, romantic or sexual business, simply change your pronouns, substituting she for he; or, vice versa, he for she, if you play golf, rugby or touch football.

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THE MAN BEHIND THE BEARD

Photo: Ole Westermann

The Painful, Joyful Evolution Of Lesbian-Loved Folkie William Fitzsimmons

BY SARAH BRICKER-HUNT

If there's a unifying theme to be found in William Fitzsimmons' songwriting so far, it might be family, in all its weird and beautiful forms. From providing the soundtrack for a lesbian wedding proposal, to the ancestral importance of his iconic beard to adoption,

Fitzsimmons has honored, explored and celebrated an evolving concept of what family means throughout his songwriting career. It hasn't always been a joyful exploration, but it's always been an authentic one.

Right now, he's feeling good. Following a string of releases featuring some darker moments, the singer-songwriter's latest

album, "Lions," may surprise longtime fans. For Fitzsimmons, however, his music has always been about honest expression, whatever that might look like. "Humans are often experiencing simultaneous pain and joy," he says. "I say a lot of shit not everyone says, that's all."

When Fitzsimmons hits the stage on

Saturday, June 7 at The Ark he'll deliver the truthfulness and quiet charm his audiences have come to expect. But things have changed in the nine years since his debut, "Until When We Are Ghosts." His idea of family has changed, maybe. He's moved past the hurt of a divorce, found love once more, remarried and adopted two children.

INFO

William Fitzsimmons

8 p.m. June 7
The Ark
316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor
theark.org

All of this helped to shape “Lions,” which, unlike previous releases, is not a concept album, but which does feature Fitzsimmons’ trademark introspection.

“A lot of it came from getting close to the birth mother of my daughter,” he says. “Kind of sharing in her life and her sharing in ours. There was a lot of joy in it but also a lot of pain. It’s not a ‘happy’ record, but it does have a lot more joy on it. The older stuff is very mono-tonal, more like ‘this is a tough thing; this is a tragedy.’”

Things have changed for Fitzsimmons, but fans can expect the same communal experience they’ve always enjoyed at his live shows. Those fans, too, are part of the ever-widening Fitzsimmons family. “I want them to have a voice in that process. I don’t want to let the idiot who’s calling out ‘Freebird’ every night have a voice, but you know, it’s consensual. We’re sharing something.”

The “we,” of course, includes his large gay following, particularly lesbians. It’s so extensive that, in 2011, an AfterEllen writer affectionately gave him the moniker of “lesbro.” In fact, he’s such a “friend of the lesbians” that he helped facilitate a marriage proposal between two lesbian fans last year during a show in San Francisco, playing a song in the background while a fan named Heather proposed to her girlfriend from the stage. “My music is very often associated with sad and troubling things,” he says. “So whenever it gets to be connected with something beautiful like that proposal, I kind of jump on those opportunities. It’s rare, but it makes me feel very good.”

Fitzsimmons is known for many things – being a friend to the lesbians, strong, emotional songwriting, and his powerful-but-calming stage presence – but this is a guy you can spot from across any crowded room thanks to his woolly mammoth of a beard. Some online fans have suggested the beard get its own billing credit when Fitzsimmons tours. “I actually cut it recently,” he says. “It got so long that I was sort of having to eat everything with a knife and fork. It started to be a disaster. At that point I was like, ‘What am I doing?’ But I like it.”

The beard has become synonymous with the singer’s image, but it is not the gimmick some might think.

Once again, it’s about kinship, about family. “My dad, brother, all my uncles – they all have beards,” he explains. “It was just kind of a family thing when I was growing up. It was a passage to manhood. And I honestly think it’s kind of like tattoos. When you have them, you don’t really think about them too much, but I look in the mirror and I see a little bit of my dad. I like that connection. It feels good.”

For all that Fitzsimmons has experienced, it all comes back to his roots, again and again. At times, the music has been about his childhood and a sheltered upbringing, growing up with two blind parents. Sometimes, it’s been about his first career as a mental health counselor. These days, it’s often about becoming a father and loving the pleasure and pain that have come along with it.

Always, it’s been about truth.

“That’s all I have,” he says. “I’m not a crass songwriter. I can’t just sit down and write something that’s going to be on the radio and it’s going to make people want to dance or something, but I seem to have an ability to invite people to have an emotional experience – and for me too. I like to sit with that. I think it’s helping me, and it seems like it’s helping other people too.”



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Maggie Meyer, Leslie Hull, Aral Gribble and Julia Glander in "The Red King's Dream" at Tipping Point Theatre. Photo: Steve Fecht Photography

No Checkmate For This 'Red King'

BY JOHN QUINN

Every fan of "Star Trek" can tell you that the logical mind has trouble grasping the illogical. There are few sensations as illogical as love, and the inexperienced Steven Tudor makes all the wrong moves in Canadian playwright David Belke's "The Red King's Dream," the latest production of Tipping Point Theatre in Northville.

Steven (Aral Gribble) writes indices (not "indexes"); you know, those sections at the back of biographies where you can find the stuff you're looking for without reading the book. Since his work is largely research, his life is confined to his disorderly apartment and the public library. His seclusion is interrupted only by visits from his best (and only) friend, Amy Mathias (Leslie Hull). Like Heckle and Jeckle, the cartoon crows, "they're always a pair but never a couple." Less welcome are the visits by his slave-driving boss, Katherine Rapell (Julia Glander), who is very possessive of his time and talents. The nebbish is so reclusive he decides some people are constitutionally unable to experience love.

Steven's world turns topsy-turvy when grad student Zoe Pryce (Maggie Meyer) moves in down the hall. Smitten by her intellect and the fact that she's "probably pretty," he feels unfamiliar emotions. Intense research proves it's love. But love is not subject to logic, and Steven fumbling courtship leaves the audience

REVIEW

The Red King's Dream

Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Saturday & 2 p.m. Sunday through June 29, plus 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 18. 2 hours. \$20-30. 248-347-0003.

www.tippingpointtheatre.com

in a mix of good humor and sympathy.

The title "The Red King's Dream" is reference to a scene in Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking-Glass," the darker and more perplexing sequel to "Alice in Wonderland." Nursery rhyme characters Tweedledum and Tweedledee take Alice to where the chessboard's Red King is sleeping. They suggest that Alice does not exist; she's merely a figment in the King's dream. If he were to awake, she'd go out "like a candle." Alice begins to question what is real and what is illusion, much as Steven does in his quest for love. The fact that Alice's discomfort is caused by two characters that flip logic on its head should have been a warning to the rational Steven: Logic pushed too far results in nonsense.

"The Red King's Dream" features the elegant ensemble acting that is the hallmark of Tipping Point's productions. Director Chantel Gaidica has her cast playing comedy at the top, but never over the top. That sets up some delightful contrasts among the characters.

Hull's Amy is outgoing, but unlucky in love, and, in the spirit of "opposites attract," is a perfect foil for Steven's emotional vacuum. And again, his meekness allows Glander to play an overbearing monster of an employer with just enough venom in her bite. The best scenes, of course, are between Meyer and Gribble. The characters are working at cross purposes, "contrariwise," as the Tweedle Twins might put it. Therein lies a major exposition on the theme of illogical love, and a great deal of the comedy.

Gribble is great on his own too, since Steven addresses the audience in a series of monologues. It's captivating watching the rapid play of emotions that flicker across his face as the disheveled Steven moves around his book-filled apartment.

The set is the first professional design project by Brandon Newton, who may have bought out the entire inventory of several Salvation Army stores to supply the books that fill the stage and under the stage as well. The sheer randomness of the look is a nice representation of the occupant's mind — factoids stored here and there in no particular order, but they're always available when needed.

The last line of "Through the Looking-Glass" is, "Life, what is it but a dream?" That's an apt summary, both of Carroll's book and Belke's play. Life's dreams don't often survive the awakening. It's joyous when they do, bittersweet when they don't. "The Red King's Dream" will show you both.

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Throwin' Shade

BY MIKEY ROX

After a brutal winter that left most of us begging for mercy, it's finally time to enjoy some fun in the sun. To help you step out in take-that-snow-and-shove-it style this season, peep these top 10 sunglass picks for scopin' babes and throwin' shade in summer 2014.

1. Fed Thrill

Whether you're strolling around Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor, surveying the local scene at a historic municipal market, or retracing the roots of John Waters' "Hairspray," it's best to soak up Charm City's culture through the many-colored lenses of Fed Thrill sunglasses, named after the Federal Hill neighborhood the company calls home. Available in a wide range of demure and dynamic hues – categories include Classic, Collegiate, Pink Awareness, and Bold Expressions – these affordable, durable specs are as perfect for cracking blue crabs on the back porch as they are catchin' rays at Camden Yards. (\$29-\$39; www.fedthrill.com)



2. Mashern

It's not often you can call something out of this world and literally mean it, but in the case of American Optical sunglasses it's true. This brand of fashion-forward aviators has a long history of star-studded style, having once traveled to the moon and back; Buzz Aldrin of Apollo 11 fame took the frames to the lunar surface, and the rest is history. Today you can don the same storied shades in several high-quality metallic finishes like gold, silver and chrome. (\$45; www.mashern.com)

3. Panda

You'll love the way Panda sunglasses look and feel – there's a style and finish to suit just about everybody's face – but it's the brand's ethical modus operandi that'll keep you coming back for more: For each pair of the bamboo wooden sunglasses you purchase, Panda provides the Gift Of Vision – a free eye exam and eyewear to a person in need. Seeing is believing. (\$120; www.wearpanda.com)

4. Moscot

Channel your favorite gay icons of the Beat Generation – paging Mr. Ginsberg! – with The Governor sunglasses from Moscot Originals. Made from block acetate with three dot rivets on the front and temples, a keyhole bridge, and

a real seven-barrel hinge, these smart frames provide poetic justice to square-, pear-, and heart-shaped faces. James Franco would be proud. (\$295; www.moscot.com)

5. New York Glass

The only third-party supplier on the list, New York Glass (founded to give eyewear titan Luxottica a run for its money) boasts an impressive selection of independent labels that take pride in designing and manufacturing their own unique lines. From wooden frames to vintage styles to vibrant new designs, New York Glass offers options from standout sunglass companies like LOOK/SEE, Quay, Raen, and Randolph. Also on their roster is Proof, the ECO collection from which (including the sophisticated Sawtooth Tiger style) is 100 percent renewable, biodegradable and hypoallergenic. (\$39.95-\$179; www.nyglass.com)

6. Brooklyn Spectacles

Brooklyn Spectacles – launched in 2012 by optical expert Jenny Ma – is on a mission to design interesting, fashion-forward, technologically advanced eyewear, and it's accomplishing that goal one quality-crafted frame at a time. Available through a wide network of authorized retailers from coast to coast (check the website for a store near you), this still-burgeoning brand offers four distinct sun styles – Benson, Kent, Monti, and Tilden – in traditional and non-traditional colors, like Moss, Blonde, and Plum. (Prices vary; www.brooklynsspectacles.com)

7. Nectar

If you're in the market for a pair of shades that have pop, pizzazz, panache and a price tag that'll have you pinching yourself, move Nectar to the top of your list. You're guaranteed to find a pair to match every skimpy swimsuit you own – and then some. (\$20-\$110; www.nectarsunglasses.com)

8. Solo Eyewear

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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Mariah Carey, 'Me. I Am Mariah... The Elusive Chanteuse'



with a spirited harmonica solo, which follows Carey through the hook – a flirty chorus with a delicious “lips / hip / dip” rhyme. Note how effortless and relaxed she sounds. No longer as concerned with keeping up with girls half her age, it’s the most laid back Mariah’s been since “The Emancipation of Mimi.”

You Don’t Know What to Do (feat. Wade)

Stand back. Mariah’s at the mic, and she’s having a moment. Wade, who has the nerve to mumble over her aggressive “don’t mess with Mimi” intro, can’t even wreak havoc on her divadom. Rousing the cheerful airiness of her pop-dance staples – this potential hit triggers flashbacks of “Fantasy” with Ol’ Dirty Bastard – “You Don’t Know What to Do” is a rush of splashy panache that you’ll be bumping to the next time you lace up your roller skates.

Meteorite

You just know Donna Summer is smiling down on this club-lite romp. Casting an ethereal dreaminess on ’70s dance, this Andy Warhol-inspired fame musing is as sparkly as the disco ball you’ll be losing yourself under. With a sample of Eddie Kendricks’ ’76 jam “Goin’ Up in Smoke,” Q-Tip arranges the dance-chic aura as Mariah targets celebrity culture – perhaps her own waggling career – with an ambitious-but-cautionary outlook.

One More Try

She can’t live if living is without a sentimental showstopper, the kind she knows the “lamb” – her hardcore fans – love to loop until their eyes are completely wrung out. Enter George Michael. A wise cover choice for Carey, it assists in recapturing her classic sound. It does so by honoring Michael’s original while also supplementing it with a gospel tinge and those layered-vocal embellishments of hers. Ever wonder what it sounds like when a throng of angels sings to you? Listen to that bridge.

Heavenly (No Ways Tired / Can’t Give Up Now)

Hop on Mimi’s butterfly wings for this gospel rouser – she takes you all the way to the heavens. Sampling an inspirational sermon given by Rev. James Cleveland (unusual, maybe, but it works), she eases into this empowerment credo – acknowledging that, yes, “it’s been a little rough” – that soars higher and higher. Escalating into a spiritual soul shaker with key climbs and whistle notes, this closer will have you bowing your head and hollering “amen.”

With the glorious powerhouse “Vanishing,” off her star-making 1990 debut, Mariah Carey couldn’t have known she’d be foreshadowing another release some 25 years later. “If I could recapture all of the memories, bring them to life,” Carey sang, with all the fierceness of a diva-in-the-making, “surely I would.”

Two-plus decades, one messy breakdown and 13 albums later, she has.

Insanely titled but undeniably a vision of love, “Me. I Am Mariah... The Elusive Chanteuse” (grade: A-), her oft-delayed, punctuation-zealous 14th release, revels in those memories and throws back to her ’90s pinnacle, when The Voice was front and center, when “Glitter” wasn’t a career punchline.

Encompassing the vintage timelessness that carried her to notoriety, while also staying true to her urban evolution, Mariah’s found her sweet spot on “The Elusive Chanteuse,” turning out an accomplished body of work – her best since 1997’s “Butterfly.” Listen to it in succession, because it’s also her most cohesive set since then. These ditties, however, are the ones that’ll have you feelin’ major emotions:

Cry.

Remember those curls? The all-black attire? A piano and little else? Singing like it’s 1990 again on this stunning lead-in, you can almost see her: It’s Mariah, alone and

fully clothed atop a stool, pouring her heart out all over the stage – her hand, of course, flailing up and over and everywhere as the organ gusts into a soulful belter. And then, with that last bittersweet note, her head tilts back in a dramatic show of confidence. She just nailed it, and she knows it.

Dedicated (feat. Nas)

Talk about old-school – actually, Mariah will. And she’ll do so with bestie/collaborator Nas. Like they’re hanging in Mimi’s crib and having #TBT time over a bottle of Cristal, the two friends reminisce on days gone by (and on Pee-wee Herman) with this breezy R&B groove – you know, “just for the nostalgia.” Meta in the sense that it salutes the past on an album that essentially does the same, Carey’s serving up some serious late ’90s honey.

#Beautiful (feat. Miguel)

Released a year ago as the album’s first single, it’s a travesty that the sexy-chic ear-worm “#Beautiful” didn’t chart higher than No. 15 on the Billboard Hot 100. With a Motown-inspired guitar groove, its chill summer sensibility and the perfect pairing of Miguel with Mariah – exalting tingles as she goes from coo to croon – this should have been Carey’s 19th No. 1 single.

Make It Look Good

Flow-y and unfussy, this swaying charmer is a sonic daydream. Stevie Wonder opens



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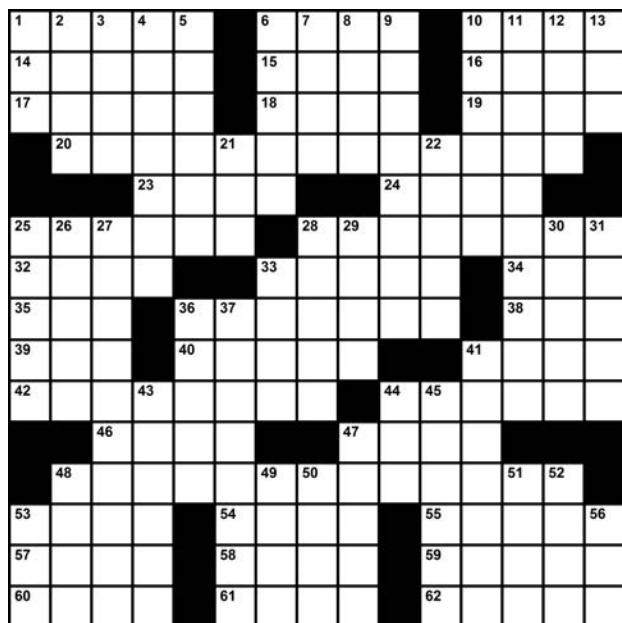
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Across

- 1 Type of salami you can put in your hero
- 6 "Showboat"'s "Nobody ___ But Me"
- 10 Eight for Estefan
- 14 Egg shapes
- 15 Pride member
- 16 Have sex, with "around"
- 17 Lifeboat lowerer
- 18 Eat it
- 19 Hauled ass
- 20 Start of Dish Nation's question for Daniel Franzese after coming out
- 23 Fits of anger
- 24 One of AA's 12
- 25 Birthplace of Socrates
- 28 Rupert Everett's chips
- 32 Author Rednour
- 33 Not as crazy
- 34 Log Cabin member, for short
- 35 Round Table title
- 36 More of the question
- 38 Threesome for Michelangelo
- 39 Part of SASE (abbr.)
- 40 Record a George Michael song again
- 41 Lo follower
- 42 One who always has a bone?
- 44 Eyed impolitely
- 46 Deep desires
- 47 Missile shot off by the Air Force
- 48 Franzese's answer
- 53 Disney's "___ and the Detectives"
- 54 Former queen of Jordan
- 55 Story of Greeks that busted some Trojans
- 57 "Limp Watches" painter
- 58 Mower brand
- 59 Vehicle that may be bi?
- 60 Alison Bechdel cartoon character
- 61 Ron Howard role
- 62 Look from Snidely Whiplash

Down

- 1 Alanis Morissette role, in "Dogma"
- 2 "Well, Did You ___" (song of 11-Down)
- 3 "The Death of Friends" author Michael
- 4 "Hamlet" Oscar winner
- 5 In the rear, of a seaman
- 6 St. ___ fire
- 7 Place
- 8 Emulate three men in a tub
- 9 Service volunteer
- 10 Compensate for
- 11 "You're the Top" writer
- 12 Cultivated pansies
- 13 On in years
- 21 "Let's do it!"
- 22 Get the ball rolling
- 25 Targets of tops
- 26 Use your head
- 27 San Francisco's "Mayor of Castro Street"
- 28 Ante up
- 29 Type of quartz
- 30 Queer, to straights
- 31 Blow, as dough
- 33 Sport in which sweaty men embrace
- 36 "Looks ___ everything"
- 37 Becomes involved with
- 41 Noted Andy Warhol subject
- 43 Actor Jordan
- 44 "The L Word" network
- 45 Some things to talk about
- 47 Spasm, like an orgasm
- 48 Noncommittal words
- 49 Fruit ___ (gay district)
- 50 Petty of "A League of Their Own"
- 51 "Well done!"
- 52 Oz visitor Dorothy
- 53 TV announcer Hall
- 56 Austrian article

Solution on pg. 72

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, June 5

Dining Out at Logan's Roadhouse
4 p.m. Support Affirmations by dining out at any of seven locations in metro-Detroit. Affirmations, Various. Goaffirmations.org

Biker Bash 6 p.m. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-246-3276. Ci. royal-oak.mi.us

Connections 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kgllrc.org

First Thursdays 6 p.m. Mixer. LGBTQ Networking Group, **Kalamazoo**. Kgllrc.org

Gender Hormone Counseling Sessions 6 p.m. Darnell Jones, RPH and GNA, will conduct one on one counseling sessions for the transgender community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Relationship Skills Class 6 p.m. A series for LGBTQ people and their friends and loved ones. Topics include: exploring personal and cultural relationships, values, arguments and making agreements, accountability and building community connections. Tickets: \$5-35. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Family & Friends 7 p.m. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Join us as we offer support, share our experiences, and learn about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied community. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

Red Robot 7 p.m. Ageplay group. Every first Thursday. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Friday, June 6

SCA Farmer's Market 9 a.m. Those wishing to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, including baked goods, cheeses, honey products, flowers, and related food products made regionally or by the vendor should apply. A limited number of hand-crafted items can be included; goods that relate to the serving or enjoyment of food products will be given priority consideration in this category. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck**. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Old Town Farmer's Market 3 p.m. Old Town Farmer's Market, Corner of E. Grand River Ave. and Center St., **Lansing**. iloveoldtown.org

HAVEN's Inaugural Gala 6:30 p.m. This signature event will honor our long history of providing hope to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and

will celebrate our next chapter - the construction of our new facility and our new service model. Cocktail attire. Tickets: \$150+. **HAVEN**, 200 W. Big Beaver Road, **Troy**. 248-322-3706. events@haven-oakland.org Haven-oakland.maestroweb.com/

Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie and...

Diversity Council, Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton, St. Pauls Episcopal Church, and New Hope Congregation. There will be speakers, childrens activities, information booths by local organizations, and music from special guest Sean Caldwell. All are welcome! Livingston PFLAG, Downtown Brighton, **Brighton**. 734-224-8838. t.



new facility and a new service model. The organization has been an important partner to the LGBT community through the years, including when allies were hard to find.

The gala begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 6 at the Detroit Troy Marriott, 200 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Tickets begin at \$150. For more information, call 248-322-3706 or visit <http://haven-oakland.maestroweb.com>.

Mark Schauer 7 p.m. Tickets: \$25-500. Mark Schauer/Lisa Brown for Michigan, 711 S. Laurel St., **Royal Oak**. 248-224-7372. Markschauer.com/1406RoyalOak

Friday Night Socials at the AFF 7 p.m. Join us every Friday 7pm-9pm. Euchre-First & Third Fridays. Open Mic-Second & Fourth Fridays. Hosted by Michelle Brown. Everyone Welcome! Food & Drink available. The AFF Store & More, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. richk@bsumi.com GoAffirmations.org

Gallery Opening and Reception 7 p.m. See 25 years of Affirmations history. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Stop in the Name of Love 8 p.m. The iconic sounds of Motown features chart-topping hits that will have you dancing in your seat. Get your tickets NOW before all the seats are taken! Sing Out Detroit, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com Singoutdetroit.org

Saturday, June 7

Breakfast at the Emory 10 a.m. Motor City Bears, 22700 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-546-8202. Meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears/

Bears in Speedos Carwash 12 p.m. Motor City Bears, 22635 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears/

Outdoor Shoot 12 p.m. Metro Detroit LGBT Gun Owners, 7800 Gale Road, **Waterford**. Meetup.com/Metro-Detroit-LGBT-Gun-Owners

Outpouring 1 p.m. Every first Saturday. Affirming Love Ministries, **Ypsilanti**. Affirmingloveministries.webs.com

Rainbow Community Rally 1 p.m. The Rainbow Community Rally is a call to celebrate diversity and love inclusively in Livingston County. Rally sponsors include Livingston PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Livingston

Michigan, **Detroit**. Motorcitypride.org

Motor City Pride Parade Ride Meet at Affirmations then ride to be part of Motor City Pride parade. Dykes on Bikes, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Dykesonbikesdetroit.com

Community Cat Training 11 a.m. Learn why HSHV believes that Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) offers the greatest chance of success for feral cats. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-5585. Hshv.convio.net

Editor's Pick

HAVEN will host its Inaugural Gala this Friday to honor its long history of providing hope to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The cocktail attire event will include a seated dinner, silent and live auctions, entertainment and more. An afterglow party follows the event at 9 p.m.

HAVEN's next chapter will be celebrated with the event, including the construction of a

Motor City Pride Parade 11 a.m. Equality Michigan, **Detroit**. Motorcitypride.org

Outpouring 12:30 p.m. LGBT-affirming service. Non-denominational Christian. Affirming Love Ministries, 9550 Oakland Ave., **Detroit**. Affirmingloveministries.webs.com

Dustin Lance Black at Cinetopia 6 p.m. Black will speak on The Case Against 8. Cinetopia, **Detroit**. Cinetopiafestival.org

Potluck and Euchre Tournament 6:30 p.m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Pride NA 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kgllrc.org

The Reel Thing - Lesbian Movies at the Emagine 7 p.m. Every second Sunday, a LGBT-themed movie will be played. Title not to be revealed until night of each showing! GOAL, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Showbiz Sunday 10 p.m. Delicious, Maria Mirezle, DJ Lipgloss and more. Additional showtimes at 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Monday, June 9

Restorative Yin Yoga with Meditation 6:45 p.m. Get pampered. GOAL, 1945 Pauline Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Tuesday, June 10

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine

See Happenings, page 68

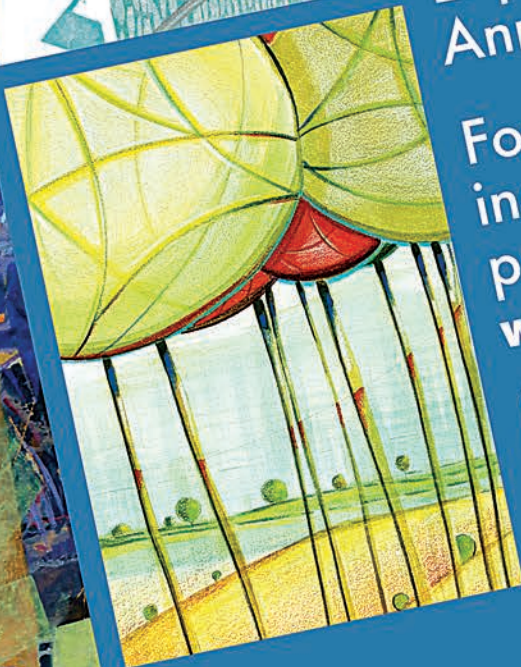
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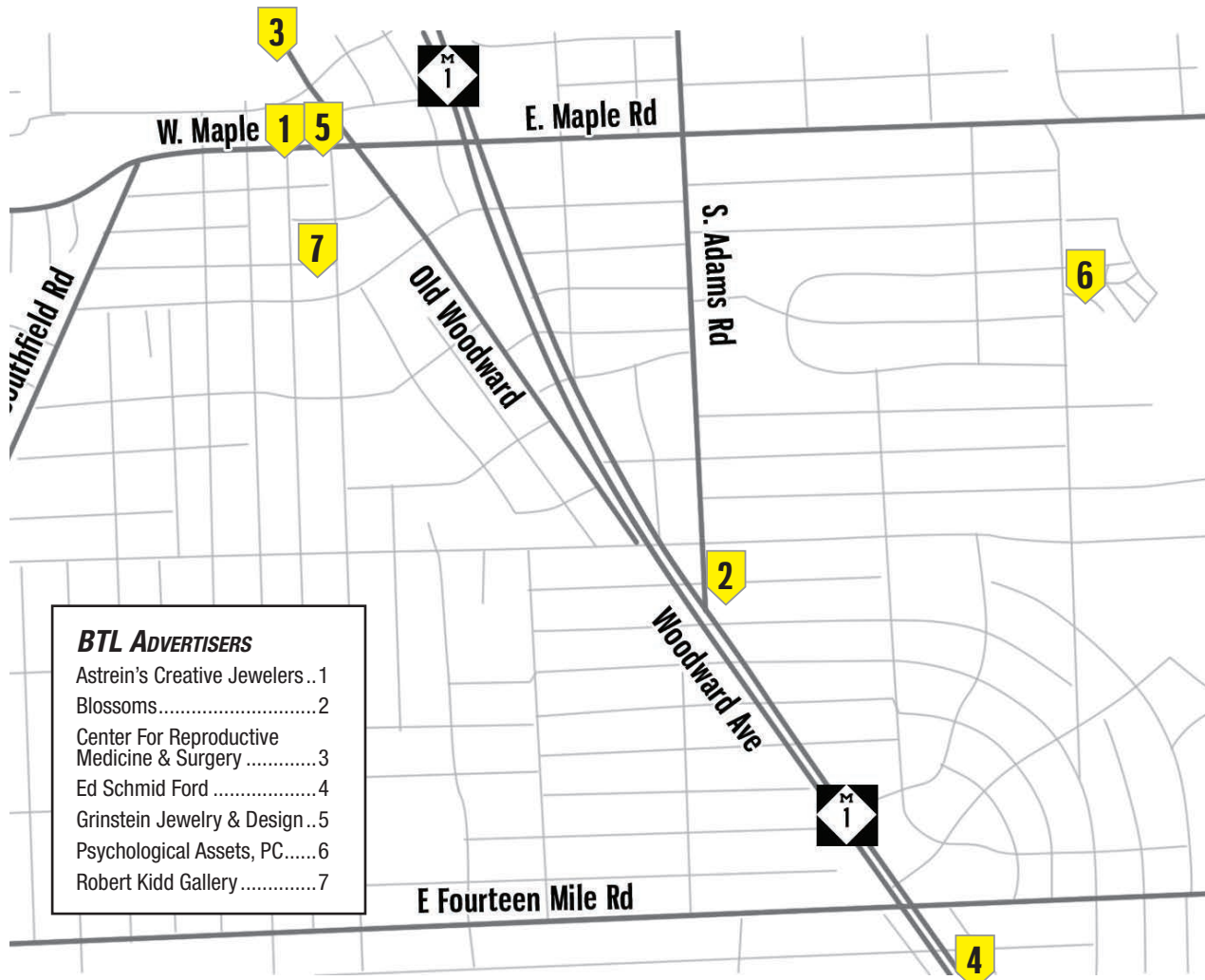
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SHOP LGBT

Lutherans Embrace LGBT Community With Program 'Reconciling In Christ'

BY PAULETTE NIEMIEC

You walk into a church on a Sunday morning. Looking around, you nervously gaze at those sitting in the pews. You walk slowly with hesitation toward a chair off to the side in the rear of the building. You might sit and hope the man standing at the pulpit doesn't scream at you, "God Hates Fags! Get out!"

This hypothetical is far too often the case when someone who is gay, lesbian or transgender decides to attend a church service or religious gathering. Yet the opposite is beginning to happen at a spattering of local Evangelical Lutheran Churches who are practicing a new policy and program designed to embrace the LGBT community in Michigan.

"You assume you are entering a hostile environment when you are gay, lesbian or transgender and enter a church," says Wendy Wellman, chair of the Southeast Michigan Synod Diversity Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression. "That's not the case when you enter one of our churches," she explains, describing the atmosphere encountered at a Lutheran church that has implemented the newly reformed Reconciling In Christ program.

It was introduced for the second consecutive year at the Joint Assembly for the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod

and the Southeast Michigan Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church last month. The program is led by Rev. Matthew Bode of Spirit of Hope in Detroit and Wellman, who organized a workshop at the Synod entitled "Our Congregation is Already Welcoming. Why Do We Need to Say So?"

"You have a chance to walk into a safe place to worship," says Wellman. "When

you if they recognize that you are new, especially if you are gay, lesbian or transgender," she says.

Many have questioned why such a program needs to exist – after all, aren't all churches welcoming to newcomers? Are not all Christians called by Christ to be warm, kind, caring individuals?

"We know that's not always the case.

So many churches say 'We are welcoming,' but in reality, they'd rather you not be there if you are lesbian or gay," says Wellman. "We have to face reality and make a point to declare to the whole world, 'Yes, we do love and care about you if you are gay, lesbian or transgender.'"

The purpose of the workshop and the table set up at the Assembly was to spread the word about this program, which, although initiated in 1983, has not been very popular until recently. Now, with 10 churches stretching from Muskegon to Port Huron, including St. Phillip Lutheran Church in Trenton and Ann Arbor's Lord of Light Lutheran Church (Wellman's Congregation), the Reconciling in Christ program is starting to gain some recognition in the Lutheran community. Wellman and Bode hope assemblies like the one last month will help the movement grow.

"We need to be aware of how we sound to the rest of the world," says Wellman. "Once you start the process, you will continue to blossom."



"When you walk into an R.I.C. Lutheran Church you are embraced by the congregation and all who are present will welcome you if they recognize that you are new, especially if you are gay, lesbian or transgender."

- Wendy Wellman

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- Pronto! Restaurant

- & Video Bar.....17
- Razor Law Firm.....18
- RE/MAX Jim Shaffer.....19
- Royal Oak Farmer's Market...20
- Royal Oak Music Theatre.....21
- Runaway Bride.....*
- Shelton & Dean Law Office 22
- Stagecrafters.....23
- Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors. 24
- Matt Sweet, MSW, PC.....1
- Susie Symons, Ma, LPC.....9
- Two Bags & A Mower.....*
- Ron T. Williamson DDS.....25

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Woodward Wildflowers

Project To Beautify The Avenue Blossoms This Summer

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

A thousand sunflowers will be planted on Woodward Avenue this summer in the park district between Six and Eight Mile Roads as part of the “Sunflowers on Woodward” project.

Presented by Royal Oak’s Woodward Avenue Action Association (WA3), the beautification project aims to make Woodward a walkable, complete street for its 27-mile stretch. Since 2012, WA3 and other volunteers have planted hundreds of plants through the districts along Woodward. Considered the “All American Road,” Woodward will hopefully continue to feature inspiring architecture,

quality streetscaping, beautiful public spaces, increased patronage, development of further unique heritage and recognition as a national model of public/private collaborations following WA3’s continued involvement.

In addition to the sunflowers, Normal Silk of Birmingham Blossoms will help sponsor the planting of 15 Princeton Elm Trees at the intersection of Seven Mile and Woodward. With generous contributions, the sunflower beds will be maintained and tree planting can be expanded.

Silk, together with his partner Dale Morgan, will also host a thank you cocktail party for the

See Sunflowers, page 66

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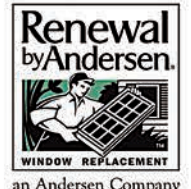
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► Sunflowers

Continued from p. 65

donors and benefactors of the sunflower project as an incentive to help raise the needed funds. Local residents and supporters of the project who donate at a level of \$75 or more per person will be invited to the couple's Garden

Cocktail party, an event that will be held at Detroit's only Frank Lloyd Wright home. The home, the Dorothy G. Turkel House, also serves as Silk and Morgan's private residence.

Aside from being a unique Wright home in Detroit, the architect's rare, all-concrete "Usonian Automatic" midcentury design is exemplified. The Turkel home is one of only seven of its kind and is also the largest, and only

two story, of those examples. Recently featured in Hour Magazine (April 2014), the home has extensive gardens that complement the organic architecture of the home.

So far, the People for Palmer Park (PPP) have signed on as supporters of the sunflower project, solidifying their presence as advocates for growth in the Woodward area, particularly Palmer Park. Other groups and individuals are urged to support the sunflower project for the benefit of all along the Woodward corridor.

The sunflower project is tentatively scheduled to begin the first week of June; tree planting will be early to mid June. The Garden Party for donors of \$75-plus will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11.

WA3 is located at 30947 Woodward Ave., Suite 200, Royal Oak. Blossoms can be found at 33866 Woodward, Birmingham. For more information on the project, visit www.woodwardavenue.org.

To keep up with the cool cities along Woodward, such as Royal Oak and Birmingham, visit www.pridesource.com.

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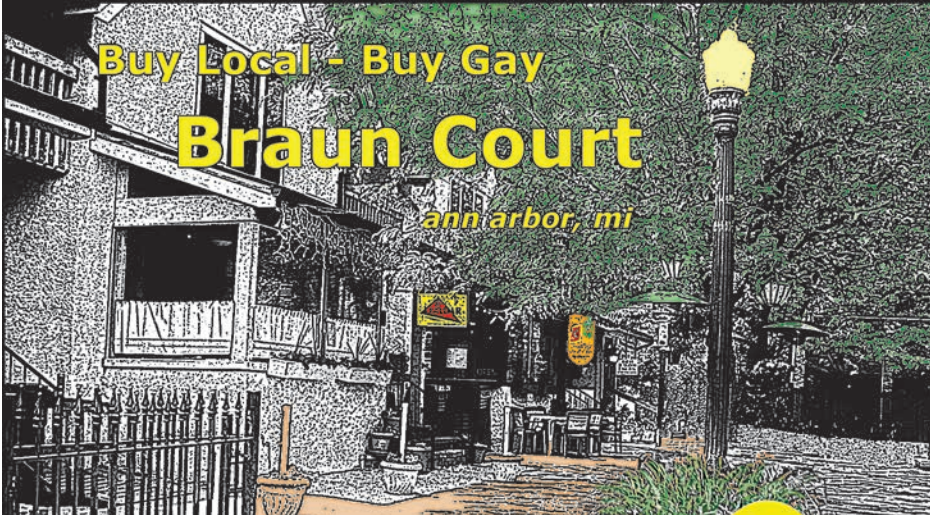
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A supporter of and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, taking an active role in speaking out in support of those we care about.

Ally Rush Week Kick Off & Ferndale Pride | Saturday, May 31 - all day
Bring Your Ally to Affirmations Day | Monday, June 2 - all day
Tying The Knot Movie Screening | Tuesday, June 3 - 7pm-9pm
New Volunteer Training | Wednesday, June 4 - 5:30pm-7pm
Raise the "Steaks" at Logans! | Thursday, June 5 - 4pm-10pm
Gallery Opening Reception: Friday, June 5 - 7pm-9pm
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Editor's Pick

An event to sponsor Mark Schauer will be hosted this Friday in Royal Oak. Schauer, a Democrat, is currently a candidate for Michigan governor.

The event to benefit Schauer's campaign will feature an all-American barbecue. The barbecue will feature Michigan made products including hot dogs, potato salad, apple pie, Ray's ice cream and Michigan craft beer. The

Tiger vs. Red Sox game will also be shown.

The event begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 6 at the home of Cindy Norlin and Leslie Thompson, 711 S. Laurel St., Royal Oak. Tickets and sponsorship levels range from \$25-500. To RSVP, call 248-224-7372 or visit www.markschauer.com/1406RoyalOak.

Happenings

Continued from p. 68

Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Circle of Life: Pet Ownership Discussion and Support Group 6:30 p.m. Led by a licensed counselor. Share stories, frustrations, grief and successes. Tail Waggers's 1990, 28402 Five Mile Road, **Livonia**. 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.org

Life's a Stitch 6:30 p.m. Open to those who Crochet, Knit, Quilt, Needlepoint, Macrame and Jewelry. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Wednesday, June 11

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Food Truck Rally 5 p.m. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-246-3276. Ci.royal-oak.mi.us

TransCend TransCend provides support and resources to the Southwest Michigan transgender community, their significant others, family, friends, and allies. Meetings occur twice per month on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Sunday. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Taste of Royal Oak 7 p.m. Restaurants, local retailers, artists and more. Everything Royal Oak. Tatse of Royal Oak, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-246-3276. Tasteofroyaloak.com

Thursday, June 12

Twisted Games Party games and fully nude strippers. 18+. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Nerd Nite Ann Arbor 7:30 p.m. Monthly event including discussions and more. Tickets: \$5. Nerd Nite Ann

Arbor, 102 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. annarbor.nerdnite.com

MUSIC & MORE

Benefits/Social Events

Detroit Opera House "BravoBravo! 2014" An evening of dining, dancing, and support for the Detroit Opera House. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. June 6. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

Pewabic Pottery "For The House & Garden: Garden Party" 24th Annual Benefit Show & Sale. Multiple events. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. June 5 - June 8. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

Comedy

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase

"Comedy Jamm" It's cut-loose comedy as we present the comedy of 12 of the current rising stars in the Detroit Metro area and beyond. Tickets: \$5. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 8 - Sep. 25. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

The Magic Bag "Michael Ian Black" A night of stand up comedy. Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. June 12. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

Concerts

Blind Pig "Secret Someones" 18+. Tickets: \$10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 11. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

The Ark "Chuck Prophet & The Mission Express" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 9. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 6. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "William Fitzsimmons" With special guest Leif Vollebakk. Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 7. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "The Smiths United" (Smiths/Morrissey Tribute) with Going Underground (The Jam) and Big Deal (Breeders). Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. June 7. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

Ugly Mug Cafe & Roastery "The Cross St. Chronicles Variety Show & Open Mic" Signup for the Open Mic will be limited to no more than six (6) slots of five (5) minutes each and should present the performer's original work. Ugly Mug Cafe & Roastery, 317

W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Jan. 14 - Sep. 9. 734-484-4684. Uglymugypsi.com

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Appointment With a Highwire Lady \$10-12. Emergent Arts at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Through June 8. 734-985-0875. www.emergentarts.com

Little Shop of Horrors \$13-25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. June 5 - 8. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

Murder's in the Heir \$13-15. The Spotlight Still Got It Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. June 4 - 8. 734-394-5300. www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater

The King and I \$7-15. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. June 6 - 29. 269-429-0400. www.twincityplayers.org

The Sunshine Boys \$7-24. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. June 13 - 22. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

The Wizard of Oz \$22-30 in advance; \$2 extra at the door (if available). Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. June 6 - 22. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Professional

A Night of Improv with Donna Blue Lachman \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 7:30 p.m. June 5. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

Boogie Woogie Swingtime \$42 show and meal; \$37 show only. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through June 14. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

Cabaret \$33-35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. June 6 - 29. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Cole Porter's You Never Know \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through June 22. 248-377-3300. www.mbttheatre.com

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 877-636-3320. www.comedysportzdetroit.com

Crane Maden \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. June 7 - 28. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels \$12-15.

See Happenings, page 70

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 68

Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Through June 14. 269-781-2700. www.greatescapestagecompany.com

Endangered Species \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through June 22. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Improv Mondays \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Love, Loss And What I Wore \$17-20. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through June 15. 248-850-9919. www.twomusestheatre.org

Mentalist Christopher Carter \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 7. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

Old Love \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through June 15. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

Shakespeare in Hollywood \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. June 10 - 22. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatre.com

The Book of Mormon Contains explicit language. From \$38. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Lane, East Lansing. June 10 - 15. 517-432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com/events/detail/the-book-of-mormon

The Dixie Swim Club \$35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. June 5 - July 6. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

The Last Romance \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. June 12 - Aug. 30. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

The Red King's Dream \$20-30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 29. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

The Sound of Music \$10-40. Arbor Opera Theater at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. June 13 - 22. 734-763-8587. www.arboropera.com

The Sound of Music \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. June 13 - Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hstr

The Summer Circle Free. Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University Auditorium Building, Lawn by the Red Cedar River, Grand River and Auditorium Road, East Lansing. June 13 - 28. 517-355-6690. www.theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Saarinen House: A Total Work of Art" Designed in the late 1920s, the house served as the home and studio of Eliel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 1 - Oct. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "313"



Editor's Pick

Complete with flying monkeys and witches, colorful munchkins and a real Toto, "The Wizard of Oz" will run June 6-22 at the Baldwin Theatre.

Director Randall Wrisinger has modeled this production after the classic film. "I wanted to do another show that involved youth and adults. I love working with the young people and seeing them grow up in the theater as well as the excitement that it creates in their eyes."

Wrisinger chose to use a real Cairn terrier in the role of Toto. "We are very blessed to have Jo-Jo as our Toto. His human parents bring him to all rehearsals, work with him on- and off-stage and are exposing him to the all of the mayhem he'll be part of," says Wrisinger.

Advance tickets are \$20 on Thursdays, and \$22 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters and The Baldwin Theatre are located at 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak.

Nine preeminent photographers whose striking visuals form a tribute to the city we love. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 6 - July 12. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Let Me Show You What I Saw: American Views on City and Country, 1912-1963" Whether they were captivated by quiet fields or looming buildings, artists' visions were becoming increasingly personal and abstract, going beyond the merely visible to suggest a world filled with feeling and meaning. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 1 - June 29. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Young Artist's Exhibit". Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. June 8 - June 13. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Kathleen Gilje: Portraits of Paintings" Meticulously rendered new incarnations of old masterpieces. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 2 - July 20. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Henry Ford Museum "Women Who Rock: Vision, Passion, Power" Women Who Rock is an unprecedented chance to revisit the musicians who helped shape the soundtrack of your life - innovators like Madonna and

Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin and Tina Turner and dozens of others. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 27 - Aug. 17. 313-982-6001. Thehenryford.org/events/womenWhoRock.aspx

Level One Bank "ART Exhibit Featuring Anthony Bacon" Mr. Bacon presents Images depicting Detroit & S. E. Michigan. The artists opening will be on Friday, May 30 from 3 - 6 p.m. The artist works vary in style and range from abstract to realistic. Many music & techno related themes will be shown. Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 30 - July 28. 248-414-6500.

MOCAD "Mobile Homestead" A

permanent art work by the late Mike Kelley. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - June 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

Museum of New Art (MONA) "Rendering Carbon: The Art of Exploring an Element" A talk with Ian Boyden scheduled for 3 p.m. on May 18. Museum of New Art (MONA), 15655 33 Mile Road, Armada. May 16 - June 20. 248-210-7560. Detroitmona.com

Pewabic Pottery "Martha Grover & Kala Stein Exhibition" Executing two different approaches, these artists explore the vessel by creating sculptural forms and installations through their traditionally utilitarian function. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. May 16 - June 29. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "The Lake Effect: Contemporary Art at Ox-Bow". Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 12 - Aug. 23. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Material Girls: Fiber Exhibition" Quilts by Judith Jarzembowski. Rugs by Judy Bowman Anthrop. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. April 11 - June 6. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

University Of Michigan Museum Of Art (UMMA) "Three Michigan Architects: Part 2 - Robert Metcalf" Robert Metcalf's domestic and commercial buildings represent some of the most important and recognizable modern architecture in Michigan. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1 - July 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu



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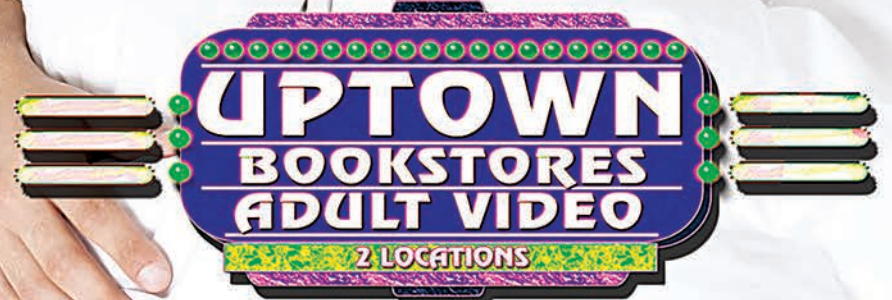


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by David Rosenberg
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Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain



2 Downtown Locations

Ann Arbor Berkley
209 West W. 12 Mile Road
Kingsley (just west of Greenfield)

(Couple blocks west of main, between Ashley & 1st.)

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Sheets, showers and lotions provided

Learn some massage techniques.

Meet others in a safe and caring environment.

Thursday at 2 pm.
Tuesdays & Saturdays at 8pm
\$10 per session
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Ann Arbor, MI
(734) 662-6282

Find me on the Internet at
<http://www.trymassage.com>

Classifieds

01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

8:00 pm, North Woodward Equality, Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, lower level classroom - enter first walkway off Woodward entrance. Big Book/12 & 12 Meeting.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).

Farmington Hills-Monday

8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed / Discussion.

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Saturday

1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.

Livonia-Friday

8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S Monroe St Closed/Discussion.

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL ANON

Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group

Wednesday 8pm
St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement)
Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI
Closed Meeting

Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

Saturday's 8pm
Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)
Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale
Closed Meeting

428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

GROUP MASSAGE

- For Gay and Bisexual Men. Learn some massage techniques and meet others in a safe and caring environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. \$10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-6282 or email Massage4@aol.com. <http://www.trymassage.com>

To place a classified ad with us, visit
pridesource.com/classifieds
or call us at 734-293-7200 x15

Naked Men's YOGA

Meets in Ann Arbor
TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM

Contact Dave at massage4@aol.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga



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HOT GUYS!**

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Solution to puzzle from page 58

G	E	N	O	A	E	L	S	E	O	C	H	O		
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Living in the Spirit of Now



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
WALTER WOODS**

4TH ANNUAL LGBT OLDER ADULT SUMMIT

Saturday, June 21, 2014 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

at the MSU Detroit Campus
3408 Woodward Ave. Detroit, Michigan 48201

Free of Charge • Continental Breakfast & Lunch Included
Community & social gathering information
Senior employment & volunteer opportunities

For more information, contact: JUDY LEWIS
at jlewis@goaffirmations.org

Register at:
bit.ly/R9gKEm

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FLINT pride in the park...

SATURDAY JUNE 28TH

11AM-7PM

U OF M RINK AND
FLINT RIVERBANK

HOSTED BY
ALICIA BOOM BOOM MOORE

MAIN STAGE
DJ ANONYMOUS

PERFORMANCES BY

KEYON LA DON
JAZZY THE DIVA
KAYLA STRATUS
FREE2B

Pride events are a positive stance against discrimination and violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. The intent of this event is to celebrate diversity in our city, affirm gay and transgender individuals, increase visibility and to build a sense of community. Join us on June 28th as we come together to celebrate Flint Gay Pride!

#NOLABELS \$5 SUGGESTED DONATION
JOIN THE CONVERSATION RAIN OR SHINE EVENT



SPONSORS



Questions?
Teresa Springer: tspringer@wellnessaids.org
(810) 232-0888
Facebook: Flint Gay Pride Society



Murray & Peter in association with Affirmations & GOAL Get Out And Live Present

LGBT SUMMER FILM SERIES

<p>It's a pitched battle but love blindingly outshines hate in BRIDEGROOM. - Charles McNulty, Los Angeles Times</p> <p>A Film by Linda Bloodworth-Thomason</p> <p>BRIDEGROOM</p> <p>A Love Story. Unequaled.</p> <p>JUNE 25</p>	<p>TRU LOVE</p> <p>WHEN LOVE FINDS YOU, RULES AND ROLES DON'T APPLY.</p> <p>JULY 2</p>	<p>THE DOG</p> <p>A FILM BY ALLISON BERG AND FRANK KERAUDREN</p> <p>JULY 9</p>
<p>GBF</p> <p>Being out has never been so in.</p> <p>JULY 16</p>	<p>THE NEW BLACK</p> <p>FAMILY, FAITH AND THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY</p> <p>JULY 23</p>	<p>OLYMPIA DUKAKIS RYAN DOUCETTE BRENOA FRICKER</p> <p>CLOUDBURST</p> <p>JULY 30</p>
<p>THE HAPPY SAD</p> <p>TRY SOMETHING NEW AN ARRANGEMENT</p> <p>AUG 6</p>	<p>BOY MEETS GIRL</p> <p>'Sweet, funny, sassy and affecting.' - Kilian Meloy, Edge Boston</p> <p>An Eric Schaeffer Film</p> <p>AUG 13</p>	<p>Dear Mom & Dad, Everything is fine.</p> <p>KIDNAPPED FOR CHRIST</p> <p>AUG 20</p>
<p>THE 10 YEAR PLAN</p> <p>SOMETIMES LOVE TAKES A LITTLE TIME</p> <p>A FILM BY JC CALCIANO</p> <p>AUG 27</p>	<p>GIRLTRASH: All Night Long</p> <p>SEPT 3</p>	<p>WATCH THE TRAILERS</p>

WEDNESDAYS

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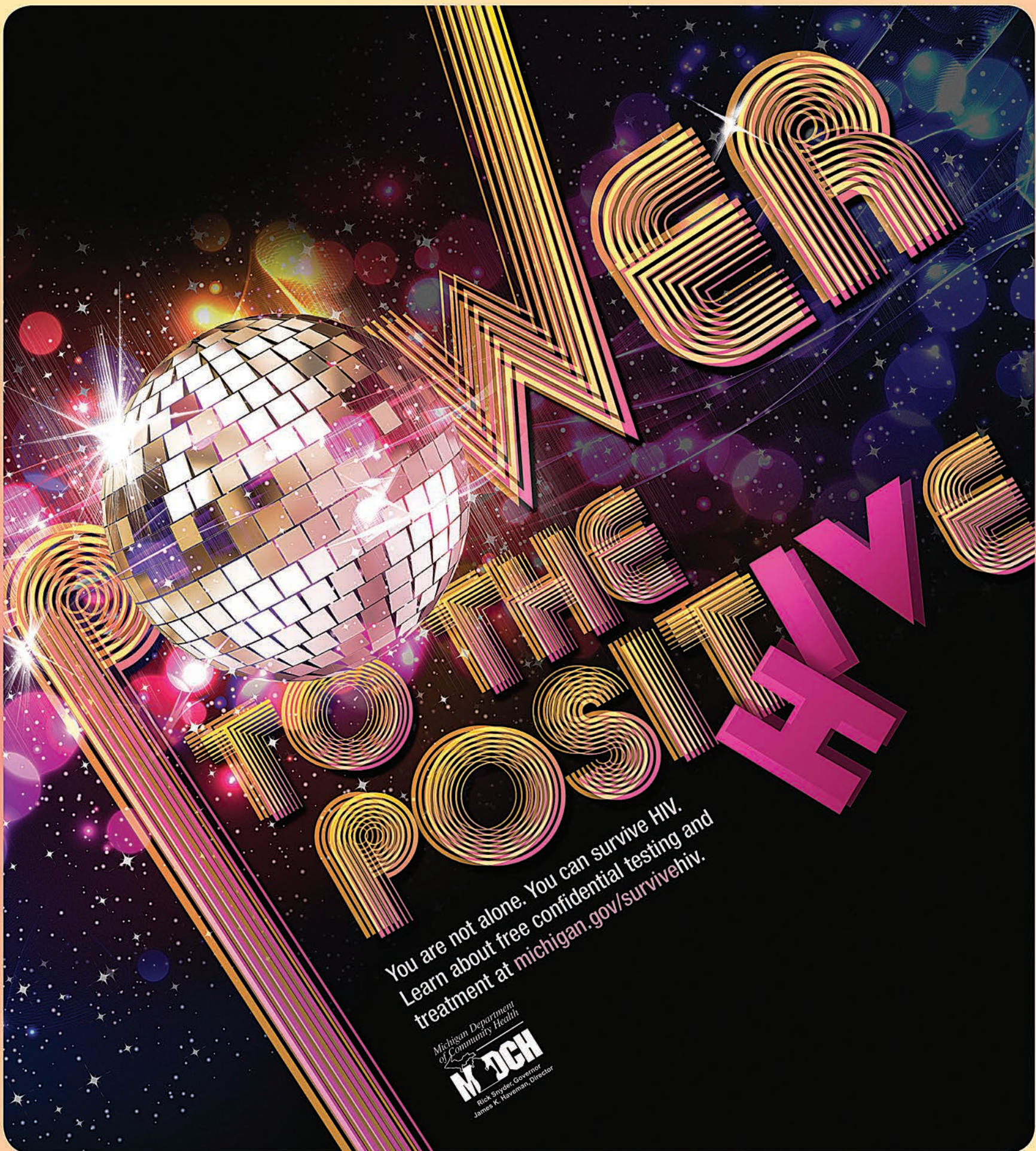
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of Community Health

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Tuesdays SURF & TURF FOR TWO

Three Course Dinner includes:

2 Lobster Tails | 2 Petite Filets | 2 Soup or Salad | 2 Sides of Pasta | Dessert to Share

Plus A Bottle Of Wine

Dine in only

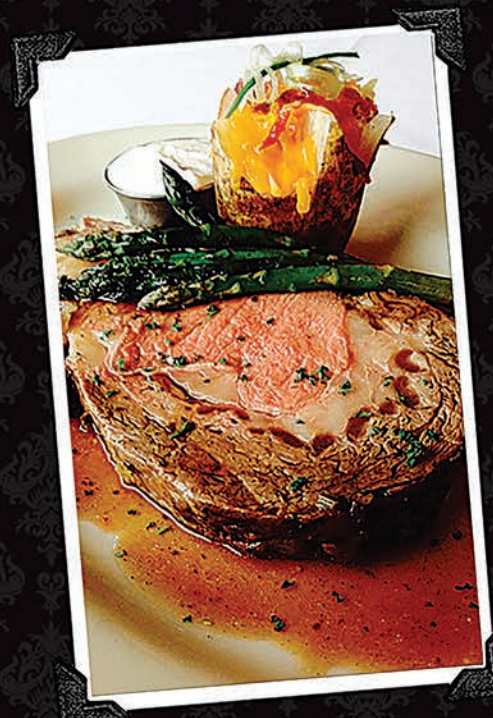
Thursdays PRIME RIB FOR TWO

Three Course Dinner includes:

2 10oz Slices of Prime Rib | 2 Soup or Salad
2 Roasted Potatoes | Dessert to Share

Plus A Bottle Of Wine

Dine in only



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