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APRIL 21, 2016

VOL. 2416 | FREE



TRUE COUNTRY SHINING THROUGH

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To learn more visit
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**Please see Brief Summary of
Patient Information with important
warnings on the following pages.**

Brief Summary of Patient Information about ODEFSEY

ODEFSEY (oh-DEF-see)
(emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with ODEFSEY.

There may be new information about ODEFSEY. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

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

ODEFSEY can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take ODEFSEY or similar medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take ODEFSEY. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite
 - nausea
 - pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking ODEFSEY or a similar medicine for a long time.**
- **Worsening of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** ODEFSEY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and take ODEFSEY, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking ODEFSEY. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
 - Do not run out of ODEFSEY. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your ODEFSEY is all gone.
 - Do not stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking to your healthcare provider.
 - If you stop taking ODEFSEY, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking ODEFSEY.

What is ODEFSEY?

ODEFSEY is a prescription medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:

- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past and have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL, **or**
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have a viral load that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment.

It is not known if ODEFSEY is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age or who weigh less than 77 lb (35 kg).

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, ODEFSEY may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

ODEFSEY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing

HIV-1 to others. Do not share or re-use needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Who should not take ODEFSEY?

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

- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Eptol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®)
- dexamethasone (Ozurdex®, Maxidex®, Decadron®, Baycadron™)
- dextansoprazole (Dexilant®)
- esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®)
- lansoprazole (Prevacid®)
- omeprazole (Prilosec®, Zegerid®)
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®)
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®)
- rabeprazole (Aciphex®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ODEFSEY?

Before taking ODEFSEY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney and bone problems
- have had depression or suicidal thoughts
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ODEFSEY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking ODEFSEY.

Pregnancy registry: there is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take ODEFSEY.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - At least one of the medicines in ODEFSEY can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in ODEFSEY can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines may interact with ODEFSEY. **Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.**

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with ODEFSEY.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take ODEFSEY with other medicines.

How should I take ODEFSEY?

- Take ODEFSEY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. ODEFSEY is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- Take ODEFSEY 1 time each day with a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking ODEFSEY.
- Do not miss a dose of ODEFSEY.
- If you take too much ODEFSEY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your ODEFSEY supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ODEFSEY and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of ODEFSEY?

ODEFSEY may cause serious side effects, including:

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about ODEFSEY?"**
- **Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.** Skin rash is a common side effect of ODEFSEY. Rash can be serious. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get a rash. In some cases, rash and allergic reaction may need to be treated in a hospital. **If you get a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop taking ODEFSEY and call your healthcare provider right away:**
 - fever
 - skin blisters
 - mouth sores
 - redness or swelling of the eyes (conjunctivitis)
 - swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat
 - trouble breathing or swallowing
 - pain on the right side of the stomach (abdominal) area
 - dark "tea-colored" urine

- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - feel sad or hopeless
 - feel anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with ODEFSEY. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with ODEFSEY in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with ODEFSEY.
- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine.** These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking ODEFSEY. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ODEFSEY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take ODEFSEY. Bone problems may include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effects of rilpivirine, one of the medicines in ODEFSEY, are depression, trouble sleeping (insomnia), and headache.

The most common side effect of emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide, two of the medicines in ODEFSEY, is nausea.

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

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

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about ODEFSEY. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ODEFSEY that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.ODEFSEY.com**.

Keep ODEFSEY and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: March 2016

Odefsey
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets



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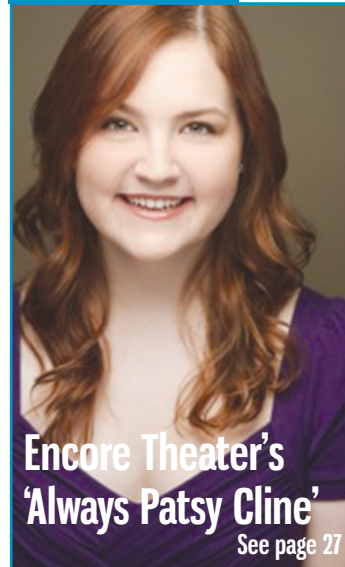
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www.BTLWeddingExpo.com

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 SATURDAY SALES - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

NEWS

Royal Oak Mayor Announces Travel Ban to North Carolina

ROYAL OAK – In response to North Carolina's House Bill 2 prohibiting local leaders from passing and enforcing anti-discrimination laws, the Royal Oak City Commission unanimously approved Mayor Jim Ellison's proposal April 11 that prohibits the city from using public resources to fund, sponsor or in anyway support nonessential travel to the state of North Carolina.



Mayor Jim Ellison

"Royal Oak supports equality, and in keeping consistent with the values of our community we will not spend public money in states that are actively undermining and rolling back the basic human rights of their citizens," said Ellison. "It's important that cities like ours send a message to leaders in North Carolina and across the country that all people deserve equal protections under the law, and that we stand in solidarity with the LGBT community in opposing discrimination."

On March 23 the North Carolina state Legislature passed HB 2 which was signed into law by Gov. Pat McCrory 12 hours later. The measure prohibits local governments in the state from adopting anti-discrimination ordinances, such as a human rights ordinance strongly supported by Royal Oak voters in

2013.

Royal Oak's human rights ordinance bans discrimination against sex, sexual orientation or gender identity in housing, public accommodations and employment.

Under Ellison's leadership, Royal Oak is the first city in Michigan to adopt a no-travel policy in the wake of North Carolina's new law. However, many other states and major cities across the country have adopted similar actions.

Ellison joins a coalition of mayors across the nation, spearheaded by San Francisco's Mayor Edwin M. Lee, in fighting discrimination and ensuring the protection of fundamental human rights nationwide. The newly formed coalition, Mayors Against Discrimination, counts among its members New York's Bill de Blasio; Seattle's Ed Murray; Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser; and the mayors of Portland, Tampa, Santa Fe, Oakland, Honolulu and others.

"It is unconscionable that in 2016 we are still debating whether all people should be treated equally," said Ellison. "Royal Oak will keep this policy in place until North Carolina repeals their unconscionable pro-discrimination law."

Jim Ellison is seeking the Democratic nomination running as the Democratic candidate for Michigan's House of Representatives in the 26th District, encompassing the cities of Royal Oak and Madison Heights.

LGBT Detroit Hires Development Coordinator

DETROIT – LGBT Detroit – a Michigan based nonprofit focusing on youth development, cultural awareness and advocacy, as well as emotional and physical well-being of LGBT Detroiters – has added a member to its executive team.



Andre Gilford

Andre Gilford, Jr. has been named the new development coordinator for LGBT Detroit and will serve in that capacity until the fall. As development coordinator, Gilford will be responsible for raising funds for LGBT Detroit's annual signature event, Hotter Than July.

"Hotter Than July is Detroit's own tradition and to be a part of upholding that tradition is an honor," Gilford said.

Gilford is a native of Detroit and a graduate

of the LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy. He received his bachelor of arts degree in history and African-American studies from Wayne State University and will pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia in the fall.

As a graduate of the LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy, Gilford returns to the organization with a passion for working in the LGBT community, particularly with youth and faith initiatives. Gilford was a member of the LGBT Detroit Forever Faithful Project, where he was instrumental in bringing together faith leaders from across the Metro Detroit area to discuss open and affirming theology, particularly advocating for the inclusion of LGBT individuals within African-American congregations. As a part of this work, Gilford also worked to establish inclusive policies at his local congregation for LGBT individuals.

Gilford can be reached at andregilford@lgbtdetroit.org.

MOTOR CITY PRIDE

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Become A Pride Volunteer

Get involved with Motor City Pride by joining our "Pride Team" as a volunteer! We have a number of positions, shift times and days available to fit any schedule. Volunteering at pride is a great way to meet other people and become involved with the pride movement. Volunteers receive free admission to the festival, a t-shirt, snacks, food and much more! Individuals can sign up to volunteer at

http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=20f044bac_a92fa4fe3-motor&view=standard

Motor City Pride Parade *Presented by the FIAT Brand*

The Motor City Pride Parade is the highlight of the weekend for many festival attendees. Join us as thousands gather in the streets of Detroit to celebrate and make our presence in the community known. Floats, Queens, Cars & more the parade bring together a fantastic cross section of groups, companies and entertainers for an exciting march to Hart Plaza!

**The parade will
step off at noon on
Sunday, June 12, 2016.**

Exhibit locations are filling up!

Motor City Pride is the largest gathering of the LGBT community in the state of Michigan and is a terrific place for your company or group to connect and get noticed. There are a variety of different exhibit options and price points available to fit any size group. We have booth space available for small non-profit groups, vendor spaces for those looking to sell products, spots for larger groups & companies looking to make an impact.

The vendor application can be found at Register.motorcitypride.org

Live Entertainment

Motor City Pride is proud of our five stages of entertainment that offers a large and diverse entertainment lineup over two days of the festival. The lineup for 2016 will be released in a few weeks.

Admission

There will be a \$5.00 cover each day of the festival. There is no charge for children 12 and under.

Stay Informed

Festival information can be found at www.motorcitypride.org

Follow us on Facebook at Motor City Pride for updates and features on acts performing at the festival.

Motor City Pride is sponsored by the following companies that support our goal

to build an inclusive community that is free of violence, intimidation and discrimination.

Current sponsors include: Delta Air Lines, UAW-Ford, FIAT Brand, MotorCity Casino Hotel, MGM Grand Detroit, Fifth Third Bank, General Motors, Comerica Bank, Great Lakes Distributing, Menjo's, UHY LLP, Inferno, TD Auto Finance, Zipcar, Pride Source Media, Metra Magazine, and AMP Radio.

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COVER



LGBT Event Planned in Lake Orion

A local group that has formed to support LGBT people in the Lake Orion area has planned its first social event.

It will host an LGBT Social from 6:30-8:30 p.m. May 4 at the C-pub at King's Court Castle in Canterbury Village, 2336 Joslyn Court in Lake Orion. The event will be held in the upper level Gaelic Room.

The social provides an opportunity for LGBT people in the Lake Orion area to meet one another as one step toward building support for the LGBT community in the area. C-pub menu items and beverages will be available for purchase.

The group hosting the social plans a multi-program approach toward supporting LGBT people in the area, including social and educational events and reaching out to community leaders to back anti-discrimination measures that include protections for LGBT residents.

The state's nondiscrimination law, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act – in part named after Melvin L. Larsen, a Republican from neighboring Oxford – currently does not provide anti-discrimination protection for LGBT people although it does for religion, race, color, age, height, weight and marriage status. State legislators have been resistant to adding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the list of those protected. It is, therefore, legal in Michigan to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote someone because an employer thinks they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

State law does allow local government to pass such protections, a move advocated by the recently formed local group supporting LGBT people.

Chicago Meningitis Outbreak Continues in Gay, Bisexual Men

CHICAGO (AP)—Health officials in Chicago say last summer's deadly outbreak of meningitis in gay and bisexual men is continuing with two new confirmed cases.

The Chicago Department of Public Health says this brings the total to nine cases linked to the outbreak, all in men who have sex with men. One man died last June.

The department recommends vaccinations to all men who have sex with men, and is making affordable vaccines available around the city. A list of clinics and pharmacies can be found on the department's website.

The department says the outbreak is disproportionately affecting men with HIV and black men.

Symptoms of meningitis include fever, headache and a stiff neck. Sharing drinks and cigarettes, kissing and sexual contact can spread the bacteria.

Fun Run in Color for WADD Fundraiser

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT - World AIDS Day Detroit and Color Me Rad are teaming up to host "Color Me Rad Detroit," a spring color run to help raise funds for World AIDS Day 2016.

The fourth annual 5K fun run on May 7 will start at Milliken State Park in downtown Detroit and will travel along the Detroit River. The run offers an opportunity for World AIDS Day Detroit to reach the community and discuss the goals and current projects of the organization as well as the need for greater awareness about HIV in the LGBT community.

"This event is a fun run," World AIDS Day Detroit Executive Director, Maxwell Cameron, said. "It's designed to meet people where they are in their running ability."

Runners of all experiences are welcomed to participate in the run and should expect to see a wide variety of athletic skill the day of the event.

"It's designed for people who don't traditionally participate in other run events and want to do something active in Detroit," Cameron said.

One of the most exciting parts of participating in the color run is passing through clouds of color and coming out of the event with a memorable shirt that now resembles a tie-dye project. The gels of pink, yellow, green, blue and violet colors that will be used are all gluten free, nontoxic and machine washable.

"You may not want to come in a tuxedo. Unless you're doing something really cool with that tuxedo," Cameron joked. "That's something to keep in mind. Dress comfortably – like you're participating



BTL file photo 2014: By Tony Lowe

in an athletic event – and don't dress in something that you're too tied to the current state." This year will be Cameron's first time participating in a color run.

Color Me Rad will also be handing out free T-shirts, a RAD temporary tattoo and a Goo Guard phone case for all regular participants.

Color Me Rad hosts color runs around the country and designates a nonprofit partner in every participating city. Color Me Rad works directly with runner recruitment and marketing.

WADD is currently seeking volunteers to help work the welcome desk and help with the general goings-on during the event.

WADD has acquired about 100 volunteers but is looking to top their volunteer numbers around 130. Color Me Rad makes a donation for every shift covered by volunteers. For those interested in volunteering for the event, go to <http://gaybe.am/rad>.

Costs for attending are offered in a tiered system. Late registration tickets will be available until May 5 for \$40. Last call tickets can be purchased for \$50 the day before the event. Day of tickets will be available at the entrance for \$55. Youth ages 7 and younger run free.

Visit the event website for more details at www.colormerad.com/location/detroit/.

Bay City Passes Controversial Anti-Discrimination Ordinance

BY BTL STAFF

MLive reports that the Bay City Commission voted unanimously Monday on anti-discrimination protections for city employees, contractors and in housing. The ordinance is based on a similar ordinance on the books in Traverse City.

The ordinance was first discussed – and a first reading was unanimously approved by the commission – in an April 4 meeting.

"This ordinance was a no-brainer," said Bay City United for Change founder, Sandra Rogers. "No one was against it the day before it happened – no one ever spoke against the wording – and then we show up at the meeting and hear Equality Michigan's

comments."

Those comments came from Nathan Triplett, political director at EM, and trans activist Charin Davenport. They expressed appreciation for the city's efforts, but issued concerns over the city's definition of gender identity and sexual orientation.

The proposed ordinance would extend protections to LGBT members as well as those with mental and physical disabilities.

Commissioner David Terrasi said he reached out to Equality Michigan earlier this year when there were talks to update the anti-discrimination ordinance; he says no input was offered until the day of the proposed update's first reading.

There was minimal discussion before the

ordinance update ultimately passed in an 8-0 vote April 18.

Rogers added, "We have, again, put our little city of Bay City on the map for being a welcoming city for all – a city that doesn't discriminate and welcomes everybody. We are telling outsiders that this is a wonderful community to live in. It's a town without hate."

"I am very, very proud that we passed this," said Commissioner Kerice Basmadjian, 7th Ward. "I am just so proud of the city being so supportive of this. To see all of these residents stand up for such a cause is heartwarming."

Trans Sistas of Color to Host One-Day Conference

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – The Trans Sistas of Color Project will host a one-day conference April 23 called the Gathering. The conference, which will take place at an undisclosed location for safety, aims to deepen the bonds of “sistahood” among trans women of color in Detroit, increase the power and agency of trans women of color, define what advocacy, activism and community organizing/development look like to trans women of color and, finally, to gather data, information and insight from trans women of color that will guide, inform and influence the fledgling agency’s work and programming.

“When we began planning the Gathering, we were extremely intentional about how we wanted to engage our sisters and what the takeaways and deliverables could be,” said Bre’ Campbell, TSOCP’s executive director. “As a trans-led, trans-centric organization that was created to be of service to trans women of color in real, significant and transformative ways, we are acutely aware that those takeaways and deliverables have to be directed and framed by the very trans women of color we wish to serve.”

The theme for the Gathering is “I Am My Sista’s Keeper.” The conference is only open to trans women of color and the workshops and sessions will be led by the same.

“The Gathering came about because I realized that in order to do great work, it has to be supported by the community,” Campbell said. “And there’s no way we can do work that is supported by the community if we don’t get input from the community. I feel like people see me as the executive director of this organization so they assume that my needs are the needs of this community, which they’re not. So I wanted to make sure going forward in all that we do that we have some kind of community input or buy in.”

Workshop titles include “Framing Our Narrative: The Genesis of TSOCP,” “Getting Into Formation: Building a Sista Circle,” “Squad Goals” and “If I Knew Then What I Know Now.”

Campbell herself will facilitate the “If I Knew Then” workshop.

“I really wanted to have a conversation with the community about my own

personal activism and my triumphs and my shortcomings,” she said. “If I had known all of the things that I know now, I would have planned better and I would have started this organization a long time ago. It took for me to actually be in national spaces with national leaders and people who really believe in the goals of the organization and believe in my work who said, ‘There are better ways that you can do this. There are better ways that you can be an advocate.’”

Ahya Simone Taylor, a TSOCP board member, will facilitate the “Getting Into Formation” workshop.

“When we think about community we also have to think about what connects us all, and a lot of times we’re connected in pain and trauma,” Taylor said. “This is an attempt to call forth that trauma and build a foundation to connect people to each other. As trans folks, we need to dismantle the ways of communicating with each other, the ways that we internalize our oppression, and build and find new ways to share.”

Taylor said she is looking forward to simply being in the same space at the same time as so many of her trans sisters.

“I’m really looking forward to the kikis, the fun times,” she said. “I’m so excited just to have all the girls in one room and just to share space with trans women of color. I just think it’s so important that we remain connected with each other in whatever way that we can.”

One final goal of the conference, according to Campbell, is to gather information on trans women of color in Detroit.

“We want to use this opportunity to gather trans specific data in Detroit so we can leverage funding.”

The Gathering will take place Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Admission is free and transportation will be provided if necessary. To register and find out the location of the conference, call 313-537-7000 x 107.

In addition the Gathering, the Trans Sistas of Color Project is hosting a fundraiser on Sunday, April 24 at the Grenadier Lounge, which is located at 3101 McDougall St. in Detroit. The Dollhouse will feature performances by Fantasia Dior, Cierra Dior, Mia Cole and others. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

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Southeast Michigan School District Under Federal Investigation

BEDFORD - Bedford Public Schools, located 10 miles north of Toledo in Michigan's Monroe County, was placed under investigation in December by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights for allegedly discriminating against a trans youth. A Bedford spokesperson would not provide any more specifics on the investigation.

Bedford is the only school district in the state under investigation for violating the rights of transgender students under Title IX of the federal civil rights law that protects students from sex discrimination in K-12 schools that receive federal funding.

Lawmakers and Michigan residents are currently discussing a voluntary guidance, proposed by the State Board of Education last month, that would help school districts comply with Title IX regulations and other suggestions that would provide for a more inclusive school atmosphere for trans youth such as allowing students to use the facility that best fits their gender identity.

Bedford Public Schools Superintendent Mark Kleinhans told MLive that his district is cooperating with federal officials.

Kleinhans told MLive that Bedford has made attempts to comply with Title IX regulations, through staff trainings and other measures.

Salt Lake City Council to Weigh Naming Street for Gay Leader

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The Salt Lake City Council has voted to hold a public hearing on whether to name a street after pioneering gay leader Harvey Milk alongside thoroughfares honoring civil rights icons like Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez.

The council could also take a vote after the April 19 hearing on the proposal from Salt Lake's first openly gay councilman, Stan Penfold.

"It is a little bit of a personal thing for me," Penfold told The Salt Lake Tribune on Tuesday. "Harvey Milk was the first openly gay person to be elected to a city council in California. I was the first to be elected to a city council in Utah."

Milk won a seat on San Francisco's board of supervisors in 1977, becoming one of the first openly gay men elected to public office in the country. His uncompromising calls for gays to come out of the closet inspired a generation of activists, but he was assassinated at City Hall along with San Francisco Mayor George Moscone by a disgruntled former city supervisor in 1978.

The activist's life was memorialized in the Oscar-winning 2008 movie "Milk," and he's also been honored with a commemorative stamp and a posthumous Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama. Those milestones came shortly after The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced a new policy for gay members and their children that prompted widespread backlash. It banned baptisms for children of gay parents until the kids turn 18 and disavow same-sex relationships. The announcement was a shock for observers who saw church leaders softening their tone on same-sex attraction and supporting a statewide anti-discrimination law.

Updates on Michigan LGBT Youth Guidance and State Bathroom Controversy

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING - Michigan has been the topic of much conversation over the past two months as residents discuss if a proposed set of guidelines for LGBT youth in K-12 schools is necessary to ensure all LGBT youth experience equality in the classroom. Now the conversation has gone national.

The "Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students" was first introduced by John Austin, president of the Michigan State Board of Education at the 2016 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Initiative Conference hosted by Oakland University in January and was further outlined in a Feb. 23 memo from the MDE to the State Board.

The MDE guidance was created after schools and teachers requested best practices recommendations to create a more supportive learning environment for LGBT students. The guidance recommends adopting policies that would protect LGBT students from harassment, designate a staff member who can provide students with information or support related to LGBT issues, call for students to be addressed by their chosen name and pronouns that "correspond with their gender identity," provide support for the formation of Gay-Straight Alliances, and more.

The MDE hosted a meeting April 12 in Lansing and encouraged members of the public to come out and speak with the Michigan Board of Education. The day-long meeting was rich in support and opposition for the guidance as teachers, students, parents, grandparents and activists came out to voice their concerns.

Supporters of the guidance claim that the state has a long way to go before LGBT youth feel accepted and safe in their schools, since the K-12 experience is more difficult for students with marginalized identities. According to data from the 2015 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 41 percent of LGB students report being bullied on school property and students who identify as LGB are 2.3 times more likely to be threatened or injured with a weapon on school property than their non-LGB peers.

"I don't understand how this is even a debate," Evan Murphy, an 18-year-old Michigan high school student, told the Board. "People will come up here and tell you that they care about children - and I know they don't care about me. I know they don't care about my friends. If they cared about all children, they will be protecting all children."

"Every student has the right to learn in a safe and accepting school environment. A supportive, respectful learning atmosphere for transgender students gives them the equal opportunity for success that every student deserves. Parents, schools and lawmakers working together as a team is the best way to ensure that every student, regardless of their gender identity, will receive the support they need to achieve. The draft guidelines from the State Board of Education will promote an enriching educational experience that makes achievement much more possible for transgender students," the ACLU of Michigan wrote in a statement following the release of the MDE draft guidance.

A handful of Republican state senators, including Sen. Patrick Colbeck from Canton, weighed in on the issue.

"In elementary and middle school, I was bullied (and) I didn't see the State Board of Education propose a policy for kids who get good grades and carry trombone," Colbeck said.

Legislation

Amending Elliott-Larsen, the state's civil rights act, would provide protections for LGBT Michigan residents; however, after several attempts made over the past decade to amend Michigan's constitution, no bill has ever made it to the governor's desk.

Six Republican lawmakers from across the state introduced a resolution April 13 urging the MDE to reject the recently proposed guidance for LGBT students. Resolution 0264 has been referred to the House education committee.

House Resolution 0264 is sponsored by state House Reps. Aric Nesbitt, Gary Glenn, Thomas Hooker, Tim Kelly, Earl Poleski, Phil Potvin and Amanda

Resolution 0264 mentions the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 which was used to create the Northwest Territory,

and established precedent for expanding the nation westward. The Northwest Ordinance proclaims that "religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged," and establishes the vital nature of traditional education in the state.

The Northwest Ordinance may have united established western colonies in the Midwest, but Resolution 0264 is poised to create further tensions in the state as debates over what determines "proper" bathroom use continue to spread throughout the nation.

State Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, announced his intention to author legislation that would ban trans youth from using the bathroom and locker room in accordance with their gender. As of press time, Casperson had yet to submit his bill to the state Senate.

National Response

Celebrities and big Fortune 500 companies have come out opposing the 100+ anti-trans bathroom bills that have been introduced in states around the country.

Most notably in North Carolina, PayPal announced that it would not pursue its plan to expand in the state due to the state Legislature passing House Bill 02 that bans transgender people from using public restrooms that comply with their gender identity.

Famous rocker Bruce Springsteen cancelled a concert that he was scheduled to perform in North Carolina in protest of the bill.

Before launching into "Born In The USA" at his April 14 concert in Detroit, Springsteen told the audience that he's heard about Casperson's legislation and told the audience, "Pass that anti-LGBT bill you're debating and I won't come back," clearly addressing the Michigan Legislature. He later said, "We hope the bill doesn't pass, 'cause we love playing in Michigan."

The MDE will be accepting public commentary until May 11 and is expected to vote on the guidance later in the year. Go to www.everyvoicecountsmi.org.

Laws Viewed as LGBT Discrimination Proposed Across Country

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legislation has been proposed in states across the country to protect those who – due to religious beliefs – decline to employ or serve certain people. Critics say the laws are aimed at the LGBT community and are discriminatory. Recent laws denounced as discriminatory in North Carolina and Mississippi has prompted a growing backlash from opponents. Here’s a look at legislation around the country:

ALABAMA

Alabama lawmakers are pushing a measure to prevent the state from refusing to license childcare service providers who decline services that conflict with their religious beliefs. Religious organizations contract with the state to provide some childcare services, and opponents of the proposal have argued that the bill could be used to exclude gay and lesbian couples from adopting children or being foster parents. The proposal comes after the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously struck down an Alabama Supreme Court order that invalidated a lesbian couple’s adoption in Georgia.

ALASKA

In Alaska, bills barring discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity have gone nowhere since being introduced last year. Bills in the House and Senate would allow clergy to refuse to solemnize a marriage without being subject to criminal or civil liability but so far have not gotten legs. The legislative session is scheduled to end Sunday.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas lawmakers last year approved a revised version of a religious objections measure after the initial version faced widespread criticism that it was anti-LGBT. The Legislature also enacted a law aimed at preventing cities and counties from passing anti-discrimination measures that include sexual orientation or gender identity.

COLORADO

Colorado lawmakers introduced a bill in February that would have blocked the state from taking any action that may burden a person’s religious freedom unless it was the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling governmental interest. A House committee indefinitely postponed discussion on the bill.

FLORIDA

Republican Gov. Rick Scott signed a law stating that clergy, churches, religious schools and other religious organizations cannot be required to marry people or allow their facilities to be used for marriage celebrations that violate a sincerely held religious belief. The law takes effect July 1.

GEORGIA

Republican Gov. Nathan Deal vetoed a bill that would have prohibited the government from imposing penalties on religious schools and organizations that chose not to employ or serve people based on their sincerely held religious beliefs. The proposal would have also protected clergy who declined to perform weddings for gay and lesbian couples.

HAWAII

A bill to prevent insurers and health care providers from discriminating against transgender patients has passed both chambers of the Legislature, and they’re currently working out differences on the amendments. The measure prohibits denying, canceling or limiting coverage for services including care related to gender transition, under certain conditions. Several lawmakers also introduced bills to protect the freedom to express religious beliefs by prohibiting the state from taking discriminatory action based on the person’s moral convictions, but the bills were never granted a hearing.

ILLINOIS

Lawmakers are considering legislation that would require school boards to designate separate boys and girls bathrooms, changing rooms and other facilities being used during school-sponsored activities. The Legislature defines sex as a student’s gender at birth and not their gender identity.

INDIANA

Republican Gov. Mike Pence signed a bill last year barring government entities from substantially burdening the religious exercise of individuals, organizations and businesses, unless by the least restrictive means to further a compelling government interest. After businesses raised concerns, Pence signed an amended version stating that the law cannot be used to deny services, public accommodations, employment or housing based on race, religion, age, sexual orientation or gender identity.

See LGBT Discrimination, page 16

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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

God Bless Our Tom Tom

Pitwool Tommy lives with his mommy, Wanda-Rose Pitwool. His daddy, Darnell Prince Pitwool. And a pit bull dog named Lazarus. Tommy's home schooled. Living in Topelulu, Alabama, famed sin-free domain of Lou "Lulu" Seldom's Fracas in the Family Foundation. An America-First town noted worldwide for exporting biblically blessed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and gluten-free communion wafers.

Little Tommy knows his ABCs. He can tell colors Inferno Red from Damnation Pink. He knows his shapes. Mostly manly. He can – after a fatherly paddling or two – crayon color inside the lines.

A good child – if perhaps slightly menaced, but nonetheless parentally encouraged – he says his prayers at night. Or else.

"God bless Mommy, Daddy, Lazarus! May our misguided president see the light and leave the White House (which it's really not) ASAP (The sooner the better.) Amen!"

Tommy is the model/subject of a kiddy book that's sparking a helluva lot of controversy. It's thoughtfully called, "Tommy Has Two Gay Thrashers," written, illustrated, blessed-oil anointed by Rev. Dred D. Felch.

Rev. Felch, who raised his own totally obedient, totally Onward-Christian-Soldiers militant, eight kids to gay thrash – starting with potty training ("as the spirit moves") – says "Two Thrashers" is written in a second grader's Basic Word Vocabulary and has lots of action pictures and a punchy story line.

"My book's designed to counter the horrific harm done by 'Arthur Has Two Papas,' 'Molly Has Two Mamas,' 'Bruce Has Six Neutered Poodles.' While I'll admit that I'm a no-brainer at religious story telling, I do know how to cast the first stone at fag propaganda.

"I call chapter one, 'Slingshotting Goliath's Gay Agenda.' Other chapters – with content suitable for kids under 5 – are 'Finding Someone Special to Bully,' 'Gay Playmates Won't Go To Heaven,' and 'Don't Let Mommy Dress You as A Nun (or Be Friends With A Touchy-Feely Priest).'"

While some gospel reviewers find Rev. Felch's book "needlessly repetitious," the Southern Baptist "Goodness Only Knows Library Journal" reports, "The pictures will make a lasting and indelible impression on Christian toddlers."

Two illustrations are singled out for evangelical merit: "Sinful Molly Gets Parboiled" and "Abandoned Arthur Meets the Iron Maiden."

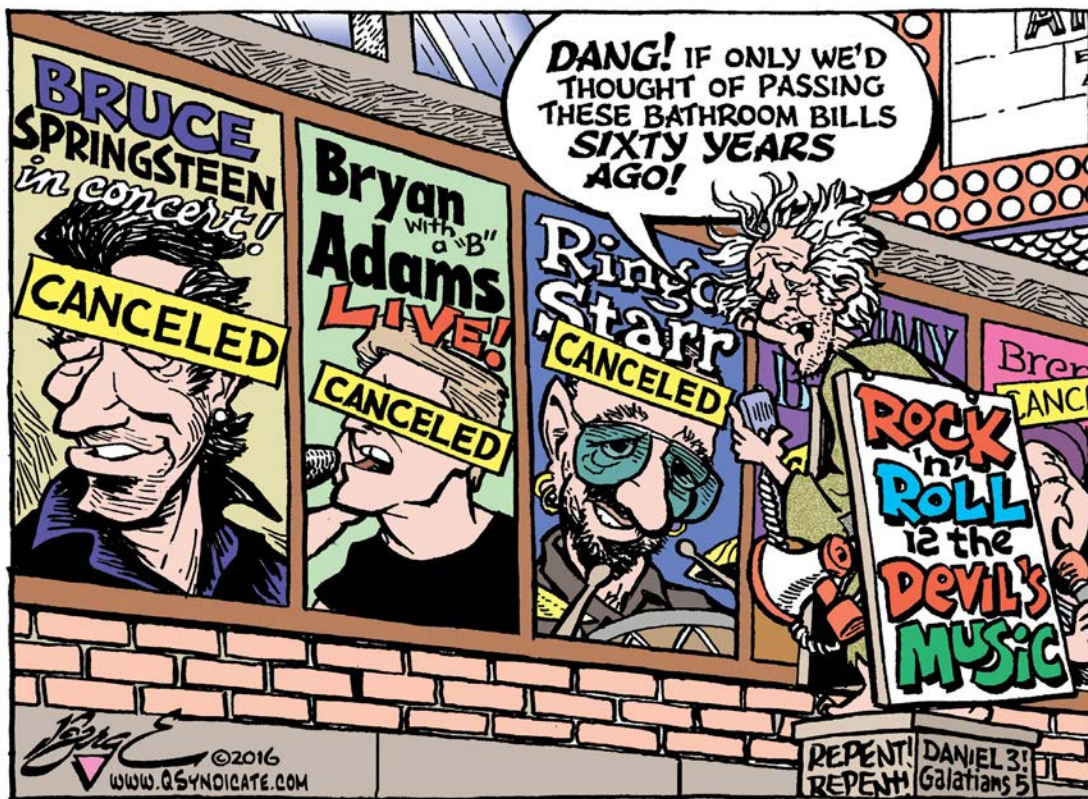
Topelulu's gay activists (their life is really hell on earth) are upset. They've been secretly checking out copies (or stealing them). Says one, "Rev. Felch can write anything he damn well pleases, but I wouldn't read thrash trash like this – no matter how many Bible quotes it has – to a 5-year-old (even if he or she has his or her own library card)."

"I'll admit it's something of a problem," says Topelulu head librarian Priscilla Red-Marker Renfrew, 89. "These gay agenda types have no respect for decent, church-going, fully dunked baptized readers. So far 25 copies of this simple sentence gem have disappeared. Poof!"

"In the interest of fair play we've taken to keeping 'Gay Thrashers' under lock and key in our Mature Reader's Lounge & Alcove, along with 'Well of Loneliness,' 'Lolita' and '50 Shades of Grey.'"

"As a God-fearing woman who makes every Dewey Decimal count, I'll say this: as Heaven above is my witness, it's to the credit of the Topelulu Freefall Baptist Church – conveniently located where Falwell

See Parting Glances, next page



Transmissions

North Carolina: Common Sense



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Since North Carolina passed House Bill 2 that, amongst other things, criminalizes trans restroom use in state facilities and schools, a number of things have happened.

Most devastatingly, Mississippi has passed House Bill 1523, which goes even further on transgender bathroom use. Not only does it include similar language to North Carolina's, but also grants businesses, employers and schools immunity from any action from the state regarding usage of so-called "intimate facilities."

It also bars any punishment for therapists and physicians who opt not to treat transgender people. I want to stress that while they were clearly talking specifically about trans-specific needs, this could have farther-reaching consequences, effectively shutting transgender people out of health care for any needs whatsoever in the state of Mississippi. HB 1523 includes a host of other anti-LGBT provisions dealing with marriage, adoption and other needs.

Several other states, emboldened by North Carolina and Mississippi, are looking at bills of their own. Tennessee has reintroduced the previously shelved House Bill 2414, while Michigan, Wisconsin, Kansas,

Massachusetts, Illinois and Missouri have bills or ballot initiatives in the works. I suspect there will be even more by the time you read these words.

But back to North Carolina, which is bearing the brunt of the backlash for now.

According to numbers released by the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, the bill could cost them over 89,000-hotel room stays due to cancelled, lost or hesitant events and organizations. If one assumes that is a loss of \$100 a night, that's a loss of \$8.9 million dollars just to Charlotte hotels alone.

PayPal has opted to cut a major expansion project that was in the works for North Carolina, to the tune of 400 jobs, while Lionsgate Home Entertainment and A&E Networks are removing film and TV projects from the state. Oh, and as an additional loss, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band have canceled a tour stop.

Lawmakers in North Carolina have attempted to strike back. Rep. Robert Pittenger, R-NC, has attempted to paint PayPal as hypocritical, citing the company's business dealings in countries that criminalize

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► Transmissions: North Carolina

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homosexuality, while Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest attempted the same by noting that PayPal has gender-specific restrooms in their Global Operations Center. Meanwhile, Rep. Mark Walker, R-NC, has opted to call Springsteen a “bully” for not playing in North Carolina, and has opted to welcome instead upcoming shows by Justin Bieber and Def Leppard.

I’m not going to waste space explaining how it is not bullying to not perform in a place you disagree with the politics of, nor how having gender-specific restrooms somehow means you cannot be trans welcoming. Instead, I want to take a moment to look at one of the larger arguments Gov. Pat McCrory and his cronies have put forward about their reasons for passing this bill.

McCrory has, at every turn, tried to declare that their bill was one of “common sense,” a reaction to the supposed overreach of trans protections in Charlotte.

On McCrory’s personal website, he spoke out on a page titled “The Faces on NC’s Commonsense Privacy Law,” saying, “The city of Charlotte passed an ordinance that would require businesses to allow anyone of any gender to enter any bathroom or changing room at any time.”

“This same ordinance was voted down by the city council last year because of concerns it went too far, allowing men to use women’s restrooms and opening the door for sex offenders and pedophiles to exploit this opportunity as they have done in other states,” McCrory continued. “Despite concerns from lawmakers and Charlotte residents, the Charlotte City Council passed it anyway.”

As he has done before, these facts aren’t quite up to snuff. For example, his link to show how sex offenders have done this in other locations goes to a Washington State news report on a protester who disrobed in a women’s locker room as a way to speak out against Washington law. In other words, lacking any real-world examples of such behavior, they have been forced to make up their own and exploit examples of inappropriate and illegal behavior

McCrory and others pressing for these bills continue to press a “big lie” strategy, believing if they frame these laws as gateways for pedophiles and sex offenders, people will

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 14

Street crosses Robertson Avenue at Billy Graham cul-de-sac – that church’s members have lovingly replaced every friggin’ gay-agenda swiped copy taken by those fruitcake fags.”

“The gospel truth is,” says Freefall

accept them. In many ways, they’re right: humans are easily swayed by arguments that their wives and daughters – note that they never concern themselves with boys and other males in any of this – will be victims thanks to a runaway government and agenda-driven leftist activists.

What N.C. Gov. McCrory and his ilk are doing, therefore, are making up laws that are unnecessary and single out a population that will be further victimized by such laws. Meanwhile they cause harm to their state and political careers, all while not dealing with real issues faced by their constituents.

Let’s talk common sense, though, as this is the term they like to evoke. If you are faced with someone who appears male, then one would naturally assume they would use a men’s restroom. Likewise, if someone appears female, they would naturally use a women’s restroom. Let’s also assume that these same folks know they are members of the genders they are presenting as. The wide judgment would be that these folks should use restrooms appropriate to their gender identity and expression – which is exactly what the original Charlotte ordinance covered.

Meanwhile, there are, of course, laws that already exist that cover what happens when a predator attempts to enter facilities of any gender to commit a crime: they are arrested and charged, and no amount of them shouting, “I’m transgender,” can change that.

What McCrory and his ilk are doing, therefore, are making up laws that are unnecessary and single out a population that will be further victimized by such laws. Meanwhile they cause harm to their state and political careers, all while not dealing with real issues faced by their constituents.

Now who’s not using their common sense?

Gwen Smith thinks it’s time to flush these bills. You’ll find her at gwen.smith.com.

pastor Emmett K. Monsooner, “those pervy clunkheads don’t want anybody, especially kids, to think for themselves. While my church load prevents spending time for a quality, down-home, soul-saving gay trash-in, if others want to do it, it’s between them and the Big Guy Upstairs. Just don’t mess up my choir robes. Or speak in LGBT tongues. Ah-men! She-lah!”

Charles@pridesource.com

Creep of the Week

Ryan Anderson

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hello gay and lesbian readers. I’d like to talk to you about your pathetic lives devoid of friends or family. It’s hard when the only way you know how to connect with other humans is to mash your identical genitals together. Which is why you’re probably reading this on your computer at home, alone with your cats, or in a print copy of the paper



Ryan Anderson

you picked up to hide your giant erection as you wait by the restroom door at a gay club, hoping to make a new “friend.”

But don’t worry. Ryan Anderson, author of “Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom,” sees your pain. And he wants to invite you to dinner. And to babysit his kids or something. You know, so that your loneliness and alienation stops driving you to do gay sex stuff.

Speaking at Cleveland Right to Life’s Bringing America Back to Life Convention in early March, Anderson basically said, Hey, we’ve got crisis pregnancy centers to stop pregnant women from getting an abortion. What would the “functional equivalent look like for people with same-sex attractions?”

Let me just stop and point out that he says “people with same-sex attractions” in order to make clear that “gay” is something people do, not something people are. It’s an important distinction when your goal is to dehumanize.

Anderson continues, “If we’re not in favor of same-sex marriage, what are we in favor of for people with same-sex attractions and how are we helping them live out their vocations?”

An interesting question. Particularly because he’s implying that gays need help from straight people, anti-gay straight Christians especially, to live their lives. It’s a weird claim. But when you see gays and lesbians as isolated perverts trying to make their way through this world one hook up at a time, it makes a kind of sick sense.

“There’s a universal human desire for friendship, for companionship. We all have a need for relationships that matter,” Anderson says.

So true! And which is the foundational

Let me just stop and point out that he says “people with same-sex attractions” in order to make clear that “gay” is something people do, not something people are. It’s an important distinction when your goal is to dehumanize.

argument for marriage equality. But, as you may have guessed, Anderson’s going in the opposite direction here.

“When Thanksgiving comes around, when Christmas comes around, are you inviting a same-sex attracted colleague or friend or member of your church who isn’t married and doesn’t have a family of his or her own; are you inviting them into your family to share Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas dinner? Are you having them be big brother or big sister, godfather or godmother to your children if they’re not going to be married and have children of their own? Are there ways in which we can show that there are other forms of community that matter, that are important, that are meaningful, without having to redefine marriage?”

In other words, silly gay or lesbian, marriage is for heteros. You don’t need legal protections for your family. You don’t need a family at all! Just accept that you’re going to always be alone and childless so you might as well get adopted by a church group full of people who pity you.

And notice that in Anderson’s world, homos are super hard up for social engagements. I mean, Joe Blow, your single colleague who likes dudes, would probably spend Christmas on his knees in a bathhouse if he didn’t get to sit next to your Aunt Rita and listen to her extol the virtues of Donald Trump’s Mexican wall over mashed potatoes and ambrosia.

Why wouldn’t gays and lesbians live chaste lives when they have so many Christians who hate them inviting them to dinner?

To everyone who thinks Anderson has a great argument here, I say please, please, oh please invite me to Thanksgiving. Because I would have to decline since I have my own very real family, fuck you very much.

► LGBT Discrimination

Continued from p. 13

IOWA

A proposed bill to prohibit the government from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion similar to legislation being considered in many other states was introduced in the Iowa House of Representatives in January. The proposal has been referred to the judiciary committee.

KANSAS

A new law prevents colleges and universities from denying religious student associations the same funding or benefits available to other groups because of requirements that its members follow the association's religious beliefs, standards or conduct. The law will take effect July. Bills were also introduced to order public schools and colleges to designate restrooms, locker rooms and other facilities for use by males or females according to students' gender at birth.

KENTUCKY

The Republican-led Senate passed a measure that would expand the state Religious Freedom Restoration Act by barring penalties against those who decline to provide customized, artistic, expressive, creative, ministerial or spiritual goods or services to people that would infringe on their right of conscience or religious freedoms. The bill is pending in the Democratic-led House.

LOUISIANA

Gov. John Bel Edwards signed an executive order providing state employees and contractors with protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and more. The order recognizes exemptions for churches and religious organizations. Edwards also rescinded an order former Gov. Bobby Jindal signed that prohibited state agencies from denying licenses and contracts to businesses that take actions because of religious beliefs against same-sex marriage.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Legislature is weighing a bill to expand a 2011 state law banning discrimination against transgender people in the workplace and in housing by also banning discrimination in restaurants, malls and other public accommodations, including restrooms.

MICHIGAN

Michigan Sen. Tom Casperson says he's firmly committed to introducing legislation to prohibit transgender students from using

a bathroom other than the one matching the sex listed on their birth certificate. Casperson said his proposed bill, which has not yet been introduced, would allow transgender students to use staff restrooms in the school, or single occupancy unisex bathrooms, but only with the consent of the student's parent.

MINNESOTA

A bill was introduced in late March to require employers and public facilities to designate separate restrooms and changing rooms for men and women. A portion of the bill reads, "No claim of nontraditional identity or 'sexual orientation' may override another person's right of privacy based on biological sex."

MISSISSIPPI

A new law prohibits the government from taking any discriminatory action against religious organizations that decline to host marriages, employ people or facilitate adoption or foster care based on a religious belief that marriage should be between one man and one woman, sex outside marriage is wrong or that sexual identity is determined by a person's anatomy at birth. Several states and cities have banned travel to Mississippi and rock singer Bryan Adams canceled a concert in the state to protest.

MISSOURI

The Senate passed a proposed amendment to the state constitution in March that would bar government penalties against individuals and business such as florists or photographers who cite a sincere religious belief while declining to provide services of expressional or artistic creation for same-sex weddings and receptions. The protections also would apply to clergy and religious organizations that decline to make their facilities available for same-sex weddings. If passed by the House, the proposal will go before voters. The proposal has generated backlash from more than 60 businesses and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

NEBRASKA

A bill to ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity was defeated in the Nebraska Legislature this year. Lawmakers have shelved the bill for the rest of the year.

NEW MEXICO

Three New Mexico lawmakers in December 2015 introduced a measure to prevent discriminatory action by a person or a government agency in response to a person's free exercise of religion. The proposal died

during the 2016 regular session.

NORTH CAROLINA

A new law prevents local and state government from mandating protections for LGBT people in the private sector or at stores and restaurants. The Legislature held a special session in March to overturn an ordinance in Charlotte that would have allowed transgender people to use bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity. Lawmakers then blocked all cities and counties from passing rules that targeted LGBT discrimination.

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota lawmakers have defeated measures in each of the past three sessions to prohibit discrimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation.

OKLAHOMA

A new law states clergy and other religious officials cannot be required to perform marriages or provide marriage counseling, courses or workshops that violate their conscience or religious beliefs. On March 14, gay rights advocates in the state celebrated the failure of 27 bills in the Legislature that they said unfairly discriminated against LGBT people.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf earlier this month signed an executive order barring state contractors and grant recipients from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity. State Sen. Mike Folmer says he wants to vet the bill in committee to make sure it does not violate anybody's religious liberties or freedom of conscience.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Transgender people told a Senate panel they fear a South Carolina bill that would require them to use the public bathroom for their biological sex will stoke misguided fears and endorse restroom vigilantism, even if the bill dies as expected. No vote was taken in the panel's second and final hearing. Whether the full committee will take it up is unclear. But even if it manages to advance to the Senate floor, opposing Sen. Joel Lourie promises to use Senate rules to block debate. House GOP leaders say they won't deal with it before the session ends in June anyway. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley opposes it as unnecessary.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Legislature passed a bill to require students to use bathrooms and locker rooms matching their gender at birth, but GOP Gov.

Dennis Daugaard vetoed it. The House also passed legislation barring government from taking discriminatory action against people, organizations or businesses based on religious beliefs that marriage should be between one man and one woman, sex outside marriage is wrong or that sexual identity is determined by a person's biological sex at birth. The bill did not pass before the legislative session ended.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee lawmakers passed legislation exempting mental health counselors from providing services to clients based on the therapists' religious beliefs and personal principles, as long as they refer the clients to someone else. The American Counseling Association has said Tennessee would be the only state to allow counselors to refuse to treat patients if the bill is signed into law. The state Legislature is also considering a bill that would require students at public grade schools and universities to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender at birth.

TEXAS

Before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states must allow gay marriage, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signed a law last June stating that clergy and religious organizations cannot be required to marry people or allow their facilities to be used for wedding celebrations that violate a sincerely held religious belief. Texas did not hold a legislative session in 2016, but the previous year, a Republican-backed bill repealing local ordinances banning discrimination against gay and transgender people failed without reaching a floor vote in either chamber. The proposal attempted to roll back such ordinances that already existed in all the state's largest cities. Instead, the all-Republican state Supreme Court heard a legal challenge to an anti-discrimination ordinance approved by Houston's City Council, and ruled that it had to be put to a referendum. Houston voters soundly defeated the ordinance in a November 2015 election featuring very low turnout.

UTAH

Utah in 2015 passed an anti-discrimination law that makes it illegal to base employment and housing decisions on sexual orientation or gender identity. Gay-rights advocates had tried for years to pass similar legislation but only succeeded last year when the measure won support of the Utah-based Mormon church and included religious protections.

VIRGINIA

Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe vetoed a Republican-backed bill stating that clergy and religious organizations cannot be penalized for declining to participate in same-sex marriages.

WASHINGTON

Multiple pieces of legislation concerning sex-specific restrooms were introduced by Republicans in both chambers of Washington's Legislature. A bill that would have blocked the Washington Human Rights Commission from initiating any rule-making procedures involving gender segregated bathrooms died in a Senate committee.

WISCONSIN

The only bill introduced in the Republican-led Legislature dealing with gays, lesbians and transgender people was a measure to force transgender students in public schools to use bathrooms and locker rooms assigned to their gender at birth. GOP leaders never brought the bill up for a vote before the two-year session ended.

WEST VIRGINIA

The Republican-led House passed a bill modeled after the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, stating that government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion unless by the least restrictive means for a compelling government interest. The bill was amended and then defeated in the Senate.

NC Governor: More Dialogue Needed on Transgender Issues

BY MARTHA WAGGONER

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—North Carolina's governor called Sunday for more dialogue on the issue of transgender people and bathroom use while saying he stands by provisions of a bill regarding access to facilities.

Gov. Pat McCrory appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" to talk about the bill, which he signed into law last month. On April 12, he issued an executive order expanding protections for many state workers based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"But I will tell you what I have learned through this is we've got to have more dialogue, not threats," McCrory told the show's host, Chuck Todd.

When Todd raised the issue of politicians using similar arguments against LGBT equality to oppose the Civil Rights Act, McCrory said the issue of such rights only came up recently since voters in Houston in November rejected an ordinance that would have established nondiscrimination protections for gay and transgender people.

McCrory said that what we've got to do is deal with this extremely new social norm that has come to our nation in a very quick period and have these discussions about the complexity of equality while also balancing the concept of privacy in the most private

areas of our life, which is a restroom, locker room or shower facility in our high schools.

McCrory reiterated that he will ask legislators to repeal a part of the law that bans workers from filing discrimination claims in state court. Even when he signed the bill into law, he disagreed with that provision, he said. That part of the law was very poorly thought out, he said.

The executive director of Equality NC, Chris Sgro, said Sunday that with those words, McCrory acknowledged signing a bad bill.

"He needs to not take a piecemeal approach to this," Sgro said. "He needs to provide leadership for the full repeal."

Equality North Carolina, the American Civil Liberties Union and three LGBT citizens have sued in federal court to overturn the entire law. North Carolina's measure is among several advanced across the country that opponents say is discriminatory toward gay, bisexual and transgender people.

McCrory's executive order affirmed parts of the law directing people at government buildings and schools to use the multi-stall bathrooms corresponding to the sex listed on their birth certificate. And the law still prevents local governments and the state from mandating businesses extend protections to LGBT workers or customers.

The state law still excludes gender identity and sexual orientation as classes explicitly protected from employment and public accommodation. That means people still would not be able to sue in state court over employment discrimination based on those factors, even if lawmakers make the change McCrory is seeking, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union has said.

A Charlotte ordinance approved in February that would have allowed transgender people to use bathrooms corresponding to their gender identity in public accommodations caused the Republican-controlled General Assembly to hold a special session March 23. Legislators overturned the ordinance and blocked all other cities and counties from passing similar rules against discrimination.

The president of the Human Rights Campaign said in a statement Sunday that McCrory is ignoring business opposition to the law.

"Pat McCrory can't have it both ways and say he doesn't want the government to tell the private sector what to do while he also sticks his head in the sand and ignores more than 160 businesses who have clearly said they want H.B. 2 repealed," President Chad Griffin said.

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Transgender Advocates Fear Bill's Fallout Even if it Dies

BY SEANNA ADCOX

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Transgender people said April 14 they fear a South Carolina bill that would require them to use the public bathroom for their biological sex will stoke misguided fears and endorse restroom vigilantism, even if the bill ultimately dies as expected.

Opponents told a Senate panel the unenforceable measure perpetuates myths against an already-ostracized community, while supporters contend it's about protecting the privacy and safety of women and children.

The measure mimics part of a North Carolina law passed last month that's caused economic fallout and debate nationwide.

A growing number of musicians have canceled concerts in North Carolina in protest, including Cyndi Lauper, Bruce Springsteen and Ringo Starr. In Massachusetts on April 14, an LGBT group booed the Republican governor off stage when he declined to commit to legislation expanding protections for transgender people.

The South Carolina bill, introduced last week, may go nowhere.

The proposal requires multistall bathrooms on public property to be designated and used according to the gender on people's birth certificates. It would also bar local governments from requiring businesses to let transgender people use the bathroom of their choice.

No vote was taken during the panel's second and final hearing. It's not yet clear whether the full committee will consider the measure. But even if it manages to advance to the Senate floor, Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, promises to use Senate rules to block debate. House GOP leaders say their chamber won't deal with the issue before session ends in June anyway. And opponents include Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, who has repeatedly called it unnecessary.

The sponsor, GOP Sen. Lee Bright, contends his bill is a matter of common sense, and its opponents are forgoing the safety and privacy of the largest part of the population in order to defend a tiny minority.

In a letter read at the hearing, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said the bill addresses a nonissue. In his 41 years in law enforcement, he said, he's never heard of a transgender person attacking or otherwise bothering someone in a restroom.

He said he can't enforce a bill that

O.K. Keyes, a transgender Columbia resident who works with LGBT youth, said the bill invites people to hate a community they know little about.

burdens law enforcement with bathroom checks and exposes his agency to lawsuits.

Obviously, DNA testing is cost prohibitive, he wrote. And asking deputies to check genitalia invades subjects' dignity and privacy.

Transgender people say the bill's requirement would put them in danger of harassment and violence, as they would clearly look out of place.

To make discrimination legal is an atrocity, said Greg Green, a transgender male, Citadel graduate and former police officer and firefighter. Going to the bathroom is natural. Worrying about whether the person in the stall beside you is sitting or standing is not commonsense.

Sharon Mansell, a Beaufort mother of 10, said she sympathizes with transgender people's objections, but it's a mother's duty to protect her children. She said she fears that without the law, someone with a perverted mind can pretend to be transgender to abuse the opposite sex.

"I stand firm that we need to vote 'yes' for this bill for the protection of everyone," she said. "This is not a war against transgender people."

Oran Smith of the Palmetto Family Council said his members' top concern is young girls who may have men in their shower rooms at public schools.

Opponents argued laws already address assault and shower curtains can provide privacy.

O.K. Keyes, a transgender Columbia resident who works with LGBT youth, said the bill invites people to hate a community they know little about.

"The legislation claims to protect, but it actually targets youth," said Keyes, 25. "Senators get to propose legislation to stir up their base and it ultimately dies, but in the process, it garners all this attention and talking points. And no one is thinking about what happens afterward."

Despite Court Ruling, China Gay Rights Movement Makes Gains

BY GERRY SHIH

CHANGSHA, China (AP)—For years, Chen Tiantian could only read about the gay rights movement in faraway places. She knew that there were activists in Beijing and a vibrant community in Shanghai, and that in San Francisco, a distant mecca, gay pride parades took up entire streets.

But on April 13, the 20-year-old English major sat on the steps of a courthouse and spoke fervently about how the struggle for equality had arrived in her central Chinese hometown—and how she planned to take part.

"It's hard to believe, but we're right in the middle of this," said Chen, who is lesbian and came with several friends to support a local couple who had challenged the city's civil affairs bureau after they were denied a marriage certificate. "It's like I'm finally entering the struggle myself."

Though it was dismissed by the court in Changsha, China's first legal challenge to a law limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples has galvanized many of the hundreds of young Chinese gay rights supporters who gathered at the courthouse, some of them waving small rainbow flags. The hearing's sizable public turnout and coverage by usually conservative Chinese media appeared to reflect early signs of shifting social attitudes in China on the topic of sexual orientation.

The lawsuit that was dismissed was brought by 26-year-old Sun Wenlin against the civil affairs bureau for refusing to issue him and his partner, Hu Mingliang, a marriage registration certificate. The judge's ruling against the couple came down after a three-hour hearing—but that didn't dampen the mood of many of the hundreds of young Chinese who gathered outside the courthouse hoping for a chance to "witness history," in the words of one supporter.

Some supporters, who had traveled overnight from neighboring provinces to line up at 5 a.m. to attend the hearing, said they felt energized because having a gay marriage lawsuit argued in a Chinese court for the first time was a small but significant victory in itself. Unlike in most politically sensitive legal cases, security outside the courthouse was light and the atmosphere was relaxed.

More seasoned activists said they too had reason to be optimistic given a pickup in legal challenges, even if successes in court remained few and far between.

Chinese society and the government have generally frowned on nontraditional expressions of gender and sexuality, but

awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues is rising.

China doesn't legally recognize same-sex marriage, and officials with the central government have said they do not see the law changing soon. It also remains unclear how far gay rights activism will be allowed to go under the current political climate in China, where lawyers groups and feminist activists have been jailed in recent months.

But many gay rights activists in China say they feel public attitudes are shifting substantially given the growing mainstream media coverage of LGBT issues.

In 2014, a Chinese court ruled that gay conversion treatments were illegal. Earlier this week, a labor arbitration panel in the southern province of Guizhou heard China's first transgender job discrimination case and is expected to make a ruling in the coming weeks.

Ying Xin, the director of the Beijing LGBT Center, said there was a sharp uptick in awareness of gay issues compared to 2009, when the group started doing street performance art in Beijing.

"This is a moment because of all the news coverage, and people are gaining exposure," Ying said, pointing out recent coverage of LGBT issues and lawsuits in domestic online and broadcast news outlets.

Central China Television, the state broadcaster, has covered gay issues on several occasions and sent a reporter April 13 to interview Sun after the court decision.

As he left the courthouse amid applause and cries of "Hero," Sun, the plaintiff, told reporters and scores of supporters that he would continue to appeal until all of his legal options were exhausted.

"The bigger significance of this case is that it will let more people know about their rights," said Gou Gou, a Beijing-based lawyer from an informal group of legal professionals called the Rainbow Lawyers network. "But young people are the most passionate. This will hopefully direct them to become more involved with the right training."

For Chen, the English student, the hearing seemed like an awakening. She attributed the Internet to her knowledge of LGBT issues, saying she had read voraciously about everything from the battle over same-sex marriage in the United States winding its way to the Supreme Court to news of homophobic attacks in Russia.

Chen said she had long wanted to join some sort of organization or cause but had no idea

See China Gay Rights, next page

UK Spy Agency Chief Apologizes For Old Prejudice About Gays

LONDON (AP) – The head of Britain’s digital espionage agency has apologized for the organization’s historic prejudice against homosexuals, saying it failed to learn from the treatment of World War II codebreaker Alan Turing.

In a rare public speech, GCHQ chief Robert Hannigan told a gathering organized by the rights group Stonewall that the agency’s ban on homosexuals had caused long-lasting psychological damage to many and hurt the agency because talented people were excluded from working there.

“The fact that it was common practice for decades reflected the intolerance of the times and the pressures of the Cold War, but it does not make it any less wrong and we should apologize for it,” Hannigan said Friday at the conference organized by Stonewall, which campaigns for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

The speech offered a poignant tribute to Turing, the gay computer science pioneer and architect of the effort to crack Nazi Germany’s Enigma cipher. Turing was convicted of indecency in 1952 and stripped of his security clearance. He later committed suicide.

A 2014 film about Turing, “The Imitation Game” starring Benedict Cumberbatch, brought his story to a new generation. At GCHQ, Turing is now seen as a genius – “a problem-solver who was not afraid to think differently and radically,” Hannigan said.

It was partly to honor Turing that the agency’s headquarters was lit up during a global celebration of gender and sexual diversity last year.

“It was also kind of an act of atonement – for the lost opportunity of his early death,” Hannigan said. “Who knows what Turing would have gone on to do, where, for example, he might have taken his pioneering interest in artificial intelligence, which is the thing everyone is talking about. We will never know and should, as a society, never repeat that mistake.”

Hannigan said things are different now.

To make the point, he shared a story about an internal agency blog headlined “So it’s goodbye from him.” Hannigan said that at first he thought it was written by someone who was leaving the agency for the private sector. It turned out to be the story of a transgender employee – who he called Emma – who had finally decided to start the process of transition.

“We have a lot of courageous staff, civilian and military, straight and gay, who have deployed to Afghanistan, to Iraq, and other conflicts...,” Hannigan said. “But it takes a particular kind of courage to write what Emma wrote in front of thousands of her colleagues.”

Hannigan said he was proud the blog was the most “liked” the agency had ever had, and that the comments were genuinely supportive. But he stressed that GCHQ was still far from a utopia.

“That is the real point of diversity for me,” he said. “To do our job, which is solving some of the hardest technology problems the world faces for security reasons, we need all talents and we need people who dare to think differently and be different. ... Dull uniformity would completely destroy us.”

► China Gay Rights

Continued from p. 18

how to participate in Changsha, which had no organized gay community to speak of.

“I’m going to become active, but I’m just worried that as a college student we have no financial power to do anything real,” Chen said. “But this case definitely gave a lot of people courage to stand up. For gay people in China to make that first step was really not easy.”

For the past week, Sun and Hu have been tracked by two college students who are making independent documentaries about them. Yang Dangling, 22, who traveled from the eastern city of Nanjing with her camera, said LGBT student clubs were forming on campuses across the country in the past five to 10 years.

Despite a surge in their national profile, Sun and Hu have sought to maintain a low-key lifestyle in Changsha. Several months ago, police came to the house to urge Sun to drop his case, but left after he reiterated his determination to press on.

Sun said his parents have been fully supportive of his legal battle, while Hu’s mother and father, who live in the Hunan countryside, are more conservative but have come to accept their son’s sexual orientation.

The night before the hearing, Sun and Hu spoke to local reporters before settling down for 10 yuan (\$2) bowls of rice and fried peppers in a nearby eatery, where they contemplated the progress of China’s gay rights movement.

Sun insisted he didn’t want to be a spokesman for all gay people in China, but only fight for his individual rights and set a legal precedent. Social attitudes can only change with economic development, he said.

Hu, the more soft-spoken of the two, interjected to rebut the notion. He recalled bringing Sun home to the countryside several months ago, where he introduced him to some old friends, who shrugged off the revelation that he was gay.

“These people knew me for 20 years,” Hu said. “If you know someone who is gay, that changes your perspective. It just takes exposure.”

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Cyndi Lauper on Country 'Detour,' Shoe Struggles and Being In 'Baby Jane' with Madonna

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It's not *just* about having fun anymore. For Cyndi Lauper, music runs deeper than her '80s-era eccentricities may have seemed to suggest. A collection of classics from the Great American Songbook, deep Memphis-based blues, the feel-good Broadway romp "Kinky Boots," which won her a Tony in 2013 for best score – Lauper

changes musical guises like she changes dye jobs.

The 62-year-old singer takes another sharp turn on "Detour," her latest reincarnation, this time as a full-on Southern belle. The spunky pop priestess trades in her pink for plaid and saddles up with a slew of Nashville mainstays, including Willie Nelson, Vince Gill and Emmylou Harris, to sing signature mid-20th-century country ditties.

To talk about her twangy transformation, Lauper called just as she was leaving Los Angeles, where she recently received her much-deserved star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Lauper was her usual chatty and chirpy self as she dished on longing to be the "unknown singer," shoe struggles and forever wanting to take on Joan Crawford and Bette Davis' infamous revenge relic "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" How exactly? By

starring in a version of it alongside Madonna, of course.

I love the irony of you, mega LGBT activist, taking on a genre that's not historically known to embrace the LGBT community.

There are a lot of LGBT people who love early country music! They love Patsy Cline, they love Loretta Lynn. I loved Loretta Lynn

when I was little and when I heard her sing "The Pill" (a cheeky take on birth control) it was like, "Holy cow!"

But I just know that when I went to Nashville everyone was very kind and they were sweet to me, and it feels like a small town and it doesn't seem like *everybody* is like that – it just seems like they don't talk about it a lot. I talk about it because we did a lot of research about the kids running away, the homeless LGBT kids. We found that if the parents just said, "You're my kid and I love you and you gotta give me a minute to get my head around this gay thing," because where the heck are parents gonna go? You can't go to the preacher man because he's gonna condemn you and your kid to hell. You're not gonna go to the school and out your kid. You can't go to the neighbors. So, where do you go? You have to have an outreach program for the parents and the kids, but you have to have the information to help parents because, you know, I think most parents just love their kids, and when they're teenagers, you're gonna fight about everything – I know, I have a teenager. You fight. Hell, that's the dynamic. I didn't think about that when I did this. I did this for the love of music. I did this because I saw a segment on CBS's "The Early Show" about all the great Nashville session players. One group was called the Nashville Cats and they played with everyone back in the '60s and '70s, and I was a little jealous because I felt like I missed out. I saw the "Muscle Shoals" documentary and I kind of wished sometimes – I felt like I was born in the wrong time. I was so busy being famous that I missed out on all these wonderful things. I just wanted to go back. In the beginning everything is, "You can't do this! You'll be ruined!" And you believe it!

At what point in your career did you feel creatively liberated?

I guess in 1991. I wanted to work with Muff Winwood (English songwriter and record producer known for his work with Dire Straits) and he believed in me as an arranger and as a producer. You know, I should've moved to England but I didn't. I loved New York. I was born there and I would've missed my family and my friends, so I didn't go. But it was a lot easier in England; the English people were different. And he wanted me to do this thing for him. It was around that time that I realized, "If you're gonna be doing this, maybe you should start practicing the rhythm of your own beat and sing your story, not try and do a story with other people's stories," which is OK because that's what singers do but at that point I wanted to do that and then I wanted to work with ("Detour" producer) Seymour Stein. I wanted to go and do a blues record. I wanted to do the blues since 2004, and then when I finally got to do it in 2010, you know, I felt blessed because I was able to do something I really wanted to do as a singer. And then I wanted to do this country record, and I hoped that I could sing as best as I could sing. I wanted to do a good job.

INFO

Cyndi Lauper

>> 8 p.m. May 14
Michigan Theater
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You've called your new label, Sire Records, your "dream label." And actually, Madonna's self-titled debut was actually released on the same label in 1983. Do you think you and Madonna might have done a duet if you'd been on the same label back in the day? Was there ever talk of that happening?

Oh, not by business people. You know, I always felt for me, I would've loved to do "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" with her... 'cause I think that's very funny! (Laughs hysterically)

Which part would you play?

Come on! Who do you think I'd play? I'd play Baby Jane – I'd be torturin' her. Because she's always viewed as the bad girl, you know! They'd make her the good girl and I'd be the bad one. Or (we could do Joan Crawford's 1954 western-drama) "Johnny Guitar" – she'd be the righteous one (laughs). But whatever. Who knows! For me, all I wanna do is a good job. I wanna be a great singer. I wanna learn. I wanna always learn. I study music constantly. I try and listen to what's happening. I try and listen to what's happened, to what I might've missed. I think music is... I love it and I think it lifts people up. I think I finally did a record that makes people happy, ya know? Maybe I learned that from "Kinky Boots."

Pop, rock, country, blues. Is there anything you can't sing?

Really, this is the roots of rock, that's what I sang, you know what I'm sayin', hun? It's all the roots. The blues was the roots of what we sing and so is this. There was a time when country and R&B were very linked. The songs would go from R&B to country, country to R&B. A perfect example of that would be the Wilma Burgess hit "Misty Blue," that was a hit in 1966 and then in 1975 for Dorothy Moore. But they were pop songs. When I was little, Patsy Cline was on the radio. She was not country radio – she wasn't segregated to country radio, and neither was Loretta Lynn and neither was Johnny Cash. Those guys were on the pop stations. And we had three AM stations, and everybody was on 'em in New York. You know, some of the stuff, especially "Funnel of Love," it was a rockabilly song and Wanda Jackson was one of the earlier rockers, and when I was in Blue Angel (Lauper's pre-solo career

See Cyndi Lauper, page 25

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7 Ways Social Media Has Made You a Sex Addict



BY MIKEY ROX

Ten years ago, when Facebook was in its infancy and iPhones were but a glimmer in Steve Jobs' eyes, you had to work hard to be a perv. Now, fulfilling your friskiness is just a flick away, and that's not exactly a good thing. Social media has taken over our lives, both personally and professionally, and the dark underbelly of our online world is as dank and seedy as a dimly lit bathhouse. As a result, you may very well be a sex addict; here are seven ways to find out.

DM on Twitter and Facebook has gotten you in trouble with your boo

What starts out as innocent "likes" and flirty comments on Facebook and Twitter soon evolves into a deep-seed diving expedition into the object of your burgeoning affection's profile, left-swiping on the family and milestone photos but holding steady on the shirtless-vacay jackpot. Eventually one DMs the other in an attempt to push the boundaries of social-stranger etiquette – even though you know you shouldn't – until a sordid relationship of sexts and sweet-nothings arises. Which is all well and good if it's as innocuous as you say it is, but your partner doesn't believe you when you get caught (as well he shouldn't since you're being dishonest), and therein lies your problem – likely one of many.

You spent way too much time on Grindr

Thanks to social media – and very specifically Grindr with regards to our gay community – most of us have developed not only a need but, more dastardly, an affinity for 375-feet-away validation and instant gratification.

You open the app every 15 minutes to see if someone new has pinged you or, hopefully, that brick-bodied bro you've got your eye on has finally responded to your "Sup?" Friday and Saturday nights? Forget about it. What were once bastions of freedom and nightlife exploration have devolved into afternoon-to-evening-long sessions of sitting on the couch surfing headless thumbnails while Netflix plays in the background as you consistently turn down the so-sos and frequently get rejected or ignored by the more-sos. It's cyclical, and you can't quit it – until you hit it, that is (and you're almost always compromising, which makes the whole situation even sadder), ultimately ushering in a brief respite before ending up back at square one a few hours later.

When there's a Grindr outage you turn to Scruff

Gay Twitter loses its collective mind when Grindr experiences an outage, like it did recently – at least on the West Coast (and during the Palm Springs White Party, no less) – driving hordes of Grindr loyalists to other apps like Scruff to fulfill their insatiable desires. If you find yourself in a cold sweat, clamoring to connect nakedly with somebody – anybody! – nearby when the Grindr gods throw down the gauntlet, it's probably high-time for reflection... and confession.

You're really on Instagram for the man-butts

You're kidding yourself if you think you're on Instagram for the sweeping views and vistas of other people's getaways, pics of kittens and your BFF's brunch plate. Real talk, you're there to scroll through the endless images of

the buffed-out, swole-up models and meatheads you daydream about tossing you around like a rag doll. If you follow @seductionboys, @themuscleleague or @datbubblebutt, you might be a sex addict.

You bookmark YouPorn more than any other website

We all have a handful of super-hot vids saved that are our go-tos. But if you've got them bookmarked on your phone or computer so you can have them at the ready whenever you're ready – and they outnumber the more relevant and G-rated content you have stored – it's time to pull up your pants, put the devices away and introduce yourself to the real world again.

We can all agree that Snapchat exists to share dick pics

A friend of mine asked me a few months ago if I'm on Snapchat. My response? No, because I'm not a 17-year-old kid trying to sext undercover. I'm grown, and when I send you my dick pic you get to keep it forever – because I'm confident like that. But I digress. My point that Snapchat is strictly for younger Millennials and high-schoolers to trade nudies with no cyber trail (even though that's inaccurate) is proven by this appropriately worded statistic from research firm Martin-Wilbourn Partners: "Snapchat is now the third most popular social app among Millennials, with a 32.9 percent penetration on the demographic's mobile phones, trailing only Instagram (43.1 percent) and Facebook (75.6 percent)."

You visit Tumblr for celeb nudes and homemade sex tapes

Does anybody even understand Tumblr? I don't – except when I'm googling a celebrity's junk or looking for amateur porn (because watching normal people do it as awkwardly as I do is comforting). That's really all Tumblr is good for. Anybody who tries to tell you differently is either a liar or a 13-year-old girl, or probably both.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.



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Yoga Studio owner Belinda Thurston.

Yoga Studio Serves as LGBTQ Safe Space

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Tucked in the shadow of Lansing's coal fired power plant, and across the street from that plant's replacement natural gas electricity generation station, is a small yoga studio. Its owner is Belinda Thurston, a former journalist and bisexual. She's turned her facility into a donation-based program, supporting the LGBT and youth community. Between The Lines had a Between Ourselves moment with her.

poses that can offer healing for those who may have had surgery or be suffering from side effects from hormones. We use the class as a way to connect with how we feel inside the skin we're in, not how society says we should feel. It has become a community and family for those who identify as LGBTQ and allies. This is *not* a hookup space.

What is the most important thing being an out bisexual running a yoga studio taught you about the community? Why is that important?

Thank you for asking. I identify as bisexual. I am in a same-sex partnership. Being open as a woman in a same-sex relationship has been good for me and my business. I have connected to so many layers of Lansing that may not have been open to yoga were I not to wave my own rainbow flag. I've taught a special class to an LGBTQ teen club, I've had the studio in the Pride parade; I helped connect a person starting transition from male to female to speak on a panel at MSU. It's important to live our truth. I tell my students that. I need to live it too. My status and the studio's reputation for being safe, I believe, are the reason I see a lot of same-sex couples come to our couples yoga workshops, our non-LGBTQ classes and our couples massage.

You also do a unique payment schedule – talk about that. How did you come up with that and why?

We are a completely donation-based studio. I wanted to make yoga and tai chi practice accessible and remove the monetary barrier. Unfortunately, yoga has become a hobby of the affluent and I wanted people on the lower end of the socio-economic scale to find the benefits of practice. We offer a pay-it-forward program, Karma Ka\$h. We have a work exchange. And we have donation-based available. I like to call it "conscious commerce," meeting people where they are and accepting different types of "payment."

You started in journalism, but are now running a yoga studio. How did that transition happen and what has it meant to your daily life?

Crazy ride! I had a 20-year journalism career doing everything from investigative journalism to content editing to multimedia and digital journalism. The transition to yoga was slow, gradual and unintentional.

Just B Yoga has class offerings for the LGBT community. Why is this necessary and what does it mean for your LGBT participants?

This class is very special to me because it was born of the request and demand of our students. One student in particular asked if we would consider a queer yoga class. We had several long conversations about the pros and cons. I didn't want to create a class that could be perceived as segregating or separatist. But after a lot of discussion I felt it was an important class toward creating a safe space for the LGBTQ community that can't be found elsewhere, particularly for the transgender community.

Being in a yoga class with everyone in tight outfits or skimpy outfits can be intimidating for anyone, but add in gender-fluidity or someone in varying stages of transition and you're not going to find many studios that feel inviting. Then add the language of the class. Some yoga studios talk about female or male poses. I don't believe in that. I try to honor neutral pronouns and the pronouns my students choose for themselves. I teach

► Cyndi Lauper

Continued from p. 121

rockabilly band) – oh, she was prominent on my playlist because she was an early rocker and there weren't a lot of women rockers that you listened to, but you always listened to her. You listened to the amazing Brenda Lee, but Wanda Jackson was just a little dirtier.

Do you have your cowgirl boots picked out for the tour?

I'm having trouble with shoes – a lot of trouble. I think some of the shoes I wear are ugly but they don't hurt. I just don't want my feet to hurt anymore. You know, I just want a nice pair of wide combat boots and I'd be happy. But I don't know. I'll probably find somebody who can actually make me shoes that don't hurt so I can dance! I don't want to dance barefoot anymore because I think I beat my feet up that way too.

How about some comfy slippers?

Slippers aren't strong enough. We do rock. When you slam your foot down, you gotta have some weight to it. You can't just have a little slipper on.

Why is it important to you to still perform in North Carolina despite the state's new discriminatory legislation known as the "bathroom bill"?

North Carolina is a very important place to go because once people are disenfranchised the way they have been, it's very important to bring light to a place where people have none and also educate people on what the real concerns are and get people involved in their own destiny.

It's hard for me to even string these words together, but because you were on "Celebrity Apprentice": What if Donald Trump becomes president?

Ugh. Everybody keeps asking me the same question. I don't know. I really don't know. I wouldn't feel that good about it. I don't think people should campaign to stop Trump. I think people should vote, for one, and vote for the person they feel is most responsible and can really understand the way the government works right now and make it move forward instead of stopping it every frickin' two minutes and costing people who pay taxes a lot of money. It's a little disconcerting – the whole frickin' thing – and it's gone on for too long.

You've won just about every major award – so, then, what does getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame mean to you?

It's funny because I had been approached a few times over the years and this time felt right. It was surreal – and to get a star on the same day as my good friend Harvey (Fierstein) felt awesome.

It's been seven years since "Bring Ya to the Brink," your last full album of original non-musical material. Do you write? Are there plans to release original material under your own name?

Well, I'm probably gonna write another Broadway show.

Oh, you are?!

Yes. I think if I wrote (for a solo project) I'd probably write under a pseudonym and sing under a pseudonym because it'd just be a lot easier to have it be received better.

Why do you say that?

Oh, you know, I like good music (laughs). There's a really great sound coming out of California – the Southern Bay area has a whole kind of surf, kind of rock sound. Little bit of what we did on "Funnel of Love," but there's a whole resurgence and group of people doing that kind of surf bass-y sound but rock.

Why can't you put your name on it?

I don't know. Because I don't want to be judged. I'd rather do new music with a paper bag over my head and be the unknown singer. (Laughs)

But you've been in the spotlight for almost your entire life. Aren't you used to critics?

No, I know, but there are things that I can do as Cyndi Lauper and things that I can't. Just 'cause I can't doesn't mean I won't. I just won't do it in a conventional way.

You never have, though! That's why you're so adored.

Well, thanks. I mean, with this record, I was very fortunate to have some really incredible people on it. I don't even know – it just happened. It snowballed and the producer, Tony Brown, knew somebody and I knew Emmylou Harris and wanted Emmylou Harris to come and sing. It's a kind of small town, so I had met with Buddy Cannon who was working with Alison Krauss and Willie Nelson and all of a sudden it started to come together just like that. I had gone to see Vince Gill and kind of knew him through his wife Amy (Grant) when I did a concert years ago and he had liked a song that I did called "Water's Edge." I went to go see him with the Time Jumpers, and when I went to do "Detour" I felt like if we had him lay down the track with a couple of the Time Jumpers it would really make sense and feel right because they understood real cowboy swing. Tony contacted him and he said he would come in and he did. It just fell together. And if you went to see him with the Time Jumpers, you wouldn't believe it because he's really that good. I just thought to myself, "Oh my god, these musicians are great – pinch yourself now because you're actually really doing this."

Your bucket list just got shorter.



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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 21

The White House LGBT Summit 8:30 a.m. Featuring Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. The White House and Equality Michigan, 4901 Evergreen Road, **Dearborn**. <http://bit.ly/238L59M>

Monday, April 25

Happy Hour 4 p.m. Come join us for happy hour and Man Crush Monday. Grenadier Club, 3101 McDougall, **Detroit**. 313-910-6867.

Friday, April 29

Trevor Project Trainings 8 a.m. A meal is provided each day. American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan, 4880 Lawndale St., **Detroit**. 313-846-6030. kmarshall@aihfs.org

Family Weekend in the Midwest 4:30 p.m. Family Weekend in the Midwest is Family Equality Councils annual destination event for parents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ), their children, extended families, prospective families and friends in the Midwest. There will be family activities, fun and programming for all ages. Family Equality Council will provide opportunities to build community among families with parents who are LGBTQ and learn about issues facing our families today. This event will take place on Friday April 29 - Sunday May 1. Family Equality Council, 706 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI 53713, **Madison**. ksimes@familyequality.org www.familyequality.org/get_involved/events/midwest_events/family_weekend_in_the_midwest/

Saturday, April 30

The Naked Magicians 7 p.m. 18+. Tickets: \$35+. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 248-399-2980. www.RoyalOakmusictheatre.com

Wednesday, May 4

Relationship Skills Class This 7-session series is for LGBTQ people and their friends & loved ones. Topics include: exploring relationship values, healthy conflict resolution, establishing boundaries, accountability and building community connections. This series is open to everyone, regardless of relationship status or relationship history. The cost of the series is \$35 per person. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Thursday, May 5

Transgender Day of Visibility Art Show Pittmann-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Mariachis, Tamales & Murals 7 a.m. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo the Detroit way with Step On Bus Tours. Learn about the Hispanic culture that can be found here in Detroit while dining in authentic Mexican restaurants. Listen to live mariachis bands and take a tour of the spectacular Mexicantown murals. Our Cinco de Mayo tour includes carnitas and nachos snacks, a trip to the Mexicantown bakery, the Mexican market, and a visit to the Latino Cultural Center and so much more! Make sure to reserve your spot as soon as you

can! Step On Bus Tours, 215 W Troy St. Ste 2046, **Ferndale**. 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com www.steponbustours.com/home.html

Naked Men's Yoga 6:30 p.m. Naked Men's Yoga, **Ann Arbor**. message4@aol.com http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

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Benefits/Social Events

St. Paul United Church of Christ "Spring Rummage Sale" Also soup and bake sale. Admission: \$0-2. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 31654 Mound Road, Warren. 8 a.m. April 23. 586-264-4777.

Film & Video

Michigan Theater "Sherlock Holmes" Recently re-discovered silent film. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. April 24. 734-668-8397. www.Michtheater.org

Michigan Theater "CineManga Film Series" Different anime or Japanese film each Wednesday night. State

Shows

Olympia Entertainment "Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons" Tickets: \$25-125. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. April 29. 313-471-6611. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

UMS "The Bad Plus Joshua Redman" Tickets: \$18-48. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 23. 734-764-2538. <http://ums.org/performance/the-bad-plus-joshua-redman/>

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Barefoot in the Park Ann Arbor Civic Theatre presents Neil Simon's comedy. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. April 21 - April 24. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/shows/barefoot-in-the-park

Professional

The Hung Man Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 25. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Exposures: Photography '16" Lawrence Street Gallery presents its annual juried show. Categories for prizes include Best of Show, first place in color, black and white and experimental/alternative. Juror is Rob Kangas, Program Coordinator of the Photography program at Oakland Community College's Royal Oak campus. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 3 - April 30. 248-544-0394. www.Lawrencestreetgallery.com

MI Green Team "MI EARTH DAY FEST" Explore green and healthy living at one of the planet's largest Earth Day celebrations! The MI EARTH DAY FEST will be in the beautiful Rochester City Center Park April 22-24 (Fri 4-8, Sat 10-8, Sun 10-4). SHOP at 100+ exhibits, and get free samples and show specials. LEARN at expert presentations, workshops and roundtables. CELEBRATE with entertainment, great food and fun activities for all ages. Admission and parking are free. Visit miEDF.com for details. Rochester Municipal Park, 580 Pine Street, Rochester. 4 p.m. April 22. 8109089976. www.miEDF.com

robert kidd gallery "Laurie Tennent" Botanicals: Intimate portraits robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. April 9 - May 6. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

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Editor's Pick

On Saturday, May 7 more than 500 guests will experience Spring Bash 2016: Casino Royale. Join Affirmations in a celebration of Metro Detroit's LGBT community and its allies. Spring Bash will feature live entertainment, VIP reception, open bar and a delicious three-course dinner.



The event will begin with a VIP Reception at 6 p.m. followed by a cocktail party for all guests at 6:45 p.m. The dinner and program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Afterwards, join the afterglow party (complete with music, dancing and an open bar).

Tickets for Casino Royale are \$195 for general admission, \$300 for a VIP ticket (including access to the VIP reception) and \$500 for a premier ticket (which includes preferred seating, your name in the program book & VIP Reception ticket). Festivities will be held at MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 Third Ave., Detroit. For more information about Spring Bash: Casino Royale, contact Katie Koch at kkoch@goaffirmations.org or visit www.goaffirmations.org.

Theater, 233 State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 13 - April 27. 734-668-8397. www.Michtheater.org

Other

Step On Bus Tours "Zehnders Ragtime Festival" Step On Bus Tours invites you to step back in time to experience this ragtime music festival at Zehnders. For 21 years Zehnders has been host to ragtime performers from all over the United States and Canada. Come out and enjoy the best ragtime music as played by Zehnders featured pianist Bob Milne, along with other world-renowned musicians. On the trip you will have an hour and a half to stop in town before the buffet lunch and concert. The trip cost includes transportation via motor coach, Zehnders plated lunch and the ragtime performance. \$70 Person. Step on Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy St. Ste 2046, Ferndale. 7 a.m. April 28. 248-619-6692. www.steponbustours.com/trips.html

Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike PG-13. Tickets: \$20-22. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through April 24. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Detroit's Pioneer Building

"PIONEERS" Curated by Peter Gahan, this varied exhibition features painting, photography, mixed media, glass work, encaustic, drawing and fiber. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 16 - June 25. 313-831-1400. www.Casscafe.com

DIA "Dance! American Art 1830-1960" The exhibition is organized by the DIA and presents more than 90 paintings, sculptures, photographs and costumes brought together for the first time to celebrate and explain the important place of dance in American culture. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 20 - June 12. 313-833-7900. www.Dia.org

will show how glass is fused by young glass blowers as well as unique pieces made by local artists in this unusual workspace. Our docent led tour of the Libbey Museum will also include a glass blowing demonstration and a personal tour of the historic glass pieces. A special visit will take us to the center of Toledo where we will hear about Libbey and see why Toledo was named the Glass Capital. And of course, we will have a stop at the Libbey Glass Factory Outlet. Lunch at Spaghetti Warehouse where there is a special glass window. Our tour of the Old West End Neighborhood will tell us about Mr. Libbey's personal love life and Mrs. Libbey - the strong woman that she was. There will be some off-the-beaten-track GLASS stops during this power packed day. Step on Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy St. Ste 2046, Ferndale. 6:30 a.m. April 29. 248-619-6692. www.steponbustours.com/trips.html

Review: Encore Theatre Hits Right Notes with 'Always...Patsy Cline'

BY JENN MCKEE

DEXTER – A “Saturday Night Live” writer once said that the show could leaven a risky sketch simply by putting Amy Poehler in it, calling the comedienne “a charm machine.”

But Dexter’s Encore Theatre, now staging Ted Swindley’s “Always ... Patsy Cline,” may now lay claim to its own charm machine:

Sonja Marquis, who plays a brassy Houston single mom (and Cline fanatic) named Louise.

When Louise learns that country music superstar Patsy Cline (Emmi Veinbergs) will be performing in her town, she heads out to the venue hours early; meets and befriends the country music star; and convinces Cline to forgo her hotel reservation and instead spend the night at Louise’s home. After staying up into the wee hours sharing stories, the two women exchange addresses and sustain their friendship through a series of letters.



Emmi Veinbergs performs as Patsy Cline

This set-up may sound far-fetched, but the two-hour show was inspired by a true story. And although the show is primarily a showcase of Cline’s music and distinctive vocal style, the admittedly light story of Cline’s friendship with Louise provides the show with a loose narrative framework.

Set designer Kristen Gribben breaks the stage into three sections: Louise’s cheerful, colorful 1950s kitchen on one end; a bandstand (where music director Dan Mikat’s excellent 4 piece band plays) situated upstage center; and a honky tonk – where Louise comes to see Patsy’s show – on the other end. Props designer Anne Donevan’s sharp, witty attention to detail brings Louise’s world to vivid life, thanks to items like a porcelain rooster creamer, copper jello molds, a juke box, and a rotating, light-up Schlitz globe (it’s small, but just as kitsch-tastic as it sounds).

Costume designer Sharon Larkey Urick effectively uses clothes to distinguish not only Cline’s different performances, but also different parts of her identity: classic cowgirl; glamorous chanteuse; slacks-and-sweater-wearing everywoman; and put-together, independent woman. Lighting designer Andrew Galicki, meanwhile, most notably helps guide our focus in the first act, before the two women meet.

And it must be said that the first act is the stronger of the two. Because Marquis is addressing – and, let’s face it, unabashedly

flirting with – the audience during the early scenes of the show, there’s a palpable spark of joy that dovetails perfectly with Veinbergs’ gorgeous renditions of Cline’s songs in a concert setting. Yet after the two characters arrive at Louise’s house for the night, the show shifts into a different gear, and Cline begins to sing as a means of sharing her stories with Louise, or of lulling Louise’s son into a deeper sleep, and this framework inevitably feels more forced, and less organic.

Even so, “Always” is a really satisfying night of musical theater. Marquis employs her skills as a gifted improviser to read the crowd and add moments of spontaneity; and her exaggerated, tell-it-like-it-is sassiness as Louise had the crowd eating out of her hand. Veinbergs, meanwhile, powerfully captures Cline’s fascinating contradictions – she was fierce and somehow painfully vulnerable; she

was the girl next door, but also other-worldly – with vocals that replicate the singer’s trademark phrasing and style (scooping, subito piano, yodeling, etc.).

The show doesn’t provide much biographical info about Cline, or offer any insight about her tragic, early death by plane crash at age 30. Instead, it focuses on a single night when two women became fast friends, and invites you to listen to a couple dozen songs on which Cline left her indelible mark. Wisely, director Thalia Schramm lets the show breathe, by giving her actors license to react in the moment, and invites us to be part of an irresistible girls’ night out (and in).

“A secret’s no fun unless you tell someone,” Louise tells the audience, in a Dorothy Parker-like moment. So in the spirit of this sentiment, Encore should have a honky-tonk hit on its hands by way of “Always ... Patsy Cline” – but you didn’t hear it from me.

Tickets, \$26-\$32 for adults, with discounts available for seniors and youth groups, are available online at www.theencoretheatre.org, or by calling the box office at 734-268-6200. \$15 student rush tickets are available one hour prior to performance time, if tickets are available. Must show valid student ID. Find more theater coverage online at www.encoremichigan.com

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Composer and Lyricist: David Yazbeck
Librettist: Terrence McNally



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Prestigious Musical Theater Award Renamed to Honor Troy Native

EAST LANSING – To honor Tony Award winning actress and Michigan native Sutton Foster's contribution to American musical theater, the annual Ovation Awards will now be known as The Sutton Foster Ovation Awards - Michigan High School Musical Theater Awards.

The Sutton Foster Ovation Awards are a celebration of outstanding achievement in musical theater performance by high school students and recognize individual artistry in vocal, dance and acting performance. For the last four years, the best of Michigan's high school theater students have competed in the Ovation Awards for the scholarships and awards on Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall. One top male and one top female performer from the competition are chosen to represent the state of Michigan at the National High School Musical theater Awards (The "Jimmy" Awards) competition held in New York City.

The Ovation Awards, presented by Broadway in Detroit, Broadway Grand Rapids and Wharton Center for Performing Arts, caught the attention of Foster, one of the most popular Broadway performers of all time and native of Troy, Michigan.

"Musical theater has had such a significant impact on my life!" she says. "I am honored to have my name associated with the scholarship program, and I am thrilled to know that it will help inspire and support future generations of student thespians from my home state."

Wharton Center's Executive Director, Mike Brand, says naming the awards after Foster will encourage more young people to get involved in theater. "This is a huge win for young performers across the state. Sutton Foster's success on the stage and her dedication to arts education inspires kids and adults alike. Our goal is to have every high school that presents musical theater in Michigan participate in this annual awards program, and we are honored to be able to distribute these scholarships to young artists. Sutton's involvement gives the Ovation Awards huge credibility!"

Broadway in Detroit Executive Director Al Lichtenstein agrees: "Sutton Foster is one of the biggest Broadway stars today. Her connection to the awards will only increase the engagement of high schools across the state. This is a big win for the state of Michigan."

Mike Lloyd, executive director of Broadway Grand Rapids notes, "We are overjoyed that

stage and screen actress Sutton Foster is lending her name to the Ovation Awards. This places another level of prestige upon the competition. It will only encourage more students to learn about performing arts to participate in their musical theater programs."

Originally from Troy, Michigan, Sutton Foster is an award-winning actress, singer and dancer who has performed in 11 Broadway shows – most recently the revival of "Violet" and originated roles in the Broadway productions of "The Drowsy Chaperone," "Little Women," "Young Frankenstein," "Shrek The Musical," and her Tony Award winning performances in "Anything Goes" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie." She was first seen on television on "Star Search" at age 15 and currently stars in TVLand's critically acclaimed series "Younger." Previously, Sutton appeared in ABC Family's "Bunheads," "Psych," "Johnny and the Sprites," "Flight of the Conchords," "Sesame Street," "Law and Order SVU," and "Royal Pains." In 2011 she received an Honorary Doctorate



degree from Ball State University where she also is on faculty as a teacher and advisor to the Department of Theater and Dance.

The performance and presentation will take place June 11-12 on Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall Stage. The awards weekend includes intensive education, rehearsal and coaching for all nominees, culminating in a performance of Broadway numbers and an awards ceremony in front of a live audience. The winners of the competition are considered the top male and female musical theater performers in Michigan for that given year. Each winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize, a scholarship to Wharton Center's Take It From The Top Summer Broadway Intensive, and an all expense paid six-day trip to New York City to represent the state of Michigan in the National High School Musical Theater Awards.

To qualify for participation for the Sutton Foster Ovation Awards, schools must submit the name of the student performer who plays the leading male and/or female role in an eligible high school musical presented during the 2015-2016 academic year. Rules, regulations, online application and additional resources are available at www.whartoncenter.com.

The nomination deadline is Monday, May 30. All nominees will be notified via email on or before June 5 of their acceptance into the Ovation Awards scholarship competition.

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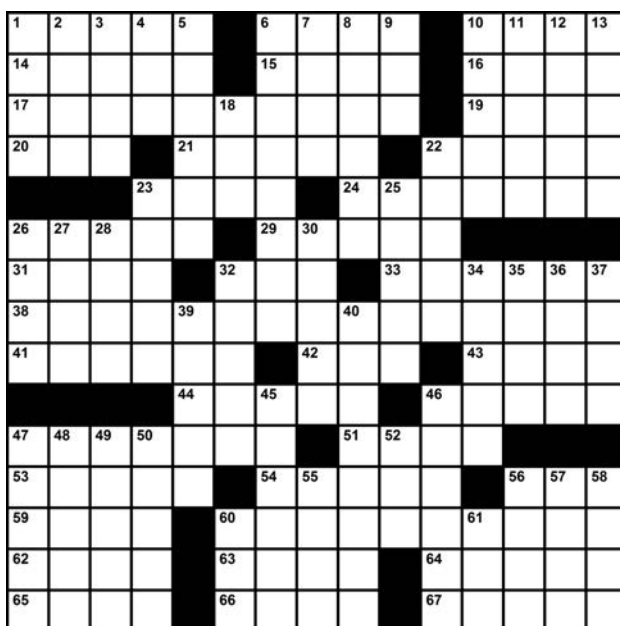
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Q Puzzle



American Horror Story

Across

- 1 Put a head on cappuccino
- 6 A man named Connie.
- 10 DeGeneres voice role
- 14 Sinister-looking Peter
- 15 Pertaining to most students
- 16 Sherman Hemsley religious sitcom
- 17 *She played Amazon Eve
- 19 k.d. lang record label
- 20 Feeling of hitting rock bottom
- 21 Haul ass
- 22 Thomas of "That Girl"
- 23 Trick
- 24 *Sarah, who played Billie Dean Howard
- 26 Anne Frank account
- 29 Producers of rainbows
- 31 "Man ___ Mancha"
- 32 Atmospheric prefix
- 33 Place for a light meal
- 38 *He played Will Drake
- 41 It helps you go up and down

- with your partner
- 42 Fruitcake
- 43 Shakespeare's foot
- 44 Big-top employee
- 46 Do a facial in a porn film, e.g.
- 47 *Quinton, who play Chad Warwick
- 51 Part of YSL
- 53 One that lies on the bottom
- 54 Hangout for Natalie Barney
- 56 "The Advocate," briefly
- 59 Village People's "In the ___"
- 60 *He played Larry Harvey
- 62 Frasier's response to a client
- 63 Lodge members
- 64 Beat off
- 65 Game groups, to Mauresmo
- 66 "___ first you don't succeed ..."
- 67 Come together

Down

- 1 Killed, to King James
- 2 Mower brand
- 3 Canal traveled by New York ferries
- 4 Boat with a pair of bears
- 5 Pathetically small
- 6 Robin's gay guys
- 7 Edison's middle name
- 8 Lab primates
- 9 Family
- 10 Like a pair of orifices
- 11 Eastern positions
- 12 Tennessee Williams' lover Frank
- 13 "There's a single runner" to Billy Bean
- 18 "The Name of the Rose" writer
- 22 Area of the boys in the band
- 23 Asks for it on one's knees
- 25 Chance to get a hit
- 26 "Before Stonewall" and others
- 27 "___ Walked Into My Life" ("Mame")
- 28 Protected, to seamen
- 30 Cara of "Fame"
- 32 Nobelist Sadat
- 34 Bounds gaily
- 35 Peter the Great, e.g.
- 36 Caesar's city
- 37 "Walk ___" (Warwick hit)
- 39 Patronize, as a Rubicon restaurant
- 40 Roster for those who may be really hung?
- 45 Threesome member, with "me" and "I"?
- 46 Frida Kahlo's woman
- 47 Pueblo builders
- 48 Bring down
- 49 Want thy neighbor's ass, for example
- 50 Sean of "Will & Grace"
- 52 Your, to Proust
- 55 "Diana" singer
- 56 Alec of "Desperate Housewives"
- 57 Deity on "Xena"
- 58 Gets hard
- 60 Opus ___ ("The Da Vinci Code" group)
- 61 Line of Todd Oldham dresses?

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



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