

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Two Mich. Judges
on Trump's SCOTUS
Nominee List

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Motor City Pride Entertainment
Lineup Announced Page 9



Why He Styx With It

Rock 'n' Roll Vet Chuck Panozzo on Coming Out
to His Band & His Spiritual Awakening in Michigan

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MAY 26, 2016

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Glenn Beck

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NEWS

First Openly Gay Army Secretary Has Michigan Roots

WASHINGTON D.C. – Eric Fanning, the first openly gay Army secretary as confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 17, has strong Michigan ties.

Fanning, 47, was born in Kalamazoo and later attended Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills. Fanning left Michigan to complete his high school curriculum at Centerville High School in Ohio.

“Eric brings many years of proven experience and exceptional leadership to this new role,” President Obama said in a statement when he nominated Fanning, NPR reported. “I am grateful for his commitment to our men and women in uniform, and I am confident he will help lead America’s Soldiers with distinction. I look forward to working with Eric to keep our Army the very best in the world.”

Fanning’s sexuality went unmentioned during his confirmation. The Advocate reports that not a single senator discussed his gay identity during the confirmation hearing before the Armed Services Committee, led by former Don’t Ask Don’t Tell proponent Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona.

Fanning has over 25 years of national security experience working as undersecretary and acting secretary of the Air Force. However, according to Wikipedia, Fanning has never served in the military, despite his recent appointment.

In the ‘90s Fanning was on the staff of the House Armed Services Committee, a special assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and later served as associate director of political affairs at the White House.

“Eric Fanning’s historic confirmation today as secretary of the U.S. Army is a demonstration of the continued progress towards fairness and equality in our nation’s armed forces,” said HRC President Chad Griffin.

“Eric Fanning has spent his career serving this nation with tireless dedication, skill and ability, and as secretary he will bring that same commitment to the men and women of the U.S. Army.”

Obama appointed Fanning on Nov. 3, 2015, but Fanning was confirmed by the U.S. Senate eight months later following a series of hold ups in the



Eric Fanning

Senate. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, held up the confirmation over a dispute with the Obama administration regarding Guantanamo detainees.

“Because of assurances given to me by the Department of Defense and Congress’ continued opposition, today I have lifted my hold on the nomination of Eric Fanning to be the secretary of the Army,” Roberts said on the Senate floor May 17.

Saugatuck’s Women’s Weekend Becomes Go Girl Saugatuck!

LGBT-friendly Saugatuck and its famed retreat, the Dunes Resort, has renamed its Saugatuck Women’s Weekend to “Go Girl Saugatuck.” “We’ve always produced great women-themed events for lesbians at our resort. It’s time to keep the party going with a ‘woman’s touch,’” said Mike Jones, Dunes Operations and Entertainment Director.

The aim of Go Girl Saugatuck! is to offer women an event rebranded with their interests and party plans in mind. DJ All the Way Kay from Chicago and Detroit’s DJ Lena will serve up house and fresh dance music to a packed dance floor. Mimi Gonzalez is a comedian and native Michigander who’s been invited to recreate the Dunes Resort’s traditional women’s weekend this June 3-5. Gonzalez has added a comedy and music show on Saturday to promote women’s voices in song and laughter. “Go Girl Saugatuck will combine all I’ve learned from my years as a featured performer in Provincetown, on Olivia trips and at MichFest,” she said.

The Dunes Resort has long been the Lake Michigan destination for vacationing LGBT Midwesterners and this year celebrates its

35 year anniversary. Like so many LGBT clubs, the demographic of attendees leans heavily toward men, but the men of the Dunes have consistently supported visibility and access for women. Newly-minted promoter Gonzalez said, “We used to call each other ‘family’ when I was coming out. The guys at the Dunes are committed to holding space for their sisters and remind me of that good old school feeling.”

One cover charge affords entry to the entire complex and all events within. “Another great thing about the Dunes is how affordable it is,” said Gonzalez. The Friday fee is \$10 and Saturday’s is \$15. The Go Girl Saugatuck! weekend event can be purchased together at the discounted rate of \$20.

Rooms are discounted at the Dunes for this weekend. Use the code GOGIRL16.

For more information, visit www.GoGirlSaugatuck.com.

The event’s premier sponsor is Annette Fischer-Realtor of Coldwell Banker Woodland Schmidt, located at 2987 Blue Star Highway in Douglas. She can be reached at 269-857-1705.

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Redford Schools will Comply with Federal Guidelines for LGBT Students

REDFORD – South Redford and Redford Union school district officials say the district will comply with new federal guidelines that call for transgender students to be treated in a way consistent with their gender identity.

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice released a joint guidance May 13 to help provide educators the information they need to ensure that all students, including transgender students, can attend school in an environment free from discrimination based on sex.

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, schools receiving federal money may not discriminate based on a student's sex, including a student's transgender status. The guidance makes clear that both federal agencies treat a student's gender identity as the student's sex for purposes of enforcing Title IX.

The Redford Observer reports that Redford Union Superintendent Sarena Shivers, Ed.D., said her district will follow the guidelines.

"The most significant (issue) will be to provide training and education for staff," she said in a statement to the Redford Observer.

South Redford Superintendent Brian Galdes said the guidelines do not present a problem for his district.

"We have and will continue to work with students and parents to meet the needs of all students," Galdes said.

The guidance explains schools' obligations to:

- Respond promptly and effectively to sex-based harassment of all students, including harassment based on a student's actual or perceived gender identity, transgender status or gender transition.

- Treat students consistent with their gender identity even if their school records or identification documents indicate a different sex.

- Allow students to participate in sex-segregated activities and access sex-segregated facilities consistent with their gender identity.

- Protect students' privacy related to their transgender status under Title IX and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Section 1557 Significantly Advances Trans Access To Healthcare

BY AJ TRAGER

FERNDALE – The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Civil Rights released a final rule May 13 codifying existing formal guidances in Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – signaling a big shift in trans related healthcare.

The ACA now officially bans discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age and physical or mental disability.

Section 1557 took effect in 2010 when the ACA was finalized but took six years for HHS and OCR to finally implement the regulations. In 2013 OCR, the branch charged with enforcing Section 1557, issued a request for information regarding individuals' and covered entities' experiences in complying with federal civil rights laws and issues of discrimination.

The new rule will be effective as of July 18, except for provisions affecting health insurance plan benefit design which will not take effect until the first day of the first plan year, beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2017.

The regulation is a sweeping win for the LGBT community and covers much under its scope. Under Section 1557, individuals seeking healthcare cannot be excluded from participating in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any health program or activity of which any part receives federal financial assistance (including Medicare and Medicaid), or any program or activity that is administered by an agency of the federal government or any entity established under Title I of the ACA.

A 2009 report by statista.com found that the U.S. has roughly 970,000 healthcare physicians. The regulatory analysis of Section 1557 found that 92 percent of those physicians will be required to comply with the LGBT-inclusive regulations. The rule does not apply to physicians who participate only in Part B, although it does cover all physicians who receive Medicaid or meaningful use information technology funding.

HHS also estimates Section 1557 will cover 133,343 facilities, such as hospitals, home health agencies and nursing homes, through their participation in Medicare and Medicaid; 455,657 clinical laboratories that receive Medicaid; 1,300 community centers; 40 health professional training programs; Medicaid in public health agencies in each state and the territories; and at least 180 insurers that offer qualified health plans.

Section 1557 also requires that providers treat individuals in a manner consistent with their gender identity, including in access to healthcare facilities. Historically, health-related insurance plans or other health-related coverage, including Medicaid programs, have excluded coverage for all care related to gender dysphoria or care associated with gender transition and categorized such treatment as cosmetic or experimental. According to the new regulations, such across-

the-board categorization is now recognized as outdated and not based on current standards of care.

The rule does not propose to require plans to cover any particular benefit or service such as top or bottom surgery or hormone therapy, but does regulate that a covered entity cannot have coverage that operates in a discriminatory manner. For instance, if Jim, a trans man, goes to his physician's office seeking hormone therapy as he begins his transition, Jim cannot be denied access to the gender appropriate bathroom and the insurance company cannot deny him hormone treatment as his gender on his birth certificate may not align with the gender on his medical records. He also cannot be denied access to a pap smear due to the gender marker on his medical documents.

Simultaneously, the new law bars healthcare providers from treating LGBT individuals differently than their heterosexual counterparts, and any negative treatment that results from the patient releasing information relating to their sexual orientation or gender identity will be seen as discriminatory.

Access: A Need For Cultural Competency Training

A major mission of Transgender Michigan is to provide healthcare professionals, including doctors and nurses, with LGBT cultural competency training. Executive Director Rachel Crandall is overjoyed that the federal government has finally issued these regulations but is cautious of their implementation. She would like to see strong cultural competency trainings being provided to medical staff so that trans men and women are even more likely to take care of their health related needs.

"I think Section 1557 is wonderful, and I think it will open up healthcare to so many of us. However, it may make it so that these healthcare providers who don't really understand trans men and women are required to give healthcare. I'm hoping that doctors would then get some training," Crandall said.

It's no secret that many in the LGBT community avoid going to the doctor for fear of being discriminated against or seen as subhuman. A 2014 Gallup poll revealed that LGBT Americans are more likely than non-LGBT Americans to report that they lack health insurance. Reasons behind the disparity include hostility towards the LGBT community for their sexual orientation or gender identity and a lack of access to healthcare due to financial restraints.

"Ignorance and just discrimination is really heavy. I remember when I was coming out, I was a member of an HMO, and my doctor tried to talk me out of being trans. Now that was over 20 years ago. But he was giving me one of these lectures, 'You know it really is hard to be male

in our society...'" Crandall said.

Other members in the trans community, Crandall explains, have been thrown out of doctors' offices and greatly hesitate going in for check ups and their trans-related healthcare needs for fear of the reaction from the professionals in the office. So some turn to alternative means of getting their hormones.

"Rather than getting hormones at a doctor, they'll get hormones off the street. I was at the bar one Saturday night and someone was selling what they said were hormones right in the restroom. Someone once said one time they received what turned out to be motor oil. And there's the whole issue of if you're getting injectable hormones off the street, are you sharing hormone needles?" she said.

Crandall has directly trained many medical students and healthcare professionals in LGBT identities but says there is a great need for doctors to educate one another on LGBT issues and disparities.

"I've taught a couple of doctors and I've taught an awful lot of nurses; however, it's hard to get doctors to accept training," Crandall said. "It would be nice if it was from other doctors – who can really teach them what healthcare for trans men and women is all about and teach them about prescribing hormones. I really don't know if that's happening right now."

Then there's the religious freedom controversy. A major pushback for LGBT-inclusion is that many feel serving LGBT clients will violate their religious beliefs and in turn feel discriminated against themselves.

"It's going to be really interesting, and what about those doctors who really feel like being trans is against God?" she asks. "But I never thought that I would see this amount of visibility."

Despite her concerns, Crandall is hopeful that Section 1557 will lead to a more inclusive healthcare system and that, with the leadership of the federal government, the trans community will be more apt to seek health services from a local healthcare provider.

"I really am celebrating. It's amazing. However, I think the issues that we were discussing a minute ago are real," she said.

In the next few weeks Crandall will meet with a nursing class to discuss how nurses can treat trans clients and make them feel more comfortable seeking the healthcare that they need and why accessibility to healthcare has been a significant barrier for trans folks.

The prohibited grounds for discrimination are specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504). Section 1557 does not apply to discrimination based on religion.

Northern Michigan School System Seeks Guidance for Trans Students

KINGSLEY – A bi-gender student attending school in a district close to Traverse City approached her school's board in April to request if she could use the restroom of her choice.

According to 9and10news.com, Kingsley Superintendent Keith Smith, Ph.D., says it's a sensitive issue that is larger than his school district.

"This issue is a lot bigger than Kingsley," Smith said to 9and10news. "This is an important issue that you want to make sure you understand and work through. Really, this is a civil rights issue."

The student informed the school board at an April meeting that she is bi-gender and wanted access to the bathroom of her choice. Smith and the school board have requested legal guidance on the matter and say the attorney should bring the board up to speed on the issue's gravity.

According to the news article, Smith says the school recognizes LGBT students but says it must also remain balanced.

The school has reached out

to the student's family and is referencing multiple court rulings on trans bathroom access.

A proposed set of LGBT-inclusive guidelines for K-12 schools, authored by the Michigan Board of Education, would provide further assistance for schools considering LGBT-inclusive school and bathroom policies. The board is expected to make a decision on the guidelines sometime in August after weeding through the nearly 15,000 public comments that were submitted from March to April.

The proposed set of voluntary guidelines, introduced as a draft document March 11, urges schools to enact LGBT-inclusive policies and practices such as supporting the creation of a student-led gay-straight alliance club, furthering the development of policies aimed to protect LGBT students from harassment, providing professional development training for staff on how to address LGBT issues, and allowing trans and gender non-conforming students to use the bathroom of their choice.

Amid Shouts of 'Shame,' House GOP Defeats Gay Rights Measure

WASHINGTON (AP) – Democrats shouted "Shame! Shame!" but seven Republicans switched their votes under pressure from House leaders May 19 and defeated a measure to protect gay rights.

The final vote was 213-212 after the chaos on the House floor. That was enough to defeat an amendment by Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-N.Y., aimed at upholding an executive order that bars discrimination against LGBT employees by federal contractors.

Maloney and other Democrats were incensed. "They literally snatched discrimination from the jaws of equality," Maloney said.

He said he had approached Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., as McCarthy worked on GOP colleagues to vote against the measure. McCarthy told Maloney to get back on his side of the aisle.

"I told him, 'What side am I supposed to stand on in support of equality?'" said Maloney, New York's first openly gay congressman. "It was disgraceful."

McCarthy rejected the assertion that Republicans unfairly held the vote open to prevail. "Was that a long time? So the answer is no," he said.

Maloney's amendment would have prohibited the use of taxpayer dollars to violate President Barack Obama's executive order barring discrimination.

He was trying to include it in a spending bill following passage of a defense policy bill that included a provision Democrats said would overturn the executive order. Republicans said the measure was simply a restatement of religious liberties from the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and they bristled at Democratic criticism.

"There are some people who are emotional ... that's beyond the pale. They can say whatever they want to but that's beyond the pale," said Rep. Bill Flores, R-Texas, when asked about Democrats saying Republicans were a party of hate.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, at a news conference immediately after the vote, denied knowledge about the vote-switching.

"This is federalism. The states should do this. The federal government shouldn't stick its nose in this business," said Ryan, R-Wis. GOP aides said adding the amendment would have jeopardized passage of the underlying spending bill for military construction and veterans, imperiling the House appropriations process just as it's beginning.

The vote for Maloney's amendment peaked at 217, beyond the majority needed for passage, before it began a sporadic decline.

"Need two more votes," Rep. Steve Russell, R-Okla., said loudly as he prowled among Republicans.

Democrats were outraged, loudly chanting as their leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, yelled up from near the well of the House at her members, shouting at them to vote down the underlying bill.

In the end, 29 Republicans joined 183 Democrats backing the gay rights amendment, but it was not enough.

Democrats were quick to publicize the name of the Republican vote-switchers: Reps. Darrell Issa, Jeff Denham, David Valadao and Mimi Walters of California; Greg Walden of Oregon; Bruce Poliquin of Maine; and David Young of Iowa.

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Hillary Clinton Says She'll Work to Reform HIV Criminalization Laws as President

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Former Secretary of State and Democratic candidate for president, Hillary Clinton, told a gathering of hundreds of HIV advocates in Alabama last week that she supports a repeal of HIV-specific criminal laws.

"As president I will work to reform outdated and stigmatizing federal HIV criminalization laws, and I will call on states to do the same," she said in a video presented at the second "HIV is Not a Crime" conference. Her video was released on YouTube.

The move comes just weeks after Michigan advocates visited lawmakers' offices in Lansing to push for support of legislation soon to be introduced by Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo.

This is at least the second time Clinton has said she would work to reform HIV criminal laws. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, her Democratic primary opponent, has also called for such reforms.

Currently 34 U.S. states have HIV-specific laws on the books, including Michigan. The laws often criminalize behavior which cannot transmit HIV. The laws generally do not require proof of intent to transmit the virus, nor do they require actual transmission. The laws were generally adopted following the passage of the federal Ryan White Act – which provides funds to help care for people living with HIV. A provision in the law required states to certify that a mechanism was in place to prosecute people who intentionally attempted to infect others with HIV through sexual activity, needle sharing or donation of infected blood products and organs.

The move comes just weeks after Michigan advocates visited lawmakers' offices in Lansing to push for support of legislation soon to be introduced by Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo. The legislation, if passed, would create two misdemeanor crimes and replace the state's felony law. The two misdemeanors would require prosecutors to prove a person living with HIV had an intent to infect someone with the virus, and engaged in behavior demonstrated as a viable route of transmission. One misdemeanor would put those who intended to infect another with the virus, and actually did, in jail for up to a year. The other, for those proven to intend to infect someone with the virus but did not do so, would send someone to jail for 93 days.

Staggering HIV Rates Seen Among Men Who Have Sex with Men

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Men who have sex with men face an HIV prevalence rate "magnitudes higher" than any other risk group in the U.S., researchers from Emory University have found.

The study, published by the online journal JMIR Public Health and Surveillance, found that 15 percent of MSM in the U.S. were living with HIV in 2012-2013. Just over 11 percent of MSM living with the virus have been diagnosed, the study found.

"The diagnosed HIV prevalence rate among MSM was 57.5 times greater than among other U.S. men," researchers wrote.

The study also found that a significantly higher number of MSM across the South were infected with the virus.

But those national levels hide a deeper, more encompassing county-by-county crisis. While most of the prevalence areas of 30 per 100 MSM infected were in the South, Michigan has one county at that level – Jackson. But Kent, Kalamazoo, Genesee, Oakland, Wayne and Ingham all have rates between eight and 16 percent.

Researchers evaluated data from 2012-2013. The Michigan Department for Health and Human Services reported about 8,200 men who have sex with men living with HIV in 2013. That included both those men who used injection drugs as well as men who have sex with men.

Until the last year, the state and federal authorities did not track incidence among trans people, particularly transwomen. They were regularly grouped into the men who have sex with men risk category in official government statistics. But a report in 2014 by AmFAR found that transwomen were 49 times more likely to be infected with HIV than any other women in the world.

AIDS service organizations and health officials from Michigan said the numbers point to serious issues related to the ongoing HIV crisis among MSM in the U.S.

Kelly Doyle, executive director of CARES which works with HIV affected communities in southwest Michigan, said the numbers point to a need to expand access to "innovate" prevention programs for MSM.

She pointed out that the study looks at a time when PrEP – the prescription drug that, if taken daily, is up to 99 percent

“I think we'll see more and more people protecting themselves with PrEP, but if, and only if, we make it available. That means not just for people with money who can afford it, or white gay men – it means for everyone.”

– Kelly Doyle, executive director of CARES which works with HIV affected communities in southwest Michigan

effective in preventing HIV-negative people from getting infected with the virus – had barely been approved by the FDA.

"I think PrEP will change the framework," she said. But she added a caveat.

"I think we'll see more and more people protecting themselves with PrEP, but if, and only if, we make it available," she said. "That means not just for people with money who can afford it, or white gay men – it means for everyone."

The drug is costly – running about \$1,000 a month. However, Gilead – the company that makes the drug – provides a generous subsidy for those people with low incomes seeking to use it, said Dwayne Riley, the prevention manager at the Lansing Area AIDS Network.

Despite its promise, PrEP was not widely in use during the years of the study. It is unclear what role, if any, the drug would mean for the epidemic.

Before the impact of PrEP can be measured, it has to be scaled up in the community and that points to another obstacle in HIV prevention – the ongoing crisis related to obtaining culturally competent and appropriate medical care.

"For instance, in Ingham County, we only have two providers who are willing to write a prescription for this drug," Riley said.

MSM, he said, often face difficulty "feeling safe" in certain spaces, particularly in medical settings. Add to that issues around discomfort from both provider and patient in discussing sexual activity, and a major barrier to accessing care is created.

Riley said LAAN has launched a PrEP referral system tied to its HIV testing programs. Since January, when the program was formally launched, the organization has referred over 20 people to doctors who

are willing to prescribe the intervention.

Ingham County averages 25 or so new cases of HIV each year, most in the MSM category.

The high prevalence rates among MSM are likely tied in part to decisions made 35 years ago, as a strange new disease began appearing among MSM in California and New York. The new disease would be known first as gay cancer, then Gay Related Immune Deficiency Syndrome (GRIDS) and finally Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The federal government, under then-President Ronald Reagan, was exceedingly slow to respond to the crisis in large part because those impacted were MSM.

Riley said that initial reluctance to address the growing AIDS crisis, and the developed mistrust of healthcare professionals by the MSM community, continues to be an issue. He said that is not the only issue at play however.

"There needs to be culturally competent providers who are willing and able to provide the care," he said. "But that means talking about sex and sexual behavior. Many providers are very uncomfortable with that."

Federal officials said the data was an important new tool in addressing the crisis.

"By pinpointing where HIV strikes the hardest, we have a key piece of the puzzle highlighting the largest disparities within states and the South," says Dr. Jonathan Mermin, director of CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention. "We hope these data empower local public health officials, community-based organizations and everyone fighting HIV to bring resources to the gay and bisexual men who need them the most."



The Motor City Pride Parade steps off Sunday, June 12 at noon.

Motor City Pride Entertainment Lineup Announced 'RuPaul's Drag Race' Finalist Kim Chi will take Pride Stage

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT— Organizers of Motor City Pride just announced the entertainment lineup for this year's Pride festival, which takes place in downtown Detroit's Hart Plaza June 11-12. Taking the Pride Stage on Saturday will be Kim Chi, who was a Top 3 finalist on season eight of "RuPaul's Drag Race," the popular Logo television series which just wrapped earlier this month. An incredible makeup artist and clothing designer, Chi was criticized on the show for her poor runway walking skills. Still, the underdog came from behind to become a finalist on the show.

Adore Delano also made Top 3 on the show on season six. A talented vocalist who also performed on the seventh season of "American Idol" in 2008, Delano released her debut CD "Till Death Do Us Party" in 2014, and the follow up – "After Party" – earlier this year. Delano started off slow on "RuPaul" but would go on to win three challenges in the competition. Her show at Hart Plaza is guaranteed to be a real crowd pleaser.

Also performing on Saturday are Johnathan Celestin, a New York-based vocalist who has been featured in the touring company of several hit Broadway shows, R&B singer Shadina and Ann Arbor's own singer/songwriter and trans activist Jaimie Wilson.

Sunday's performers include Jeffery Austin, who finished in fourth place on the ninth season of "The Voice," openly gay country singer Steve Grand, dance music duo Jason Maek & Zaena, Detroit soul singer Alise King and vocalist Sam Tolson from Toledo, Ohio. Also on Sunday will be the Mr. and Miss Motor City Pride contest and a performance by Sing OUT Detroit. Meanwhile, there are four other stages in the plaza on which you'll find drag revues, burlesque shows, poetry performances and much more.

"Just as we have a diverse community with a variety of interests, we do not bring



Kim Chi

just one headliner, we bring in a variety of acts – both national and local – that will appeal to the many different interests of the LGBT community," said longtime Motor City Pride Chair David Wait. "The entertainment committee has been working hard to bring together a great mix of entertainers to perform at the festival. Over 200 individuals will perform on five different stages."

Be a Part of the Action

As of now, Motor City Pride is still looking for volunteers to join their Pride Team. There are a number of shifts and positions available. If interested, visit www.motorcitypride.org. Volunteering at Pride is a great way to meet other people and join the Pride movement. There's also still time to reserve an exhibit location. From small nonprofit groups to vendors looking to sell merchandise, Motor City Pride has a space to fit every group and budget. Finally, make your plans now to participate in the Motor City Pride Parade, which steps off at noon on Sunday, June 12.

Visit motorcitypride.org for more information.

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On Your Scale of One-to-Forever!

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There are many experiences that are alien to most people: walking on the moon, winning the big bucks lottery, being gashed by a grizzly bear, doing H, weighing 400 pounds, and having implant boobs.

Because my life tends to be introspective, devoid of untoward kink – and boob implant free – I’m curious to know what it’s like to experience the unique and unusual (as long as it doesn’t ultimately involve attending 12-step co-dependency meetings).

A quick-read paperback called “Esquire Presents: What It Feels Like” (Three Rivers Press) is a collection of dozens of first-hand accounts of real life experiences, physical exceptions and trauma survivals.

After reading these fascinating and often scary anecdotes, I got to thinking about my own long-ago cliffhanger that I’d like to boast about because of its genuinely heroic content. It happened at age 13, and was life threatening. But first some “Esquire Presents: Feels Like” samplings to set the mood.

Grizzly Attack: “She grabs my left arm, tearing the muscles and tendons, and tosses me in the air. Then she attacks my head as I’m airborne. All I can see is her open mouth. Her teeth are gashing my scalp and ear. I can hear her fangs grinding on my skull. I think, the next bite will kill me.”

Tornado Terror: “The feel of a twister approaching is exactly the feel of a freight train approaching – that low, ever-louder howl and shuddering ground. I had gone through the trailer wall, been thrown 30 feet up into the tree, and then dropped to the ground, concussed and black and blue.”

M-to-F Good Feel: “I can have sex and orgasm. It’s functional in that way. The orgasms are different, though. The male has this orgasm and that’s basically it. For a female, it’s more of an on-going thing during the course of intercourse, more like a whole-body experience. As opposed to men – men have sex like dogs.” (Arf!)

Compulsive Disorder: “Washing my hair would take an hour. Washing the front of my forehead, I would scrub it 60 times; it could never be 61. If I did anything an odd number, I’d have to do it all over again, despite how tired I might feel. The pressure to do it was constant and overwhelming. Like a voice saying, ‘Do not stop.’ Like a locomotive out of control.”

And, finally, **Me As Hostage** at Samhat Market, mid-city Detroit, where I often earn money delivering groceries: Two guys walk up to the counter and pretend to look at smokes. They nervously check things out. One of them pulls a gun and yells at grocer Jimmy, “Your money, fast! I’d hate to shoot the kid.”

Jimmy hesitates. I’m too stunned to blink. Grocer Mose, eating in a back room, quickly tunes in. Grabs his own gun. Fires a warning shot at the ceiling. Yells Arabic and English obscenities! Ayreh Feek! Telhas Teeze! You...!

And I quickly duck behind a stack of Maxwell House coffee cans. The crooks scatter.

Cops arrive. I give details, and later toss and turn at night. “No!” I tell anybody who’ll listen, Burton School Elementary teachers and buddies. “I wasn’t a bit scared, just slightly deaf in one ear.”

Oh, yes! Those damn **Esquire Boobs:** “My implants aren’t hard. They don’t feel like basketballs. It’s more like water balloons that aren’t completely full. When you touch them you can feel the liquid inside, too, which I guess is weird.”

You can’t prove it by me, Cinderella. (The holdup also left my fingers perpetually heterosexually numb.)

One more **Possible Terror 2016.** Just to gauge your own on-a-scale-of-one-to-forever response. **Headline!** Donald Trump elected in a landslide! VP Sarah Palin, middle-fingers media! God only knows...

Charles@pridesource.com

MALONEY AMENDMENT H.R. 4974		
	YEA	NAY
GOP	36	206
DEM	183	206
	219	206
TIME REMAINING 0:00		



MALONEY AMENDMENT H.R. 4974		
	YEA	NAY
GOP	34	208
DEM	183	208
	217	208
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MALONEY AMENDMENT H.R. 4974		
	YEA	NAY
GOP	29	213
DEM	183	213
	212	213
TIME REMAINING 0:00		



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Transmissions

Potty Emergency

“No matter how isolated or scared you may feel today, the Department of Justice and the entire Obama administration wants you to know that we see you; we stand with you; and we will do everything we can to protect you going forward.”

The above is a short snippet from a much longer, and in many ways more important, speech by the United States Attorney General. The speech itself was to discuss the Department of Justice’s lawsuit against North Carolina. Their goal being to stop the anti-transgender House Bill 2 from going into effect. House Bill 2 disallows transgender people from using facilities that match their chosen gender, based on the fallacy that predators will use these laws to evade prosecution.

This was, in fact, only a part of the good news out of the Obama administration in the wake of the fight over House Bill 2. The Department of Health and Human Services issued a set of regulations around transgender healthcare, barring discrimination, and the Department of Education once again affirmed their protections of transgender students.

Much like House Bill 2 in North Carolina was a reaction to a transgender-inclusive rights bill in Charlotte, many on the right reacted quickly to the work of the Attorney General and the rest of the Obama administration on behalf of transgender people.

In Texas, Republican Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick told schools to ignore the Department of Education and prepare for a fight over the summer. Kansas, Tennessee, South Carolina and others have likewise rattled their sabers.

These states have nothing on Oklahoma. Hot on the heels of passing an anti-abortion bill that attempted to circumvent Roe v. Wade, Oklahoma lawmakers quickly introduced Senate Bill 1619. The bill includes an “emergency” clause, meaning it will take effect the moment it becomes law.

“It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety,” states the bill, “an emergency is hereby declared to exist.” It is, in my opinion, unclear exactly what the emergency is here, given that transgender people have likely been using facilities in line with their gender identity in Oklahoma for decades without incident – or at least any incidents where non-transgender people were negatively impacted.

Rep. John Bennett, R-Oklahoma, said that the federal directive was “biblically wrong,” though I’m unable to divine which religious text discusses who a person can or cannot use a lavatory with.

This bill provides a new twist on these so-called “bathroom bills,” wedding it to the “religious freedom” acts that have become popular since the right lost the marriage fight.

Rather than telling a student outright that they can

See Transmission: Potty Emergency, next page

► Potty Emergency

Continued from p. 10

or cannot use a facility based on their birth certificate or genitals, SB 1619 takes a different tack, stating, “a student enrolled in the school district or the parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled in the school district may request a religious accommodation.” Those accommodations, based on the student’s “sincerely held religious beliefs,” are to have access to facilities that bar transgender students from using them.

There’s another twist to this. The bill also disallows the above accommodations from being a single-use facility.

The irony of this is that transgender people are often shunted off to single use facilities rather than being allowed to integrate with others of their preferred gender. Indeed, suggesting transgender people be only allowed single use facilities is a common response to those who support laws like North Carolina’s HB 2.

The bill also, of course, takes its own stab at defining just what they mean by “sex,” declaring it to be the “physical condition of being male or female, as identified at birth,” presumably by a doctor taking a look at one’s genitals shortly after an infant is born.

Oklahoma’s lawmakers did not stop there, either, pressing for the impeachment of President Obama for his administration’s directive in Senate Concurrent Resolution 43, claiming that it violated the state’s sovereignty. They are apparently conveniently forgetting that in taking federal funds for their schools, they became party to a contract that expected the state to abide by the actions of the Department of Education.

Now, make no mistake. Oklahoma’s push to see Obama impeached over this is utterly ridiculous. While it is not the first state to attempt to start an impeachment of a president, it is not the state that does so, but Congress –

and even though both houses are very much in Republican control, it’s highly unlikely they’d attempt to move on an impeachment at this time – and not just because they seem completely allergic to work: it’s just not politically expedient during an election season.

It would also certainly be pointless, given that President Obama would be well into his post-presidential years before they could even settle such a matter.

So let’s look back on SB 1619. It seems equally doomed to failure. The bill’s author, Sen. Gary Stanislawski, R-Oklahoma, seems unsure of how to implement such a scheme. “I would suggest maybe a different time frame

Those accommodations, based on the student’s “sincerely held religious beliefs,” are to have access to facilities that bar transgender students from using them.

from those students that have the religious accommodation,” Stanislawski said. “They won’t all be in there at the exact same time but they can work something out.” Because, I assume, all of us can regulate our bodily processes to work on a specific and set schedule, it seems.

Even if this bill did somehow make it to Republican Gov. Mary Fallin’s desk, and she signs it – which given she rightfully vetoed the previously mentioned anti-abortion bill, isn’t entirely certain – we know one thing for certain: the federal government isn’t likely to back down any more than they have with North Carolina. They stand with us.

Gwen Smith thinks Oklahoma has bigger issues than where she pees. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com.

Trans Activists Speak About Their Experiences on WDET

On May 2, Stephen Henderson of “Detroit Today,” a program of WDET radio, spoke with Amy Hunter, transgender advocacy coordinator at the ACLU of Michigan Trans Advocacy Project; Logan Casey, University of Michigan Ph.D. candidate; and Bre Campbell, founder of the Trans Sistas of Color Project in Detroit, regarding their experiences coming out as transgender and the broader issue of transgender equality.

“I was born in 1960 ... so there were not a lot of resources for me,” said Hunter. “The message I got very loudly and very clearly from my family... was something was wrong with me.” In the program, Hunter describes how she got through those tough times.

“Whatever the consequences, I need to come out and be my authentic self, I can no longer be less than who I am. That was probably the first time I felt any real peace of mind,” she said.

For nearly an hour these trans advocates from across the state discussed trans experiences navigating the world and the developments nationwide concerning trans men and women.

The trans community is in the national media spotlight following movement on trans-related policy and law both at the federal and state level.

“Having discomfort (with transgender people) is valid, but I don’t think the discomfort you feel towards a group of people should put them in danger physically,” Campbell said on the show. “I have been discriminated against for housing, and... told by an employer they would fire me if I used the female restroom after I transitioned.”

To combat this discrimination, Campbell says there needs to be a dialogue and people need to be willing to change the way they think.

Listen to the entire show at <http://gaybe.am/tp>.

Creep of the Week Glenn Beck

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Ok, I’m not trying to alarm anyone, but I think Glenn Beck is planning on molesting kids at Hersheypark (you know, the amusement park where everything is made of chocolate, I’m pretty sure).

I know that sounds alarmist. But hear me out.

On May 20, Hersheypark announced that employees and visitors are welcome to use whatever restroom corresponds to their gender identity.



Glenn Beck

“I guarantee you,” Beck says, “I guarantee you the next stop on this train is pedophilia. I guarantee it.”

“(T)he Park has and will always strive to accommodate all guests and employees – including members of the LGBT community – to ensure those visiting or working at Hersheypark are comfortable and feel secure,” the statements reads in part. “Guests and employees may continue to use the restrooms with which they gender-identify, or are welcome to use the many family restrooms available across the destination.”

In a sane country, this would hardly be exceptional. In fact, the statement wouldn’t have needed to be released at all because of how trans people using bathrooms isn’t a problem in real life, but it has been made into a problem by the bigoted and fantastical imaginations of our nation’s right-wing loons.

And that includes Beck.

In response to Hersheypark’s statement, Beck went nuts. Or nuttier, I guess.

“(T)his is not normal,” Beck said on May 23. “The velocity of the way this is being jammed down everybody’s throat is not normal. This isn’t an outcry from the people. This is .3 percent of the population.”

While nobody really knows what percentage of the population is transgender, Beck seems to be saying that if a group is small enough then “the people” have no

obligation to treat them with basic human decency or allow them basic rights like taking a leak at Hersheypark.

I’d also like to point out that Beck and people who think like him are the only ones trying to jam anything down anybody’s throat. The North Carolina law dictating where people can and can’t pee helped spark “the bathroom fight” by addressing a nonexistent problem. And Beck’s right. That’s not normal. Places like Hersheypark and Target are merely reacting to this insanity. They didn’t start this fight, but props to them for being unwilling to sit on the sidelines while douchebags with Jesus complexes try to bully an already vulnerable group of people.

Beck goes on to make a comparison to “the gay marriage thing that was pushed through by the administration,” adding that in “another five or 10 years we would have gotten there anyway. It was already on that path.”

(A personal note: I’m sure as hell glad I didn’t have to wait another decade or so before Glenn Beck decided I was allowed to be married. Thank you, Supreme Court.)

“Transgender bathrooms have come out of nowhere, and are being jammed down our throat,” Beck went on.

I’d like to point out that “transgender bathrooms” isn’t even, like, the issue. By and large people aren’t demanding that trans people get their very own bathrooms (though there are some folks who think that banishing trans men and women to some “other” bathroom is a solution to this “problem”).

But then Beck goes off the rails. “I guarantee you,” he says, “I guarantee you the next stop on this train is pedophilia. I guarantee it.”

Wait, what? Back up the train.

There is no logical or evidence-based connection between transgenderism and pedophilia. We’re talking about gender identity, not molesting or raping children.

Of course, Beck thinks that allowing trans women to use the women’s room is the same thing as letting any and all men use the women’s room. Men like, um, him? Because, by and large, cis gender men are those most likely to molest kids.

So really the only way that Beck can “guarantee” us that pedophilia comes next is if he, himself, plans on making it so.

The man has never been of sound mind. Let’s just hope his “guarantee” is just more of the wacky hyperbole that he likes to spout.

In the meantime, let’s go buy a Hershey bar at Target, everyone!

Two Michigan Judges on Trump's Supreme Court Nominee List

BY LISA KEEN

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has said for a long time that when it comes to U.S. Supreme Court justices, he likes people like Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia. Last week, as the Republican Party's presumptive nominee for the White House, he released a list of judges he thinks might fill the bill should he get to nominate someone to the nation's highest court.

The list contained 11 names – six judges on federal appeals courts, five on state supreme courts. All are relatively conservative and some clerked for Scalia or Thomas. Many have addressed an LGBT-related case in the course of their careers on the bench and, most of the time, their rulings came down against the LGBT party to the case.

The purpose of the list appears to be an attempt by Trump to reassure Republicans who worry that, as president, he would not be reliably conservative. In March, he reassured them that the reliably conservative Heritage Foundation was helping him prepare the list. The Foundation spends a great deal of time and resources to oppose such things as marriage equality, transgender accommodation to public restrooms, and religious exemptions to non-discrimination laws.

In a May 19 interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity, Trump emphasized that he got help preparing the list from reliably conservative Federalist Society and U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Alabama. The initial reaction to the list from various conservative groups and figures was strongly supportive.

But Trump also gave himself some wiggle room. In a May 18 press release announcing the list, Trump couched the list as “representative of the kind of constitutional principles I value” and that he would use it as a “guide” in choosing a Supreme Court nominee. In a Twitter post that night, he said he “may be adding to the list.” The next day he told Hannity, “This would be the list I would either choose from or pick people very close in terms of the spirit and the meaning of what they represent.”

Columnists in various conservative publications and blogs began to pick up on the hedge. The National Review said it “smacks of desperate pandering to conservatives” and questioned whether Trump “actually means any of this...” The Volokh Conspiracy called the list “meaningless,” saying that Trump's calling it a “guide” is “not a commitment to choosing from the list.”

Even the head of a Heritage Foundation affiliate told Fox News Sunday the list “gets a question mark at the end ... Does he really

Columnists in various conservative publications and blogs began to pick up on the hedge. The National Review said it “smacks of desperate pandering to conservatives” and questioned whether Trump “actually means any of this ...”

mean it? Is this a fraud?”

National LGBT legal groups did not respond to requests for comment on the list, but given Trump's well-known proclivity for self-contradiction and memory lapse, the future value of his Supreme Court list is a “question mark.” For whatever value it might have now in providing a guide to the Republican presidential candidate's mindset, here is a glimpse into what the records of the 11 judges are on LGBT-related concerns:

Steven Colloton of Iowa, 53, 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals: In a decision he authored for a 2 to 1 majority in December 2005, Colloton affirmed immigration authorities' decisions to deny asylum to a gay man from Zimbabwe. William Kimumwe came to the U.S. three years after Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe declared homosexuality to be illegal and began making anti-homosexual pronouncements. The immigration judge said that Mugabe's hostility to gays was “insufficient to establish a well-founded fear” of persecution. Colloton said Kimumwe did not establish evidence that his return to Zimbabwe would necessarily lead to “serious mistreatment.” In September 2013, Colloton authored a 2 to 1 panel decision that said a district court had wrongly denied a preliminary motion to an evangelical Christian that would have enabled him to distribute Bibles during a Twin Cities Pride Festival in a public park in Minneapolis. But Colloton also joined a unanimous three-judge panel decision in December 2006 that affirmed the right of a group of pro-LGBT students to a preliminary injunction that gave them equal access to facilities at their public school.

Thomas Hardiman of Pennsylvania, 50, 3rd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals: In August 2009, Hardiman wrote an opinion for a three-judge panel, saying a gay man could not say he was discriminated against because of religion because his employer fired him because the employer's religious beliefs were that “a man should not lay with another man.” However, the Hardiman panel ruled that the gay

employee's claim that he was discriminated against “because of sex” should have been submitted to a jury.

Raymond Kethledge of Michigan, 49, 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals: Kethledge joined a 2 to 1 majority in a 2012 decision that dismissed the claims of three pastors who said the federal Matthew Shepard-James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act violated their religious beliefs against gay people. The three claimed they had a right to exercise their religious beliefs by publicly denouncing homosexuality and that the Hate Crimes law would chill their exercise of religion. The majority agreed with the district court that, because the pastors were attempting to try a hypothetical situation, they did not have standing to challenge the law. In 2012, Kethledge joined a panel decision against a man who was subjected to relentless harassment by another male employee. The panel said the victim's claim of a hostile work environment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act could not stand because the man could not prove that his harasser was bisexual or gay. That same year Kethledge joined a panel decision that ruled against a woman who lost her job with a university in Ohio after she penned an op-ed piece for a local newspaper objecting to comparisons between the black and gay civil rights movements. The op-ed also expressed opposition to non-discrimination policies that she was responsible for enforcing at the university.

Diane Sykes of Wisconsin, 58, 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals: Sykes wrote a 2 to 1 panel decision in 2006 that granted the Christian Legal Society a preliminary injunction to be recognized as a student group at the Southern Illinois University School of Law despite its policy of banning gay members in violation of campus policy. In 2009, Sykes authored a three-judge panel decision that ruled against two employees who claimed their religious beliefs against homosexuality caused them to be subjected to discrimination based on religion by their employer. The panel decision noted that one employee “repeatedly violated” the employer's overtime policy and the other had “a long history of performance problems.” In 2013, Sykes authored a panel decision that upheld the right of businesses to cite the religious beliefs of their owners to discriminate against employees by denying health coverage for contraception. In writing the opinion, she discussed a hypothetical case of a pie-making company run by devout Baptists refusing coverage to a gay employee's spouse and child. She said it was “far from clear” how the case would come out.

Raymond Gruender of Missouri, 52, 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals: In 2008, Gruender joined a panel ruling against a gay male nurse with HIV who claimed he was fired based on disability discrimination. In a 2012 case involving a member of the Westboro Baptist Church, Gruender joined the full circuit court in upholding a city ordinance restricting protests near funerals. In a 2016 panel decision, Gruender joined a procedural ruling in favor of a member of the Westboro Baptist Church who said the state of Missouri's restrictions on protests near funerals violated her rights to free exercise of religion and speech.

William Pryor of Alabama, 54, 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals: Pryor joined a three-judge panel decision this year that said the court had no authority to review a Haitian transgender man's petition to stay in this country because he had been convicted of crimes and had failed to establish a likelihood of future persecution. In 2011, Pryor joined two other judges to affirm a district court ruling in favor of a transgender employee. The employee claimed her employer fired her based on sex and because of her gender identity disorder. The district court ruled for her on the basis of sex discrimination. Citing the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*, the panel agreed that “discriminating against someone on the basis of his or her gender non-conformity constitutes sex-based discrimination under the equal protection clause.” That same year, Pryor also concurred in a decision that upheld the right of a university to require a student seeking a masters in student counseling to follow a “remediation plan” to improve her ability to counsel LGBT students. The student sued, saying being gay is wrong and is a “lifestyle” and that the remediation plan violated her First Amendment right of speech and religion. The district court denied her request for a preliminary injunction and the panel, including Pryor, upheld that denial. But Pryor wrote a concurring opinion to make clear that a university should not be able to take adverse action against a student “based on the concern that the student might, in a variety of (non-university) circumstances express views at odds with the preferred viewpoints of the university.”

State Supreme Court judges: The remaining five judges on Trump's potential U.S. Supreme Court nominee list are members of state supreme courts. While their records on

See next page

LGBT issues are sparse, they are also less likely to be considered qualified and experienced enough on federal court issues to be nominated to the nation's highest federal court. They include:

Don Willett of the Texas Supreme Court, 49, who worked in the administration of President George W. Bush as a policy adviser in the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He also worked for a conservative think tank, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and served as deputy attorney general under then Texas Attorney General (now governor) Greg Abbott. He was appointed to his current position by former Gov. Rick Perry. He is best known for mocking the U.S. Supreme Court's deliberation of marriage equality by posting a Twitter message, "I could support recognizing a constitutional right to marry bacon."

Thomas Lee of the Utah Supreme Court, 51, who clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and conservative 4th Circuit Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III.

Allison Eid of the Colorado Supreme Court, 50, also clerked for Clarence Thomas.

David Stras of the Minnesota Supreme Court, 41, also clerked for Clarence Thomas.

Joan Larsen of the Michigan Supreme Court, 47, clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia and for conservative federal appeals court Judge David Sentelle of the D.C. Circuit.

McCrorry Lawsuit Against Feds May Shift Narrative on LGBT Law

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - After weeks of taking a beating from critics over North Carolina's law dictating which restrooms transgender people can use, Gov. Pat McCrorry adopted a strategy long favored by Southern conservative governors: He went after the federal government.

The governor, trying to reshape the narrative as he fights for his political life, sued the Obama administration last week and accused officials of yet another overreach into state business. He said a court, not a federal agency, should dictate what the law known as House Bill 2 requires. The Justice Department sued him hours later over the law, with U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch casting the fight in stark civil rights terms.

"It's been successful in changing the discussion from one about the business community and its reactions to H.B. 2 to one that's more about the state's rights versus the federal government intervention," said David McLennan, a political science professor at Meredith College in Raleigh.

The fight, just months before McCrorry faces a tough re-election battle, centers around a Justice Department directive that says not allowing transgender people to use facilities matching their gender identity broke the law and puts at least \$1.4

billion in education funding at risk. It's not the first time McCrorry has called out the federal government: He joined a lawsuit challenging Obama's executive action on immigration and his administration has fought regulation of small streams and power plant emissions. He also joined a brief last fall siding with a Virginia school district in its efforts to dictate school bathroom use on the basis of biological sex.

Hundreds of corporate executives, trade groups and other organizations have called for North Carolina to repeal the law. Some businesses have scaled back North Carolina investments or canceled projects, including PayPal, which stopped construction of a call center, costing the state 400 jobs. Entertainers from Bruce Springsteen to Pearl Jam canceled shows in protest of the law, which also limits local government anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Refusing to capitulate to the federal government is fraught with peril, especially when civil rights laws are involved. Previous Southern governors, particularly those in the 1950s who tried to defy federally-mandated school integration, are forever defined as roadblocks to racial equality.

Lynch hinted at that past in announcing

the lawsuit, saying North Carolina's law created "state-sponsored discrimination."

"It was not so very long ago that states, including North Carolina, had other signs above restrooms, water fountains and on public accommodations keeping people out based on a distinction without a difference," said Lynch, a North Carolina native.

McCrorry disagrees that he's refusing to carry out established civil rights law and said the courts should be the arbiter. He said Congress also should consider stepping in and make clear what sex discrimination means in the Civil Rights Act.

"The Obama administration is bypassing Congress by attempting to rewrite the law and set basic restroom policies, locker room policies, and even shower policies for public and private employers across the country, not just North Carolina," McCrorry told reporters at the Executive Mansion just after he sued the Justice Department.

"He's in a tricky political situation running against the federal government," said Thomas Keck, a political science professor at Syracuse University, who studies politics and the courts and has written about LGBT rights. "When you're talking about public restrooms, that directly raises that historical analogy" to racial segregation, Keck added.

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Actor Brennan Hattaway has makeup applied. Photo courtesy of Riverwalk.

Lansing Production Sheds Light on HIV, Then and Now

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Inhabited by heroin users, drag queens, the homeless and performance artists – welcome to the world of Jonathan Larson’s 1996 musical vision of the struggle to live in New York City at the height of the AIDS epidemic, and the general economic collapse of the Reagan and Bush years. Welcome to Riverwalk Theater’s production of “Rent.”

The iconic show, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, has spawned an entire generation of musical theater admirers, bathing them in the harsh but loving embrace of a world on edge – a world of have nots pushing against the haves, and a world where there is no day but today.

Breathing life into this production will be more than 20 actors from mid-Michigan, all from various walks of life. There are college students and medical professionals. There’s a part time weekend television news reporter.

In the middle of them sit Brennan Hattaway, 25, and Jake McAskill, 22.

One these men just finished portraying a singing crab in a community theater production of Disney’s “The Little Mermaid.” The other grew up attending an anti-gay church in Lansing and is a recent graduate of Alma College. Now, both men – who identify as cisgender and straight – are preparing to tackle an LGBT on-stage love affair as the iconic pair of Angel Dumott Schunard and Tom Collins.

“They’re both such iconic characters,” says Hattaway of his recent role in Owosso’s

production of “Little Mermaid.” “Sebastian the crab is the liaison between the water and the earth and kind of a confidant for Ariel. Then you have Angel who is kind of the wisdom of ‘Rent,’ almost. She’s very caring and giving and the relationships that she creates within the context of the show are some of the most beautiful relationships in the show.”

For McAskill, who is playing Collins, there is not as much challenge in playing a gay man on stage as one might think.

“It wasn’t that hard to say I am in love with you – I mean it’s hard to be in love, to feel love,” he said. “If I was gay and I just got mugged and a very attractive guy helped me up and said I’ll clean you up and help you out, I think I would be immediately attracted to them – and then if we developed a friendship, and kept he taking care of me, I can see why I would fall in love.”

McAskill said despite growing up attending Lansing’s conservative anti-gay Mount Hope Church, he’s learned that homosexuality is not the sin he heard preached about from the pulpit – over and over again. But even as he proclaims that homosexuality is not a sin, as he was “ingrained” to believe, he struggles to find the words.

“I am not religious, I want to (be), but I struggle with religion,” he says.

That lesson may serve him well as he delves into the inner life of Collins.

Director Kelly Stuible-Clark says she is deliberately producing and directing the show as a history piece.

“I realized that the majority of my cast didn’t

know this immense fear of HIV/AIDS, being between the ages of 20-25, and that there was a chance that the majority of what they knew was from listening to 'Rent,'" she said.

And it was not just an immense fear of HIV. That fear also translated into anti-gay legislation – like Colorado's Amendment 2 which prohibited localities in the state from protecting gays, lesbians and bisexuals from discrimination. Michigan faced a threat of a similar initiative, but that never materialized and ultimately failed when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Colorado's Amendment 2 was unconstitutional. That fear and loathing of the LGBT community was also a reality in the world Stuble-Clark is recreating.

To make sure her actors were armed to address the realities of "Rent" as more than just "AIDS the musical," she's enlisted the assistance of the Lansing Area AIDS Network and infectious disease doctor Peter Gulick. Those resources have helped provide the cast and crew with context about what HIV is about today, versus what it was like in the early 1990s, before the advent of protease inhibitors and the triple drug cocktails that have turned HIV infection from a life threatening killer to a manageable chronic disease.

Gulick sat with the cast and crew for two hours early in the process, sharing with them his experiences in the trenches fighting HIV since before it even had a name.

"Dr. Gulick was able to give a first hand account of the history of the disease, what it was like to treat the early patients, and the medical improvements and changes in the past 20-plus years," Stuble-Clark said.

She said she found escape in the musical when she first discovered it.

"I was an awkward teenager – since then I've matured into an awkward adult," she says. "But back then, like many others, musical theater was my escape from the world I didn't quite fit into. I was moved by the romantic idea of leaving the safety of your home to follow your dreams in the most exciting city in the world. I identified with having a group of friends who felt more like family than your relatives did. I agreed with the idea of shirking the idea of 'success' that previous generations imposed upon us, and finding happiness in more than just material things and social status."

McAskill can agree with that assessment. He saw the show for the first time when he was 11-years-old – then still a regular attendee of the conservative church that taught homosexuality was a sin. What did he discover?

"I think that the play is about love," he says in the middle of the interview. "Unconditional love, through the harshest struggles. I saw it when I was 11. I never thought anything about it, about the LGBT stuff in it."

Wrapping it up, he returns to that theme.

"It was the first musical I ever got into," he says triumphantly. "I am a hopeless romantic. I really like love. And that's what this is about for me."

About 'Rent' at Riverwalk


The show runs June 2-5 and 9-12. Curtain is 7 p.m. on Thursdays, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

On June 5, the cast will be joined by Dr. Peter Gulick, staff of the Lansing Area AIDS Network and Lansing area residents living with HIV for a talk back about HIV then and now.

On June 8, the Lansing Area AIDS Network has bought out the house as a fundraiser. Curtain is 7 p.m. and will feature a mingle with the cast following the show. A pre-show event is also being planned involving Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo.


Riverwalk Theater is located at 228 Museum Drive, Lansing.

For tickets to the regularly scheduled shows, or to the special fundraiser for the Lansing Area AIDS Network, visit www.riverwalktheatre.com/box-office.html



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Why He Styx With It



Rock 'n' Roll Vet Chuck Panozzo on Coming Out to His Band & His Spiritual Awakening in Michigan

BY GREGG SHAPIRO

Legendary prog-rock band Styx recently got a taste of what it's like to be trending when, on the "Tonight Show," Jimmy Fallon and Paul Rudd recreated, shot for shot, the band's 1981 "Too Much Time On My Hands" music video. These days there's almost no higher compliment than being paid tribute by Fallon and his guests. But of course they'd honor Styx, who is responsible for a string of timeless hits including "Lady," "Mr. Roboto," "Come Sail Away" and "Babe."

The band will perform July 1 at Freedom Hill in Sterling Heights and the following day, July 2, at the Silver Creek Event Center in New Buffalo. Before their forthcoming local gigs, co-founding member and bass player Chuck Panozzo, who came out as an HIV-positive gay man in 2001, sat down to discuss his musical career and being a Styx mainstay.

Next year, 2017, will be the 45th anniversary of the release of the first Styx album. What does it mean to you to still be performing and touring with Styx, the band you co-founded?

We played our first real show on New Year's Eve in 1962 (as Tradewinds). I had been taking music lessons for seven years and had the confidence to perform in front of people. I could never have imagined a career this long in anything, let alone music. I was an art teacher. I picked two great occupations – art and music. Your parents go, "Oh..."

Right! "How will my child survive?"

"...he'll be living in poverty forever!" Why did I pick art? Because I was pretty good at it!

Do you still create visual art?

Not anymore. I will, sometimes, for a benefit. I was able to influence some of (the covers of) our albums. "The Grand Illusion" is a famous one. I'll take credit for that. Most

rock 'n' roll bands are around for a few years and then it's over. We were blessed with great singers and songwriters.

As one of the founding members of Styx, is there a style of music that you enjoy and listen to regularly that might come as a surprise to your fans?

I was raised a good little Catholic. What's more theatrical than the ritual of the Catholic church? All of the incense and learning a foreign language and all of the music – it's very theatrical. That impacted me as a young kid.

Are you saying you like to listen to liturgical music?

Yes, I listen to that. I like to get away from noise, although I will play noisy music in my car to keep myself awake. But my ears need a rest sometimes. I do enjoy listening to classical music.

Who do you consider to be your own personal music influences?

I always say that Yes was a huge influence; The Rolling Stones and the Beatles, of course. But I went away to seminary when I was 14, the year that President Kennedy was assassinated, and we were devoid of all sorts of outside influence. No records, no TV, nothing. It was a true liturgical experience. It was near Douglas, Michigan. I kind of lost my sense of organized religion and became more spiritual from the experience. I would walk in the woods and to the sand dunes and the lake every day. That spoke to me more than getting up at six in the morning and saying some prayers. That had nothing to do with religion to me.

Every year it seems that there are more and more rock musicians coming out as gay, but back in the early days of Styx, that was not as common. What was your experience coming out

to your band-mates?

I would say that it amounted to career suicide. Rock 'n' roll is based on pretty boys who look like little girls. The girls love them because they're not threatening. As someone who is dark and kind of hairy and whatever, I said, "I don't have a chance with that." ... Luckily! (Laughs) In the early days, I wasn't quite ready for it. Around the time we became successful, I felt bitter. I couldn't be myself. I was living this miserable life of hell. I also felt like I had a huge responsibility to the band. If it was just my career, that would be one thing, but there were four other members. I think the guys were always aware that I was gay; it just wasn't in their vocabulary. It still isn't in their vocabulary.

Really? Even today?

They understand it; but to have a conversation like this? Maybe one band member would be cool about it. But the rest, they skirt the issue.

What about the reaction from the fans?

Everything bad that I thought was going to happen didn't. The best part is that when I came out (at the annual Human Rights Campaign dinner), it was in front of a thousand people, in front of friends. Living my life as an openly gay man, as you know... the weight it takes off of your shoulders. That's something that I should have gotten from religion, which I never did. It was total liberation. It's not that I'm anti-religion. I'm anti any religion that doesn't practice the core, which is love. I also find it reprehensible that parents will turn away from their children and use a religious excuse. Shaming and blaming your kid isn't going to make them change. You can't change yourself. Would I love to be tall and blonde? Yes, but that's not going to happen. I'm always going to be short and dark-haired... maybe gray-haired now. (Laughs)

When it comes to eternal '70s anthems, Lynyrd Skynyrd had "Free Bird," Neil Diamond had "Sweet Caroline" and Styx had "Come Sail Away." What does that song mean to you?

"Come Sail Away" was (the creation of) Tommy (Shaw) and Dennis (DeYoung). They still have great voices even to this day. They can't collaborate together (laughs), but they write wonderful songs and make beautiful music. When I'm onstage and the singer sings, "I think about childhood friends and the dreams we had" and "on board I'm the captain, so climb aboard and we'll search for tomorrow forever more." My head is down because I'm trying to keep the beat. I'll turn and look at the audience and my eyes will scan the entire space. This is a transcendent moment. I can't explain it. It has a lot of meaning to me.

Of all the songs in the Styx songbook, is there one that you identify with most?

Tommy wrote this song called "Fooling Yourself (The Angry Young Man)." It's a

song about young people. We all feel angry and there's something wrong. I was an angry young man, standing on the stage in front of all these people. I was making a lot of money at the time, but who could I share it with? Nobody. When I'm onstage, and Tommy introduces me and people stand and applaud – I never got a standing ovation when I was teaching unless I said, "I won't be in tomorrow" (laughs). (The lyrics) "Why must you be such an angry you man? Your future looks quite bright to me" – these are words that young people who lack self-esteem, who have experienced a lot of blame and shame, should be hearing at a young age, (to know) that they have a wonderful life ahead of them.

"Too Much Time On My Hands," with its near-disco beat and hand-claps, sounded like Styx's entry into the new-wave dance music scene that was popular at the time. Does that sound like an accurate description?

What I remember about it is that Tommy walks into the studio and asks, "Can you play this?" And he plays, (sings) "da-da da-da da-da da-da." I said, "Let the synthesizer play it, it'll be more accurate." Then I go to the corner and I play the part, and I think, "You idiot! You can play this!" I told Tommy that I'd play it for him. I learned something there. Never say no to a part because you almost gave away one of the greatest parts anybody could want to play. It was a fun song and different and catchy.

Music biopics are very popular this season, with Hank Williams, Miles Davis and Chet Baker, being among the subjects. If there was a movie version of your 2007 memoir "The Grand Illusion," who would you want to portray you?

He'd have to be really good looking, of course (laughs). The actor would also have to portray my twin brother (original Styx drummer John, who died in 1996).

Styx is playing a string of dates in the Midwest. As a member of a band with Midwestern roots, does it have special meaning to you to perform for what is essentially a hometown crowd? Do you still feel like a Midwesterner?

I think if you forget your roots, you're lost. It helps to ground you. I always say, "Remember where you came from and why these songs are still meaningful. Not just to you, but to other people too."

INFO

Styx

July 1
Freedom Hill
14900 Metro Pkwy, Sterling Heights

July 2
Silver Creek Event Center
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styxworld.com



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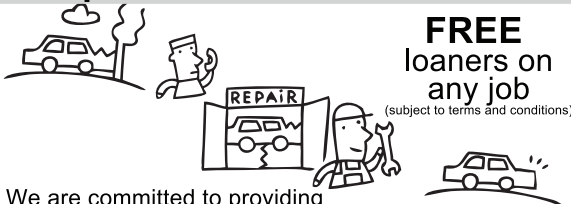


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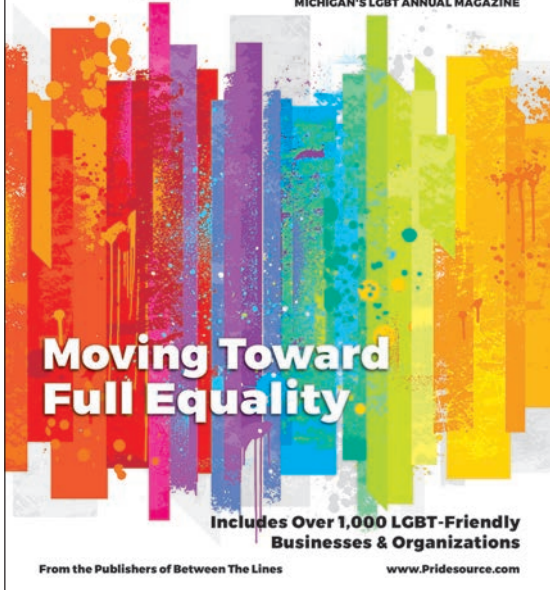


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Summer Festival Launches June 10

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The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is an exhilarating celebration of performing arts, outdoor entertainment and community spirit. An international arts gathering in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the three and a half-week festival offers an array of ticketed and free events, both indoors and out, featuring a progressive mix of local, national and international artists.

Presenting over 150 events each season and attracting a diverse audience of more than 80,000 people, the festival continues to grow and is a leading multi-arts celebration that enriches the cultural, economic and social vitality of the region.

The festival's 33rd Top of the Park season runs six nights per week, from June 10–July 3, 2016.

For more information, visit the festival website at www.a2sf.org or download the free festival mobile app.

Mainstage highlights include Flip FabriQue's *Attrape-Moi* (Catch Me!), Gregory Alan Isakov and The Ghost Orchestra, Bebel Gilberto, Michael Franti & Spearhead, Gregory Porter, ¡Cubanismo!, See Jane Sing! (with Jane Lynch), Bruce Hornsby and The Noisemakers, Mayer Hawthorne, The Capitol Steps, and One-Man Circus (L'homme Cirque)!

The festival's Mainstage performances take place in The Power Center for the Performing Arts and at Hill Auditorium on the campus of the University of Michigan, and at Burns Park in downtown Ann Arbor. The Power Center is located at 121 Fletcher St., Hill Auditorium can be found at 825 N. University Ave. and Burns Park is at 1200 Baldwin Ave. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Michigan League Ticket Office, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor; online at a2sf.org; or by calling 734-764-2538.

Flip FabriQue's *Attrape-Moi* (Catch Me!)

8 p.m. Saturday, June 11

3 p.m. Sunday, June 12

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Twirling 12 hoops, dancing with diabolos and soaring through the air – all in a day's play for Flip FabriQue, the new face of Quebec circus. High



Read the BTL interview with Jane Lynch in the April 28 issue. Find it online at www.pridesource.com. Lynch will appear at the Ann Arbor Summer Festival June 29.

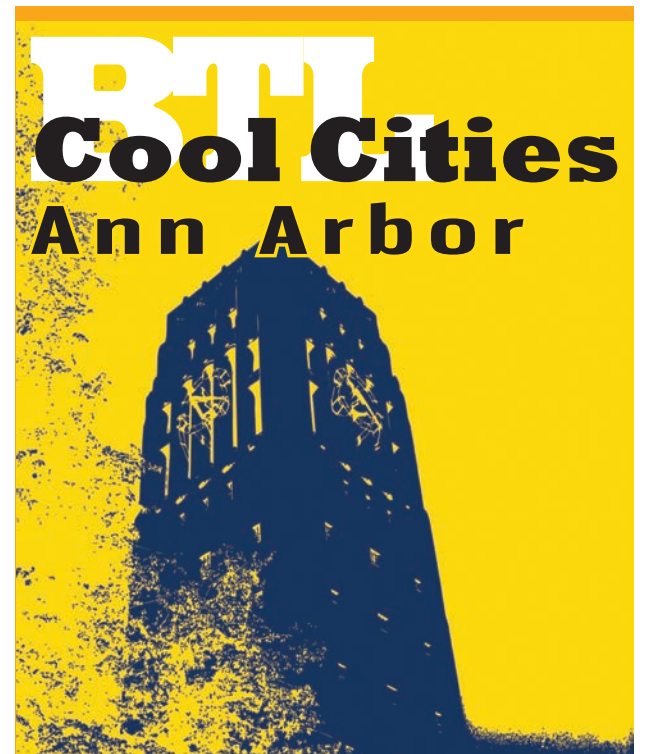
flying, fearless and fun, these young artist-athletes astound audiences with adrenaline pumping feats of cutting edge nouveau cirque, dazzling in a crowd-pleasing spectacle of extreme acrobatics, dramatic turns on a trampoline wall, and inventive parkour. This is a virtuoso display of athleticism and showmanship for the whole family.

Gregory Alan Isakov and The Ghost Orchestra

8 p.m. Wednesday, June 15

America's greatest folk singers have a new addition. Plaintive and poetic, Gregory Alan Isakov crafts stunning, sepia-toned compositions that tell a story of miles and landscapes, captivating and haunting his listeners. With nods to Leonard Cohen and Andrew Bird, his lush arrangements lend themselves to a fuller sound, and he will be accompanied by his band, as well as a mini-symphonic ensemble. In a tour that includes headlining Red Rocks and The Kennedy Center, this is a rare opportunity to see a unique performance with one of indie folk's most admired new singer/songwriters. His newest release will be available June 10.

See AASF, next page



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Continued from p. 19

Bebel Gilberto

Saturday, June 18

Brazil's beloved Bebel Gilberto arrives at the traditions of bossa nova and samba and innovates on them, weaving sultry pop and soft electronica influences into her sophisticated sound. Born into Brazil's most famous musical family – her father is João Gilberto, mother Miúcha, stepmother Astrud Gilberto, and uncle Chico Buarque – she's been at the forefront of Bossa 2.0, working with superstar producers like Mario Caldato, Jr. and Mark Ronson. Elegant and ethereal, her music will make you feel like you're sipping caipirinhas on a yacht overlooking Ipanema at sunset.

Michael Franti & Spearhead

Tuesday, June 21

Hill Auditorium

Capturing an irresistibly bright and uplifting sound, musical pioneer and humanitarian Michael Franti's globally conscious reggae pop anthems are spreading some much appreciated positivity worldwide. A Bay Area native, he's long been known for his lyrical activism and powerful performances spanning hip hop, reggae, rock and spoken word. Inspired by his calling to create positive change, he asks us to celebrate life, dance joyfully and raise consciousness. This is a very rare area appearance by one of America's most exciting artists. This tour features Michael Franti's newest release, "Soulrocker."

Gregory Porter

Wednesday, June 22

Warm, soulful baritone and Grammy-winning jazz vocalist Gregory Porter's beautifully spiritual voice thrills audiences as he explores the rhythmic phrasings of jazz, the passion of R&B, the soul of gospel, and the immediacy of the blues. Charismatic, uplifting and assured, this is modern jazz's biggest star, and for good reason. He makes his festival debut on the heels on his new Blue Note release, "Take Me To The Alley."

iCubanismo!

7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 26

For 20 incredible years, world-famous Sierra Madre trumpeter and bandleader Jesús Alemañy and his orchestra have been Cuba's musical ambassadors, sharing their authentic yet innovative, danceable and joyous sounds with the world. Fiery and passionate, they specialize in sizzling dance tunes full of swaggering horn charts and skillful polyrhythms that recall vintage big bands, traditional rumba, cha-cha, danzón and pa'ca ritmo. These Grammy-nominated all-stars enjoy experimenting with world fusion, yet always embrace island authenticity.

See Jane Sing! (with Jane Lynch)

Wednesday, June 29

You've loved her as Sue Sylvester singing like Madonna on "Glee." You still laugh at the thought of her in "Best in Show" prancing around with her poodle, Rhapsody in White.

Now, Emmy and Golden Globe winner Jane Lynch combines her talents in an uproarious night of live musical comedy. Joining her onstage will be "Glee" musical arranger Tim Davis and the fiery redhead Kate Flannery of "The Office." You'll be in stitches with her American Songbook, which includes selections from "The Brady Bunch," "Fiddler on the Roof" and Nicki Minaj.

Bruce Hornsby and The Noisemakers

Thursday, June 30

Bruce Hornsby's work displays a creative iconoclasm that's been a constant in the artist's two-and-a-half decade recording career. His commercial stock soared early on, when "The Way It Is" became one of the most popular songs on American radio. Despite his early mainstream successes, Hornsby has pursued a more idiosyncratic musical path, focusing on projects that sparked his creative interest, including collaborations with the Grateful Dead, Spike Lee and Ricky Skaggs. Hornsby's performance will offer a glimpse of a restless spirit who continues to push forward into new musical terrain.

Mayer Hawthorne

Friday, July 1

Neo-soul singer Andy Mayer Cohen has an incredible ear for what makes music soulful. "Flashy but classy" and always stylish in a fine suit, he's a sensation onstage. A hometown hero, he soaked up Curtis Mayfield, Barry White, Shuggie Otis, Hall and Oates and hip hop producer J Dilla spinning DJ sets at The Firefly and The Blind Pig. Now this deeply talented multi-instrumentalist, singer, and producer has moved to LA, sold millions of albums, helped Pharrell win a Grammy for best producer, and become neo-soul royalty. His album out this spring is "Man About Town."

The Capitol Steps

4 and 7 p.m. Monday, July 4

Perfectly timed for an election year, America's foremost political satirists make their annual Fourth of July appearance at the festival! These former Congressional staffers "mock the vote," poking fun at both sides of the aisle with up-to-the-minute song parodies like "Deleter of the Facts" and "All About the Base." If you are sick of hearing about the candidates, Bill Cosby and Brian Williams, you've come to the wrong place.

One-Man Circus (L'homme Cirque)

6:30 p.m. Wednesday–Sunday
Aug. 24–28

Burns Park, Ann Arbor

Enter the magical world of David Dimitri. Lauded "Lord of the Wire" by New York Times, this world famous high wire dancer and veteran of Cirque du Soleil and Big Apple Circus epitomizes innovation as he alone performs an entire circus. Creating what he calls "a unique magic" in the intimate setting of a tent in Burns Park, his L'homme Cirque balances dramatic feats like high wire flips and a human cannon launch with humor, poetry and serenades on the accordion. It's as gripping as it is charming – and with grand flourish, be awestruck as he exits the tent on his high wire, crossing above at 150 feet "and into the sky."

The OutField: Cheering on #EveryFan

BY DAN WOOG

Separated by only 11 miles – and both proudly sporting the color blue – Duke University and the University of North Carolina enjoy perhaps the most intense college athletic rivalry in the country.

"Enjoy" may be the wrong word. For decades, sports events – particularly basketball – have been marked by feverish fan behavior. Signs and chants insult, mock and degrade opposing players, coaches and spectators. Some of it is funny. Some is clever. Some is rude, crude – and homophobic.

So it came as a great surprise – historic, even – when students and athletes from the two schools came together to make a video on the eve of this year's Blue Devil-Tar Heel men's basketball clash.

They smiled. They pumped up their own team. And they implored everyone to watch the upcoming contest in a "respectful, inclusive environment." The idea, both sides agreed, was for people of "all identities and backgrounds" to feel safe and comfortable, while cheering their team on to victory.

"It's the Carolina Way," one blue-clad student said.

"It's the Duke Difference," another offered.

The video was not a random act of kindness. It was created by #EveryFan. The latest project of Athlete Ally, it's one of the most intriguing developments on the sports landscape in years.

Athlete Ally is a nonprofit that provides public awareness campaigns, educational programming, and tools and resources to foster inclusive sports communities. With over 80 college chapters, and utilizing more than 150 professional athletes as supporters, the organization fights homophobia and transphobia in the sports world by focusing on the concept and importance of "allyship."

But, says founder and director Hudson Taylor – an All-American wrestler at the University of Maryland, who famously wore a Human Rights Campaign sticker on his headgear in solidarity with the LGBT community – he and his Athlete Ally colleagues realized that while sports figures can help raise awareness of gay sports issues, fan conduct is an enormous issue too.

And one that is often overlooked.

Last year, a study reported that 83 percent of Americans believe an openly gay person would not feel safe at a sporting event.

Between homophobic chants, offensive banners and "kiss cams" that mock same-sex couples, stadiums and arenas around the world can be very hostile environments.

"These are places of public accommodation," Taylor says firmly. "Fans who worry about what they'll hear, what people think about the person they're sitting with – or what restroom to use – can't enjoy basic rights that fans everywhere don't even think about."

The result: #EveryFan. The campaign – involving social media, videos like the Duke-UNC one and more – will encourage positive fan behavior, for the comfort of all.

#EveryFan. The campaign – involving social media, videos like the Duke-UNC one and more – will encourage positive fan behavior, for the comfort of all.

One concrete element is an #EveryFan pledge. It reads: "As a sports fan, I believe that every fan must have an equally positive experience. I pledge to treat other fans with dignity and respect. Every fan should be treated fairly and equally, inside the stadium and under the law. I support equality for every fan. It's good for sports. And it's the right thing to do."

In addition, #EveryFan is working with the NCAA to amend the Code of Conduct, which is often announced before college games. It contains no specific mention or prohibition of provocative language based on sexual orientation or gender expression. An "LGBT-inclusive" code would add teeth to a somewhat vague document.

Taylor sees a role for #EveryFan at high schools too. And it's not just to call attention to homophobic spectators. Twice in Iowa recently, basketball fans at predominantly white high schools taunted Latino teams with chants of "Trump!" and "Build the wall!"

Yet colleges and high schools are not the only focus of #EveryFan. Taylor says that although more professional teams are adding "LGBT Pride" nights to their promotional schedule, many still do not. And the ones that do limit it to once per season.

#EveryFan encourages teams to film PSAs to show on their Jumbotron, creating a season-long dialogue around appropriate fan conduct.

#EveryFan is not the PC Police. However, Taylor notes, "there should be standards of decency. Everyone is entitled to their own beliefs and attitudes. But if their behavior negatively impacts people, we have a responsibility to speak up. Stadiums are a privilege, not a right. Athletes prepare all their lives. To honor them, it's incumbent to treat everyone – athletes and fans – with dignity and respect."

The Atlanta Hawks have been early #EveryFan adopters. "Their fan culture is forward-thinking," Taylor says. After a same-sex marriage proposal during an NBA game, the team proudly tweeted it for the world to see.

The world is changing rapidly – thanks in part to #EveryFan. Don't believe it? Just ask basketball fans at Duke and UNC.ts. And it's the right thing to do.

To see the Duke-UNC video, search YouTube for "Duke & UNC Everyfan."

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars." He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, May 26

Letter to Anita 5:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15-50. U of M Health System and Big Hearts for Seniors, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-668-8397. www.Med.umich.edu/geriatrics/BHS

Rehearsals for Metro Detroit LGBT Chorus 7 p.m. New members welcomed year round. One Voice Chorus uses singing to promote understanding outside of the LGBT community, and unity within it. One Voice Chorus, 1589 W. Maple Road, **Birmingham**. detroitonevoice@yahoo.com http://onevoicechorus.net

Friday, May 27

Wineries & Rolling Hills of Ohio 7 a.m. Step On Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy St. Ste 2046, **Ferndale**. 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com www.steponbustours.com

Detroit's Largest Zumba Fitness Party!

6 p.m. Join us for the 6th annual Detroit Zumba All Stars Fitness Party! Doors open at 6 p.m. for interactive fitness demos, fitness-wear fashion show Zumba party begins at 7 p.m. Detroit Zumba All Stars, 2934 Russell St., **Detroit**. DetroitZumbaAllStars@gmail.com www.dzas.weebly.com

Hot Daddies Contest Think you're the hottest daddy in Ferndale? Males 35+ can put their name in the running for this Hot Daddy contest to benefit Ferndale Pride. Ferndale Pride, 205 W. Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. www.Ferndalepride.com

Saturday, May 28

LGbtQ ISRAEL TRIP 12 a.m. For additional information about the trip www.jcca.org/lgbtqisrael. Or contact Aliza. orent@shalomaustin.org or 512-735-8030 to talk about all aspects of the trip. Jewish Community Center Association of North America. Israel, **Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Galilee, Acco, Masada**. 512-735-8030. aliza.orent@shalomaustin.org www.Jcca.org/lgbtqisrael

Club Toilet 10 p.m. Hart Plaza Movement Afterparty featuring Gay Marvino, DJ Minx, Chris Cruse, Clark Price, Deadhemar, Jeff Sfiro, Mike Trombley, Ryan SMith. 21 and over only. Honcho, Macho City, Spotlight, WRECKEDnyc, 940 McNichols Road, **Highland Park**. 313-265-9061. http://www.movementafterparties.com/club-toilet-2016/

Sunday, May 29

Paddle Group 1 a.m. Bring a kayak, canoe or whatever floats. The paddle group hits the watersheds known as Brighton, Huron-Clinton, Irish Hills, Jackson, Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. They paddle for two to three hours most Sundays. Life jackets are required. Yak season is April through October. Yak Womyn, **Ann Arbor**. sapphosis@yahoo.com

Tuesday, May 31

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

Wednesday, June 1

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 6 p.m. Orchards Childrens Services, 24901 Northwestern Highway, Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-530-5370. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

Dykes on Bikes Planning Sessions 6:30 p.m. This organization is committed to creating a local community of women motorcyclists and friends of women motorcyclists. Dykes on Bikes Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. https://dykesonbikesdetroit.com

Thursday, June 2

All Media Art Exhibition 7 p.m. Ferndale Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, June 4

Detroit Day 2016 11 a.m. Free lunch provided by our friends at Golden Spice Catering will be served that day -- coneys dogs, Better Made potato chips, Faygo pop, and either a Faygo Root Beer Float or a Boston Cooler for dessert. The event is free for Piquette members. Non-members must pay regular admission to attend Detroit Day. Please RSVP! Attendance fees: Adult - \$12 person, Seniors - \$10 person, Students - \$5 person, Children 12 and under are free Ford Piquette Avenue Plant and Golden Spice Catering, 461 Piquette St., **Detroit**. 313-872-8759. info@fordpiquetteplant.org fordpiquetteplant.org

Summer Arts and Crafts Bazaar 12 p.m. Vendor fee: \$40. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. lreyes@goaffirmations.org www.Goaffirmations.org

Unique Me: Gender and Family Diversity Story Hour 12:30 p.m. Join members of Berkley High School's GSA for a family book event. Students will be reading the following books, along with a craft: I Am Jazz - Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, Jacob's New Dress - Sarah and Ian Hoffman, and Tango Makes Three - Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell Berkley High School Gender and Sexuality Alliance, 222 E. Nine Mile Rd., **Ferndale**. 248-546-2504. http://www.ferndalepubliclibrary.org/

Motor City Bears Booth @ Ferndale Pride 1 p.m. Join us at The MCB booth for the 6th Annual Ferndale Pride Street Festival. Motor City Bears, Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. motorcitybears@gmail.com motorcitybears.com

Lesbian Euchre 6 p.m. Please arrive early to register. \$5 donation to Affirmations. Do not need to bring a partner to play. Affirmations is a smoke and alcohol free environment. You are welcome to bring snacks and a beverage. There is a local cafe. This is a fun, social group of women who like to play euchre. This is for beginners (must know the basics of the game) to the experienced. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. lsbndanii@aol.com www.goaffirmations.org

Divas of Dance 9 p.m. Special Throwback Fevre Saturday event Divas of Dance. Celebrate the music of the Divas of the Dance floor. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-541-1600. info@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com/events/divas-of-dance/

RuPaul's Drag Race Battle of the Seasons Tour 9 p.m. Tickets: \$37.50, VIP \$299. Hosted by Michelle Visage with BenDeLaCreme, Ivy Winters, Jinkx Monsoon, Ginger Minj, Katya, Manila Luzon, Sharon Needles, and Violet Chachki. VIP packages include a pre-show Meet and Greet with the RuPaul's Drag Race stars and more. Visit rupaulbots.com for details. AEG Live, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 248-399-2980. http://www.axs.com/events/303512/rupauls-drag-race-tickets

Sunday, June 5

Go Girl Saugatuck! Fee: \$10-20. Dune's Resort, **Saugatuck**. www.Gogirlsaugatuck.com

Rainbow Run 10 a.m. The Rainbow Run is a 5K and 2K family-friendly run and walk for acceptance and diversity. Also a 2K canine color walk. The course weaves through the streets of downtown Ferndale. Each participant receives a Rainbow Run T-shirt as they pass along the course through different color stations everyone gets rainbow-colored with bright pigments. Produced by the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce, Rainbow Runs proceeds go to local non-profit organizations Affirmations, Ruth Ellis Center, Ferndale Pride and Defeat the Label. The run/walk start times will be staggered by category. Strollers are

welcome (no bikes or dogs please.) Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce, Nine Mile and Woodward, **Ferndale**. 248-542-2160. info@ferndalechamber.com www.Rainbow-run.com

Rosie's Annual After Pride Brunch and Drag Show 1 p.m. Ferndale Pride, **Ferndale**. www.Ferndalepride.com

Rent 2 p.m. On June 5, the cast will be joined by Dr. Peter Gulick, staff of the Lansing Area AIDS Network and Lansing area residents living with HIV for a talk back about HIV then and now. On June 8, the Lansing Area AIDS Network has bought out the house as a fundraiser. Curtain is 7 p.m. and will feature a mingle with the cast following the show. An pre-show event is also being planned involving Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., **Lansing**. 517-482-5700. www.Riverwalktheatre.com

MUSIC & MORE

The Ark "Judy Collins" The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 3. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

Heathers the Musical Tickets: \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Through June 13. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

The Wedding Singer Tickets: \$13-25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. June 2 - June 5. 734-971-2228. www.A2ct.org/shows/the-wedding-singer

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

Editor's Pick



Classic folk artist Judy Collins has thrilled audiences worldwide with her unique blend of folksong interpretations and contemporary themes, and is bringing classic and new work to Ann Arbor's The Ark this June. Judy comes to Michigan with a brand new album, "Strangers Again," a collection of duets.

Her career has spanned well over 50 years. In 1961 Judy released her first album, "A Maid of Constant Sorrow" at the age of 22 and began a 35-year association with Elektra Records. She interpreted the songs of fellow artists, particularly the social poets of the time

such as Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs and Tom Paxton. Judy was instrumental in bringing singer-songwriters to a wider audience, including Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, Tom Paxton, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell and Randy Newman. Judy's career has included new album releases in every decade since the 1960s, and she's written books including "Sanity & Grace," a memoir focusing on the death of her only son and the healing process that followed. Judy Collins is still a relentlessly creative spirit who's writing, performing 80 to 100 dates a year, and nurturing fresh talent.

Doors are 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 3 at The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Tickets range from \$49.50-75. For more information, visit www.theark.org.

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Thursday, June 2

Pride! – Gallery Opening

7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Celebrate the opening of this show with new art, live performances, time with the artists and refreshments.

Saturday, June 4

Free HIV & STI Testing

Noon to 4:00 p.m. Oakland County Health Division will be providing FREE, confidential STD and rapid HIV testing. Everyone welcome.

Summer Arts & Crafts Bazaar

Noon to 4:00 p.m. Hosted by Affirmations' Youth Workforce Development Program. Vendors will be selling merchandise.

Saturday, June 4 (cont.)

RECESS Store, Lounge and Cafe

Noon to 6:00 p.m. Operated, designed and inspired by the Affirmations' youth from the Workforce Development Program. Snacks and bottled water will be available for sale.

Free Youth HIV Testing

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Unified will be providing FREE HIV and syphilis testing for anyone ages 13 to 20 during Pride Prom: Masquerade in the Stars.

Youth Pride Prom: Masquerade in the Stars

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Hosted by the Affirmations' youth from the Leadership Development Program. Optional masquerade themed attire. Come as you are. FREE. Open to people ages 13 to 20. There will be a DJ, snacks, snow cone machine, popcorn and raffle prizes.



All events will be held at Affirmations



For more information about Ferndale Pride, visit <http://www.ferndalepride.com/>

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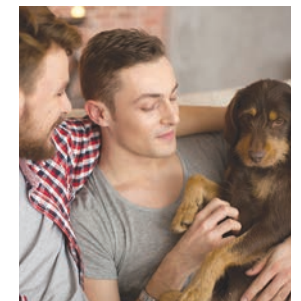
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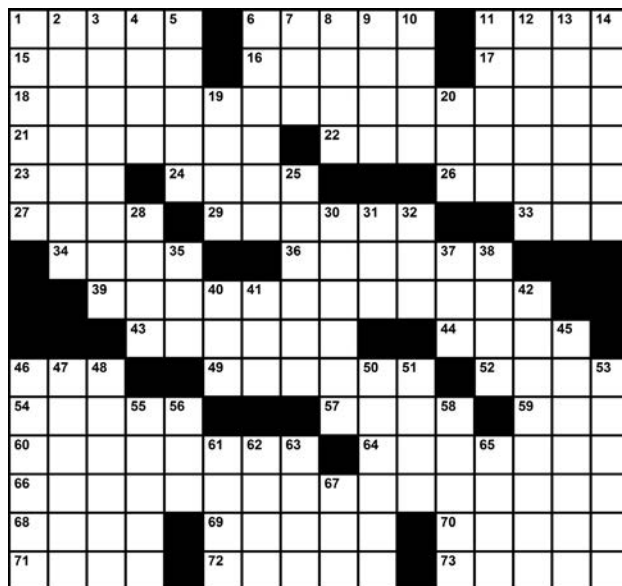
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Q Puzzle



Three Days in June

Across

- 1 Ballet follower
6 Loesser's most happy one on Broadway
11 Like family
15 "What does she see ___?"
16 Lover of Henry and June
17 John of "M. Butterfly"
18 Neighborhood where 39-Across is located
21 They hit Stephen Hough's piano strings
22 Went for, at Barneys
23 Some dam project
24 Swedish import
26 Style Tracy Turnblad's hair
27 Ward of "Once and Again"
29 Used farmers' tools
33 Possible result of unsafe sex
34 Mardi Gras follower
36 They cause a bicycle to be "bi"
39 Site of 1969 riots soon to be designated a national monument
43 Person in the Navy
44 One of Bernstein's strings
46 Slingers' ammunition

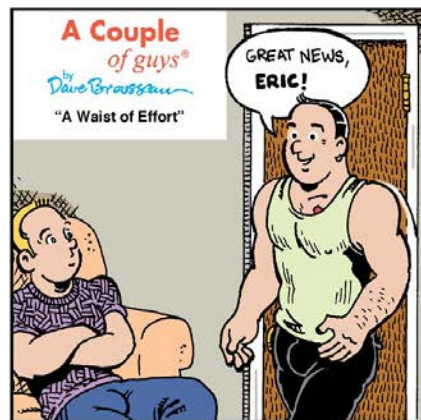
- 49 Dieter's catchword
52 Region in J. Siberry's land
54 What you can give it
57 Fruit flavor for gin
59 "Cats" inspirer's monogram
60 ___ Menace (Radicalesbian phrase)
64 Carolina pro footballer
66 Speech in which Obama mentioned 39-Across in 2013
68 Carbs or cabooses
69 Room at the top
70 Kind of queer
71 Puts into service
72 Onetime Oprah rival
73 Fender bender scars

Down

- 1 LGBT ___ (Obama was the first to mention them in a 66-Across)
2 Come apart
3 Bulldykes
4 Come off as
5 Sea eagles
6 King of Lawrence's land
7 SASE, for one
8 Cowardly lion actor
9 Vidal's "___ from Golgotha"
10 Words before were
11 Kate's sitcom partner
12 "Bears" that aren't bears
13 Take into the body
14 Had an opening for
19 Finish filming
20 J. Caesar's tongue, or back muscle
25 Bitch's response
28 Queen's "subjects"

- 30 Mooring sites
31 Long, slippery one
32 Martin of the Daughters of Bilitis
35 "Get thee ___ nunnery"
37 Tyler of "Lord of the Rings"
38 Cut quickly
40 Love, to Navratilova
41 "Xanadu" band, for short
42 From the Union
45 Has a hissy fit
46 California home of Streisand
47 Planet with a butt sound
48 William of "Knots Landing"
50 South American that may climb every mountain
51 One that attacks a fly
53 Emily Dickinson output
55 Dr. for the children's hour?
56 "Star Trek" sequel, briefly
58 Came to a halt
61 Like a twosome
62 Ziegfeld Follies costume designer
63 HRC does this to candidates
65 Family diagram
67 Nickname that Taylor dislikes

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