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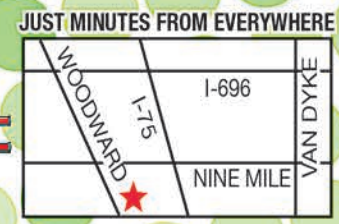


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COVER

16 Lansing LGBT Milestones



“ I chose to be visible (about my HIV status), because if people don't see for their own eyes that it's OK then they will never know what OK looks like.”

- Trinity K. Bonet, pg. 18



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ONLINE EXTRA



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Take a trip down memory lane in our online galleries of Lansing Pride photos throughout the years!

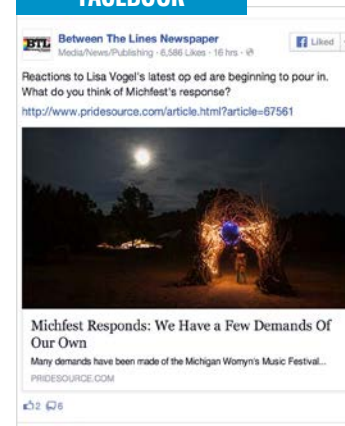
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Our Exclusive Interview with Mark Schauer & Lisa Brown

Don't miss next week's issue of BTL and our exclusive interviews with Michigan Governor candidate Mark Schauer and Lieutenant Governor candidate Lisa Brown.

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Local Residents Sign-On For Right To Discriminate In Sterling Heights

BY AJ TRAGER

STERLING HEIGHTS – The Sterling Heights Non-Discrimination Ordinance that was passed earlier this year in June, to include gender and sexual orientation, could be placed before voters in November.

A group of Sterling Heights residents, who call themselves the Sterling Heights Referendum Petition, have submitted petitions to the Sterling Heights city clerk in hopes of putting the ordinance to a vote. According to City Clerk Mark Carufel, the petitioners must submit a minimum threshold of around 5,900 signatures. If the minimum threshold is not met the petition drive would fail. The petitions were submitted Aug. 6th.

The next step in the process is to have the clerk verify the signatures and determine if the petition circulators met proper criteria before the measure can be placed on the ballot. If enough signatures were not garnered then the group has 15 days to collect more to meet the requirement, Carufel added.

“We’d like the citizens of Sterling Heights to make the decision,” Sterling Heights resident Fred Kummer said. He believes the ordinance to be too important to leave the decision to just seven city council members.

The group wants to give voice to the entire electorate of the city. Since Aug. 2 they have gathered at the Sterling Heights Public Library and other city spaces in order to get more signatures, specifically targeting areas on Aug. 5th the Michigan Primary election.

“With residents having a strong opinion either way, we felt that the people, not the City Council consisting of seven members, should decide on such a controversial ordinance,” member of the group who wrote the petition, Sanaa Elias said.

Elias, like many of her group members of 15-20 activists, believes that the ordinance was pushed through too



Residents encourage people not to sign the petition to put the recently passed ordinance in Sterling Heights on the November ballot. Photo Facebook

quickly claiming that “the wording of this ordinance is ambiguous and vague, and threatens to restrict our freedom of speech and religious expression,” Elias said.

“We understand that people are gathering signatures. We hope that the city takes a look to see that they are valid signatures. We understand that some people are upset because of the religious exemption that was put into the ordinance at the last minute and we also understand that some people are gathering signatures because they want to be able to discriminate in Sterling Heights,” Sommer Foster, the director of political advocacy at Equality Michigan said.

Opponents of the ordinance have questioned the necessity of singling out the LGBT community believing that it could impede some people, such as business owners, from freely practicing their religion but also add that they are a group of concerned residents who “believe that all residents should have equal rights,” Elias said.

City Councilman Doug Skrzyniarz has showed support of the ordinance that he helped champion in June. He believes residents seeking to gather signatures have “every right to try and get (the

ordinance) on the ballot.”

Skrzyniarz was among a group that protested against the petition gatherers and believes while it is the right of the petition gatherers to get it on the ballot it is also his right to oppose their efforts.

“What the petitioners are asking the voters to do is for the voters to say, ‘We want to have the ability to discriminate against people for the fact that they’re gay or lesbian,’” Skrzyniarz said. “The bottom line is this ordinance makes it illegal in Sterling Heights to fire someone just because they’re gay.”

Michael Taylor, a council member, also appeared in support of the ordinance on different occasions. “They (the petition gatherers) even disputed that we had a right to be there,” Taylor said describing his opposing viewpoints as “good old-fashioned First Amendment.”

“We plan to see if some of the signatures can be invalidated, and we will do what we need to do so that the people in Sterling Heights are protected,” Foster said. “We’re working with Unity and City Council members to see what the next steps are.”

The Sterling Heights Referendum Petition’s website is currently unavailable.

Federal Court To Hear Arguments In Michigan Marriage Recognition Lawsuit, Rally Preceding Hearing

ACLU Asks For Court Order Requiring Michigan To Immediately Recognize Marriages Of Same-Sex Couples Who Legally Wed

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – A federal judge will hear arguments on Thursday, Aug. 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan lawsuit challenging Michigan's refusal to recognize the legal marriages of 300 same-sex couples who were wed in March after a federal judge struck down the state's ban on marriage equality and before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals put the decision on hold.

The lawsuit, filed in April on behalf of eight same-sex couples who were legally married during this window, argues that the state is violating the couples' due process and equal protection rights by refusing to recognize the marriages. At the time these couples got married, the marriage ban in Michigan had been struck down in the DeBoer ruling and it was legal for them to wed.

The ACLU's lawsuit argues that the state cannot "undo" these legal marriages after they have taken place. The ACLU is therefore seeking a preliminary injunction asking the court to require the state to immediately

recognize the marriages. Although the DeBoer case is pending on appeal in the Sixth Circuit, the ACLU lawsuit seeks permanent recognition of the 300 marriages no matter what happens on appeal in DeBoer.

In a virtually identical situation to Michigan, the State of Utah had refused to recognize the legal marriages of same-sex couples who were married after Utah's ban on marriage equality was struck down as unconstitutional and before that decision was stayed pending appeal. In May, 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. The Utah court emphasized that the legal marriages of same-sex couples in that state had to be recognized regardless of what ultimately happened to the Utah marriage equality ruling on appeal.

The couples are represented by ACLU attorneys Jay Kaplan, Michael J. Steinberg, Dan Korobkin, Brooke Tucker, Kary Moss, and John Knight and ACLU cooperating attorneys Julian Mortenson and Andrew Nickelhoff.

Information:

WHAT: Hearing and rally in the ACLU of Michigan lawsuit challenging the state's refusal to recognize the marriages of 300 same-sex couples who were lawfully wed after a federal judge struck down the state's ban on marriage equality and before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals put the decision on hold. A rally of families in support of marriage equality organized by Michigan for Marriage will precede the hearing at 8:30 a.m. EST.

WHEN: Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. (Rally at 8:30 a.m.)

WHERE:

Theodore Levin Courthouse
231 W. Lafayette, Detroit
Courtroom 225 (Judge Cohn's Courtroom)

Hearing moved from previous location in Flint

To read more about the lawsuit and plaintiffs, go to www.aclumich.org/300Families.

Mental Health Providers Access Latest Training On LGBT Clinical Issues

FERNDALE – On Thursday, Aug. 21, mental health providers around in the metro Detroit area will gain access to the latest professional training to assist in providing quality care to LGBT clients. Affirmations Community Center will host two three-hour trainings for mental health professionals, each focusing on a specific topic related to sexual orientation and gender identity. During the morning session, Carmen Wargel, LMSW and Bryan Victor, LLMSW, will present how to provide mental health services to LGBT survivors of abuse. In the afternoon session, Maureen Bernard, LMSW, CADC, CCS will present on substance use disorders within LGBT communities. Continuing Education Credits are offered for each

of the three-hour trainings. Training and registration information is available at www.GoAffirmations.org/training.

"Many LGBT people have been unintentionally harmed by well-meaning therapists who have not been trained specifically on issues significant to the LGBT population, including co-occurring conditions, long-term effects of social stigma, and the effects of legal inequities," said Lydia Ahlum Hanson, Affirmations' Health and Wellness Manager. "These 3-hour trainings dive into two topics which greatly affect LGBT communities – abuse and substance use."

These summer trainings are part of Affirmations' clinical issues training initiative,

which includes two core trainings offering 12 continuing credits each, one focusing on clinical issues and sexual orientation and one focusing on clinical issues and gender identity. The next two-day training, Clinical Issues & Sexual Orientation, will be held in November 2014. Affirmations' clinical issues trainings are sponsored by National Association of Social Workers – Michigan Chapter and Michigan School of Professional Psychology. For more information about Affirmations' upcoming training opportunities or its Health and Wellness Program, contact Lydia Ahlum Hanson at LHanson@GoAffirmations.org or call 248-677-7223.

DETROIT Motor Ball And Geared For Life Move To MAC

Attendees at this year's Motor City Pride on Saturday June 7 capped off the evening at Motor Ball, a revival of an event last held in Detroit in 2005. More than 500 people were at the party, and raised nearly \$6,000 for the Michigan AIDS Coalition.

Motor Ball, originally called the GEAR Party (Generating Education, Awareness, and Respect), was a fundraising product of a now dissolved organization called Geared for Life. GFL was around from 1994 until 2005; the mission was to raise dollars for area AIDS organizations that provided education, financial assistance, and service programs for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Entirely volunteer driven, GFL was important to the community as it provided much needed financial support for AIDS non-profits. After eleven years, the founders all went their separate ways to pursue life and careers. But in the summer of 2013, three of the original founders – Tracy Hoffman, Derek Zachariah, and John Joannette – approached Michigan AIDS Coalition CEO Terry Ryan, and expressed an interest in re-starting Motor Ball, with MAC as the beneficiary.

All parties agreed to do a one day, "soft" re-launch of what years earlier had grown to be a multi-day party event, and Detroit's version of the famed circuit parties so popular in North America. Given the success of the 2014 event, the three co-founders agreed to sign over all rights to Geared for Life, the GEAR Party, and Motor Ball to the Michigan AIDS Coalition, to be incorporated into their fundraising and program activities.

There will be a 2015 Motor Ball, date to be determined, and possibly other activities under the GFL banner.

For more information contact Terry Ryan, MAC CEO at 248-545-1435, ext. 123 or tryan@michiganaidcoalition.org

Reminder DIFFA: Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS. Michigan AIDS Coalition's annual event runs from Sept. 18-20, beginning with the opening night event, Cocktails By Design, that Thursday. The cocktail event features appetizers from area restaurants, entertainment, dancing, cocktails and more. Friday's event, Artworks Detroit, costs \$75 and includes a silent and live auction of 150 pieces of art. Saturday's closing event, Dining By Design, is a limited seating gala dinner at \$250 a ticket. A silent auction, entertainment and dancing will also be held.



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Michfest Says: We Have A Few Demands Of Our Own

Viewpoint

BY LISA VOGEL, FOUNDER AND PRODUCER OF THE MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Many demands have been made of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival ("Michfest") via the Equality Michigan call for a boycott launched July 28. We have a few demands of our own.

1. Get Your Facts Straight

As the 39th Festival closes and we turn our hearts and minds to our landmark 40th anniversary, we reiterate that Michfest recognizes trans women as women - and they are our sisters. We do not fear their presence among us, a false claim repeatedly made. What we resist - and what we will never stop fighting - is the continued erasure and disrespect for the specific experience of being born and living as female in a patriarchal, misogynist world.

Over 20 years ago, we asked Nancy Burkholder, a trans woman, to leave the Land. That was wrong, and for that, we are sorry. We, alongside the rest of the LGBTQ community, have learned and changed a great deal over our 39-year history. We speak to you now in 2014 after two decades of evolution; an evolution grown from our willingness to stay in hard conversations, just as we do every year around issues of race, ability, class and gender. Since that single incident, Festival organizers have never asked a trans woman to leave the Festival. We have a radical commitment to creating a space where for one week a year, no one's gender is questioned - it's one of the most unique and valued aspects of the Festival. The Michfest community has always been populated by women who bear the burden of unwanted gender scrutiny every day.

The truth is, trans women and trans men attend the Festival, blog about their experiences, and work on crew. Again, it is not the inclusion of trans women at Festival that we resist; it is the erasure of the specificity of female experience in the discussion of the space itself that stifles progress in this conversation. As long as those who boycott and threaten Michfest do not acknowledge the reasons why the space was created in the first place, and has remained vital for four decades, the conversation remains deadlocked.

2. Acknowledge The Validity of Autonomous, Female-Defined Space

Michfest is widely known as a predominantly lesbian community. This does not mean that heterosexual women, bisexual women, or those who do not share this identity are not present or welcome. But for a week, we collectively experience a lesbian-centered world; we experience what it feels like to be in a community defined by lesbian culture.

There are trans women and trans men

the phrase 'Trust Women.'

We see this same pressure for erasure of a specifically female reality when "Pussy Manifesto," the female empowerment song written by the performers Bitch and Animal, now embraced as an unofficial Michfest anthem, is disparaged by some as transphobic - as was the event "A Night of A Thousand Vaginas" - solely for the use of the words vagina and pussy.

If it is considered transphobic to talk

If it is considered transphobic to talk about our pussies, our vaginas, or to even use the word female as specific to sex, our movement is dangerously close to using the same tactics as the far right, women hating, Michigan Republican leadership, who revoked the speaking privileges of two female legislators for saying the word vagina out loud on the Michigan State House floor. What has our movement come to when the mere articulation of your own experience in your own female body is denounced as an injury to another? It's time to examine the core issue here, which is our right to create an autonomous space focused on a female-defined experience...

who attend and work at the Festival who participate in the Michfest community in this same spirit - as supporters of, rather than detractors from, our female-focused culture. The presence of trans women at Michfest has been misrepresented as a kind of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." But the real issue is about the focus of the event, a focus on the experience of those born female, who've lived their lives subjected to oppression based on the sole fact of their being female.

In an August 4, 2014 article titled "What Is a Woman: The Dispute Between Radical Feminism and Transgenderism," The New Yorker magazine documents the extremism of the current push for language that erases the female experience. The board of the New York Abortion Access Fund, for example, "voted unanimously to stop using the word 'women' when talking about people who get pregnant. A Change.org petition directed at NARAL and Planned Parenthood "specifically criticizes the hash tag #StandWithTexasWomen...and

about our pussies, our vaginas, or to even use the word female as specific to sex, our movement is dangerously close to using the same tactics as the far right, women hating, Michigan Republican leadership, who revoked the speaking privileges of two female legislators for saying the word vagina out loud on the Michigan State House floor. What has our movement come to when the mere articulation of your own experience in your own female body is denounced as an injury to another? It's time to examine the core issue here, which is our right to create an autonomous space focused on a female-defined experience.

3. Acknowledge That Michfest Creates Spaces That Do Not Exist Elsewhere

This year, thousands of women and girls from 3 weeks to 92 years old attended our 39th Festival. This included over 75 deaf women who came to rejuvenate and be in community. Nearly

See Michfest Demands, page 13

A TIP FROM A
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HIV did.**

Brian, age 45, California

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Extending Marriage To Same-Sex Couples Could Bring Millions To State

BY BTL STAFF

The Williams Institute reports that an estimated \$53.2 million in spending could come to Michigan's economy from the legalization of same-sex marriage. A new study authored by Williams Distinguished Scholar, M.V. Lee Badgett, Williams Senior Counsel Christy Mallory and Williams Gleason Kettel Summer Fellow, Justin M. O'Neill, predicted the economical trend.

"This study confirms that all Michiganders benefit from marriage for same-sex couples, not just the LGBT community," said Badgett.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the most recent data available, 14,598 same-sex couples live in Michigan. Of those couples, the Institute estimates over 4,671 marriages would occur in the first year alone, and bring millions in revenue to the state of Michigan.

Key findings of the study included estimated sales tax revenue, how many same-sex couples could marry and more. For instance, the study predicts that 7,299 in-state same-sex couples would choose to marry in the three years following an opening of marriage to same-sex couples in Michigan. As a result



The 4th Annual BTL Wedding and Anniversary Expo took place in April at the Southfield Civic Center where over 80 vendors exhibited their goods and services. Next year's Expo will take place on March 21, 2015 and returns to the Southfield Civic. Learn more at btlweddingexpo.com

of these couples marrying, the total spending on wedding arrangements and tourism by Michigan's same-sex couples and their guests

could add an estimated \$53.2 million to the state and local economy during the first three years of same-sex marriage legalization. \$34.1

million of that money would be in the first year alone. This economic boost would add \$3.2 million in sales tax revenue for Michigan.

Mallory noted, "Study after study has demonstrated that, in addition to significant revenue, marriage for same-sex couples also creates new jobs." The study's findings estimate up to 457 full and part-time jobs generated from the potential increased spending.

Analyses for the study were informed by the methodology that the Williams Institute has used in previous studies of the economic impact of marriage in a number of other states. State-level data, 2010 Census data and American Community Survey data were all used to estimate the economic impact of extending marriage to same-sex couples in Michigan. Estimates do not take into account the impact of same-sex couples from other states who will travel to Michigan to marry.

Find the report on line at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/MI-Econ-Impact-Aug-2014.pdf>.



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100-Year-Old Ohio Church Installs Gay Pastor

CANTON, OH - (AP) An Ohio church marking its 100th anniversary this year on Sunday installed its first openly gay pastor who came out two years ago and says he wants everyone in the community to know that it's OK to be who they are.

The Congregational United Church of Christ in Plain Township, north of Canton, made the Rev. Dennis Coy its pastor in a formal ceremony two months after he was unanimously elected.

Coy said that part of the ceremony included the congregation forming a circle around him and singing as a demonstration of love and support.

"It was a very touching and unexpected moment," he said shortly after the ceremony. "The forward thinking and progressive nature of this congregation that's been around 100 years, to then say, 'We want to call as our new pastor an openly gay man,' really speaks to

them extending that welcome into the community."

Coy, 35, is a former police officer and drug-enforcement agent. He undertook seminary studies at the University of London and the United Church of Christ lay ministry program.

Coy now works full-time investigating money laundering for a regional bank.

Coy said that coming out publicly in 2012 was a difficult decision for him that included ending his 10-year marriage to his wife.

He said he was inspired to come out after attending a church event led by an openly gay United Church of Christ pastor.

"I thought, if this man can lead in a mainline Protestant denomination, why can't I?" he told The Repository, (<http://bit.ly/1rgN3IV>). "My theology as a pastor is, above all else, we love everyone. We want to be a place where people can feel it. ... It's about showing others that it's OK to be who you are."



Rev. Dennis Coy

Coy said he believes scriptures used to condemn homosexuality have been "grossly misinterpreted."

"As Christians, we follow Christ," he said. "Nowhere does Christ say anything about the subject. But he does tell us to love everyone."

Worship Songwriter Vicky Beeching Comes Out As Gay

London - British star of the American Christian rock scene, Vicky Beeching came out as gay Aug. 13 in an interview with the U.K. newspaper, the Independent. She is a popular writer and singer of Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) worship songs and has been performing for 12 years but has been writing them for much longer.

"What Jesus taught was a radical message of welcome and inclusion and love," said the 35-year-old Anglican, who recently left the (CCM) world to become a TV news commentator, but still makes a living from royalties when American churches sing her worship songs. "I feel certain God loves me just the way I am, and I have a huge sense of calling to communicate that to young people."

Beeching is one of the most prominent CCM singers to come out since Jennifer Knapp's much-discussed revelation in 2010, Christianity Today reports.

"I'm gay," she said. She has never said this publicly before - a handful of people in her private life know. She has only just told one her closest friends, Katherine, and Katherine's father, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Beeching moved to the United States in her early 20s. Now in her mid 30s Beeching is still a religious performer but her career may take a slight change. She sings popular worship songs such as "Glory to God Forever," and many that

she has written herself.

She describes experiencing same-sex attraction starting around the age of 13 and felt extremely conflicted in evangelical settings, where church leaders would pray against the "demon of homosexuality" that they believed to be within her. Beeching came out to her family earlier this year and to the Archbishop of Canterbury and his family.

Beeching studied theology at Oxford spent much of her 20s in the Christian music scene in the United States, living in Nashville and San Diego. Over the past decade, Beeching has recorded three albums, performed with America's best-known Christian artists like Matthey West and Joy Williams, and had her songs appear on popular compilations such as WOW Worship and Here I Am to Worship.

Beeching "still considers herself an evangelical," writes veteran British religion reporter Ruth Gledhill, "although she no longer attends charismatic evangelical services and now prefers the more traditional services of London's main cathedrals."

"I am not angry with the Church, even though it has been very difficult," she told Gledhill. "The Church is still my family. Family do[es] not always agree or see eye to eye. But family stick[s] together, and I am committed to being part of the Church, working for change."

She lives in London now where she discusses church news on the BBC and other outlets. The Church of England does not currently recognize same-sex unions but that isn't stopping Beeching she has vocalized her support for equal marriage and LGBT rights.

"The Church's teaching was the reason that I lived in so much shame and isolation and pain for all those years. But rather than abandon it and say it's broken, I want to be part of the change," she told The Independent.

For the time being Beeching relies on royalties from her worship music to make a living, and confesses that speaking out about LGBT rights has cost her a lot.

"As a result of raising my voice to support equal marriage, I've received lots of messages from conservative American churches saying they will 'boycott my songs.' If they don't get sung in the mega-churches of North America, my royalties basically stop."

In recent years, a handful of Christian artists have come out as gay, including Ray Boltz, gospel singer Tonex, and most famously, Jennifer Knapp, who described her hiatus from Christian music and her decision to come out in an interview with Christianity Today. Knapp is releasing a book about her story, focusing on her faith and sexuality, in the fall.

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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1965 historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., for Negro voter rights changed the South forever. (Or, did it?)

Few know that another King – William Rufus DeVane King – gave Selma its name 145 years earlier. (It means “high seat” or “throne,” and comes from an epic Ossianic poem, “The Song of Selma”.) Billy DeVane was the live-in companion – partner, spouse, lover – of James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States.

Buchanan met Billy in 1834 while they were both serving in the Senate. They became inseparable for almost 20 years. Gay historians say there's a strong possibility that Buchanan may have broken his engagement to his fiancée Ann Coleman for handsome, slightly older Billy. Poor Ann. She died brokenhearted shortly thereafter.

Buchanan referred to Billy's friendship as a “communion”. Washington gossips called Billy Jamie Buchanan's “better half,” and the two of them “the Siamese Twins”. Former President Andrew Jackson dubbed Billy “Miss Nancy”. (Jackson's own wife – a zesty, buxom tart of a thing – was also the subject of much gossip.)

Democrat Aaron Brown confided in letters to his friends that Billy was “Aunt Fancy trigged in her best clothes”. He called Billy “she” and referenced to “her” telltale behavior and conversations. There's hinting that Billy may have been a cross dresser.

But Billy was also a highly respected politician, with 38 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives, Senate, and as Minister With Portfolio (perhaps beaded) to France and to St. Petersburg, Russia.

It's rumored at the time that Billy took the post in France to quash gossip about himself and Jamie. Whether true or not, he did a splendid job of keeping the French from interfering in this country's plans to annex Texas from Mexico. (Things might have been better for all parties concerned today if France had succeeded.)

In 1853, Billy became vice president to our 14th president, Franklin Pierce. Billy, who owned slaves, was chosen as a compromise candidate on a pro-slavery ticket. But before taking office he showed signs of tuberculosis, hastening to a friend's plantation near Havana, Cuba to recuperate and Mint Julep it up in the sun.

For the only time in our history, a special act of Congress was passed to allow KING to take the Oath of Office outside of the United States. But excessive drinking further weakened Billy's constitution, and within six weeks of being sworn in he was dead. Jamie Buchanan was devastated.

In 1850, Buchanan without his beloved Billy, became our only bachelor president. His indecisiveness in office brought the Civil War closer. Lincoln inherited the conflict. (Gay historians think Lincoln a possible bi.)

Billy is buried in a shady cemetery just outside Selma, a city remembered today for two Kings. And a queen. Perhaps America's first. J. Edgar Hoover notwithstanding.

Charles@pridesource.com



Letter

Tobacco Use And Prevention In LGBT Community Needs More Attention

BY RYAN STABLER

With the recent death of Hall-of-Fame baseball player Tony Gwynn due to tobacco-related oral cancer, the public is talking more about the harms associated with tobacco use. While iconically tied to baseball, tobacco use is widespread among Michigan residents. But Michiganders who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) are at an even greater risk of tobacco related health problems.

The LGBT community smokes at rates almost 60% higher than the general population (Michigan Tobacco Control, 2012). In Michigan it is still legal to be fired for being LGBT and prejudice can be a part of daily life and tobacco use is often used as a way to deal with these stressors. The tobacco industry uses this knowledge and specifically targets LGBT communities to use their products. The Tobacco

industry spends millions of dollars a year on sponsorships for pride events and advertising meant to make buying tobacco products seem like an expected part of LGBT identity and community.

In 1998, 46 states sued the tobacco industry for tobacco-related healthcare costs; Michigan now receives over \$288 million from the tobacco industry each year. Called the Tobacco Master Settlement, this agreement supposedly makes up for the thousands of deaths and other negative health impacts due to smoking each year. Despite the purpose if these funds, Michigan has never spent any of the Master Settlement money on tobacco prevention. In fact, Michigan has one of the most under-funded tobacco prevention programs in the United States.

The only way that we can reduce tobacco use and combat this huge disparity is with increased tobacco prevention and education. Currently Michigan funds tobacco prevention

In Michigan it is still legal to be fired for being LGBT and prejudice can be a part of daily life and tobacco use is often used as a way to deal with these stressors.

at just 10% of the minimum level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. It's time for Michigan to prioritize health for all and use Master Settlement money for its intended purpose: Tobacco Prevention.

Ryan Stabler is an intern with Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale. Ryan can be reached at RStabler@GoAffirmations.org

Equality Michigan and the organizations endorsing its petition including HRC, the Task Force, NCLR and the National Black Justice Coalition, are targeting Michfest with McCarthy-era blacklist tactics.

► Michfest Demands

Continued from p. 6

200 women with disabilities came into the woods to thrive. At one of the workshops held this year, young women stated that until they came to Festival, they had never seen an old gender-non-conforming female in person; they did not know that those women existed. We built this space to let these women be seen and celebrated. We built this space around the fierce solidarity of female experience that has always been and continues to be deconstructed into invisibility; where that unique experience is relegated to a place of dishonor. Whenever females honor ourselves, wherever we take up space, and sit collectively in the source of our collective power, we are burned and stoned, both literally and metaphorically.

4. Turn Your Energy Towards the Real Enemies of Female and LGBTQ Liberation

While the abuse and disenfranchisement of women and girls escalates around the world and LGBTQ people experience life-threatening harms, LGBTQ organizations have turned inwards on a curious target - a weeklong music festival that does not ban or exclude anyone, that simply seeks to devote its focus to an experience that is denigrated in the larger world: the experience of being born and living as female.

Equality Michigan and the organizations endorsing its petition including HRC, the Task Force, NCLR and the National Black Justice Coalition, are targeting Michfest with McCarthy-era blacklist tactics. Specifically, they have called for attendees and artists to boycott the event, and - astonishingly - have threatened the livelihood of artists and vendors by branding those who participate in the Festival as "having committed anti-transgender discrimination."

These organizations are targeting artists who perform at Michfest while remaining completely silent when queer-identified artists play at venues that generate profits for racist, transphobic, and homophobic corporate entities and individuals, whose interests are dangerous to the global LGBTQ movement and all basic human rights.

We call on the constituents, donors, and dues-paying members of the LGBTQ institutions targeting Michfest to hold them accountable for this misuse and misdirection of organizational resources, and to withdraw their time and dollars from these organizations until the targeting of Michfest ends. Sisters -

we urge you to redirect your money to organizations that speak to your lives and speak for you.

5. Join the Conversation, Not the Digital Sound Bite War

Our community is strong enough to hold disagreement and to engage deeply with each other, face-to-face, through difficulty. The Michfest community welcomes conversation; we do not stifle it. We have and will continue to remain in community with those trans women for whom Michfest has been home; trans women like those organizing the New Narratives Conference who do not require females to disappear ourselves or our unique experiences to prove our political and social solidarity.

Michfest has always existed outside the gender binary. We built this city out of a radical diversity of age, culture, race, class and gender. We continue the revolutionary work of digging out from under the boot of patriarchy; a system of oppression so omnipresent, it is invisible in the analysis used by the very organizations who are supposed to be fighting alongside and for us. We are fierce allies to and members of the trans and broader LGBTQ movement - but our alliance cannot and will not be premised on our continued erasure.

We turn to our LGBTQ community and say: we hear your truths; we ask you to acknowledge that you hear ours. Listen to the voices of the tens of thousands of women who call Michfest home. Join the conversation in person in your home communities, not exclusively through social media platforms or online petitions. We invite our sisters to participate in this conversation in person on the Land. Make room in your heart to hold difference of opinion and disagreement - this is the challenging path to honoring true diversity. We turn to our LGBTQ community and ask you to unite with us in the belief that we can work together as a movement and stand together in solidarity. We ask you to work with us, not against us.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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Creep of the Week

Brent Ellis

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Here's a little history lesson: Title IX passed 35 years ago and mandates that males and females be treated equally in education programs that get federal funding. And it solved sex discrimination across the land, the end, amen.



Brent Ellis

Just kidding. Things are still totally sexist in American education.

But Title IX is better than nothing even if it doesn't level the playing field. In late April of this year, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights made clear that the law extended to transgender students.

But what to do if you're, say, a University and you want to keep trans men and women, not to mention unwed mothers and fornicators, the hell off of your campus?

Well, if you're a religious institution, you're in luck! You can apply to the U.S. Department of Education for an exemption from parts of Title IX that you think are particularly icky (a.k.a. against your religion), which is what Spring Arbor University did earlier this year.

In a June 2, 2014 letter, Spring Arbor University President Brent Ellis made the case for why his school should be totally allowed to "discriminate on religious grounds in regard to its students and employees."

According to Ellis, Spring Arbor University "is the largest private, Christian evangelical University in the State of Michigan" and is affiliated with the Free Methodist Church.

"Among the teachings of the Bible and the tenants of the Free Methodist Church followed by the University," Ellis writes, "are that God created two sexes, male and female; that marriage is between one man and one woman; and that extramarital sex, premarital sex, and the practice of homosexuality are sinful behaviors, and therefore prohibited."

He continues, "The University may impose sanctions for behavior which is not in keeping with these standards, including dismissal from the University of termination of employment."

In other words, no trannies, no homos, no sluts, no problem. And anyone who falls into any of those categories can GTFO. Signed, God.

Ellis took a special interest in making clear that the University will, under no circumstances, accept trans students or employees.

"It is the University's position, based upon its religious beliefs taken from Biblical

principles and the Doctrine of the Free Methodist Church, that a person cannot change his or her birth sex," Ellis writes. "Although they may undergo surgery or hormone treatments to alter their physical characteristics, only the outward appearance is changed."

He then makes a list of everything trans students would be denied: university housing, places on sports teams, restroom and locker room access.

"That person also would not be eligible for employment with the University," he writes.

But in order to do that, Spring Arbor

In other words, no trannies, no homos, no sluts, no problem. And anyone who falls into any of those categories can GTFO. Signed, God.

University needs to be unshackled from the bonds of Title XI.

And, of course, the exemption was granted, because the civil rights of real human beings are nothing compared to an institution's belief in a sky god who hates those people.

What's especially galling is that Ellis is now claiming that Spring Arbor has no plans to discriminate against the students it so specifically sought the right to discriminate against.

"What this allows us to do is instead of the Department of Education telling us how to respond to each one of these issues, we determine as a community of faith committed to the teachings of Christ on how to work with each situation case-by-case just like we do now," he told the Jackson Citizen Patriot. "Just because we have the exemption doesn't mean we will exercise it to its fullest."

Baloney. Think about it: if you no longer had to abide by the speed limit would you say, "I'm going to do it anyway because I'm such a good guy," or would you say, "Hello 55 in a 35!"

"This is not a punitive action," Ellis continued.

Oh, sure. Not punitive at all. Just a big old government-sanctioned F.U. to anyone not good enough for your god. Just ask Julie Nemecek who was fired from Spring Arbor in 2007 after transitioning from male to female.

"We want everyone to know they are welcome, but that we do not affirm every lifestyle choice," he said.

Everyone is not welcome there, clearly. And Spring Arbor has the Title IX exemption to prove it.

Open Letter On Michael Brown #HandsUpDon'tShoot

BY AJ TRAGER

Transgenderlawcenter.org along with many different LGBT organizations including the ACLU, Advocates for Youth, Equality Michigan, BiNet USA and AIDS United have come together to release an open letter to the family and community of Michael Brown.

The letter reads as follows:

"When communities experience fear, harassment and brutality simply because of who they are or how they look, we are failing as a nation. In light of the recent events in Missouri, it is clearer than ever that there is something profoundly wrong in our country.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community cannot be silent at this moment, because LGBT people come from all races, creeds, faiths and backgrounds, and because all movements of equality are deeply connected. We are all

part of the fabric of this nation and the promise of liberty and justice for all is yet to be fulfilled. The LGBT community stands with the family of Michael Brown, who was gunned down in Ferguson, Missouri. We stand with the mothers and fathers of young Black men and women who fear for the safety of their children each time they leave their homes. We call on the national and local media to be responsible and steadfast in their coverage of this story and others like it-racialized killings that have marred this nation since the beginning of its history. We call on policy makers on all levels of American government not to shrink from action, and we are deeply grateful to Attorney General Eric Holder and the Department of Justice for their immediate commitment to a thorough investigation.

At this moment, we are inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies ... but the silence of our friends."

Brown was only 18 when he was gunned down by police in the streets of Ferguson, MO on Aug. 9. Reports claimed that Brown physically assaulted the officer, and during a struggle with the officer, reached for the officer's sidearm. One shot was fired in

the car followed more outside. An autopsy filed the week after his death concluded that Brown was shot six times, twice in the head.

A candlelight vigil to honor Brown was held that same evening and turned violent with more than a dozen businesses being vandalized and looted. The FBI announced on Aug. 10th that they would conduct a parallel investigation into the shooting of the young man. Parents and attorney of Brown, the same attorney who represented the family in the Trayvon Martin case, asked for a stop



Detroit rally in support of Ferguson, MO. was held at Hart Plaza Aug. 15. BTL photo: AJ Trager

to the violence. Rioting, looting and violence continued on throughout the week. Trayvon's mother released this letter to the family of Brown. The Ferguson police responded to the rioting with tear gas, armored vehicles, rubber bullets and wood pellet bullets as a means to control the crowds and maintain city safety. There has been a dispute as to whether the police acted with brute force, verging on "police brutality."

It wasn't until Thursday Aug. 14th that the evening violence ended as citizens marched peacefully alongside state troopers. But the cease-fire didn't last and rioting and violence between city members and the police started up again on Aug. 15.

As of the morning of Aug. 19th, Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden said on the *Today Show* that their focus remains on getting justice for her son. "When justice is prevailed, then maybe they'll regain their trust in the locals," McSpadden said.

School had been cancelled in Ferguson for the entirety of last week, maintaining safety for the students during the violent conflict.

View the *USATODAY* extended timeline here <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/08/14/michael-brown-ferguson-missouri-timeline/14051827/>

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(Above) In 2000, Chris Swope runs for, and is elected, to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. He becomes the first openly gay elected official on the board. He is seen here speaking at the 2002 Michigan Pride Rally. In 2005, Swope was elected Lansing city clerk. (Below) Triangle Foundation (Equality Michigan) Executive Director Jeff Montgomery takes on an anti-gay protestor during the March.



A Brief Timeline Of LGBT Milestones In the Capital City

COMPILED BY TODD HEYWOOD

1972 – In March East Lansing becomes the first municipality in the United States to adopt a nondiscrimination ordinance which protected people based on sexual orientation.

1974 - Lesbian Connections magazine begins publication every two months.

1979 - On Aug. 23 the first meeting of the Lansing Association

for Human Rights is held. At first, the local LGBTQ organization was a loose confederation of community members gathered together in social solidarity. That first meeting was held at the home of founders

Dr. Hartshorn and Barb Harte.

In the months following the formation of LAHR, the group was called to action by the arrest of gay men at the two local gay bars – Joe Covello's and Tramp's Disco. Undercover officer were placed on the street and when gay men approached them for conversation they were arrested. Many were also issued jaywalking and other minor traffic infraction tickets. LAHR rallied members and filled City Council chambers, presenting the findings of an exhaustive 100 page report and statistical analysis on the entrapment. At the end of the debate, two men decided to

challenge the criminal charges laid against them, had jury trials and were acquitted.

1981 – In September the LAHR newsletter runs the very first news item about the mysterious new cancer and pneumonia killing gay men in New York City and Los Angeles. The mysterious disease would become known as AIDS.

1983 – First AIDS case is diagnosed in Ingham County at Lansing General Hospital

1985 – The Lansing Area AIDS Network is formed by Doak Bloss, Maxine Thome, Suellen Hozman, Tom McQuire, Beth Schiably and others.

1986 – On March 18, 42 local men are arrested in a sting operation at the Holt Rest Area. Police, prosecutors and media coordinate to release the names and identities of the men.

1989 – On Nov. 13, Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus is founded

See Timeline, page 22



Michigan Pride Weekend Schedule

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The multi-day event celebrates LGBTQ pride in the state's capital, featuring a variety of adult and family-oriented events from Aug. 22-23.

MI Pride kicks off with the White Party at 8 p.m. on Friday in Lansing's Old Town. The all-night party (themed around white or silver attire) is Michigan's largest white attire event. For \$10, a wristband gets party-goers access to all venues: Sir Pizza, Grand Cafe, Spiral Video & Dance Bar and Esquire Bar.

Activities are packed into the following day, starting with the March to the Capitol. The march, which will set up at noon at 200 N. Grand Ave., kicks off at 1 p.m. and will feature various religious groups, local LGBTQ owned and welcoming businesses, citizens groups and individuals riding in floats. (All participants are urged to dress appropriately as well.)

Once the march ends at the capitol steps, a commitment ceremony – "Stand Up and Out" – will take place at 1:30 p.m. Participants, who can register at 12 p.m. on the steps, will receive a certificate from the group-style commitment ceremony. There is no fee, but donations to the minister are appreciated. A rally will also take place on the steps from 1:30-3 p.m., celebrating the LGBTQ community's civil rights progress in the state.

The main event – the Festival in Old Town – runs from 12 to 11 p.m. at 206 E. Grand River Ave. The suggested admission is \$5-10. All ages are welcome at the festival, which will feature live music, a bounce house, crafts, games, food and vendors. Some featured entertainment includes the LanSingOut Gay Men's Chorus, comedian Mimi Gonzalez and a drag show.

For the Saturday entertainment schedule see page 20.

Learn more online at www.michiganpride.org.



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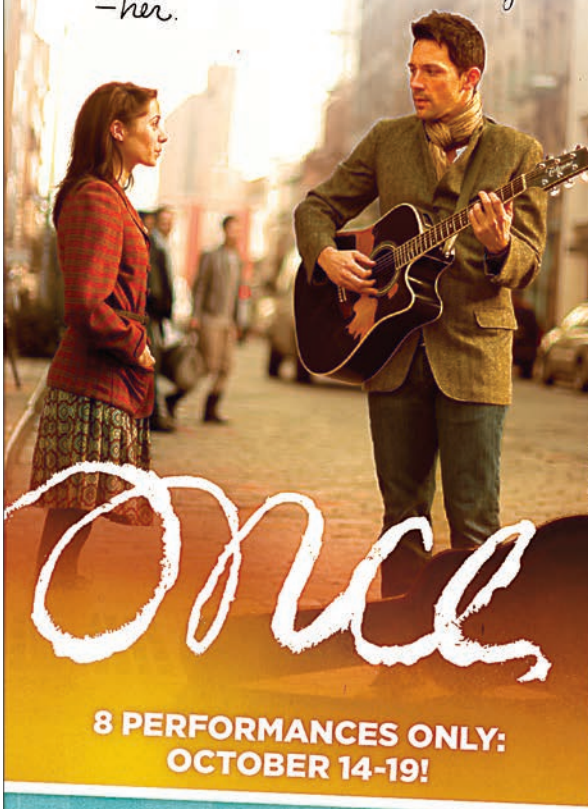
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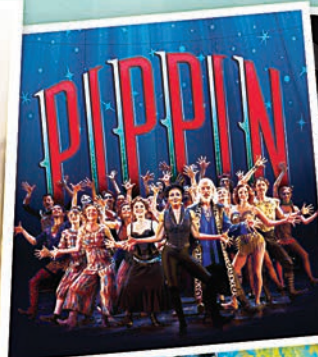
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'RuPaul's Drag Race' Queen Struts Michigan Pride Stage

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

Of all the queens to grace the "RuPaul's Drag Race" stage, few have been as polished, poised and drop dead gorgeous as season six contestant Trinity K. Bonet. That might explain why, despite failing to snatch the crown, it took a

miracle and several virgin Louboutin sacrifices to pin her down for an interview.

While she may be constantly on the run, Bonet is always one to make herself available for a roaring Pride crowd. She'll be available for adoration and generous tipping when she performs at 7 p.m. Aug. 23

during Michigan Pride in Lansing's Old Town.

The only actual talk time I had with her was just as she boarded a flight out of Atlanta, after being delayed to her gate by some rabid fans. Some bossy flight attendants and janky cell reception cut the conversation short, but still, Ms. Bonet worked that call

like a "Drag Race" competition.

During her time on the show, Trinity proved to be one of the most endearing contestants yet. From her modern, elegant style to her shy-as-a-roaring-lion personality, she became an early underdog favorite. The second queen in "Drag Race" history to come as out as HIV positive, she'd also

become a spokesperson for the HIV/AIDS community.

Since the end of season six, Bonet has continued to combat HIV stigma.

"I have a really close fan base of followers who believe in me and my journey dealing with HIV," she says. "I also have a lot of people who I

See Trinity K. Bonet, page 20

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www.inclusion.msu.edu/Project6050

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► **Trinity K. Bonet**

Continued from p. 18

counsel. They are dealing with this just like I am, and that makes us family. On my Facebook page, I have an address book of all the people who have contacted me. Every now and again, I speak to them to make sure they're OK. I can't save the world just yet, but I can help a few."

And it starts with visibility – if you've got it, flaunt it.

"I owe it to anybody I come in contact with to be honest and open," she says. "I chose to be visible, because if people don't see for their own eyes that it's OK then they will never know what OK looks like."

Like any good drag queen these days, and outside her self-imposed HIV educator role, she's keeping busy with performances all over the globe, an upcoming web series and a debut single due out later this year. She's also set to open The Paint Factory in Atlanta in April 2015 (she describes it as simply "a spot for women to come get dolled up.")

When it comes to getting herself glammed, she lives for every moment – especially the ones on stage. Considering she's been booking shows all over the world, she's taking full advantage of her queen status, even if she wasn't the crowned victor. Criticized for her oft-muted performance on "Drag Race," she's moved on – because could you imagine what that could do to her expertly applied contouring?

ON STAGE

**Michigan Pride
Saturday Entertainment
Schedule**

- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Drag Show with Host Delicios
- 3:45-4:30 p.m. Kate Peterson of Nervous but Excited
- 4:30-5:45 p.m. Ronnie Nyles Band
- 5:45-6 p.m. Volunteer of the Year Award/Announcements
- 6-6:45 p.m. Mimi Gonzalez (co-Host/comedian)
- 6:45-7 p.m. Special guest opening for Trinity K. Bonet
- 7-7:45 p.m. Trinity K. Bonet
- 8-10:45 p.m. Dance party with the DJ

For more info on Michigan Pride, visit michiganpride.org

"I don't like to go into ('Drag Race') much 'cause it was a obstacle in my life I got through," Bonet says, "but no bad love. It made me who I am today."

And who she'll be the day she takes the Michigan Pride stage. For her Aug. 23 performance, Bonet promises "a great show."

"I haven't really thought about what I will do," she says, "but I don't leave anything less then a great impression."



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► Timeline

Continued from p. 16

1990 – Offices of Lesbian Connections magazine catch fire

1990 – Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus is kicked out of River Terrace Church.

1990 – MSU adopts inclusive non-discrimination policy which includes sexual orientation as a protected category.

1992 – Lansing Community College becomes second community college in the state to approve a policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

1992 – M. Kate Muphy is appointed to the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees. She is the first openly gay person of either gender appointed to a Michigan Community College Board.

1993 – In a community meeting with the LGBT community, following the election of David Hollister as mayor, Lansing Police Chief Mark Alley personally apologizes to the

community for the past arrests and targeting of the community.

1994 — In December, Lansing's first and only LGBT community book store – The Real World Emporium – officially opens for business in Old Town.

1995 – Chris Swope runs as an openly gay candidate for the Lansing City Council in the First Ward. He loses the election to Harold Leeman, Jr.

1996 – Lansing City Council approves a comprehensive human rights ordinance

1996 – On June 27, beloved Lansing State Journal sports writer Bob Gross is found brutally murdered in his downtown home. His body was mutilated, then the body and his home were set on fire. Gross' murder is one of several high profile murders of gay men that year.

1996 – Citizens opposed to LGBT equality gather enough signatures to place the recently adopted human right ordinance

Continued on Next Page

www.PrideSource.com

on the November ballot. Lansing City Council subsequently approves two ballot measures related to the ordinance.

1996 – Citizens of Lansing reject the comprehensive human rights ordinance.

1997 – Robert Durfee goes on trial for the murder of Bob Gross. Mainstream media finally reports news, despite knowing from court testimony for over a year that Gross was allegedly murdered because he was gay.

1997 – Rachel Crandall starts Transgender Michigan, an equality and education organization dedicated to transgender equality.

2000 – Chris Swope runs for, and is elected, to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. He becomes the first openly gay elected official on the board.

2001 – Todd Heywood runs for, and is elected, to the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees. He becomes the first openly gay man elected to a community college board in Michigan.

2002 – Lansing Community College

becomes the first community college in Michigan to offer domestic partner benefits to employees.

2003 – Melissa Sue Robinson becomes the first out transgender woman to run for elective office in Lansing. She seeks election to the post of Mayor.

2004 – A young gay man is brutally attacked at Lansing Eastern High School. The beating of the young black man leaves him in a medically induced coma for a time.

2004 – Michigan voters approve an amendment to the Michigan constitution defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Ingham county is one of only two counties to vote the amendment down.

2005 – Chris Swope is elected city clerk for the city of Lansing.

2005 – Kathie Dunbar is elected to the Lansing City Council, becoming the city's first openly bisexual elected official.

2006 – Lansing adopts a comprehensive

human rights ordinance. While there was some opposition to the law, opponents were unable to put the law on the ballot.

2007 – Dr. Julie Nemecek's firing from Spring Arbor University because she was transgender leads Lansing Community College to tell Spring Arbor and other universities considering partnerships with the upcoming University Center that they must adhere to LCC policies. Spring Arbor bows out of the partnership.

2009 – Two men are arrested in a sting operation in Fenner Nature Center. The arrests were the result of interference from a police commissioner, and Lansing officials released the HIV status of one of the men arrested – resulting in the city adopting more stringent Freedom of Information Act policies.

2013 – Delta, Delhi and Meridian Townships all adopt comprehensive human rights ordinance. These new ordinances expand protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity to nearly every resident of greater Lansing. Lansing Township remains the only local municipality without a law on the books.





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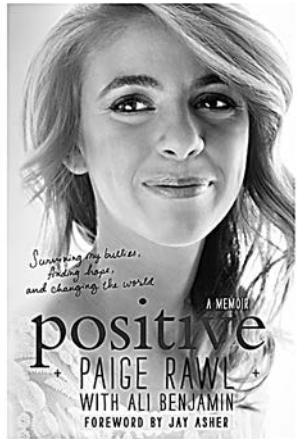
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A Coming-Of-Gay Story

Puerto Rican 'Super Gay' Tells His True-Life Tale At Ringwald

BY AJ TRAGER

FERNDALE - It was Toni Morrison, famous Nobel Peace Prize 1993 winner and author, that said "If there's a book you really want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

That's exactly what Javier Riviera did when he wrote his one-man play "Regina Salve: A Coming of Gay Story." The play is Riviera's coming-of-age story, chronicling his life as a "super gay" boy in the machismo, Catholic society of Puerto Rico - raised by a domineering father in a house where he didn't quite fit the idea of a perfect son - who ended up moving to the United States to pursue theater at American University.

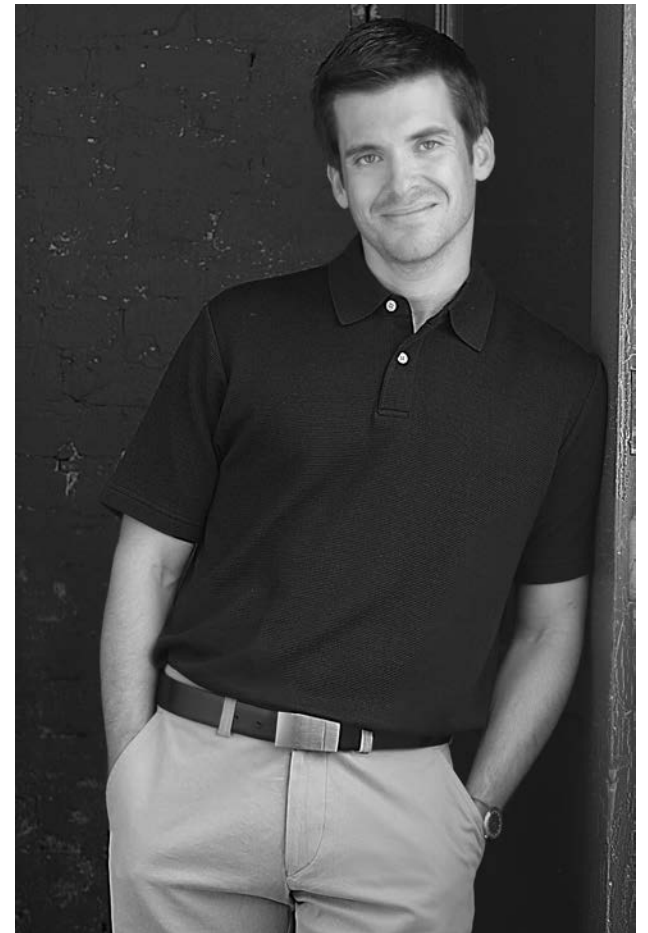
Riviera references pop icon Madonna throughout the piece, using her works as transition elements between the stages of his life. "She's a metaphor for whatever we as individuals latch onto to figure out who we are," he says. "Whether it's art, dance, theater - we all have that vehicle that helps us become who we are. It's a really universal aspect to life."

The story took a year and a half to write and Riviera workshopped the piece at the Chicago Dramatists, a group for young playwrights to collaborate and share their stories. Having directed plays for years as a theater professor at his alma mater, the performance process is second nature to him. And yet, for his Aug. 22 premiere at the Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale, there are still nerves.

"It might turn out to be emotional diarrhea," he says. "Scary to talk about these things."

Riviera will take us through nine chapters that will push the audience through his upbringing: the bullying, his first kiss, his first sexual experience, coming to the U.S. and, of course, coming out to his parents.

"I purposefully crafted a universal story that talks about the obstacles in life, and not just sexuality, but feeling like you were born in the right family and what you do with your life - everything that gays deal with are things that everybody feels," Riviera says.



INFO

'Regine Salve: A Coming of Gay Story'

8 p.m. Aug. 22
Ringwald Theatre
22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
www.TheRingwald.com

To tell his story, he runs through three costume changes, all of which signify his life progression. And high heels - you can look forward to those too.

"I can provide the fireworks. I am too much for a lot of people, let me say," Riviera says, describing how much he'd like Madonna to show up. He's blasted her social media with press releases but hasn't heard back. "Wouldn't that just be the most surreal moment of my life? There she is, taking it all in. I feel confident that she would love it, in particular the ending," Riviera laughs.

The queen of pop, the muse for his show, has been his idol since childhood. "If this play were going to premiere anywhere, it better be Detroit. I mean, that's where she's from!"

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Googly-Eyed Ambitions Yield Fuzzy Returns



Go Comedy! presents its first original comedy featuring puppets! "Fuzzballs" plays at the Ferndale improv theater Thursday nights at 10 p.m. through Sept. 11. Photo: SMyers

BY CAROLYN HAYES HARMER

If Tommy LeRoy isn't already a local legend in metro Detroit theater, he should be. Seen the low-tech, high-impact blood and animatronic effects in the long-running "Evil Dead: The Musical"? That was Tommy LeRoy. Remember the larger-than-life ED-209 robot in "Robocop: The Musical"? Classic Tommy LeRoy. Point to anything that's ever been rigged to do an unexpected thing, any custom-built exactly-to-scale prop, or any visionary proportion-defying costume in an original production, and those in the know won't need many guesses to identify the source.

It's worth noting because Go Comedy! Improv Theater's untamed late-Thursday time slot is not just being overrun by any old puppets, but by Tommy LeRoy puppets. The do-it-yourself ingenuity impresario is creator and director of the fluffy and flashy "Fuzzballs," in essence a live-action staging of a puppet TV show.

The production cites Jim Henson's "The Muppet Show" as inspiration, and its presentation borrows from the stage show "Puppet Up!," created by Henson's son. There are two major components to the setup: the playing area to one side of the Go stage, where scenes unfold live for a camera, and the simultaneous video image projected above center stage. (More so than

of the shimmies and adjustments that inject life even into a puppet at "rest," as well as camera-specific use of perspective and foreground/background focus.

Essentially, if the Muppets had a single set, a cable-access budget and a need to create a whole show on the fly, this is probably what it would look like. The one-act production features a blend of scripted vignettes and short-form improvisational games, contrasting chaotic free play with exhaustively constructed bits, many dependent on music. Although the sensibility is recognizably Henson, as "Avenue Q" taught the world, there's nothing like watching puppets saying filthy things. So while this show hardly wallows in its impiety, any time improvisers are allowed to work blue, four-letter words and adult subject matter tend to make an appearance.

The improvisational elements are skillful and good for some laughs, although what they gain by the puppetry medium is not as clear as what they sometimes lose. Setup drag and stilted transitions tend to remind the viewer of the benefits of editing, and the selected games' reliance on strings of one-liners holds the expressive puppet characters back in a talking-head purgatory of their own making.

Rather, this production is undoubtedly best in innovative segments that are engineered to be heightened by the format. These predominantly visual gags are dually splendid in concept and in execution, some with complexity that really rewards the behind-the-curtain view. Another particular highlight is a pair of friendly, disarming creatures (expertly characterized on press night by Tommy LeRoy and Michelle LeRoy) that seek out—and inevitably find—willing partners in cute gameplay; their assembled physicality, voice, rapport and objective make a harmonious combination with exponential opportunities for humor.

There's truth in advertising in "Fuzzballs," whose subtitle reads, simply, "Comedy With Puppets." Comedy indeed winds throughout this peculiar grab bag of clever scripted and bawdy improvised fare. But ultimately, it's when the puppets stop being an incidental gimmick and start being the linchpin of the humor that this production intermittently finds its rewarding and hilarious groove.

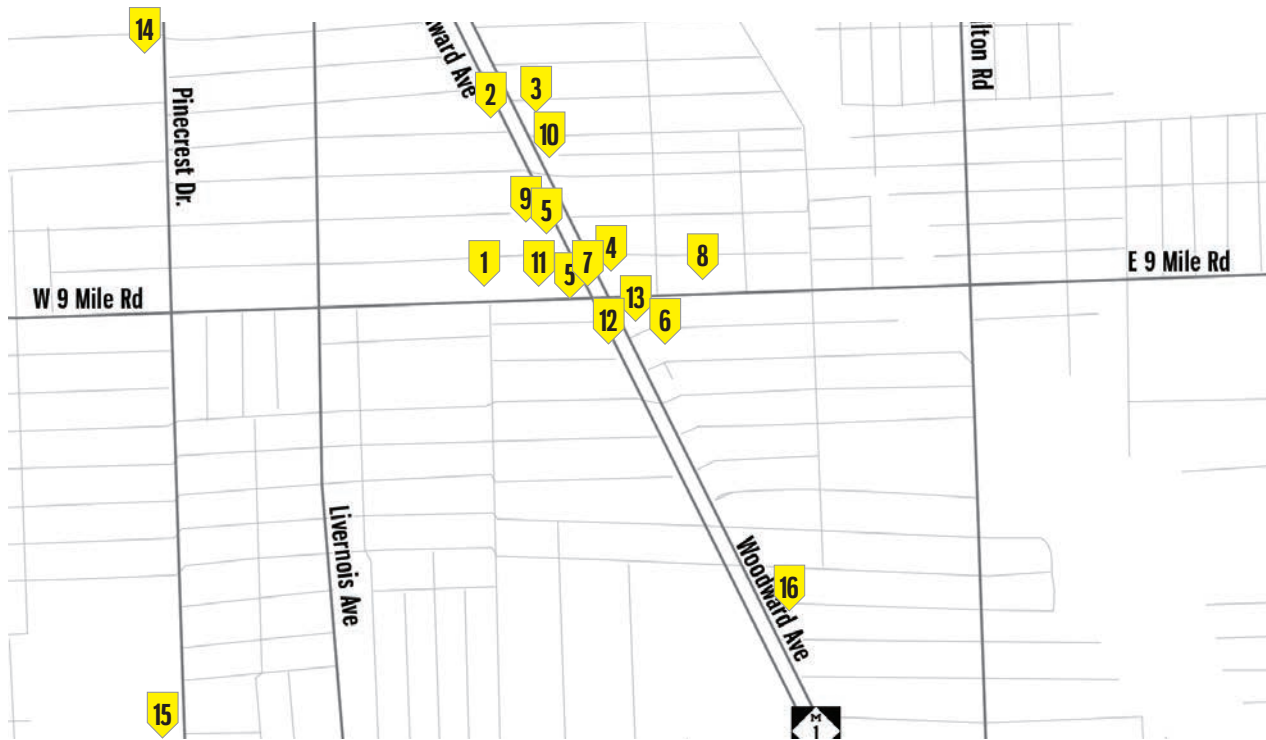
INFO

Fuzzballs

Go Comedy! Improv Theater
261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale
10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, 28, Sept. 4, 11
11:59 p.m. Aug. 23
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248-327-0575
www.gocomedy.net

usual at Go Comedy!, there are good seats and less-good seats for this production; for best results, aim for a clear view of the area in front of the "Fuzzballs" backdrop.) The puppeteers aren't masking themselves, but merely hovering out of frame, so viewers can choose to watch either the final product or how the sausage is made—or to compare the two, which is a mind-expander in and of itself.

LeRoy and company (numbering about sixteen in total, of which around half appear in any given performance) have scores of puppets at their disposal, from classic flap-head/floppy-arm to perfectly sculpted dinosaurs to everyday objects with rudimentary rubber-band mouths. Each is meticulously detailed and possessed of real personality, which is furthered by deft manipulation on the parts of the puppeteers. The work implies careful study



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Editor's Pick

It's not too far to get to Lansing to celebrate Michigan Pride! One of the summer's last Pride events in the state, Michigan Pride features a variety of events over Friday and Saturday.

Beginning with a "White Party" on Friday and ending with different post-events in the Lansing area, there's something for everyone this weekend. A march to the capitol at 12 p.m. on Saturday begins the main events, with a commitment ceremony and rally both taking place at 1 p.m. on the capitol steps.

The Michigan Pride festival in Old Town will feature food, games, music and more at 12 p.m. on Saturday, as well.

Michigan Pride runs from Aug. 22-23. The main festival is located at 206 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. For more information on Michigan Pride events, check out BTL's Pride Guide at www.pridesource.com/prideguide.html or visit www.michiganpride.org.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 21

Serving LGBT Abuse Survivors 8:30 a.m. Three hour summer workshop. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Substance Use Disorders Within LGBT Communities 1:30 p.m. Three hour summer workshop. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Prohibition and All That Jazz 6 p.m. Hop on board and enjoy a fun-filled, rollicking ride through the streets of Detroit. Explore the old stomping grounds of the Purple Gang and their rivals, which are now historic neighborhoods. Hear stories and fun facts spiked with a few grizzly details... and learn about Al Capone's mark on Detroit. See famous landmarks and sites including the Detroit River which was the center of smuggling booze from Windsor, Canada. Explore a former speakeasy and brewery. Revel in the rich history of Jazz in Detroit and experience great live music at Bert's Jazz Club to top off a fabulous night! Tickets: \$49. Feet on the Street Tours, **Detroit**. 248-353-TOURS. feetonthestreettours.com

Friday, Aug. 22

Artistic Women's Entertainment

1 a.m. AWE is female entertainment group in SE Michigan (largely lesbians) who sing, dance, perform spoken word and more. The show is a chance for women of all skills to get on stage with a supportive audience AWE, **Inkster**. 248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com Artisticwomensentertainment.org

White Party 6 p.m. White or silver attire. Tickets: \$10. Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Movie Night 7:30 p.m. Movies of an LGBT nature. Free. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Blood Sisters 8:30 p.m. Artistic Women's Entertainment (AWE), 22812 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Artisticwomensentertainment.org

Saturday, Aug. 23

Equality Ride 10 a.m. This one day ride bike ride starts in Downtown Detroit and carries participants to Ann Arbor. Help us spread our message of equality, love and support by becoming a rider, volunteer or fund raiser today! After party at aut bar. Registration: \$45. Affirmations, **Detroit**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

March to the Capitol 12 p.m. The March will be held rain or shine and should last approximately 30 minutes. Michigan Pride, 200 N. Grand Ave.,

Lansing. Michiganpride.org

Michigan Pride Festival in Old Town 12 p.m. Michigan-based musicians, food, games, crafts and more. All ages welcome. Michigan Pride, 206 E. Grand River Ave., **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Commitment Ceremony 1:30 p.m. Reverend Kent Lederer of Unity of Greater Lansing will lead a group-style commitment ceremony in which couples will receive a certificate following the ceremony Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Rally at the Capitol 1:30 p.m. Michigan Pride's Capitol Rally will celebrate the LGBTQ community's progress in achieving civil rights and uniting against housing, workplace, and marriage discrimination. Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Sunday, Aug. 24

Vacation Bible School for All Ages 12 p.m. All are invited. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., **Detroit**. 810-767-4911. Woodsidechurch.net

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

Monthly Dinner Outing-Fountain Bistro 2 p.m. Black and White Men

Together-Detroit, **Detroit**. bwmtdetroit@sbcglobal.net

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

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. Kglrc.org

Euchre Tournament 7 p.m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Drag Queen Addictions 10:30 p.m. LaBelle and Aretha Franklin impersonator April Summers brings her big personality to the stage as she introduces a lineup of drag stars. 18+. Inuendo Nightclub, Corner of Nevada St. and Southbound I-75, **Detroit**. <https://facebook.com/inuendo.nightclub?rf=118209121607517>

Monday, Aug. 25

Liberty's Secret: Movie Wedding Shoot 12 a.m. If you would be interested in participating in the film as an extra wedding guest, and supporting the cause of Marriage Equality in Michigan, please send an email to libertyextras@gmail.com, and the production staff will contact you with details. Extras are not paid, but will be credited in the film, and invited to a special screening when the film is completed. Liberty's Secret, TBA, **Ann Arbor**. libertyextras@gmail.com Libertysecret.com

Nest Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Monthly Bible study focusing on LGBTQ issues. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 508 Denner St., **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

Center Open-Drop In 7 p.m. 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

Tuesday, Aug. 26

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105.

goaffirmations.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, Aug. 27

LGBT Summer Film Series Different film each date. Affirmations & GOAL, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. 248-414-1000. facebook.com/murrayandpeterpresent

Free to be Me Group 12:30 p.m. This is a support group for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5467. Jgnmi.org

HIV Testing 6 p.m. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. http://goaffirmations.org/events/event_details.asp?id=430531

Orientation for New Members 6 p.m. Sistrum, 215 N. Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. Sistrum.org

Thursday, Aug. 28

Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament Thursday Night Party Detroit MIST, 928 McNichols Road W, **Detroit**. 313-863-3934. Detroitmist.com

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. Kglrc.org

Free HIV Testing 6 p.m. The AIDS Service Organization, **Lansing**.

Toastmaster's International SpeakOUT! Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters will show you how to listen more effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

MUSIC & MORE

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

ARTLABJ "2014 Detroit Dance City Festival" The three-day community

building event celebrates dance in its various forms and disciplines with workshops, performances and networking opportunities held at various locations throughout the city. Downtown Detroit, Detroit. Aug. 22-Aug. 24. 313-638-2192. Detroitdancecityfestival.com

Cinetopia "Cinetopia International Film Festival" Free. Ford Resource and Engagement Center, 2826 Bagley Ave., **Detroit**. Aug. 16-Aug. 23. Cinetopiafestival.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "Modern / Moderna: Amie Siegel and Terence Gower". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21-Aug. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Lady Antebellum". DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 22. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

Hug Detroit NF Management/Walts Bar & Grill Everettes Hair School "Hug Detroit Day Music, Poetry & Art Festival" With just a little Love. Highlights of the day include, Yoga Session, Face Painting, Chalking, Poetry Reading, Art Exhibit Embrace, Communication Exercises Arts, Crafts, Back Pack Drive and a Food Drive. Feel free to bring can goods, school supplies and backpacks, for those who may be in need. All donations accepted. Hug Detroit NF Management/Walts Bar & Grill Everettes Hair School, Mt. Elliot, Iron and Meldrum St., **Detroit**. Aug. 23. 586-362-7460. Hugdetroitwithjustalittlelove.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Feed Me". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. Aug. 22. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Smiling Eyes Studio "Celebrate Summer at the Hazel Park Art Fair" Dozens of artists, artisans, 16 musical acts and food and fun! Free. Green Acres Park, 620 W. Woodward Heights, **Hazel Park**. Aug. 23-Aug. 24. Hazelparkartfair.com

The Acorn Theater "A Night of Art and Music" Tickets: \$40. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 5 p.m. Aug. 27. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Ark "Liz Story" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 27. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellys" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 24. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "The Polyphonic Spree" Tickets: \$23+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Aug. 22. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

See Happenings, page 31



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8.23.2014

Festival in Old Town

March to the Capitol

206 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
12 Noon–11 PM

COST
\$5-10 Suggested Admission

Live music from Michigan
artists & bands
All ages welcome
Family area
Food and vendors

We offer a safe space for showing
off your pride. Allies and families of
LGBTQ people welcome, too!

Rally at the Capitol

Capitol Avenue at Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933
1:30–2 PM

Join us in taking a stand for
LGBTQ Rights

Come celebrate how far we've
come and leave energized for how
far we have to go. Michigan Pride's
Rally at the Capitol will celebrate
the LGBTQ community's progress
in achieving civil rights and uniting
against housing, workplace, and
marriage discrimination.



Trinity K. Bonet



Mimi Gonzalez



Ronnie Nyles

The March to the Capitol steps will begin
at 1PM and leave from 200 N.
Grand Ave., Lansing.

Show your PRIDE as we march to the
steps of the Michigan State Capitol.
The March will stage (set-up)
at noon and begin at 1 PM.

The March will be held rain or shine and
should last approximately 30 minutes.
Various religious groups, local LGBTQ
owned/friendly businesses, citizens
groups and other organizations will
be Marching with banners, floats, and
handing out flyers.



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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 28

Trinity Divine Healing "Health Smoothies Class and Lecture" Trinity Divine Healing is inspired by Dr. Ondria Uzuri-Ima Phakamile-El, MH, ND, CHHP. Learn the benefits of natural herbal remedies and plant based whole food nutrition. Tickets: \$15-20. Mind's Eye Bookstore, 81 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. 10:30 a.m. Aug. 23. Trinitydivinehealing.blogspot.com

U of M Students for Recovery "Old Hollywood Recovery Dance 2014". Michigan Union Ballroom, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Aug. 22. 734-763-3933.

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

My Big Gay Italian Wedding \$12. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. Through Aug. 23. 269-429-0400. www.twincityplayers.org

Sweet Charity \$15-35. The Crowell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through Aug. 24. 517-264-SHOW. www.Crowell.org

The Laramie Project \$15-20. The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company at Social Hall Theatre inside the Ferndale First United Methodist Church, 22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 22. www.thedatc.org

The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later \$15-20. The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company at Social Hall Theatre inside the Ferndale First United Methodist Church, 22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 23. www.thedatc.org

Professional

Beehive \$39-42. Mason Street Warehouse at Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 31. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

Forever Plaid \$35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through Sep. 7. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Hello, Dolly! \$35 adult; \$25 ages 12 and under. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Aug. 19 - Aug. 31. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatre.com

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

Romeo and Juliet \$5-10. UnCovered Theatre Company at Rochester College, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills. Through Aug. 23. 248-218-2046. uncoveredtheatre.wix.com/uncovered

Salve Regina \$20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Aug. 22. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Stories in the Lounge \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Through Aug. 21. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

The Big Bang \$15-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 21 - 31. 734-663-0681. www.pnththeatre.org

The Creation of the Wizard of Oz \$15. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr.,

\$5-10. UnCovered Theatre Company at Rochester College, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills. Through Aug. 24. 248-218-2046. uncoveredtheatre.wix.com/uncovered

ART 'N' AROUND

Art Detroit Now "3rd Thursdays in Detroit" 45+ local galleries and retail locations stay open until 9 p.m. to offer the best in contemporary art. Multiple, Detroit. Aug. 15-Oct. 16. Artdetroitnow.com

Cranbrook Art Museum "Paul Evans: Crossing Boundaries and Crafting Modernism" The first comprehensive survey of Paul Evans's work, this exhibition documents Evans's role in the midcentury American studio furniture movement. Cranbrook Art

of-summer exhibition. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 1-Aug. 29. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Oil & Acrylics Class" Tickets: \$10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 7-Nov. 25. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Aug. 4-Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

River's Edge Gallery "River From the Underground" Brings two unlikely artists together: Johnny Bee Badanjek, from the world of rock, and Amy



a recipe for love in her pocket. With her eye on the impervious Horace, she hatches a scheme to win his heart.

Performances are Tuesday-Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., and Sunday at 5 p.m. The Barn Theatre is located on M-96, west of Augusta. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for kids 12 and under. For tickets, call 269-731-4121.

Three Oaks. 2 p.m. Aug. 31. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheatre.com

The Judy Show \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 23. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheatre.com

The Kings of Unionville \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Aug. 24. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

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

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21-Oct. 12. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Dancing Dog Gallery "Biggest Show Ever: Open House" Free. Dancing Dog Gallery, 302 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Aug. 1-Aug. 23. 734-531-6565. Dancingdoggallery.biz

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "If You Build It, They Will Come" With this exciting open-call challenge, more than 175 Detroit area artists each selected five wood pieces to use in creating the unique and collectible works of art featured in this fun, end-

Chenier, originally from the world of sports and statement art. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. July 1-Aug. 31. 734-246-9880. Artatthedge.com

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

The Scarab Club "Fiber Exhibition". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Aug. 1-Sep. 6. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

Editor's Pick

For the first time in 25 years, The Barn Theatre proudly presents the Tony Award-winning musical "Hello, Dolly!" Long-time soap opera favorite Kim Zimmer stars as the beloved matchmaker Dolly Levi in this classic Broadway hit that runs through Aug. 31.

Based on Thornton Wilder's 1955 play "The Matchmaker," "Hello, Dolly!" centers around the country's most lovable matchmaker, Dolly Levi. Humor and romance abounds when the widowed Dolly parades back into Yonkers, New York not only to arrange, meddle and match-up lonely hearts, but with marriage on her mind and

HOTLINES & SERVICES

ACLU of Michigan	313-578-6800
Affirmations Helpline	248-398-GAYS
Alcoholics Anonymous	248-541-6565
Eastern Michigan University LGBT Resource Center	734-487-4149
Equality Michigan	313-537-7000
Flint Crisis Line	810-257-3740
HIV AIDS/Resource Center Toll-Free	866-HIV-TEST
Jim Toy Community Center	734-995-9867
Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC)	269-349-4234
Karibu House Community Center for LGBT Persons of Color	313-865-2170 ext. 3
Lansing Area AIDS Network	517-394-3719
Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) Toll-Free	888-A-CONDOM
Oakland County Health Division Toll-Free	888-350-0990 ext. 85416
OutCenter	269-925-8330
PFLAG Ann Arbor	734-741-0659
PFLAG Detroit	248-656-2875
PFLAG Genesee County	810-496-8302
PFLAG Lansing	517-332-4550
PFLAG Tri-Cities Bay City/Saginaw/Midland	989-941-1458
Stonewall Bar Association (LGBT lawyers and allies)	313-578-6812
The LGBT Network of Western Michigan	616-458-3511
Transgender Michigan Help Line	517-420-1544
Unity Michigan	269-290-1427
Wellness AIDS Services	810-232-0888

Find these organizations and hundreds of LGBT-friendly businesses online at Pridesource.com/com/directory.html

Solution to puzzle from page 32

S	L	A	P	C	A	S	H	O	B	A	M	A	
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Say Hello To Bradley!

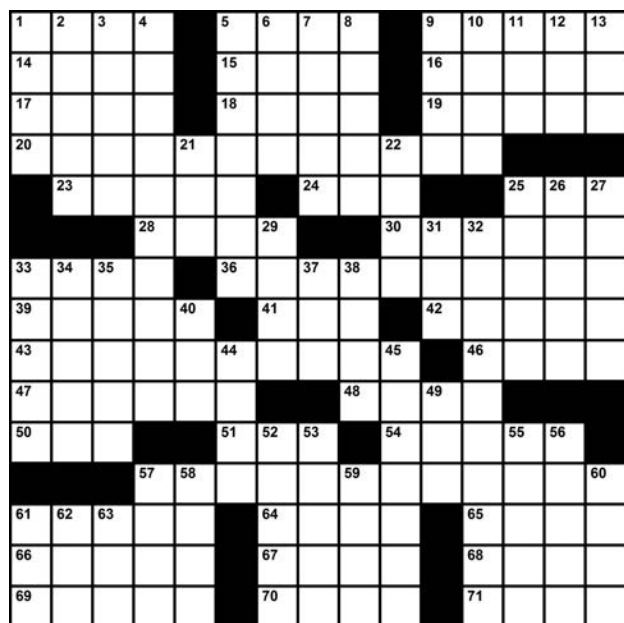


Pet of the Week made possible by
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www.pattersondogandcat.com

Meet Bradley! This 2-month-old Pit Bull pup is playful and energetic. He is ready and willing to begin his puppy classes and is sure to give you all the kisses you can handle! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and much more. For more information, visit or call the MHS Detroit Center for Animal Care at (313) 872-3400 and provide the pet ID number, 784953.

Q Puzzle

Blu Collar Worker



Across

- 1 Blow to the buttocks
- 5 "A Boy Named Sue" singer Johnny
- 9 "The Audacity of Hope" author
- 14 Hilary Swank's ex Chad
- 15 For-skin cream ingredient
- 16 Like Alexander Pope?
- 17 It makes gelatin get hard
- 18 Polo of "The Fosters"
- 19 Behind
- 20 Susan Blu's line of work
- 23 Take a five-finger discount
- 24 Queer ___ three-dollar bill
- 25 Motorist's offense, briefly
- 28 Sheryl Swoopes and Michael Sam

- 30 Topple from the throne
- 33 Time gone by
- 36 Blu did Aimee Brightower in this series
- 39 One that sucks some sap
- 41 Non-Judy garland
- 42 Sweet heat source
- 43 Blu did J.B. McBride in this series
- 46 Split
- 47 This way
- 48 Like a member that's not upright
- 50 Bullring shout
- 51 Liza, to Lorna
- 54 Sample some buns, e.g.
- 57 Blu did Futura in this series
- 61 Island of Mead's research
- 64 Tender ender?
- 65 Milk-colored gem
- 66 Word used to stop seamen
- 67 Barely managed, with "out"
- 68 Jack in Mexico?
- 69 It can cut your pole
- 70 Ward of "Once and Again"
- 71 Trickle through the cracks
- 12 Foaming at the mouth
- 13 Hayworth's Khan
- 21 Stud site
- 22 Evian waters
- 25 Get the hoar hot
- 26 "Paint Your ___"
- 27 Billie Holiday's "___ to Be You"
- 29 It'll spice up your meat
- 31 B'way locale
- 32 Some infielders in Glenn Burke's sport
- 33 Large phallus painter Picasso
- 34 Eliot's "cruellest month"
- 35 Ice cream treat
- 37 DeLaria of "Orange Is the New Black"
- 38 Opera solos
- 40 Chef Traci ___ Jardins
- 44 Fair-to-middling
- 45 The Capitol dome is its top
- 49 Fourth notes for Menotti
- 52 Lesbos and Man
- 53 Add fuel to
- 55 Tonto's erection
- 56 Use a rubber
- 57 "Hey, I never thought of that!"
- 58 Type of crime
- 59 Jessica of "I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry"
- 60 Pig repeat
- 61 Actor Mineo
- 62 Gardner of "Show Boat"
- 63 Where wrestlers lie together

Down

- 1 Navratilova, for one
- 2 Company emblems
- 3 Anticipate the coming of
- 4 Penetrating
- 5 International Male puts it out
- 6 Mapa of "Switched at Birth"
- 7 Rather, informally
- 8 Will beneficiaries
- 9 Withdraws, with "out"
- 10 Meadow sounds
- 11 Lending letters

Solution on pg. 31



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Deep Inside Hollywood



Josh Hutcherson. Photo: Christopher Halloran

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

That Katharine Hepburn biopic is finally happening

The fact that we had to have a J. Edgar Hoover movie before someone got around to a biopic about Katharine Hepburn is ridiculous, right? On that point we can agree? And since her passing, it's become fairly clear that the great Kate was almost certainly bisexual, even if she never called it that herself. So it's good news, just on a conceptual level, that the planned film about her life, will avoid the "greatest hits" aspect that sinks most movies about dead celebrities, and focus on her younger years and an affair with American Express heiress Laura Harding. To be helmed by lesbian filmmaker Clare Beavan ("Martina: Farewell to a Champion") and based on the biography "Kate: The Woman Who Was Hepburn by William J. Mann," the as-yet-untitled-and-uncast film is in its early stages. And for all we know a competing project may arise (that's usually how it goes) that sticks to orthodoxy and full Spencer Tracy dominance. But let's see if this one can get made and seen, all the same. There's never just one story to be told.

Doing it for the kids

When celebrities aren't performing, they have to fill their time. And it seems like most of them just take exotic vacations and sell the photo rights to tabloids. So it's refreshing when some of them work on making the world a little better instead. Josh Hutcherson, for example, has turned his "Hunger Games" name recognition power into a partnership with The Trevor Project and, alongside organization Straight But Not Narrow, has launched "Power

On." It's a campaign to provide rural and low-income LGBT youth with refurbished computers, tablets and phones. The goal is to provide isolated queer young people with the ability to connect to larger gay communities and it's a terrific idea... Meanwhile, George Takei just flexed his fundraising muscle to aid "Camp Abercorn," a web series from creators Jeffrey Simon, Meg Grgurich and Matt Andrews, about gay Boy Scouts starring Brad Leland ("Friday Night Lights," "Leftovers"). It was Takei's last minute-promotion that pushed the project's online fundraising efforts over the top. Good job, famous people. We gay-salute you* (*no idea what a gay-salute looks like, just FYI).

Lee Daniels takes on 'The Brian Banks Story'

In Hollywood, the unicorn is what gets the movie treatment. The situation you don't expect is the story that sells tickets. In other words, former high school football star-turned-Atlanta Falcons player Brian Banks and his struggle against a false rape accusation is going to be a film. Gay director Lee Daniels will take on the project, "The Brian Banks Story," one that has yet to be cast, and the fit is as good as any. Daniels has explored child sexual abuse ("Precious") and rape ("The Paperboy") before, and he's not afraid of that sort of controversy, and this film is sure to bring it. The story of Banks, who was falsely accused of rape by a classmate and who spent five years in prison before his conviction was overturned, is essentially a horror story where the man in a male/female rape scenario is the real victim. Does that reflect the daily reality of most rapes? No. Is that offensive right from the start? Possibly. Will Daniels be able to strike the right balance and tone to avoid offending 50 percent of the moviegoing population? Let's hope.

Patti LaBelle will get freaky on 'American Horror Story'

Ryan Murphy loves his divas. He also loves to work with them. So it was perhaps inevitable that one of the biggest divas of all, Miss Patti LaBelle, would choose to grace the set of Murphy's loopy hit, "American Horror Story: Freak Show." Next season she'll embark on a four-episode arc where she'll play Gabourey Sidibe's mother, a townsperson who stumbles upon the secrets of the murder-happy Twisty (John Carroll Lynch), a clown killer. That's it for details, more or less the same amount of pre-show information we got before Stevie Nicks' appearance. So let's speculate and hope for: 1. singing 2. '80s "Stir It Up" hair and 3. uncredited appearance by Michael McDonald as her private manservant. Why not?



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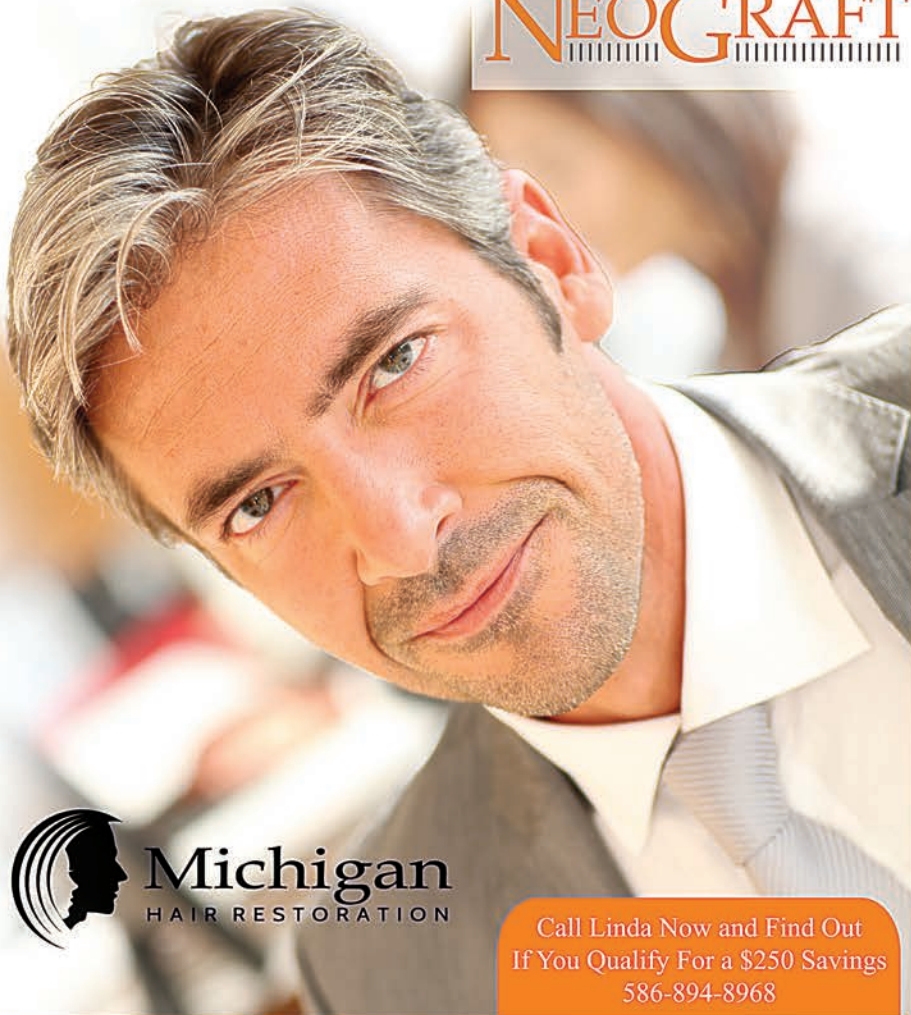
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