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Actual ATRIPLA patients.

ATRIPLA has been chosen by more than 500,000[†] people with HIV and their doctors. In the US, ATRIPLA is the #1 prescribed[§] one-pill, once-daily HIV treatment.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT ATRIPLA.COM TO FIND OUT MORE.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA[®] (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) is a prescription medication used alone as a complete regimen, or with other anti-HIV-1 medicines, to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and children at least 12 years old who weigh at least 40 kg (88 lbs).

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections.

See your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

ATRIPLA can cause serious side effects:

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

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

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:

- skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- urine turns dark
- bowel movements (stools) turn light in color
- don't feel like eating food for several days or longer
- feel sick to your stomach (nausea)
- have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain

- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), for a long time.

- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a "flare-up" of your hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you need to discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

You and your healthcare provider should decide if ATRIPLA is right for you. Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:

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

TAKING CARE OF

ME

WITH THE STRENGTH OF

WIFE

For adults with HIV-1,

Undetectable viral load is a goal, and ATRIPLA has the power to help get you there.

In a clinical trial:

- ATRIPLA has been proven to **LOWER VIRAL LOAD** to undetectable* in approximately 8 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy through 48 weeks compared with approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group†
- ATRIPLA has been proven to **LOWER VIRAL LOAD** to undetectable* through 3 years in approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy compared with approximately 6 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group†

SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed build up of lactic acid in the blood, which can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.
- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems, with liver enlargement and fat in the liver, which can lead to death.
- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Serious birth defects have been seen in children of women treated during pregnancy with efavirenz, one of the medicines in ATRIPLA. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control, while on ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective.

- **Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed** because they can pass HIV and some of the medicines in ATRIPLA through their milk to the baby. It is not known if ATRIPLA could harm your baby.
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.** Seizures have occurred in patients taking efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, generally in those with a history of seizures. If you have ever had seizures, or take medicine for seizures, your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or monitor you.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA should not be taken with:
Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine),
COMPLERA® (emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate),
EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine),
Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine),
Epzicom® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine),
STRIBILD® (elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir DF),
Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine),
TRUVADA® (emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), or VIREAD® (tenofovir DF), because they contain the same or similar active ingredients as ATRIPLA. ATRIPLA should not be used with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend® (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

Please see Important Safety Information continued on the following pages.

*Undetectable was defined as a viral load of fewer than 400 copies/mL.

† In this study, 511 adult patients new to therapy received either the meds in ATRIPLA each taken once daily or Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine) twice daily + SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) once daily.

‡Symphony Health Solutions, PatientSource APLD and Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, counts are cumulative and equivalized. January 2007–February 2015.

§Symphony Health Solutions, Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, equivalized counts, July 2006–May 2015.

ATRIPLA[®]
(efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) Tablets

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following additional serious side effects:

- **Serious psychiatric problems.** Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior have been reported by a small number of patients. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide, and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems, including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Lab tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bone (osteopenia), which could lead to fractures. Also, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may lead to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your bones or may prescribe medicines to help your bones.

Common side effects:

- Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach; they tend to go away after taking ATRIPLA for a few weeks. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. These symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol and/or mood-altering (street) drugs.
- If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, and/or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.
- Rash is a common side effect with ATRIPLA that usually goes away without any change in treatment. Rash may be serious in a small number of patients. **Rash occurs more commonly in children and may be a serious problem.** If a rash develops, call your healthcare provider right away.
- Other common side effects include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

Other possible side effects:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV-1 medicines. Increase of fat in the upper back and neck, breasts, and around the trunk may happen. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these changes in body fat are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. If you notice any symptoms of infection, contact your healthcare provider right away.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness, and indigestion.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

You should take ATRIPLA once daily on an empty stomach. Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.

Please see the following Patient Information for more information about these warnings, including signs and symptoms, and other Important Safety Information.



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Patient Information

Rx ONLY

ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).

Please also read the section “MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA.”

Generic name: efavirenz, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (eh FAH vih renz, em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU mar ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with ATRIPLA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill since there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking ATRIPLA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about ATRIPLA.

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

- **Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:**
 - You feel very weak or tired.
 - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
 - You have trouble breathing.
 - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
 - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
 - You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
 - You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
 - Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
 - Your urine turns dark.
 - Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
 - You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
 - You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
 - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA, for a long time.
- **If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.** Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months, including medical exams and blood tests to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA contains 3 medicines, SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate also called tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and SUSTIVA is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). VIREAD and EMTRIVA are the components of TRUVADA®. ATRIPLA can be used alone as a complete regimen, or in combination with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. ATRIPLA is for adults and children 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kg (at least 88 lbs). ATRIPLA is not recommended for children younger than 12 years of age. ATRIPLA has not been studied in adults over 65 years of age.

HIV infection destroys CD4+ T cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

ATRIPLA helps block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a viral chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. ATRIPLA lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). ATRIPLA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4+ cells), allowing your immune system to improve. Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using ATRIPLA.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether ATRIPLA is right for you.

Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of ATRIPLA are efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant** (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- **Are breastfeeding** (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect ATRIPLA. For this reason, **it is very important to** let all your healthcare providers and pharmacists know what medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins you are taking.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA also should not be used with Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLERA®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), STRIBILD®, Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA, or VIREAD. ATRIPLA also should not be used with SUSTIVA unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

It is also important to tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following:

- Fortovase, Invirase (saquinavir), Biaxin (clarithromycin), Noxafil (posaconazole), Sporanox (itraconazole), Victrelis (boceprevir), or Olysio (simeprevir); **these medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem or Tiazac (diltiazem), Covera HS or Isoptin (verapamil) and others; Crixivan (indinavir), Selzentry (maraviroc); the immunosuppressant medicines cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune, and others), Prograf (tacrolimus), or Rapamune (sirolimus); Methadone; Mycobutin (rifabutin); Rifampin; cholesterol-lowering medicines such as Lipitor (atorvastatin), Pravachol (pravastatin sodium), and Zocor (simvastatin); or the anti-depressant medications bupropion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL, and Zyban) or Zoloft (sertraline); **dose changes may be needed when these drugs are taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine); tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) may increase the amount of didanosine in your blood, which could result in more side effects. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA and didanosine together. Also, the dose of

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

- Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate), Prezista (darunavir) with Norvir (ritonavir), Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir), or Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir); these medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. Reyataz is not recommended with ATRIPLA. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA, Prezista, and Norvir together, or if you are taking ATRIPLA and Kaletra together. The dose of Kaletra should be increased when taken with efavirenz.

- Medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin (phenytoin), Tegretol (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]; your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines that you take.

Keep a complete list of all the prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. Make a new list when medicines or herbal remedies are added or stopped, or if the dose changes. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacists **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription. This will give your healthcare provider a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

How should I take ATRIPLA?

- Take the exact amount of ATRIPLA your healthcare provider prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You should take ATRIPLA on an empty stomach.
- Swallow ATRIPLA with water.
- Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- Do not miss a dose of ATRIPLA. If you forget to take ATRIPLA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of ATRIPLA, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your ATRIPLA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ATRIPLA and become harder to treat.
- Your healthcare provider may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take ATRIPLA.

What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?

- **Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it.** Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of animals and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- **Do not breastfeed if you are taking ATRIPLA.** Some of the medicines in ATRIPLA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding. You should stop breastfeeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and

- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others.
 - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
 - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
 - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)
- **“Flare-ups” of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you have HBV and you stop taking ATRIPLA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping ATRIPLA if you have both HIV-1 and HBV infection and may recommend treatment for your HBV. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. If you have advanced liver disease and stop treatment with ATRIPLA, the “flare-up” of hepatitis B may cause your liver function to decline.
- **Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients may experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking ATRIPLA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your healthcare provider can decide if you should continue to take ATRIPLA.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia) which could lead to fractures. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density. Additionally, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may contribute to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems.

Common side effects:

Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash may be common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your healthcare provider right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child’s healthcare provider right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking ATRIPLA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:

- Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti HIV-medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with ATRIPLA.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body’s immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness and indigestion.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Contact your healthcare provider before stopping ATRIPLA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with ATRIPLA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of ATRIPLA and all the medicines you will take.

How do I store ATRIPLA?

- **Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicine away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about ATRIPLA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use ATRIPLA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ATRIPLA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

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

Do not use ATRIPLA if the seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of ATRIPLA?

Active Ingredients: efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive Ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate. The film coating contains black iron oxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, red iron oxide, talc, and titanium dioxide.

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By Sam Potter

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the USA with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

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Mention this article (CODE: BOS37SCID5) and Greg will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of \$195 to just \$37. But hurry, due to obvious reasons - this is a time limited offer - with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

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Sciatica Relief Expert Greg Kramer, says: In 20 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain. All Federal Guidelines Are Followed.

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Henry Ford Health System Again Named Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has recognized four acute-care hospitals in the Henry Ford Health System as leaders in healthcare equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, as well as Henry Ford's community hospitals in Macomb, West Bloomfield and Wyandotte, were named leaders for their "commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients and their families who can face significant challenges in securing the quality health care and respect they deserve," according to the HRC Foundation.

Henry Ford's LGBT-supportive policies are numerous and include:

- Informing patients of the right to designate a same-sex spouse or partner as a medical decision-maker
- Organizing employee resource group, PRIDE, for LGBT employees and families
- Offering gender-neutral bathrooms
- Extending some employee benefits to same-sex spouses and partners.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the educational arm of the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization. Each year it conducts a unique annual survey that is the basis for the Healthcare Equality Index. It evaluates and categorizes policies and practices that support equal and respectful treatment of LGBT patients, employees and visitors – and LGBT Americans in general.

The 2016 index recognized 496 health care facilities as LGBT leaders. Henry Ford hospitals have made the leaders' index each year since 2013. To be deemed LGBT-friendly, facilities must meet key criteria, including patient and employee non-discrimination policies that specifically mention sexual orientation and gender identity, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents and LGBT health education for key staff members.

Policies and practices at Henry Ford hospitals speak to those criteria and go beyond, including:

- Employee training addressing the needs of LGBT patients, families and employees
- Health system representatives maintaining relationships with LGBT organizations
- Hospital job postings are shared specifically with LGBT organizations
- Transgender medicine is a major focus of research and practice.

"We strive to treat every individual who interacts with Henry Ford Health System with respect, compassion and an understanding that the quality of care should never vary based on personal characteristics such as ethnicity, race, gender, geographic location,

Henry Ford hospitals have made the leaders' index each year since 2013. To be deemed LGBT-friendly, facilities must meet key criteria, including patient and employee non-discrimination policies that specifically mention sexual orientation and gender identity.

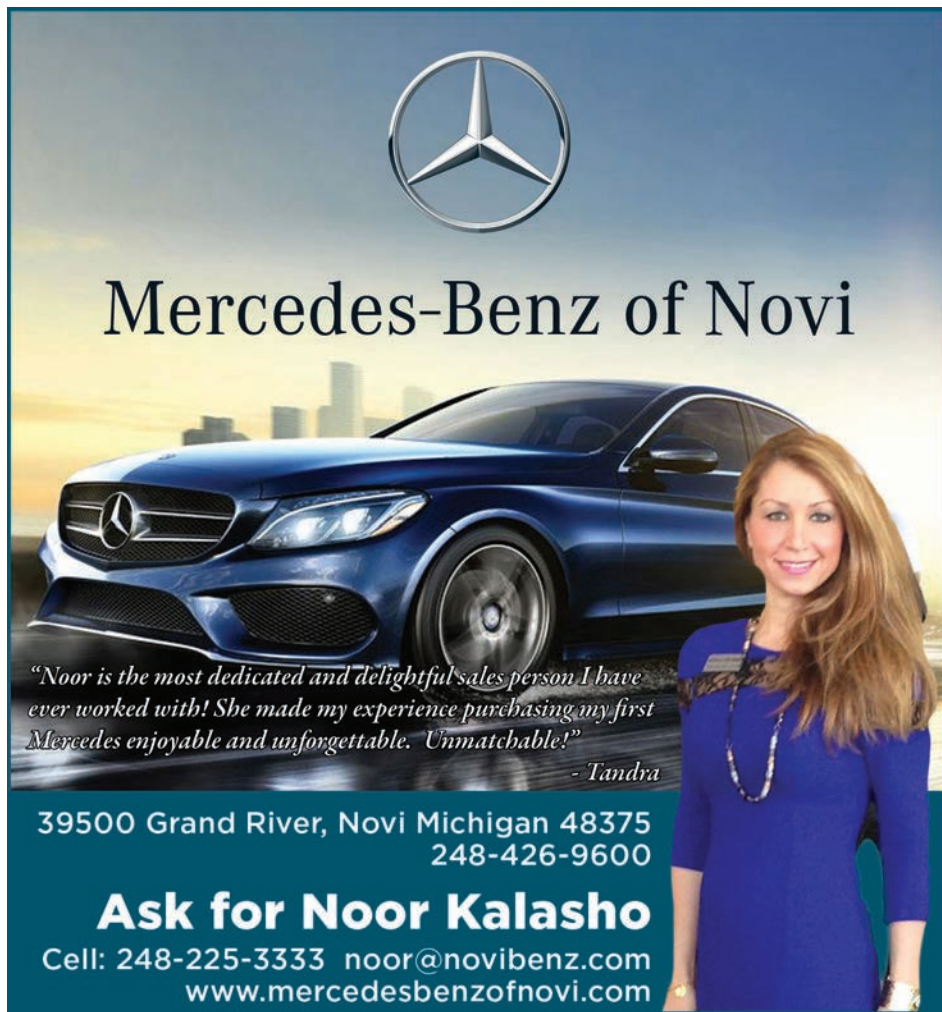
socioeconomic status or sexual orientation," says Kimberly Dawn Wisdom, senior vice president of Community Health & Equity and chief wellness officer for Henry Ford Health System.

"Being recognized as a leader in healthcare equality for the LGBT community goes to the core of the diversity principles that guide us, principles that aren't just on paper in the form of policies but that are very much of a part what we do every day, whether it's with patients and families in the hospital or with employees through human resources," Wisdom says.

While a select group of health care facilities are rising to the top as health care models for treating the LGBT community, situations of unequal care and treatment are yet to be addressed, says Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "Despite all the progress we've made, far too many LGBT people still lack inclusive and affirming healthcare. Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality are helping to change that, and, in the process, making the lives of LGBT patients and their families better each and every day," Griffin says. "LGBT people have a right to be treated equally in all aspects of our lives, and HRC celebrates those at Henry Ford for their work to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all patients."

Working to ensure equal care and respect is standard operating procedure at Henry Ford, says Kathy Oswald, vice president and chief human resources officer for Henry Ford. "We realize that until equality is the way of the world, we must do everything we can to bring it to the workplace," Oswald says. "Training our employees to recognize the needs of the LGBT community and supporting LGBT employees are just some of the many ways we work to understand and honor diversity."

Find the full Healthcare Equality Index at <http://gaybe.am/hei>.



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State Senator Introduces Anti-Trans Bathroom Legislation

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – State Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, introduced much-anticipated legislation that will limit access for trans youth in Michigan schools.

The bill, SB 993, was introduced May 25 and seeks to amend the Michigan law entitled “The Revised School Code” to prohibit students, among many things, from using the bathroom of their choice.

“Sen. Tom Casperson today introduced a bill that will endanger the health and safety of transgender students, place Michigan’s federal education funding at risk and subject our state to the same overwhelming backlash occurring in North Carolina and Mississippi in response to similar anti-LGBT legislation,” Trans Advocacy Coordinator at the ACLU of Michigan Amy Hunter wrote in a statement.

The bill comes as a response to the Michigan Department of Education’s draft guidance document, “Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for LGBT and Questioning Students,” which, if approved by the board, would provide Michigan schools with optional suggestions on how to further support LGBT youth.

In a March 29 press release, Casperson said, “It is hard to believe that a state board, which is clearly out of touch with Michigan residents, got assistance from equally out of touch unelected bureaucrats to develop such a document to fundamentally change Michigan’s public education system without the public’s prior knowledge or consent. In the pursuit of social justice, this so-called draft guidance document creates numerous problems, from the elimination of parental authority and notification to threatening student safety and beyond. My bill would stop this policy dead in its tracks.”

SB 993 legislation is number 200 in the nation aimed at legislating trans access to public facilities. The bill seeks to prohibit trans students from using the restroom that aligns with their gender identity, endangers the health and safety of trans students and violates Title IX’s prohibition on sex discrimination in public schools.

Regulations like SB 993 run counter to Title IX, a 1972 federal guideline protecting youth from discrimination in schools. Based on current leadership from the Federal Department of Education and the Department of Justice, if Casperson’s bill becomes law, federal funding for Michigan schools may be stripped.

“Amy Hunter did research on how much federal funding is received,” Jay Kaplan, ACLU LGBT special projects attorney, told BTL. “It’s a substantial amount of money

and this could potentially put that money in jeopardy. It’s so wrong headed. Everybody should be treated with dignity.”

However, the bigger issue is how legislation such as this would impact the individual lives of Michigan students.

Reasonable Accommodations

SB 993 suggests schools provide “reasonable accommodations” for students who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. After providing written documentation to the school administration or getting permission from a legal guardian, trans and gender nonconforming youth would then be subject to “othering” within their own school.

“There are so many misperceptions about what it means to be transgender. Transgender kids encounter bullying, harassment and rejection in schools all the time and then to have legislation like this that purports to be accommodating of their gender identity – but it’s not doing so at all,” Kaplan said.

Under Casperson’s legislation, schools will be prohibited from allowing trans and gender nonconforming youth to use the “restroom, locker room or shower room designed for use by pupils of the opposite biological sex if pupils of the opposite biological sex are present or could be present.” Limitations to bathroom access extend to all school-related activities including intramural sports and field trips, Kaplan said. A “reasonable accommodation” would include a single-occupancy restroom, unisex restroom or the controlled use of faculty facilities.

“The ‘reasonable accommodation’ proposed by Casperson is anything but reasonable. Transgender students – already at great risk from bullying, harassment and violence – will be placed at further risk by singling them out to be treated differently by their peers if this ill-conceived piece of legislation becomes law,” Hunter said. “Casperson’s bill accomplishes the exact opposite of what students in Michigan need: an educational environment where ALL students are safe, treated with dignity and respect for who they are, and encouraged to reach their full potential.”

Perhaps what is most intriguing is Casperson’s definition of “biological sex” which he defines as “the physical condition of being male or female as determined by a person’s chromosomes and anatomy as identified at birth.”

“There are preconceived notions about bodies and how people look, act and love,” Kaplan explained. “It fuels the prejudice and stigmatization. We can learn to get past that. Why do we have to fit people into convenient little pegs? Let people live in accordance in

terms of their gender.”

The Michigan Organization for Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH), with the help of a three-year federal grant, is working with high schools in the state to establish stronger gay-straight alliance student groups. The group has also come out in strong support of the State Board of Education Guidelines for LGBT and Questioning Students.

“We feel that this bill endangers the health of some of Michigan’s most vulnerable students and poses further risk to them should it be enacted,” Shelly Hoffman, executive director of MOASH, said. “We are perplexed by State Sen. Casperson’s definition of biological sex.”

SB 993 was referred to the Government Operations Committee chaired by Sen. Arlan Meekhof, R-Ottawa County. Serving the Senate Government Operations Committee is Meekhof; Vice Chair Goeff Hansen, R-Muskegon; Mike Kowall, R-Oakland County; Jim Ananich, D-Genesee; and Morris W. Hood III, R-Dearborn.

Meekhof has said that Casperson’s legislation would not be a priority for the committee and has no plans to hold hearings on the issue, but such a statement did not deter Casperson from introducing his legislation.

Casperson is no stranger to anti-LGBT legislation. In 2004 when he was a member of the state House, Casperson joined 73 representatives supporting a proposed ballot initiative to ban same-sex marriage. The measure failed to get a two-thirds majority; however, the Michigan Marriage Amendment, a ballot initiative seeking to ban same-sex

marriage in the state, later passed.

Casperson is running for congress in November. Many believe that Casperson introduced SB 993 as a political move to gain more support for his campaign.

“As marginalized groups gain more rights, the people who hate will do whatever they can to push back those rights. These seem like the last ditch efforts of desperate people,” Hoffman said.

Call To Action

Equality Michigan has authored a petition against SB 993.

“We’ve all seen what’s happening in North Carolina and we know what comes next. Trans students will be made targets for abuse and discrimination at school. School districts will be forced to choose between complying with Casperson’s bathroom inspection law and federal civil rights law. Billions in federal education funding will be placed at risk. Billions more in economic activity will be lost as companies choose to do business in more welcoming and inclusive states. But it doesn’t have to be that way. We can stop this dangerous and discriminatory bill dead in its tracks. You can help us do it,” the petition reads.

Sign the Petition

Read the legislation at <http://gaybe.am/bil>
To sign the petition, visit <http://gaybe.am/bil>

Schuette Writes Letter to Obama Administration on LGBT Student Guidance

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette issued a letter May 26 asking the Obama administration, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Secretary of Education John King to retract the recent directive issued May 13 that says schools must allow transgender students to use bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.

“The decision about how best to deal with the rights of students is a critically important issue,” he wrote. “But the manner in which this decision was made – ignoring the essential role of parents, local school teachers and administrators, and done without the debate and consent of the legislative branch – is a failing that needs to be corrected.”

In his letter, Schuette called the directive “another prime example of federal overreach” and urged the administration to reconsider the policy guidance and seek input from parents and guardians from every state.

The joint memo is intended to provide educators with information to help ensure transgender students do not face sex-based discrimination in schools and recommends that trans students be able to access restrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity unless those students request a single-use bathroom.

Schuette has not joined attorneys general from 11 other states who are suing the federal government over the trans policy guidance.

He copied Michigan Superintendent Brian Whiston on the letter, expressing hope that Whiston and school board members can work with local school leaders to craft “a policy that ensures the rights of all students are protected.”

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WWJD: Number One or Number Two?

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

An offshoot of concern for so-called spiritually inappropriate transgender use of restrooms is what might be best called “a biblical bowel movement,” that for the first time in scriptural exegesis – doctrinal commentary – touches on a subject so sadly neglected for our nation’s theocratic consideration.

As many believe we are now living in the Last Days before “the saved” will be called heavenward – an event marketed by best-selling fundamentalist and evangelical authors under the rubric of “Left Behind” – this somewhat delicate but appropriately termed BM subject matter warrants serious consideration.

Truth is that, as a topic, very few ministers or OT/NT scholars, if any, are versed on the subject of elimination of human wastes as practiced in B.C. or first-century A.D. times.

The average churchgoer today hasn’t the slightest inkling of how those first disciples, followers, converts, uncircumcised believers went about “lowering their nets” – to euphemistically put it – as the internal calling and rumblings of daily eaten fish and loaves occurred.

Take for example the logistic requirements for one of the most well-known miracles of the onset of Christianity: the feeding of 5,000. What accommodations were there for contingencies of gastric, lower intestinal urgency and facilitation?

Perhaps it’s understandable that no one gives a whiff of thought to what are the necessities of what is referred to euphemistically as No. 1 and No. 2. Try as one may, it’s extremely difficult to recall to mind any prophet, saint, angelic being so driven by those basic functions that are admittedly common primarily to sinners and today’s “unsaved.”

If nothing else, however, the recent occupation of who might have no business sitting meditatively for five or 10 minutes in a restroom stall has had an electric effect on fundamentalist and evangelical religious types. (Including Southern Baptists who are known for having exemplary, day-long Christian bladder control at casinos and racetracks.)

What was once called “bar ministry” among the self-righteous – seeking lost souls in saloons, and occasionally gay bar back rooms – is now called “restroom rescue prevention.”

Today’s religious BM has meant the recruitment of hundreds, if not thousands, who are dedicated to the three P’s of righteousness: “Peeing. Praying. Protesting.”

According to the movement’s recruitment weekly, “The Left Behinder,” “True believers are admonished by Isaiah 36:12 to flush out hidden sin in public places. The family that prays, and occasionally pees together in church but not in public with transgendered sinners, is blessed.”

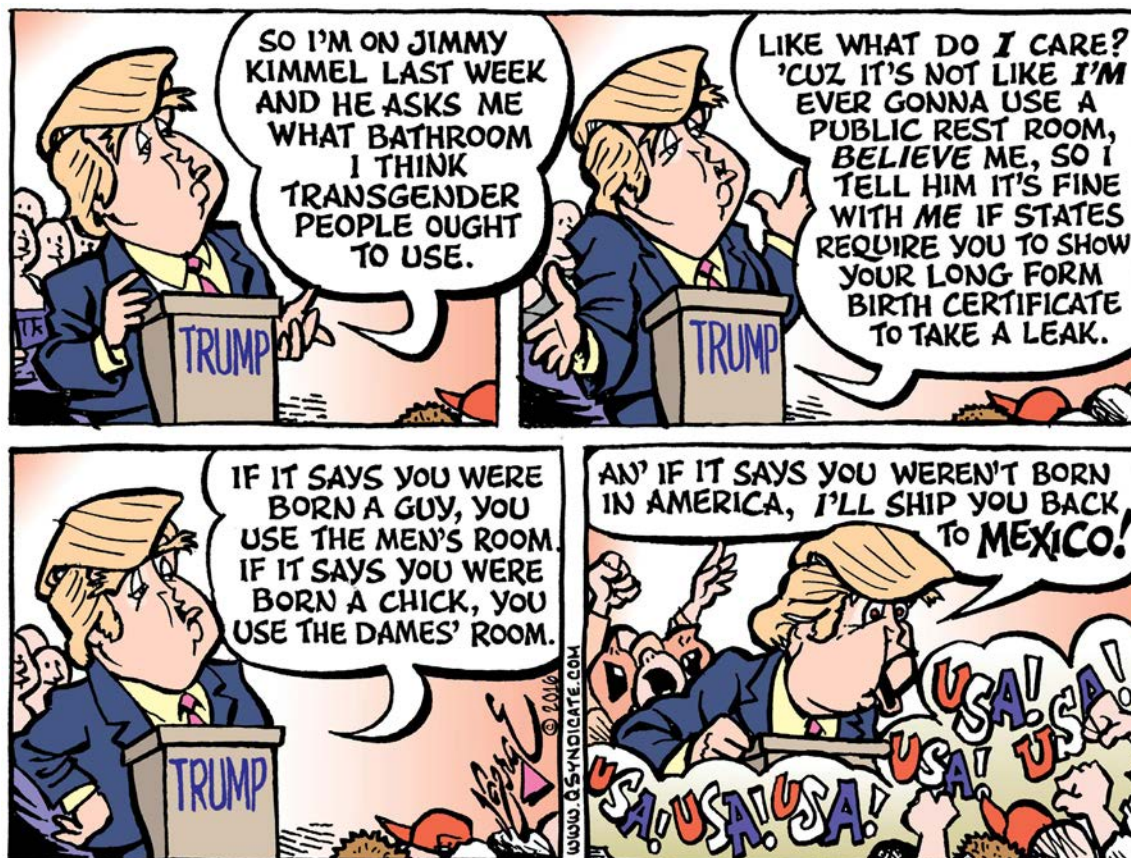
(As for actual biblical verse references to the subject at hand, so to speak, there are about 30. Depending upon the translation, dung and pee are frequent honest, straightforward word renderings. If curious, check out a Bible Concordance. Ex-Lax optional.)

To date, the Left Behinder Movement has targeted several large-city department stores for surveillance. Many “3 P-ers,” as volunteers affectionally call themselves, sign on for vigilance duty for a minimum of five hours, twice a week. (With or without required proof of in-stall participation.)

As opportunity presents itself, volunteers – each self-identified by badges, WWJD-do? – replace stall tissue paper with tastefully designed Bible verse admonitions to “be biblically aware of who is sitting in the stall next to you. Is he or she gender appropriate for salvation and elimination of all shortcomings?”

“Pray. But, for Christ’s sake, please don’t tap between stalls. It’s a Bible-based no no.”

Charles@pridesource.com



BY DAVE COULTER

As we begin another month of Pride in Michigan, it’s impossible to ignore the significant change that has occurred since we met a year ago. Then, I carried on the tradition of Ferndale mayors before me officiating commitment ceremonies for same-sex couples who wished to publicly express their love for each other. I was happy to continue an act that helped lend a measure of dignity to what was otherwise a wholly unfair and discriminatory policy towards these couples.

When Ferndale Pride happens this June 4, however, I’ll now get to do what I’ve done every month since the historic Supreme Court ruling last June, and what I was proud to be the first mayor in Michigan to do: legally marry same-sex couples. Many of the couples I have had the honor of marrying have been together for decades. Some had given up hope that they would ever see the day their relationship would be granted equal status under the law. Marriage equality was a turning point in the struggle for civil rights in America, and the fact it finally happened in our lifetimes gives festival goers a new and important reason to be proud this month.

My advice is to enjoy, celebrate and then get back to work, because if you haven’t noticed, the opponents of marriage equality have not unilaterally disarmed in the face of their defeat. Some, like Kentucky County

Viewpoint

Much to Celebrate, and Much to Do

Clerk Kim Davis, simply refused to obey the law. Encouraged, and used, by politicians like Republican Mike Huckabee and others, Ms. Davis willfully ignored her duty (she also presented a stark contrast to my own county clerk, Lisa Brown, who forcefully and proudly opened her office to process the new marriages).

Other opponents have backed off of marriage equality, for now, in search of other wedge issues and prejudices they can scare the country and the electorate into believing. Most troubling of these is the recent attacks on the rights of the transgender community to live dignified lives without fear of harm or persecution. States like North Carolina and Mississippi have written new discriminations into their laws even as they work to repeal the advances many thought we had forever secured.

I’m proud that Ferndale has put economic sanctions in place against these states, but it’s a reminder that we must be ever vigilant in our fight to bring full equality to all people in this country. An attack on any of our rights is an attack on us all, which is why the LGBT community in particular must also take seriously the hateful rhetoric coming from the Republican nominee for president this year towards Muslims, Mexicans, women, immigrants and others. Donald Trump has given voice to a fear and prejudice that is all too familiar, as he’s now supported by the same groups and people who have fought marriage and LGBT equality for so long. Make no mistake... when he’s finished punishing immigrants, the LGBT community will be

Creep of the Week

Louie Gohmert

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

A few months ago I watched “The Martian” starring Matt Damon as an astronaut who crash lands on Mars and is left for dead. Only he isn’t dead, everybody just thinks he is. I was exhausted and couldn’t stay awake, but I’m pretty sure that he has to drink his own pee and perform Mr. Wizard space-magic feats in order to save himself. Spoiler alert: he doesn’t die.

And do you know why he doesn’t die? Because he wasn’t a homo, that’s why. Because you know what? Mars is no place for homos. Or so says Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, the Dumbest Man in Congress.

In a speech on the House floor in late May, Gohmert wonders aloud what would happen if, say, a meteor hit the earth and wiped out humans, “as dinosaurs were ended at one time.” But never fear, he’s got a plan.

“OK, we’ve got a space ship that can go, as Matt Damon did in the movie, plant a colony somewhere. We can have humans survive this terrible disaster about to befall. If you could decide what 40 people you put on the space craft that would save humanity, how many of those would be same-sex couples?”

Huh. Forty is a pretty specific number. I wouldn’t be surprised if Gohmert has a prototype of this spaceship in a barn somewhere.

“You’re wanting to save humankind for posterity,” he continues. “You have that ability to be a modern day Noah. You can preserve life. How many same-sex couples would you take from the animal kingdom and from humans to put on a space craft to perpetuate humanity and the wildlife kingdom?”

Fun thought experiment! OK, here goes: I would choose all same-sex couples, specifically lesbians, in the hope that we could turn Mars into

a modern day Themyscira. As for animals, we’d just bring rescues, mostly blind cats, three-legged dogs and severely emaciated horses we would nurse back to health.

Do I win?

Seriously, though. Gohmert is talking about the remote possibility that humans will be wiped out by a big space rock and that this disaster will spur them to colonize Mars on a spaceship that carries less than four dozen people. How many of those people would be gay? Who the fuck cares? Because LGBT people exist in real life, on planet Earth, right now. And we’re not going away.

Ah, yes. But that’s the problem.

“(When) we continue to prohibit the free exercise of religion, we don’t have much longer to go,” Gohmert says.

So that’s what this is all about. This whole “religious freedom” fight where Christian conservatives have convinced themselves that any civil rights afforded LGBT people are a direct attack on their “right” to hurt people for Jesus. “God wants us to discriminate!” they holler. They’re fucking delusional.

Gohmert also apparently doesn’t realize that lesbians and gays have kids, too. True, two men can’t make a baby together by themselves, but has Gohmert ever heard of sperm donors? Surrogate mothers? I mean, just because you’re a lesbian doesn’t mean your womb shrivels up and dies.

Say, maybe my Themyscira idea could come true after all. If, in this scenario, we can get a spaceship to Mars, think of how advanced reproductive technology would be by then! Careful what you wish for, Gohmert. And keep dreaming the big dreams – just maybe next time write them down in a journal instead of wasting time on the House floor.

rights are gay rights.”

Hillary Clinton and the Democrats offer just as stark a contrast to Donald Trump as Lisa Brown did to Kim Davis. Enjoy Pride, celebrate that you can love and marry anyone you choose, and bask in the long overdue successes that have defined this past year. Just know that the struggle continues, and you’re needed now as much as ever.

Dave Coulter is the mayor of Ferndale.

HIV in America: Hatred and Acceptance



BY MYLES HELFAND

“If you have a deadly disease, it is only proper that other people be warned against getting infected by you,” the comment began. It went quickly downhill from there.

“The HIV infected should be placed on a mandatory tracking list and be tattooed with the BIOHAZARD symbol, just above the genitals, as fair warning,” it continued.

“They should also have a distinctive license and license plate for the protection of LEO’s (law enforcement officials) they encounter,” it concluded, just for good measure.

All of this, ironically, was recently posted on an article on TheBody.com entitled, “What Does HIV/AIDS Stigma Look Like in Your Life?”

I deleted the comment, of course; TheBody.com isn’t a place for people to beat each other down. But in a twisted way, I appreciated the commenter’s inadvertently perfect crystallization of what HIV stigma looks like in the U.S. today – more than a generation after we learned what the virus is, how it works, and how dangerous it can be for all of humanity when we ignorantly condemn a broad swath of society for living with it.

There’s so much about the comment that we could unpack and dissect, but the one that really sticks with me is the feeling it holds at its core that HIV somehow renders a person non-human. That it makes them a thing: one of “the HIV infected.” An object to be isolated, tagged as toxic, and cordoned off from the uncorrupted.

I mean, I suppose I could try to address the comment by mentioning pneumonia, influenza, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis B or C, infectious diarrhea and the vast, varied constellation of microbes that have attempted to use the human body as an incubator for as long as human bodies have existed on Earth – and which the commenter is likely exposed to (or may even expose others to) on a near-daily basis. In some cases, exposure to that microbe occurs through the biologically imperative action of having sex. In others, it’s through the biologically imperative action of breathing air.

Or I could try to explain why it’s kind of unlikely that a person with HIV who’s driving down a highway will have condomless sex with the police officer who stops them for speeding. Or that, even if a porn video broke out in the middle of that traffic stop, the officer still wouldn’t be at risk if the person was on HIV treatment and had an undetectable viral load.

Or I could ask what additional personal characteristics should warrant such a high level of warning for others who might encounter

those people in the world. What level of abstract theoretical risk should trigger a tattoo- or license plate-level notice? Just HIV? Maybe syphilis, too? All infectious diseases, for good measure? How about mental illness? Epilepsy? Unstable blood sugar levels due to diabetes? Texting while driving?

A part of me feels there’s not much point in responding, because any reply I make would be a rational response to a completely irrational train of thought. For more than 30 years, the global HIV community has tried to use research, science and education to counter presumption, ignorance and silence. Yet we still find ourselves surrounded by people who believe that HIV stigma and discrimination isn’t just acceptable, but that it’s necessary.

It’s exhausting. It’s demoralizing. It can make resistance feel pointless.

And, I’m sorry to say, I don’t have any answers.

Look, I realize I’m not remotely the first person to write about how much HIV stigma sucks, and I unfortunately won’t be remotely the last person who’ll write about it either. I also don’t pretend I’ve got a magic solution to the problem; if anything, I think it’s dangerous for us to pretend there is one out there, just waiting to be discovered. Doing so ignores the reality of how wide a turning radius we often have as a society.

We may be more interconnected as a species today than we’ve ever been, but in many ways we’ve also become more fragmented, more easily distracted and more forcefully isolated (both online and off). We’re also more closed off from points of view that might change our minds – as well as from people whose minds we might be able to change.

I don’t think there’s an ideal way to counter stigma and bigotry. There’s no one-size-fits-all approach to acceptance. I’m not even writing this article to offer advice; there’s plenty of that already out there, on my website and those run by the other writers who share this column (among many other people).

I’m just writing this article to say that I know. I hear the stigma, I see it, and I accept that it exists – and I hate that it does. I can wipe away a single destructive comment, but I can’t make the stigma go away. Instead I acknowledge it.

I’m just one person. But if you feel this way, too, then there’s two of us in this boat. If you know another person who does, then we’ve got three. Maybe it’s not unreasonable to suspect there are a whole lot more, even though this fragmented world of ours can often make it feel like there aren’t.

Maybe, just maybe, if enough of us acknowledge HIV stigma, and make the world aware that we acknowledge it, we’ll find there are enough of us on this boat to help humanity slowly turn away from it.

Or maybe it’s enough, for some of us, just to know we’re not alone. That try as some might to label and judge, they can’t take away our humanity.

Myles Helfand is the editorial director of TheBody.com and TheBodyPRO.com. Find him on Twitter @MylesatTheBody.

an appealing target for his followers.

This November, equality demands that LGBT citizens again need to fight those extremists who would take our country backwards. I’m proud that the presumptive Democratic nominee for president is a woman who, as Secretary of State, included LGBT rights in a comprehensive human rights agenda and promoted equality as a core value of the U.S. – and who declared to the world that “gay rights are human rights and human

House Chants: Dems Boo Anti-LGBT Vote

BY LISA KEEN

While the nation rivets its attention to the increasingly bizarre presidential campaign or eagerly counts down the calendar to when the livin' is easy, Congress has returned to a business as usual battle over LGBT issues brought up inside funding measures. The scenes have been reminiscent, and at times even more dramatic, than those seen in the 1980s when Sen. Jesse Helms regularly introduced “no promo homo” amendments and called an openly gay Clinton nominee a “damn lesbian.”

Last Thursday, U.S. Rep. Rick Allen, R-Ga., led off a regular meeting of House Republicans by reading Roman 1:18-32 from the Bible, including the passage, “Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.” The section ends with a passage that states those who commit such acts “are worthy of death.”

Although the Thursday morning meeting was closed to the press, the Atlanta Journal Constitution and others reported that some people in the meeting were “intensely uncomfortable and some walked out.” Some told other media sources that Allen did not reference a pro-LGBT amendment offered by openly gay U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-NY, and passed Wednesday evening.

That afternoon, the Republican-dominated House voted down the overall funding bill to which Maloney’s amendment had passed, and many media reports attributed the defeat of the overall bill to Republican hostility to Maloney’s amendment.

Maloney’s amendment sought to protect President Obama’s executive order prohibiting discrimination by federal contractors against LGBT employees.

But the approval of Maloney’s amendment on May 25 came just days after Republican leaders orchestrated its defeat through manipulation of the clock on voting for another funding measure – a Defense bill which included language to nullify President Obama’s executive order.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., leader of House Democrats, blasted Republicans for “targeting LGBT Americans” in the National Defense Authorization Act. The language for that nullification came from Rep. Steve Russell, R-Okla., and Republican leadership fought vigorously to preserve it in the overall bill, even to the point of ignoring the clock on a vote for Maloney’s amendment to kill the language.

“House Republicans’ thirst to discriminate against the LGBT community is so strong that they are willing to vote down their own appropriations bill in order to prevent progress over bigotry.”

- Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., leader of House Democrats

Initially, 35 Republicans voted for Maloney’s amendment. Along with the support of 182 Democrats, the amendment had 217 votes for and 202 against. There were 13 seconds remaining left on the clock for lawmakers to weigh in on the measure.

“After it was clear that the amendment was passing,” said House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., in a press release, “House Republican leaders held the two-minute vote open for nearly eight minutes while they urged their members to change their votes and defeat the amendment.”

As the clock reached four seconds remaining, one of the Republican votes “Yea” dropped off and the “Nays” increased to 205. At zero “Time Remaining” to vote, another Republican voted “Yea,” putting the winning tally back to 217. Two minutes after the clock had run out, the Republican presiding over the vote still had not declared the final vote and suddenly two more Republican “Yea” votes appeared while two dropped from the “Nay” column.

At this point, voices on the floor began booing. According to Hoyer’s account, these were Democrats booing the Republican chair’s failure to call the vote. Within another two minutes, more voices joined in a chant of “Shame, Shame, Shame” as the number of Republican “Yea” votes dropped to 30 and the vote on the amendment stood at 213 to 212. Moments later, the vote dropped to 212 “Yea” and 213 “Nay,” and the presiding officer banged his gavel and announced the amendment had failed.

Hoyer immediately complained to the presiding officer that the vote count changed even though no Republican went to the front of the House floor to change his or her vote.

“House Republican leaders held the two-



minute vote open for nearly eight minutes while they urged their members to change their votes and defeat the amendment,” said a clearly angered Hoyer.

The seven Republicans who switched their votes were Reps. Jeff Denham, Darrell Issa, David Valadao, and Mimi Walters of California; David Young of Iowa; Bruce Poliquin of Maine; and Greg Walden of Oregon.

On May 25, Maloney was back on the floor, this time thanking House Speaker Paul Ryan for allowing “an open process so that I can offer my amendment again.” This time, the amendment passed 223 to 195.

The next day, the overall bill was defeated and most reports pointed to Maloney’s amendment as the reason why.

Human Rights Campaign government affairs director David Stacy said, “A large majority of House Republicans voted against it because Heritage Action and other right-wing groups opposed both its funding levels and the inclusion of the Maloney Amendment.”

Hoyer criticized Republicans too, saying their vote to defeat the Energy and Water represented “clear opposition to equality and civil rights in America.”

“Their votes to defeat the annual funding bill ... simply because it contained an amendment banning discrimination against LGBT Americans were both shameful and outrageous.”

“House Republicans’ thirst to discriminate against the LGBT community is so strong that they are willing to vote down their own appropriations bill in order to prevent progress over bigotry,” said Pelosi, in a statement released after the Energy & Water bill was defeated. “In turning against a

far-reaching funding bill simply because it affirms protections for LGBT Americans, Republicans have once again lain bare the depths of their bigotry.”

Log Cabin Republicans expressed support for Republican defeat of the Energy & Water bill, saying, “The truth is that, when given the choice between supporting the LGBT community and supporting runaway spending, nearly the entire House Democratic caucus showed their true colors and voted in support of runaway spending by voting down” the overall bill.

Of the 188 Democrats in the House, 175 voted against the overall bill May 26, six voted for it, and seven did not vote. Of the 245 Republicans, 130 voted against, 106 voted for, and nine did not vote. The final vote: 305 against, 112 for, 16 not voting.

Among the “Nay” votes on the overall bill were Maloney, and openly gay Reps. David Cicilline, Jared Polis, Mark Pocan, Kyrsten Sinema, and Mark Takano.

HRC’s Stacy said Democrats voted against the overall bill because of “anti-environmental and other objectionable provisions.”

President Obama and Democrats said they were opposed to the overall bill for a number of disputes, including “insufficient” funding levels for clean energy.

The showdowns on the first two of 12 appropriations bills to be considered so far signals an increasingly worrisome appropriations process for LGBT concerns. The House returns from its Memorial Day Weekend recess and “district work period” on June 7.

Stacy said there is a possibility of more hostile amendments in the future.

“There’s still a sobering level of hostility and rhetoric that is harmful,” said Stacy. The group is keeping watch on the Defense authorization bill in the Senate and will be monitoring other funding bills coming to the floor in the House. But Stacy said the House leadership has a “real desire not to bring up social issues” on the funding bills and many political observers believe Congress will avoid tackling most funding measures until after the presidential election.

Stacy said the LGBT community is also “a little better positioned” now than in the 1980s, when Sen. Helms wreaked havoc on anti-LGBT measures to spending bills. He said HRC can now count on “every Democrat” and 30 to 35 Republicans in the House who are willing to vote in support of rights for LGBT people with “increasing frequency.”

BTL Weddings



Busted at the Seams In Detroit

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – “I have a commitment to humans. They come in all different shapes or sizes or whatever and if you want to wear a bra, who am I to say you can’t wear a bra?” says Lee Padgett, owner of Busted Bra Shop.

Busted opened in December 2013 and at the time was Detroit’s only lingerie shop. Today the shop has cup sizes from AAA-O (as in the letter) and 26-56 available for band sizes.

Padgett owned Cafe Detroit from 2003-2006 during a time when Meetup was really popular, as was speed dating. While it was open, the shop would combine those two ideas and host speed dating nights for the LGBT community.

Padgett and her husband moved down south for a period of time following 2006. It was there that she got her first taste of running a bra shop when she took over a management position while her friend, the owner, was out on maternity leave. She woke up one day and decided to convince her husband to move back to Detroit to start Busted.

“There’s more than just fashion. Boobs are functional, but they can cause problems. I wanted to be a help. I felt it would be a great way to employ people. Everybody wears them. We try to make our customers comfortable. And we have a lot of customers that say they’re no longer suffocating in their bras after we fit them,” Padgett said.

The shop caters to all sizes and body shapes and has products from 45 vendors. Padgett goes to New York City twice a year to shop the

lingerie market, and sometimes the vendors come to her. Busted also sells sex toys from LeLo, but it is best known for its array of bra styles and the willingness to cater to any body size.

Whether clients need everyday, sport, nursing, plunge, wire-free, backless or just pretty bras, Busted is the place to go. The shop is the first in the nation to offer what is called the Nubian Skin line and features designs and colors from a designer who wanted to provide women of color with lingerie that is close to their skin shade without having to dye their undergarments in tea or even furniture polish.

Padgett says that some clients come from across the country to peruse her stock and make a purchase that is just for them. One trans woman, and long-time client of Padgett’s, comes to Busted twice a year from Colorado because she knows that she is purchasing quality products from an inclusive and educated vendor.

When getting a new bra, Padgett says the most important thing to consider is trying it out for a test drive.

“Always try them on just like shoes. It’s tough to buy a shoe without trying it on first. You want to get measured every time you go



Busted was an exhibitor at the 2016 BTL Wedding Expo.

into a bra shop, even if it’s one you frequented multiple times – I would suggest getting a sitter,” Padgett explained.

Things to consider when trying on a bra:

- If the band moves when hands are raised, the cups are too small and/or the band size is too big.
- If the bridge between the cups doesn’t lay flat to the sternum, the cup size is either too big or too small.
- If the back of the cup doesn’t fit into the arm pit, it needs to be resized.

Bra wearers should also do what Padgett calls a “tune up” and make sure the straps are tight and in the right place.

As part of their showcase for the 2016 LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo, Busted showed off the fun and easy additions brides (or grooms) can put under their formal

See Weddings, page 18

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► Weddings

Continued from p. 17

wear to spice up the day.

“We wanted to be fun and flashy,” she said.

Busted has performed in other shows including one in the Penobscot Building and one at the Carr Center in Detroit. The shows have featured trans and cis-gender men and women, including models from the Flyhouse Circus group and the Detroit Derby team.

To learn more about Busted, visit their website at www.bustedindetroit.com.

LGBT Friendly Dessert Bar to Open in Downtown Farmington

The popular micro-batch creamery Browndog Creamery & Dessert Bar is preparing to open its second location in Downtown Farmington. The new Browndog will be known as Browndog Dessert Bar and will be a combination of a micro-creamery and cocktails. Located at 33314 Grand River Ave., Browndog Dessert Bar is slated to open the first or second week in June. The creamery was at Between the Lines’ Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo (<http://btlweddingexpo.com>) this past March.

Browndog Dessert Bar – owned by Paul Gabriel and Brian Scherle – will be an expanded concept of the Dessert Bar at their original Northville location. The new location will feature plated desserts and a craft cocktails bar, which will have a heavy focus on Michigan-made products such as Michigan craft beers and spirits to create cocktails such as beer floats and dessert

martinis.

Browndog Dessert Bar will also feature a small appetizer menu, and of course, Browndog’s small batch ice cream that is highlighted by unique flavor twists.

The new store will continue to be family-friendly but with a more adult feel than the original location in Northville.

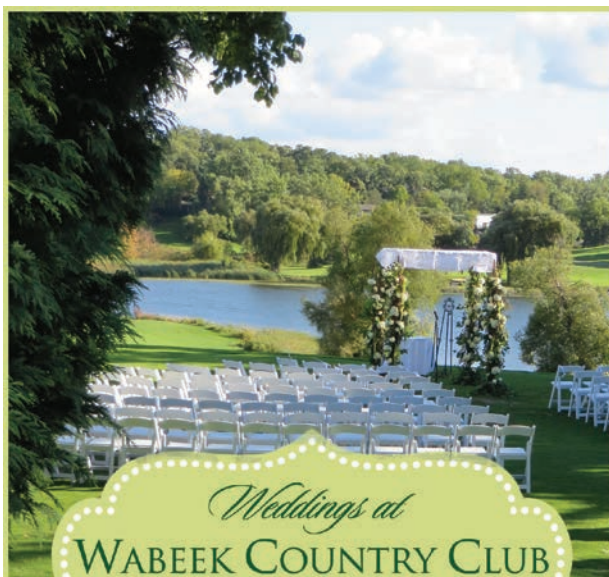
“We are looking forward to opening our second location in Michigan and will continue to keep with the Browndog tradition Michiganders have grown to love,” said Brian Scherle, co-owner of Browndog. “We are also excited that our new location will not only be the first ‘Dessert Bar’ in Michigan, but that it will also still have the walk in and grab a cone element of a traditional ice cream parlor that caters to the young and young-at-heart,” added Paul Gabriel, co-owner of Browndog.

To help bring the newest, must-visit Browndog to Downtown Farmington, Browndog Dessert Bar is looking for a pastry chef and mixologist to join their team. Interested job seekers can apply online at www.browndogcreamery.com/employment.

For more information on Browndog Dessert Bar in Downtown Farmington and their original location, Browndog Creamery & Dessert in Downtown Northville, visit www.browndogcreamery.com.



Browndog Dessert Bar – owned by Paul Gabriel and Brian Scherle – participated in the 2016 BTL Wedding Expo.



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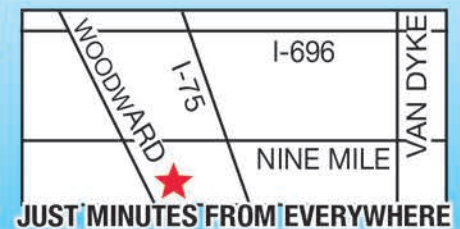


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Ferndale Ready to Celebrate its 'Biggest Pride Ever'

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALE – A larger festival footprint, more vendors and performers, and more related events are planned this year as Ferndale Pride returns for its sixth year on Saturday, June 4. More than 100 vendors, as well as eight bands, disc jockeys and other performers, will converge on downtown Ferndale for the annual street fair. Plus, in addition to the festivities on West Nine Mile Road between Woodward Avenue and Planavon Street, the street fair has expanded to include a portion of West Troy Street near Allen Street.

"This is our biggest Pride ever," said Julia Music, event chair for Ferndale Pride. "We've increased our footprint to Troy Street. More space will make it more comfortable for the crowd and allow more booths and food trucks."

Music has been the event chair for Ferndale Pride for three years now. "I founded the event with Craig Covey, Greg Pawlica and Monica Mills in 2011," she said. "Craig has been a mentor to me since I was 16 years old. So it just got to a natural transition point where I

was ready (to take the lead) and he was ready to pass the event on."

It takes over 100 volunteers to produce Ferndale Pride. "It's a great group of volunteers," said Shawn Starkey, who volunteers as the logistics coordinator. "There's a lot that goes into putting on Ferndale Pride. We have someone who coordinates all of the volunteers, we have someone who handles fundraising, we have a treasurer, we have someone who handles our IT, social media, that kind of thing, someone who's in charge of entertainment. That's a huge job. Then you have Julia who is chair of the whole thing and works all year round on this."

Starkey first started volunteering three years ago. "I decided I wanted to become more involved in the community," he said of his first year helping out. "I really enjoyed it, and at the volunteer appreciation event a month or so later I asked if there was anything else I could do and they said they were looking for a logistics coordinator."

It hasn't all been easy though. "It's been a challenge at least in getting sponsors because marriage equality is a reality and a lot of kind,

very generous sponsors thought that was what we were fighting for exclusively," explained Alysa Atkinson, fundraising coordinator. "So now that it's here, I think a lot of people think the fight is over."

Atkinson also said that the fact that Ferndale is such a generous city also, ironically, sometimes complicates things. "The hard part is that everybody in Ferndale is trying to raise money for something," she said. "So there is a problem I think with saturation. You go knock on somebody's door to ask for money and they've already been asked three times that day."

But Atkinson isn't complaining and she's been undeniably successful in her efforts. So far she has raised almost \$10,000 for the event. Music said Atkinson was an inspiration to others and that all of Pride's volunteers are special people.

"We have a lot of volunteers who want to attend Pride but they also want to serve the community," said Music. "And because we have so many volunteers, we're able to give more money to charity and people appreciate that. If we didn't have so many

volunteers we'd have to hire more staff. And it's wonderful, because at the end of the year we get to give money to our five charities."

The charities that Ferndale Pride awards money to include Affirmations, FernCare, the Ferndale Community Foundation, Matrix MAC Health and Transgender Michigan. But it could be argued that everyone who attends benefits from Ferndale Pride; the camaraderie, the fellowship and the fun.

"It's a ton of fun," Atkinson said. "You put a lot of work into it and sometimes you don't want to do it anymore because it's so much work and you're just a volunteer. Then the day of the event comes and it's like you're on drugs. You feel high. And it's like, 'This is it. This is what it was all for.'"

Starkey said it's the people that make Ferndale Pride what it is. "I think it's all the different kinds of people that come together to make the event happen, and those that come to the event, that makes it so special."

See more coverage on Ferndale Pride beginning on page 29.

MotorBall Ready to Rev its Engine Again This Year

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – Get your motor runnin' and get ready to head out on the dance floor because MotorBall is back. An official after party of Motor City Pride, the main event will take place Saturday, June 11, at St. Andrew's Hall. There will also be an opening party on Friday, June 10, on the rooftop deck of Brigg's Detroit.

"MotorBall is a really exciting event," said Maxwell Cameron, executive director of World AIDS Day Detroit. "It gives participants the opportunity to continue celebrating Pride after Motor City Pride closes, hear some awesome music, and have a great time all for an important cause, which is raising funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS."

The first MotorBall was produced in 1994 by Geared For Life and was originally known as the GEAR Party, which stood for Generating Education, Awareness and Respect. That first party raised \$15,000 for area HIV/AIDS organizations. Subsequent parties were a huge success and the event continued for over a decade until it was retired in 2005.

"The focus was taken off raising money so we decided to just stop it," said Derek Zachariah, a member of the original planning committee. "It was at a time when it just wasn't profitable to do something like that. We weren't raising as much money as we should have been for the cause. Expenses got out of hand so we just stepped away and said if we

couldn't originally do it for why we started, we just wouldn't do it at all."

Then, in 2014, the 20th anniversary of the start of the event, organizers had the idea to revamp it and give it one more try.

"We decided to bring it back just as a one-time thing," Zachariah said. "We lined up a new charitable organization to benefit from it and we got a lot of those people involved. We brought it back and it was a huge success. It was so successful we thought maybe we could turn it into an annual thing. The following year we were even more successful and this is now the third year since the hiatus and we're hoping to grow it even further."

This year MotorBall's organizers anticipate that more than 850 people will attend and help raise money for HIV/AIDS services in Michigan.

"Last year MotorBall was close to being sold out," said Terry Ryan, a member of the planning committee. "We anticipate this year there will be even more enthusiasm for this amazing event."

Scheduled to appear at this year's MotorBall are a wide variety of entertainers that includes adult film stars Casey Everett, Johnny V and Wesley Woods. Also in attendance will be Rocco Steele, Detroit's own Sabin, and DJs Chris Spinazzola and the Perry Twins. Also at the opening party: the legendary drag queen, DJ and adult film director ChiChi LaRue will be in the VIP lounge.

"We try to select entertainers who have broad

appeal," said Cameron.

"Particularly with our DJs, we look for nationally recognized talent that will draw a good crowd, energize the event, and make the crowd want to dance."

This will be Spinazzola's second year in a row at the event.

"I had a great time last year," said Spinazzola, who is based in Chicago. "I tore that dance floor up. At least, that's what I was told."

Zachariah said MotorBall is like no other event that takes place in the city.

"I enjoy putting an event together that's something that's unique to Detroit," he said. "You don't see it often. It's not like we're just taking over a bar and doing a special bar night. We're actually bringing in talent from different places that we don't usually see in Detroit. We're trying to make it special and kind of make it feel like you're in a different city."

But the money stays here. All the proceeds from this year's MotorBall will go to World



The Perry Twins will be guest DJs at this year's MotorBall along with DJ Chris Spinazzola.

AIDS Day Detroit.

"We are a not-for-profit organization so all of the money we raise goes to help the community," Zachariah said. "We are 100 percent volunteer so all of us take of our time. We don't get paid for it. We do it because we see a benefit for the community in it."

And there's no doubt that benefit is substantial.

"I think people would be surprised to find out how successful MotorBall has been in raising money for important HIV/AIDS services," said Cameron. "Since its inception, MotorBall has fundraised more than \$200,000 for HIV/AIDS in Detroit. So while we strive to produce a premier event, we also want to make a difference in the community."



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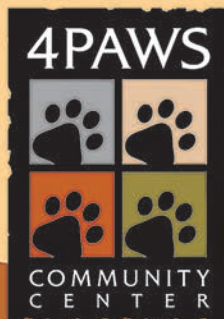
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Michael C. Lary Talks Stress of Pride Planning, Community Infighting and Ferndale's Jump in HRC Equality Rating

BY AJ TRAGER

FERNDALE – Over the past four years city employees in over 400 municipalities nationwide have gone through and reported their list of policies and regulations that extend discrimination protections for LGBT individuals to the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Municipal Equality Index.

Each city is given a rank between 0-100 based on 41 criteria that fall into five broad categories:

- nondiscrimination laws
- municipal employment policies, including transgender-inclusive insurance coverage and nondiscrimination requirements for contractors
- inclusiveness of city services
- law enforcement including hate crimes reporting
- municipal leadership on matters of equality.

Heading up the MEI report for Ferndale is Michael C. Lary, director of special events and projects for the city.

"I think what the MEI does is it brings attention to, makes a focal point of and validates the important consideration of LGBT issues. Because you have communities that probably don't know a thing about it. But if you have even the slightest hope of any kind of progressive mentality on your council or your city government, they're willing to take on some of these initiatives."

Since MEI started, HRC has made changes in how it grades municipalities each year. Those cities that previously did not allow for same-sex marriage, are now given a pass since marriage equality is legal nationwide, but some new cities may be under fire for issues surrounding public access.

The 2015 scorecard deducts three points for nondiscrimination protections in public accommodations that contain carve-outs prohibiting individuals from using facilities consistent with their gender identity. It adds bonus points for cities who provide services specifically to the trans community. The MEI score reflects up to 100 standard points and 20 bonus points.

"We're Ferndale. Everything is cool and groovy. But when you start looking at what HRC is looking at regarding their index, we just assumed that we were all OK," Lary explained.

After the 2014 MEI report scored Ferndale at 67, Lary was on a mission to improve the city's score. In 2015 the city scored 97 points.

They were able to raise the score by providing spousal healthcare to LGBT city employees and adding LGBT protection



“ *The joke was I stepped down because I was getting too gay, but I didn't want to be 'gay Michael Lary.' I wanted to be Michael Lary who is gay. And to be quite honest with you, I was getting fed up with drama within our community, the infighting and what some people define as leadership.* **”**

– Michael C. Lary on stepping down from organizing Pride

welcoming council all together, who wants to do right by everybody and wants to give back a message to everyone that it's a welcoming community," he explained.

The city of Ferndale has a partnership with Affirmations and sees the community center as a leading resource for LGBT affairs in the area. Lary met with Affirmations last year to discuss how the city can better support and understand concerns surrounding LGBT homeless youth, LGBT older adults, HIV/AIDS and transgender men and women.

Pride in Michigan, LGBT Film Festival

Lary is no stranger to LGBT politics and is a bit of a legend in the local LGBT community. Throughout the 90s and early 2000s he was integral in the creation of the LGBT Film Festival, Comedy Fest (now produced by Equality Michigan) and what was known as PrideFest. He also owned Just 4 Us in Ferndale before it was sold to Kevin Rogers in 2004.

The current Motor City Pride, which takes place in Hart Plaza June 11 and 12 this year, went through significant changes before it would turn into the largest Pride festival in the state. In 1985 the Michigan Organization for Human Rights hired Craig Covey to begin organizing a Pride parade. A year later "Forward Together," a statewide pride/civil rights parade, debuted in downtown Detroit. Three years later the parade moved to

Lansing in hopes of attracting more statewide participation and news coverage for the event.

The same year, the Detroit Area Gay and Lesbian Council led by Frank Colasanti, Jr. held PrideFest at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Not long after that, PrideFest moved into the Oakland Community College Campus in Royal Oak.

Lary assumed the role as coordinator of PrideFest in 1992. In 1993, Lary and a number of others formed Southeast Michigan Pride, a group focused on producing an annual Pride festival. A year later they renamed the event PrideFest Celebration, "A Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride Celebration."

In addition to organizing Pride, Lary also designed and organized the Reel Pride Michigan: LGBT Film Festival which lasted for seven years. The film festival was a hit for LGBT moviegoers and had extremely successful opening and closing nights.

"Having the film festival was a struggle because it didn't really make money to sustain itself. That's why I started the gay and lesbian comedy festival. It was always successful and raised \$10-15,000 profit to help sustain PrideFest. People really like laughing," Lary said.

By 2002 the celebration was getting too big for Royal Oak. Lary met with the city manager of Ferndale, and PrideFest was moved there. With the move complete and after a decade of organizing Pride, Lary stepped down. Later that year PrideFest became a project of the Triangle Foundation, now known as Equality Michigan.

"The joke was, I stepped down because I was getting too gay," Lary said. "But I didn't want to be 'gay Michael Lary.' I wanted to be Michael Lary who is gay. And to be quite honest with you, I was getting fed up with drama within our community, the infighting and what some people define as leadership."

Doing Pride festivals for Lary was the first avenue to feeling good about who he was. That energy prompted him to share more of himself and his energy with other people, to bring the LGBT community together in a way where members could share as well as enjoy entertainment – with events that were for LGBT people, by LGBT people, that weren't solely centered around a fundraiser or political advocacy.

In spite of "stepping down" from some important projects over the years, he has never stepped down from doing the right thing when it comes to advocating for LGBT equality and his most recent efforts have elevated Ferndale and provided much needed additional protections in a state that still needs to amend its civil rights law to protect its LGBT citizens.

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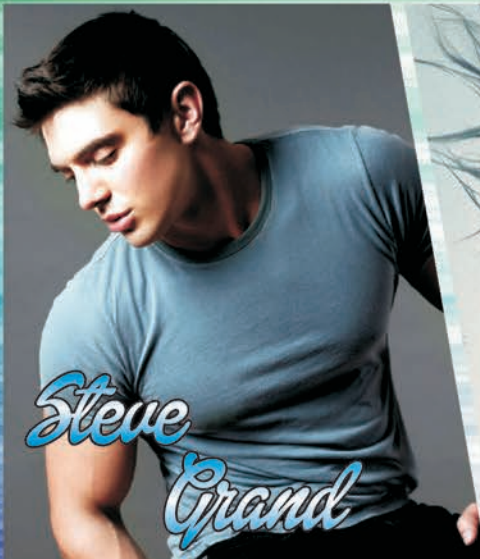
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- 1:30 p.m. DVJ Mark
- 2:30 p.m. Jaimie Wilson
- 3:30 p.m. Shadina
- 4:30 p.m. Johnathan Celestin
- 5:30 p.m. Drag Review featuring Sabin
- 5:45 p.m. Kim Chi
- 6:15 p.m. Adore Delano
- 7:00 p.m. Detroit Drag Review featuring Sabin

Sunday, June 12

- 12:30 p.m. Jason Michael
- 1:30 p.m. Sing OUT Detroit
- 2:00 p.m. Motor City Drag Review
w/ Mr & Miss Motor City Pride 2016
- 3:00 p.m. Sam Tolson
- 4:00 p.m. Alise King
- 4:45 p.m. Jason Maek & Zaena
- 5:30 p.m. Steve Grand
- 6:15 p.m. Jeffrey Austin

FESTIVAL

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Saturday

- 1:30 p.m. 666chainz
- 2:15 p.m. Poetry/ Spoken Word
Averett Robey
Tiran Burrell
Nadine Marshall
Jason B. Crawford
- 3:30 p.m. March of the Ant
- 4:30 p.m. Nice Demere
Damon "Magic" Perc
Intellect (by way of D
J Anthony Trimble
- 5:45 p.m. Young Kaii
- 6:30 p.m. All Day Monday

Sunday,

- 1:00 p.m. Sandy Mulligan and
- 2:00 p.m. Beautiful Showcase
- 3:30 p.m. Ricky Simone
- 4:30 p.m. RayGiftedKeys
- 5:30 p.m. Sandra Valls

THE UNDE

Saturday, June 11

- 1:00 p.m. MA
- 2:00 p.m. Ja
- 3:30 p.m. DJ
- 5:00 p.m. Jo
- 6:30 p.m. DJ

Sunday, June 12

- 1:00 p.m. MA
- 2:00 p.m. DJ
- 3:30 p.m. DJ
- 5:00 p.m. J-S

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Saturday, June 11

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Mr & Miss Motor City Pride Pageant 2016

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Guilty Pleasures' LGBTQ Burlesque

Sunday, June 12

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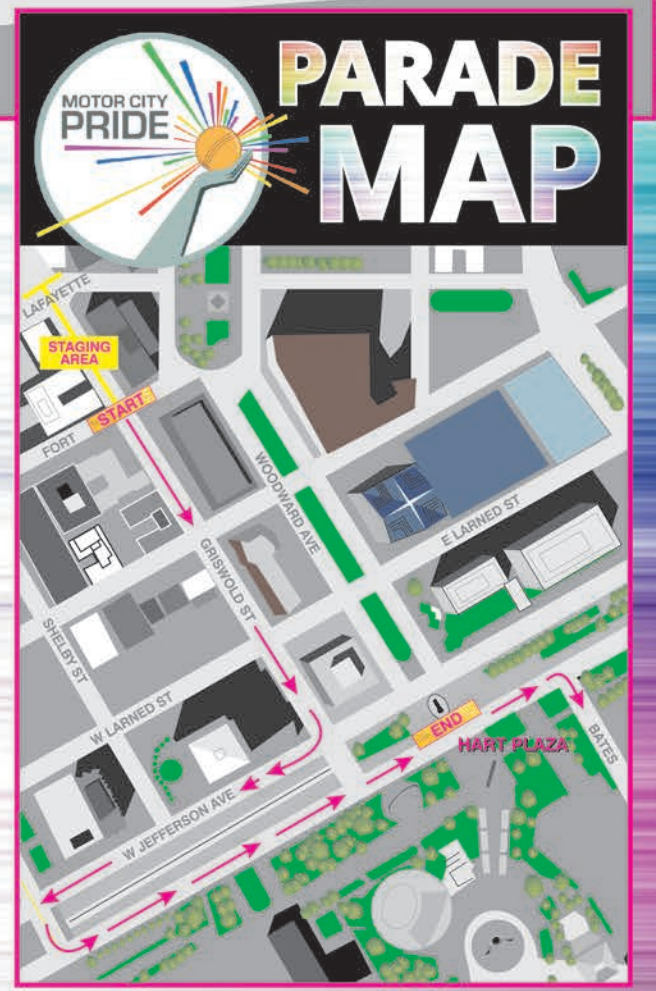
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Sick of Sarah Ready to Rock Out Ferndale Pride

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Susanna Hoffs of the Bangles said they are “hilarious and wild” with a charisma and chemistry she found to be “utterly charming,” and Nancy Wilson of the legendary rock band Heart called them “the real deal”: they are Sick of Sarah from Minneapolis and they’re coming to headline Ferndale Pride June 4. “It’s the most amazing feeling,” said SOS’s Abisha Uhl, who plays guitar and sings lead vocals, of

the praise from Hoffs and Wilson. “We look up to these women so much and to have them support us is just an amazing feeling. It’s really hard to describe.”

Jessica Forsythe, who plays drums and sings backing vocals, concurred.

“These are ladies who have paved the way for female musicians to do what we do and we definitely respect them for that,” she said.

Founded in 2005 by Uhl, the band has gone through several personnel changes since then.

Most noticeably, they recently switched from an all-female band and added a couple of guys to round out their sound.

“It’s evolved quite a bit,” said Uhl. “In the beginning we just didn’t know what the hell we were doing. We had a little something going, but from when we first started we’re a lot, lot better. Musically, we’ve evolved quite a bit. You want to keep up with the times. You don’t want to stay the same.”

Forsythe joined the band in 2010.

“I came from more of a business background,” she said. “I think we’ve all kind of learned through the years that loving and embracing our talents with music is super important. But just as much with the industry and how it has changed, having some idea of what’s going on with the business changes is equally important.”

After recording with Adamant Records for

See Ferndale Pride, page 30



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► Ferndale Pride

Continued from p. 29

several years, Sick of Sarah released an EP last year, called “Anthem,” on their own.

“We decided two or three years ago to part ways with our label and management head that we’ve worked with a long time,” said Forsythe. “We just wanted to try it and go in a different direction. I think, for us, we wanted to have control of the songs and the production on the songs and we never had that before.”

The goal, said Uhl, is “to be financially stable and continue doing what we’re doing. We’re not out seeking riches but, hell, that would be nice. We really just want to continue playing music and traveling and reaching out to everybody in every spot in the world who wants to hear us play live. We’d love to have our music distributed more on television. But I think the goal is just to continue playing music and be financially stable.”

For now, both Uhl and Forsythe play jack of all trades and juggle many interesting jobs when they’re not in the studio or on the road. “We have normal jobs,” Forsythe said. “We pick up work

Susanna Hoffs of the Bangles said they are “hilarious and wild” with a charisma and chemistry she found to be “utterly charming,” and Nancy Wilson of the legendary rock band Heart called them “the real deal”: they are Sick of Sarah from Minneapolis and they’re coming to headline Ferndale Pride June 4.

wherever we can. But this is what we love to do, so we make it happen.

“It’s been a hard few years embracing all the changes we’ve gone through,” Forsythe continued. “It just hasn’t been an easy change for us, so that’s been the number one question on our minds. What does the future hold? We know we want to continue on and continue to write music for our fans and for us. But it all just kind of depends. What’s meant to be is going to be. But right now we’re still just struggling, straggling musicians.”

Fans will be pleased to know that despite the struggle, the band is in the

studio working on new music. Perhaps the group will preview a few selections when they hit the stage at Ferndale Pride.

“We tend to get a lot of new fans that way,” Uhl said of playing Prides and outdoor summer festivals. “It’s just great to meet new people.”

Forsythe said the band has a lot of love for their gay fans.

“We’re very big supporters of the LGBT community, and it’s great to be a part of it and bring something to the festival,” she said. “It’s our first time at Ferndale Pride so we’re interested to see what it’s all about.”



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LOS ANGELES



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PRIDE 2016



Alyssa Atkinson received a Good Neighbor = Strong Community award in April. Photo: Larry J. Mills

Ferndale Pride Volunteer Receives Good Neighbor Award

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALE – For Alyssa Atkinson, volunteering is therapeutic.

"I've had problems in the past with depression and anxiety and I sometimes will find it hard to go out and do things with people because I get frightened of talking to people," Atkinson explained. "Volunteering has almost cured me of that. It allows me to get out of my head and makes me speak to people. So I feel it's a little selfish sometimes. I do it because it helps me. But I do pick causes that are important to me so that's part of it, too."

Atkinson volunteered for the first time while in college at Central Michigan University, where she earned a bachelor's of science degree in community development. "I volunteered for something called Conversation Partners where foreign exchange students would come here from Korea and I would show them around," Atkinson recalled. "I did it because I wanted something to put on my resume and it sounded really fun. And it was."

Once she had finished college, Atkinson, now 27, came back to the Ferndale area she had grown up in and became actively involved in the community. By day she is the special assistant to Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash. But

her work does not end when she leaves the office. Atkinson is the fundraising chair for Ferndale Pride, and she also volunteers for Ferndale Youth Assistance and MAC Health (formerly the Michigan AIDS Coalition) among others.

In April, she received a Good Neighbor = Strong Community Award from the Citizens for a Fair Ferndale group. "It was the first and only award that I've ever won," said Atkinson. "I really, really love the city. I always knew when I went away to college I wanted to come back and help the city. It was really amazing to me to be honored for doing something that I love."

Though straight, Atkinson was raised by a lesbian mother and fighting for LGBT rights and equality is definitely important to her. "It was something that was a part of my life and affected me," she said. "And just growing up in Ferndale, I met a lot of people in that community who became people who were important to me and that I cared about."

Atkinson was thrilled when Julia Music, event chair for Ferndale Pride, offered her the chance to head up the fundraising committee. "The stars just really aligned and the first time we met we just hit it off," she said. "They had a few fundraisers in place when I started and then we created some new ones and I just really ran with it."

Thanks to Atkinson's hard work, Ferndale Pride now does a tin can raffle at Rosie O'Grady's, a dining fundraiser at Zeke's Rock And Roll BBQ and a Hot Daddies Contest at SoHo.

"Alyssa is a tireless volunteer," said Music. "She has raised close to \$10,000 for Ferndale Pride as the fundraising chair. She encounters every volunteer with a smile and excitement. Her energy is contagious. She's a role model showing all of us how acting locally can make a huge impact on our communities."

AIDS is another cause close to Atkinson's heart. "That's what my grandfather passed away from when I was very young," said Atkinson. "He was a Baptist preacher and he worked for Chrysler and he couldn't tell anybody why he was sick. His family disowned him. They wouldn't let him sit on their couch or use their bathrooms so I just felt very sad. I don't want anybody else to ever go through that."

Whatever the cause, Atkinson said she just likes helping people. "I had no idea when I was younger that you could go into trying to make the world a better place and it's really wonderful," she said. "I'm so glad that I've made that my purpose. All of a sudden I'm doing all of the stuff that I wanted to do, and it's really cool. I feel lucky to be doing what I do, and to be recognized for that is great. I feel really lucky."

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Dorothy Rutkowski, "Purple Radiation"

Art Radiates at Affirmations

"PRIDE 2016!" an exhibition featuring the fine arts and fanciful creations of 14 rainbow artists, is in place at Affirmations' Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery space and scheduled to run through Pride Month (June) and Hotter Than July.

The exhibition officially gets under way with Ferndale's Annual Pride Celebration – an eagerly attended event dating back almost 20 years – on June 2, at Nine Mile, between Woodward Avenue and Planavon Street.

Says Affirmations Community Resource Manager Kelsey Hug, "Response to our art committee call for artist participation and submission in 'Pride 2016!' is outstanding. However, due to space limitations in Affirmations' exceptionally inviting and sought-after art gallery space, submission was limited to two juried art pieces.

"It is, nonetheless, an outstanding showcase of talent and pride of LGBT and allied artist participation. The past several art exhibitions have also been noteworthy. Our second Trans Visibility Art Exhibition in April/May was well attended at its opening, and favorably commented upon by the media.

"Our upcoming July Affirmations exhibition will be the gay, historic drag show photography of Detroitier Bruce Harkness."

Participants in "PRIDE 2016!" are Charles Alexander, Heather Aymer, Harley Cummings, Karen Dorgan, Jenn Frazier, Alexandria Gibson, Kelsey Hug, Josephine Jamison, Malachi London, Bern Merlo, Ron Parent, Vy Reed, Dorothy Rutkowski and Jack Summers.

Affirmations Art Committee members are Kelsey Hug, Jack O. Summers and Charles Alexander. Summers is a well-known artist, and a frequently chosen planning member of art organizations. Alexander has been the Affirmations volunteer art juror/coordinator for the past nine years. He received the Jan Stevenson Recognition Award in 2008.

For details about the June 2 "PRIDE 2016!" opening reception, call 248-398-7105.



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BTL  

Join The Conversation

Summer Pride Calendar

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JUNE 2

Ferndale Pride's All Media Arts Exhibition

7 p.m.
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
www.goaffirmations.org

JUNE 3-5

Go Girl Saugatuck!

Formerly known as "Women's Weekend" at the Dunes, Go Girl Saugatuck! has been rebranded with a new name by producer Mimi Gonzalez and it's loaded with many more events. Everything from dancing to comedy to music to partying will be happening at the Dunes Resort. Dunes Resort, 333 Blue Star Highway, Douglas
269-857-1404 or www.gogirlsaugatuck.com
Tickets: \$10-20.

JUNE 3

KGLRC/Kalamazoo Pride Love Who You ART

5 p.m.
Urban Modern Hair, 235 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo
Patrons will be able to vote for their favorite art piece throughout the event and the winning piece will be displayed in the KGLRC atrium for a month. Enjoy light refreshments and snacks with friends.
269-349-4234 or www.pride.kgrlc.org

JUNE 4

Kalamazoo Pride Do-Dah Parade

450 E. Lovell St., Kalamazoo
The zany, hilarious and silly format of



Dykes on Bikes

this parade will allow participants to use their creativity on silly costumes, funny dances and crazy characters to represent diversity and Kalamazoo Pride.
maggie.adams4334@gmail.com or www.pride.kgrlc.org

Dykes on Bikes Ferndale Pride Ride & Booth

Noon
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
Meet in Affirmations back parking lot, then ride to Ferndale Pride.
www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

Summer Arts and Crafts Bazaar

Noon
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
Will feature arts and crafts vendors (\$40 vendor fee for a 5 foot table and two chairs – only 10 tables available), fun and celebration of Ferndale Pride and more. The Recess Store, Cafe and Lounge will be open from noon to 4 p.m. during the Bazaar.
LReyes@goaffirmations.org or www.facebook.com/

events/1780283438859181/

Ferndale Pride

1 p.m.
Downtown Ferndale
www.ferndalepride.com
Featuring wedding/commitment ceremony, food trucks, retail and nonprofit booths and more. Multiple after parties throughout Ferndale. Featuring band Sick of Sarah. Free.

Rock n Roll: Music That Changed Our Lives

7:30 p.m.
LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus
First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Molly Grove Chapel
Concert will be interpreted into American Sign Language. Tickets: \$10-20.
www.lansingout.org/

JUNE 5

Transgender Day of Empowerment Events

10 a.m.
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road,

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www.goaffirmations.org

Rainbow Run

10 a.m.
Downtown Ferndale
www.rainbow-run.com
Produced by the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce, featuring a 2K Walk, 2K Canine Color Walk and a 5K Run to support diversity and acceptance.

Drag Queen and King Brunch

1 p.m.
Rosie O'Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
www.ferndalepride.com

Rock n Roll: Music That Changed Our Lives

3 p.m.
LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus
First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Molly Grove Chapel
Concert will be interpreted into American Sign Language. Tickets: \$10-20.
www.lansingout.org/

Mr. Spiral and Ms AM Spiral Double Crowning

6 p.m.
Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing
Spiral is looking for talented Queens and Kings to represent Spiral as our newly crowned Mr. Spiral 2016-17 and Ms Amateur Spiral 2016-17. If you think you have what it takes, please contact Trell Jackson (Delicious) for more information on how to enter. Registration is \$50 and presentation is 90s movies. If you're not looking to compete, please join the festivities by cheering the contestants on! Performances by Mr. Spiral 2015-16 Ryder Knightley, Ms AM Spiral 2015-16 Analya Lebel Crespo, and Ms Pro Spiral Sabin. \$5 cover. 18+.
www.spiraldancebar.com

JUNE 8-25

LGBT Pride Month Exhibit of Charles Alexander's Art
Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit
313-831-1250.

JUNE 10

Kalamazoo Pride
6 p.m.
Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo
pride.kglrc.org

Adore Delano: Official Motor City Pride Pre-Party at Necto

9 p.m.
Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
Featuring "RuPaul's Drag Race" Top 3 contestant from Season 6.
www.facebook.com/



Kim Chi will perform at MotorCity Pride this year

[events/1241908435829150/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1241908435829150/)

JUNE 11

Kalamazoo Pride Brunch
10 a.m.
The Union, Kalamazoo
Featuring Michigan state Rep. Jon Hoadley.
Tickets: \$35
jay@kglrc.org or 269-349-4234

Motor City Bears' Annual Car Wash
11 a.m.
22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
www.motorcitybears.com
Suggest donation: \$5

Motor City Pride
Equality Michigan (See pgs. 25-28)
2 p.m.
Hart Plaza, Detroit
www.motorcitypride.com
Tickets: \$5

Kalamazoo Pride
2 p.m.
Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo
pride.kglrc.org

Sing Out Detroit: Lights, Camera, Action! From Broadway to Big Screen
7:30 p.m., Lamphere High School, 610 W. 13 Mile Road, Madison Heights
Sing Out Detroit rolls out the red carpet for this tribute to the best music from Broadway to Big Screen.
248-943-2411 or www.singoutdetroit.org
Tickets: \$15-20.

Motorball
9 p.m. 18+
St. Andrew's Hall, Detroit
www.motorball.org

Continued on page 38

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► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 37

JUNE 12

Dykes on Bikes Motor City Pride Ride & Booth

12 p.m.

Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale

Meet in Affirmations back parking lot, then ride to Motor City Pride.

www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

Motor City Pride Parade

Noon

www.motorcitypride.org

Join us as thousands gather in the streets of Detroit to celebrate and make our presence as a community known. Floats, Queens, Cars & more. The parade brings together a fantastic cross section of groups, companies and entertainers for an exciting march to Hart Plaza!

Motor City Pride

Equality Michigan

Noon

Hart Plaza, Detroit

www.motorcitypride.com

Tickets: \$5

JUNE 13

Michigan LGBT Health Summit

7:30 a.m.

Double Tree by Hilton Bay City - Riverfront, Bay City

The agenda will focus on best practices from industry experts, innovative projects and transformative programs centering on providing quality care for the LGBT population in Michigan.

<http://gaybe.am/lhs>

JUNE 17

Second Annual White Party

Part of Grand Rapids Pride.

www.grpride.org/fest/

JUNE 18

Hand in Hand Opening Event

11:30 a.m.

Part of Grand Rapids Pride.

www.grpride.org/fest/

Grand Rapids Pride Festival Street

Fair

Noon

Calder Plaza, Grand Rapids.

www.grpride.org/fest/



Michigan LGBT Health Summit

Pride Pick

Michigan LGBT Health Summit: Meeting the Primary Care Needs of the LGBT Population

The Michigan Primary Care Association will host its first Michigan LGBT Health Summit June 13 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bay City, Michigan.

The summit will include panels and breakout sessions that will focus on best practices from industry experts, innovative projects and transformative programs centering on providing quality care for the LGBT population in Michigan. The keynote

address will be delivered by Dan Lentine, MPH, partnerships liaison for the Office of Policy, Planning & External Relations, Division of STD Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who will talk about the national efforts to transform care for the LGBT population.

Registration costs \$50 for students, \$155 for non-FQHC partners and \$140 for FQHC. For more information contact Lindsey Naeyaert, clinical specialist with the Michigan Primary Care Association, at lnaeyaert@mpca.net or 517-827-0874. More details can also be found at <http://gaybe.am/lhs>.

Motown Invitational Classic Annual Detroit River Boat Cruise and Tea Dance

12:45 p.m.

Stroh's River Place, Jefferson Avenue at Detroit River

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313-727-4101; www.mictournament.org

Tickets: \$25.

Motor City Bears Bingo and Dinner Fundraiser

4 p.m.

Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale

www.motorcitybears.com

To benefit Affirmations and the Ruth Ellis Center.

Continued on page 40

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► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 38

The First Annual Grand Rapids Pride Concert on the Calder

6 p.m.
Calder Plaza, Grand Rapids
www.grpride.org/fest/

JUNE 19

First Annual Grand Rapids Pride Family Concert on the Calder

Calder Plaza, Grand Rapids
www.grpride.org/fest/

JUNE 21

Perceptions' Pride Awards Banquet

6 p.m.
The Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw
The 8th LGBT and Ally Pride Awards Banquet honors people and a business who have worked on LGBT equality. Cost: \$20-30 per person.
www.perceptionsmi.org/prideBanquet.php

JUNE 24

Holland PRIDE Film Festival

7 p.m.
Park Theatre, Holland
Featuring the film "Prodigal Sons."
www.hollandpride.org

Pride Pick



Hotter Than July 2016

Detroit's Black Gay Pride is here!

The 2016 Hotter Than July celebration will feature nearly a week of activities for the LGBT community beginning July 26 stretching to July 31.

The week kicks off with a Candlelight Vigil beginning at 6 p.m. July 26 at the Blue Spruce Memorial Tree in Palmer Park. A fine arts reception will be held at the Carr Center July 27 and will pre-date the official opening party that will begin at 9 p.m. at the Woodward Bar & Grill located at 6426 Woodward Ave.,

Detroit. Valet parking is available. Attendance cost is \$5.

Hotter Than July will host an annual gathering on LGBT issues beginning at 8 a.m. July 29. The event will include a day of education and advocacy with an array of interactive and informative workshops covering issues of importance for cis and trans people and youth. Admittance is free following registration.

The pinnacle event of the festival, the Palmer Park Picnic, will kick off the weekend at 10 a.m. July 30. The picnic receives over 20,000 guests who gather to celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity.

Sunday services include a 10 a.m. worship service at Whosoever Ministry located at 2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit. The festival will close with a Sunday brunch beginning at 12 p.m. The location will be announced shortly. Check www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/ for updates and for information on other HTJ events. *See page 42 for more details.*

JUNE 25

Holland PRIDE Film Festival

11 a.m.
Holland Civic Theatre, Holland
Featuring the films "Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine," "La Mission" and "The Imitation Game."
www.hollandpride.org/

Second Annual Summertime Tie Dye (And Clothing Donation Picnic)

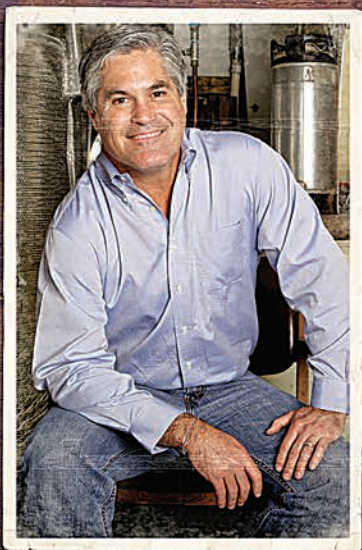
1 p.m.
Patriarche Park, 1100 Alton Road, East Lansing
Humans United for an Equal Society (HUES) hosts this event – bring white or light colored clothes to dye and they will provide music, snacks and the dye. Clothing donations will benefit the Ruth Ellis Center and Gateway Community Services in Lansing.
www.facebook.com/events/1555549934746336/

Flint Pride in the Alley

2 p.m.
Buckham Alley & Rutherford Ramp, Flint
\$5 suggested donation
The intent of this event is to celebrate diversity in Flint. Affirm gay and transgender individuals, increase viability and to build a sense of community.

Continued on page 42

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www.lordoflight.org

• **King of Kings Lutheran Church**
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www.kingofkingslutheran.org

• **Trinity Lutheran Church**
1400 Stadium Blvd.
www.trinityaa.org

• **Burton**
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www.spiritofhopedetroit.org

• **East Lansing**
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www.ulcel.org

• **Ferndale**
Zion Lutheran Church
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www.fernzion.org

• **Kalamazoo**
Lutheran Church of the Savior
3616 East G Avenue
www.lcoskzoo.com

• **Kentwood**
Ascension Lutheran Church
4252 Brenton Rd. SE
www.twochurches.org

• **Livonia**
Timothy Lutheran Church
8820 Wayne Rd.
www.timothylutheranchurch.com

• **Muskegon**
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1132 Southern Ave.
www.oslcmuskegon.org

• **Port Huron**
St. Martin Lutheran Church
805 Chestnut St.
phone: 810.982.9261

• **Rochester Hills**
Abiding Presence
Lutheran Church
1550 Walton Rd.
www.AbidingPresence.org

• **Saline**
Holy Faith Church
6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd.
www.holy-faith-church.org

• **Trenton**
St. Philip Lutheran Church
1790 Fort St.
www.stphilipelca.org

• **Toledo, Ohio**
St. Lucas Lutheran Church
745 Walbridge Ave.
www.stlucastoledo.org



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Adorn Detroit
September 18th

An art fair of art wear. Sixty artists who make fashion as individual as you are. Clothing, jewelry, accessories, cosmetics & more. Plus twenty vintage clothing dealers.

► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 40

www.facebook.com/FLINTGAYPRIDE

Motor City Bears Italian Night Charity Dinner

5 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church, 143 Albany, Ferndale
Charity dinner and silent auction to benefit Affirmations and the Ruth Ellis Center.
www.motorcitybears.com

JUNE 27

National HIV Testing Day

Visit www.pridesource.com/directory.html, www.pridesource.com/calendar.html or pick up a copy of the Pride Source Yellow Pages to find testing events in your area.

JULY 10

Dykes on Bikes Harsens Island Ride

12 p.m.
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
Meet in Affirmations back parking lot, then ride to Harsens Island along St. Clair River.
www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

JULY 23

Great Lakes Bay Pride

Perceptions
Noon
Veterans Memorial Park, Bay City
www.greatlakesbaypride.org/

JULY 26-31

Hotter Than July

LGBT Detroit hosts this week long event celebrating black LGBT pride in Detroit.
lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 30

Hotter Than July: Palmer Park Picnic

9 a.m.
Palmer Park, Detroit
313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 27

Hotter Than July: Fine Arts Reception

6 p.m.
Carr Center, 311 E. Grand River, Detroit
313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

Hotter Than July: Official Opening Party

9 p.m.
Woodward Bar and Grill, 6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit
\$5
313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 28

Hotter Than July: Play

7 p.m.
Details TBD
313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 29

Hotter Than July: Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues

8 a.m.
University of Michigan Detroit Center, 3663 Woodward Ave. Detroit
Registration is required.
313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 30

Hotter Than July: Palmer Park Picnic

10 a.m.
Palmer Park, Detroit
313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 31

Hotter Than July: Worship Service

10 a.m.
Whosoever Ministry, 2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit
313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

Hotter Than July: Sunday Brunch

Noon
\$25
Location TBD
313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

AUG. 5

OUTFest & Pride Picnic

www.a2outfest.com

AUG. 6

OUTFest & Pride Picnic

www.a2outfest.com

AUG. 7

OUTFest & Pride Picnic

www.a2outfest.com

Windsor-Essex Pride Fest Parade

11 a.m.
This year's festival focuses on bringing all different segments and groups together to celebrate the accomplishments we have made in the Windsor-Essex region and Canada as a whole.
Ouellette Avenue & Elliot Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
www.wepridefest.com



Pride Pick

BTL Columnist's Art to be Displayed in Detroit's Scarab Club

An LGBT Pride Month exhibit of the art of well-known Detroit artist and Between The Lines columnist Charles Alexander will be held in the Scarab Club Second Floor Gallery, June 8-25. Meet-the-artist reception with refreshments from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, June 16. The Scarab Club is located at 217 Farnsworth at John R. For information: 313-831-1250.

Alexander has been an exhibiting artist at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and has also exhibited at the Birmingham/Bloomfield Art Gallery, the Detroit Artists Market, the Hatch Gallery and the Affirmations LGBT Art Gallery (volunteer curator for nine

years). His art has been featured on covers of Metro Times, Between The Lines, and as content for Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Ann Arbor Press, A&U and Detroit magazines.

A native-born Detroit, Alexander graduated as a commercial art major from Cass Technical High School. He has been a member of Detroit's LGBT community since 1956. He celebrated his 80th birthday in May.

AUG. 12

Motor City Bears Turkey Point Camping Weekend

7 p.m.
Ontario, Canada
Visit www.meetup.com/motor-city-bears/ for more information.
www.motorcitybears.com

AUG. 13

Transgender Pride in the Park

Noon
Donald Red Geary Park, Ferndale
An event featuring free food, free fun and great friends held every year by Transgender Michigan. Hot dogs and other stuff provided – please bring a side dish if you wish.
www.transgendermichigan.org

Dykes on Bikes Cement City Ride

12 p.m.
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
Meet in Affirmations back parking lot, then ride to Cement City in Lenawee County.
www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

AUG. 26

White Party

Michigan Pride
7 p.m.
Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
www.michiganpride.org
Tickets: \$20-25.
White or silver attire.

AUG. 27

Pride Parade

Michigan Pride
12 p.m.
200 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
www.michiganpride.org
The march will be held rain or shine and should last approximately 30 minutes.

Michigan Pride Festival in Old Town

Michigan Pride
12 p.m.
Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
www.michiganpride.org
Michigan-based musicians, food, games, crafts and more. All ages welcome.

SEPT. 10

Upper Peninsula Pride Fest

Based out of Marquette, Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride consists of people of all backgrounds with one common goal: to bring PRIDE local!
Tourist Park, 2145 Sugarloaf Ave., Marquette
www.uprainbowpride.com

SEPT. 18

AIDS Walk Detroit

Royal Oak Farmers Market
www.aidswalkdetroit.org

Dykes on Bikes Summer Wind Farms

Noon
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
Meet in Affirmations back parking lot, then ride to Summer Winds Farms in Brown City.
www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org


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Genders Bend in Unique, Gay-Themed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Ferndale's Slipstream Theatre Initiative Presents Fairies, Nudity and More for Gay Pride

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Two couples walk into a bar. Yes, that's a familiar opening to many a tale, but when the couples are Hermia and Lysander and Helena and Demetrius, and the bar is a gay nightclub with Puck as the shot boy, then Slipstream Theatre Initiative's upcoming production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will surely become one of the major highlights of this year's Pride celebrations beginning June 18 in Ferndale.

"(It's) been done every way under the sun," said director Luna Alexander of the Bard's classic comedy, "and so we decided why not have an absolute blast with the magic, and with the fairies, and with the lover's stories, and put it in a gay bar? What more magical night could you possibly ever hope for?"

How about one in which all of the roles are played by men? True, bent genders have been a trademark of Slipstream's since its founding in 2014, but here's yet another delightful twist. "(The) guys are playing guys the whole time," Alexander said.

In other words, the couples are anything but straight.

It's a concept Slipstream's cofounder and artistic director Bailey Boudreau easily justifies. "Because they're at a gay bar, if (Hermia and Helena) were played as females, it wouldn't make much sense. I don't know, these two random straight couples wander into the bar ... it just gets weird."

In fact, only one character in the play is straight. And wouldn't you know it: It's Bottom, a frat boy with a penchant for being a bottom.

Although such a concept isn't part of the original text, Shakespeare's oft-produced comedy *is* filled with fairies, magic potions, romantic entanglements and what Alexander calls "a cat fight" between Hermia and Helena. But how do you



It's raining men and glitter in Slipstream Theatre Initiative's unique production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Photo: Trever Bennett

transform an ancient, five-act script with nearly two-dozen roles into a contemporary, 90-minute romp with only nine actors?

"There's going to be some trimming," Alexander explained. "There's some stuff that we really don't need." And because it is a smaller cast, a couple of actors will double up. "But a good share of the meat is going to be there. Which is lucky for us, because 'Midsummer'

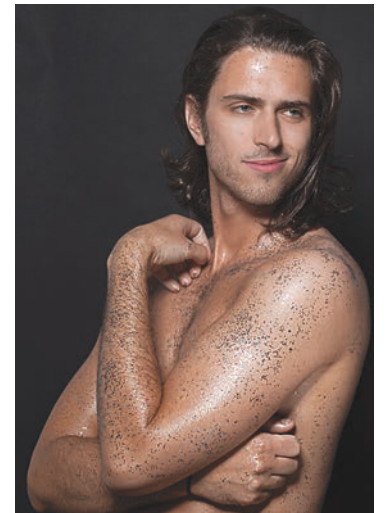
is one of (Shakespeare's) shorter (plays), so we're not going to be messing with it too much."

Add a creative reimagining to the mix, and the result is a new adaptation in which two sets of hapless lovers enter the only gay bar in the neighborhood of Athens, Ohio, where – according to the show's press release – "they learn about self-identity, the fickleness of love and the power of dance

to emerge unscathed and truer to themselves the next day."

All with the help of Titania, the bar's star drag queen, of course. "She's the Nikki Stevens of the club," Alexander said, referencing the long-time headliner at Gigi's in Detroit. "Oberon is the owner of the entire establishment. They have a lovely feud that's always going on, and (it) changes from night to night."

One other thing will change



Steve Xander Carson (Helena). Photo: Trever Bennett



Patrick Flanagan (Titania). Photo: Trever Bennett

nightly, as well. "Let's just say there's some audience participation," Boudreau teased.

"Nothing too nuts," Alexander added, "but people will have fun."

And then there's the nudity.

Actors Let It All Hang Out


For a play with mostly gay male characters set inside a gay dance club that's scheduled to run

See Midsummer, page 46

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concurrent with Pride events in Metro Detroit – and including partial and possibly full nudity (you’ll have to see the show yourself to find out which) – one might expect to find mostly gay actors on the Slipstream stage.

That won’t be the case, however, as six of the nine men identify as straight. And several of the cast have never bared all in front of a paying audience – especially one that will likely consist of many gay men eager to check them out.

So one can’t help but wonder which is scarier: performing in a Shakespeare play, or appearing naked on stage in front of friends and strangers?

“Shakespeare,” said Patrick Flanagan, who plays Titania, “because there’s a lot to it, you know what I mean? There’s so many different ways to say even one word. There’s so many different ways to interpret one word. Then put that in the context of a character in a situation, in a scene. We always can just take our clothes off and disconnect from the reality of being looked at by the people. Creating something as professional as Shakespeare, for me personally, I always found to be a challenge.”

Brenton Herwat, who tackles the role of Demetrius – and whose muscular frame and dangling appendage have become familiar to Ferndale-area theatergoers – agrees. “I’m definitely comfortable with being naked, but Shakespeare – I am so little trained in that. I don’t have to worry about my ‘hang down’ mixing up the language, so that’s much easier than trying to figure out what I’ve got to say,” he laughed.

Also in agreement is Boudreau, who plays Hermia. “I would say Shakespeare, also, not because I’ve been nude so often, but because people aren’t going to outwardly judge your nudity. They *are* going to outwardly judge how you did your Shakespeare. There’s going to be a public conversation and perception of what your Shakespeare was, not what your ball sac looked like.”

Artun Kircali, however, has a somewhat different perspective. “Getting naked is scarier for me just because – I don’t know if it’s just me – but I always had issues with worrying what other people thought,” he said. “It’s not that I’m worried if someone’s going to care what my dick looks like or what my hair looks like or something like that.”

Instead, he continued, “People might start coming up with really untrue and strange reasons for why you are naked. Why did he take the part? Is he some sort of exhibitionist? Is he really proud of himself? Does he have some sort of god complex about himself?”

There’s more to his apprehension, however; there’s a cultural component to it, as well. “I don’t know if it’s because my family’s from a different country, but that’s something. I get that paranoid, random thought from just the stuff I’ve heard my



Artun Kircali (Lysander). Photo: Trever Bennett

family say.”

That’s not to say Kircali, as Lysander, finds performing Shakespeare easy. “Societally, getting naked is scary; intellectually, Shakespeare is infinitely scarier,” he said.

For Miles Bond – who is perfectly cast as Puck the shot boy – body image is a major concern. “I guess it’s partially a self-confidence thing,” he noted. “I’m not saying I have like very low self-confidence, because doing theater as much as I have for the past few years, I’ve gotten a lot more confident in myself. Just as far as my body goes, there are still parts of me I would like to change – that I’m still working on and not too proud about. Just sharing myself – and that much of myself with just a bunch of people – the thought of it sounds terrifying. But that’s what they say about theater and moving on in life: If it scares you, that’s like the biggest reason that you should do it.”

Does it bother the actors that patrons may show up simply for the nudity? Or that they

may be objectified by some of the men – and also the women – in the audience?

“Everybody has a different reason for coming to see a show,” explained the theater’s heart throb, Steve Xander Carson, who portrays the whiny (and tall) Helena. “They’re going to see whatever they’re going to come to look for. You may or may not ever have to see that person again, so it doesn’t really make that much of a difference.”

Kircali is fine with it, as well. “I say *good* if they want to give us \$12 and just look at my dick. If they don’t come for the Shakespeare, they better dig in and try and learn what the hell I’m saying, or they’re going to be lost for 10 minutes and (have) a shitty time for the next 45,” he laughed.

Ever the producer, Boudreau takes a realistic approach to the question. “We know that there are people coming to see it just *because* of the nudity, so we’re going to show (them) some nakedness.”

A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Slipstream Theatre Initiative

460 Hilton Road, Ferndale

313-986-9156

www.slipstreamti.com

\$12 in advance only

8 p.m. Saturday, June 18, 25, July 2, 9

7 p.m. Sunday, June 19, 26, July 3, 10

7 p.m. Monday, June 20, 27

8 p.m. Thursday, July 7

8 p.m. Friday, July 8

More philosophical, however, is Flanagan. “I was at the DIA today, and I saw lots of paintings and photographs of nude women and men, and I was marveling at the human form because it is a beautiful thing. There’s nothing wrong with engaging yourself in the physique of a fellow human and appreciating it aesthetically or sexually or some combination of both.”

Ironically enough, a recent photo shoot with the cast proved how society’s views of nudity still impact even the most enlightened of young actors. Although a handful had just met the others for the first time, the group expressed a level of comfort with one another that would lead one to expect little or no hesitation on their part to strip naked in front of each other. When prompted to do so by photographer Trever Bennett, however, only Boudreau doffed his skivvies; the rest chose not to.

Why? The answer can likely be found in something Herwat – a veteran of stage nudity – said earlier that evening. “That stigma of being naked in front of people – it was so scary at first. You’re comfortable when you’re one on one with somebody. The idea of doing it in front of a whole bunch of people you don’t know for whatever reasons you’re doing it for, whether it be theater or not, is scary. That first time it was really unnerving; for that (first) three seconds you’re like, ‘Oh my God, I’m naked in front of all these people!’ Then you get that next line and you’re back in the show and you forget about what you’re doing; it takes you right back to that moment.”

Later, after the main photo shoot was finished, individual shots were taken, and more actors joined Boudreau in the buff, reflecting a thought Flanagan expressed earlier. “It’s that Puritan residue from so many centuries back that still clings with us,” he said. And he is indeed correct.

Several weeks later, the jitters are mostly gone, and opening night looms in the not-too-distant future. When asked earlier why people should come see Slipstream’s unique version of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” the quiet, but handsome, Kircali summed it up best. “It’s Shakespeare at a gay bar. Hopefully the intrigue (would) set in.”



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'Heathers the Musical' is the darkly delicious story of Veronica Sawyer, a brainy, beautiful teenage misfit who hustles her way into the most powerful and ruthless clique at Westerberg High: the Heathers.

Jordan Gagnon is Veronica Sawyer in "Heathers The Musical" playing at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre through June 13. Photo by Brandy Joe Plambeck.

'Are You a Heather?'

Detroit Premier of 'Heathers the Musical' Plays at The Ringwald

FERDALE – The Ringwald Theatre continues its Season of Classics with the Detroit premiere of "Heathers the Musical" by Kevin Murphy and Laurence O'Keefe.

Based on the classic 1989 film, Westerberg High is ruled by a shoulder-padded, scrunchie-wearing junta: Heather, Heather and Heather, the hottest and cruelest girls in all of Ohio. But misfit Veronica Sawyer rejects their evil regime for a new boyfriend, the dark and sexy stranger J.D., who plans to put the Heathers in their place – six feet under.

"Heathers the Musical" is the darkly delicious story of Veronica Sawyer, a brainy, beautiful teenage misfit who hustles her way into the most powerful and ruthless clique at Westerberg High: the Heathers. But before she can get comfortable atop the high school food chain, Veronica falls in love with the dangerously sexy new kid J.D. When Heather Chandler, the Almighty, kicks her out of the group, Veronica decides to bite the bullet and kiss Heather's aerobized ass... but J.D. has another

plan for that bullet.

Brought to you by the award-winning creative team of Kevin Murphy ("Reefer Madness") and Laurence O'Keefe ("Bat Boy," "Legally Blonde"), "Heathers the Musical" is a hilarious, heartfelt and homicidal new show based on the greatest teen comedy of all time. With songs like "Freeze Your Brain," "Dead Girl Walking," and "My Dead Gay Son," Heathers wants to know: are you in, or are you out?

Brandy Joe Plambeck directs with musical direction by Bethany Calderona, and choreography by Jill Dion.

"Heathers the Musical" plays through Monday, June 13 at 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Monday nights with 3 p.m. Sunday matinees. Ticket prices are \$25 for Friday and Saturday performances, \$20 for Sunday shows, and Monday nights are more than half off the original ticket price at only \$10 a ticket. All students can now receive a \$5 discount off normal ticket price on Friday, Saturday and Sunday performances (available at the box office the day of

the show with valid student ID). Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theater box office. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card.

The Ringwald opened their doors eight years ago on May 11, 2007 with "Fatal Attraction: A Greek Tragedy." Quickly, The Ringwald became a mainstay of Detroit's theater community. Past Productions include: "Mr. Burns," "a post-electric play," "Glengarry Glen Ross," "Stupid Fucking Bird," "Angels in America," "Into the Woods," "A Streetcar Named Desire," "August: Osage County," "The Bad Seed," "Making Porn," "The Book of Liz," and "Evil Dead: The Musical." The Ringwald was named 2009, 2012 and 2013 Best Theatrical Troupe by Real Detroit and Best Place to See Local Theatre in 2010, 2011 and 2012 by the readers of Metro Times.

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

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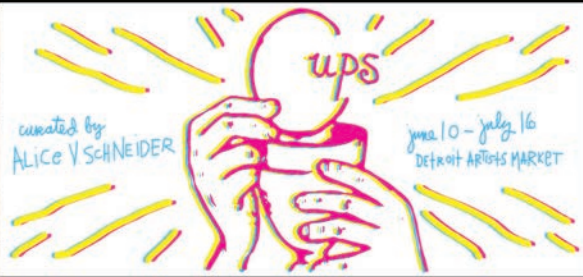
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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, June 2

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

Friday, June 3

Love Who You ART 5 p.m. There will be free refreshments and light appetizers to enjoy. Kalamazoo Pride two-day passes will be available for purchase, as will Pride merch. Kalamazoo Pride, 235 S. Kalamazoo Mall, **Kalamazoo**. www.Kglrc.org

First Friday Potluck 7 p.m. This celebration of food and women will be outside. Please bring a dish to pass, the beverage of your choice and a lawn chair if you have one. Following the potluck, there will be a bonfire. Lansing Lesbians, 14371 McCrumb Road, **Eagle**. dawnms6886@yahoo.com www.meetup.com

Prince Birthday Party 9 p.m. All vinyl set featuring DJ Psycho, DJ Scotty D, and Dante LaSalle. 18 and over welcome. Free before 10 p.m., \$5 after. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com/

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

LGBTQ-Friendly Yoga Class 3:30 p.m. Sign up ahead of time is required. Join this LGBTQ-friendly yoga class in a protected space where people are encouraged to let their guard down and get real with their body, mind and spirit. Lansing Lesbians, 106 Island Ave., **Lansing**. http://justbyoga.com/schedule/

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. lsbndani@aol.com www.goaffirmations.org

Rock-n-Roll: Music That Changed Our Lives 7:30 p.m. Concert will be interpreted into American Sign Language. Tickets: Sliding scale of \$10-20. LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus, 510 W. Ottawa, **Lansing**. director@lansingout.org www.lansingout.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@reddoornightclub.com www.reddoornightclub.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

Mr. Spiral and Ms AM Spiral Double Crowning 6 p.m. Spiral is looking for talented Queens and Kings to represent Spiral as our newly crowned Mr. Spiral 2016-17 and Ms Amateur Spiral 2016-17. If you think you have what it takes, please contact Trell Jackson (Delicious) for more information on how to enter. Registration is \$50 and presentation is 90s movies. If you're not looking to compete, please join the festivities by cheering the contestants on! Performances by Mr. Spiral 2015-16 Ryder Knightley, Ms AM Spiral 2015-16 Analya Lebel Crespo, and Ms Pro Spiral Sabin. \$5 cover. 18+. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 5173937700. sam@spiraldancebar.com www.SpiralDanceBar.com

Monday, June 6

Ann Arbor "Aut" Social Group 7:30 p.m. Ann Arbor area lesbians and friends gather to dine and socialize. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-769-8385. joinautsocial@umich.edu www.autbar.com

Tuesday, June 7

LGBT Pride Night Pre-Game 4 p.m. Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, 519 East Jefferson Ave., **Detroit**. 313-673-3001. info@detroitlgbtchamber.com www.

briggsdetroit.com/#briggs-sports-bar

Pride Night Comerica Park 6 p.m. Tickets starting at \$20. Watch the Jumbotron at the end of the fourth inning for a special message! Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, **Detroit**. https://groupmatics.events/LGBTChamber6716

Thursday, June 9

Men's Film Group 6:30 p.m. Men's Film Group, for men ages 18 and up, features a variety of films followed by discussion. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. mensgroup6@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

Naked Men's Yoga 6:30 p.m. Naked Men's Yoga, **Ann Arbor**. massage4@aol.com http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

Friday, June 10

Good Rainbow Genes An LGBT Pride Month exhibit of the art of well-known Detroit artist and Between the Lines columnist Charles Alexander. A meet-the-artist reception with refreshments will be held on Thursday, June 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, **Detroit**. 313-831-1250. www.scarabclub.org

Adore Delano: Official Motor City Pride Pre-Party at Necto 9 p.m. Featuring "RuPaul's Drag Race" Top 3 contestant from Season 6. Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. www.facebook.com/events/1241908435829150/

Saturday, June 11

Kalamazoo Pride Brunch 10 a.m. Featuring state Rep. Jon Hoadley. Tickets: \$35. Kalamazoo Pride, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. jay@kgirc.org kgirc.org

Motor City Bears Car Wash 11 a.m. Join the Motor City Bears for the 10th Annual Motor City Bears in Speedos Car Wash. Motor City Bears, 22635 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. motorcitybears@gmail.com motorcitybears.com

Kalamazoo Pride Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, **Kalamazoo**. www.Kglrc.org/pride

Lights, Camera, Action! From Broadway to Big Screen 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15-20. Sing Out Detroit, 610 W. 13 Mile Road, **Madison Heights**. 248-943-2411. www.Singoutdetroit.org

Battle of the Boy Bands 9 p.m. Special Throwback Fevre Saturday event Battle of the Boy Bands. Boy Band Event



Editor's Pick

The Moth is a nationally acclaimed organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. The Moth has presented thousands of stories, told live and without notes, to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. One of their "Mainstage" events come to East Lansing's Wharton Center June 9.

Each Moth Mainstage features simple, old-fashioned storytelling by five wildly divergent raconteurs who develop and shape their stories with The Moth's directors. After past sold out performances in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor, The Moth Mainstage comes to East Lansing with a line-up of writers,

performers and other unique national and local storytellers. You never know how the stories might unfold. Some are dramatic, funny or suspenseful – and perhaps all these things and more.

The Moth Mainstage will play 7:30 p.m., June 9 in the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall. Tickets start at \$32. VIP tickets are \$60 and include premium seating and private pre and post-performance receptions in the Jackson Lounge, including a meet and greet with The Moth storytellers after the performance. The Wharton Center is located at 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Call 517-432-2000 or email wharton@msu.edu for more information.



Editor's Pick

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre presents a musical comedy based on the popular Adam Sandler film this week: "The Wedding Singer." It's 1985 and rock-star wannabe Robbie Hart is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer. He's the life of the party, until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection. As luck would have it, Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark, and unless Robbie can pull off the performance of a decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever.

"The Wedding Singer" runs June 2-5 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets range from \$13-25. Visit <http://www.a2ct.org/shows/the-wedding-singer> for more information.

RDNC Celebrate the music of all of your favorite Boy Bands. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-541-1600. info@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com/events/battle-of-the-boy-bands/

Sunday, June 12

Motor City Pride Tickets: \$5. Free for under 12. Equality Michigan, Detroit. www.Motorcitypride.org

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

Motor City Pride Parade 12 p.m. Equality Michigan, Detroit. www.Motorcitypride.org

MUSIC & MORE

Cinetopia Film Festival "Classic Disney Shorts" Sit back and enjoy a curated collection of the best shorts from the wonderful world of Disney. Following the screening of these iconic Disney short films, Leonard Maltin will give a behind the scenes talk about the animators and illustrators who brought these stories to life. Redford Theater, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit. 2 p.m. June 11. 313-537-2560. www.cinetopiasfestival.org

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Florence + The Machine" With Of Monsters and Men. DTE Energy Music Theatre, Clarkson. 7:30 p.m. June 11. www.Ticketmaster.com

Gina's Jazz & Soul Food "Sunday After Jazz at Ginas Jazz & Soul ft. Sky Covington & Jimi Blues" Sky Covington accompanied by Pianist Jimmy Blues. Gina's Jazz & Soul, 17410 E. Warren, Detroit. 2 p.m. June 5. 313-469-1732. ginajazzandsoul.com

Orchestra Hall "Strauss' Seductive Salome" Tickets: \$15-100. Maestro Slatkin leads a spectacular "opera in concert" to conclude the classical season. A one-act masterpiece based on Oscar Wilde's French play, experience Strauss' Salome (and her infamously seductive "Dance of the Seven Veils"), with American soprano Lise Lindstrom in the title role. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 3 - June 5. 313-576-5111. www.dso.org

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

THEATER

Benefits and Fundraisers

BravoBRAVO! Tickets: \$180. This annual fundraiser connects Detroit's best restaurants and entertainment with thousands of revelers, all in support of Michigan Opera Theatre. This 21 and over event, hosted by Taryn Asher and Jason Carr, requires classy cocktail and black tie attire. Michigan Opera Theatre's Volunteer Association, The Detroit Opera House, 1426 Broadway St., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 3. 313-961-3500. www.bravoBRAVO.org

Civic/Community Theater

Detroit '67 Tickets: \$20 to \$35. Award-winning Detroit playwright and DPT Advisory Board member Dominique Morisseau takes the audience on a journey to 1967 in the city of Detroit. Detroit Public Theatre, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 28 - June 5. 313-576-5111. <http://www.detroitpublictheatre.org/>

Forever Plaid Tickets range from \$27-\$42. This popular musical closes out the theater's golden anniversary season on the campus of Oakland University. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through June 19. 248-377-3300. www.mbtheatre.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

College/University Theater

MSU 56th Annual Summer Circle Various shows ranging from kids to adult only. MSU Department of Theatre, Summer Circle Courtyard, Auditorium Road, East Lansing. June 8 - June 25. www.theatre.msu.edu/SCT

Professional

Dreamgirls PG-13. Tickets: \$22-24. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. June 3 - June 26. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

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

Spoken Word/Storytelling

The Moth Mainstage Tickets: \$32+. The Wharton, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. June 9. 800-WHARTON. www.Whartoncenter.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Farm & Garden "Ann Arbor Garden Walk" This year features seven beautiful gardens. Go to our website for maps and descriptions of each garden. Advanced tickets are \$15 or \$20 at any of the gardens. Ann Arbor Farm & Garden, Ann Arbor. June 11. 734-994-3586. www.annarbortfarmandgarden.org/garden-walk.html

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" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 20 - June 12. 313-833-7900. www.Dia.org

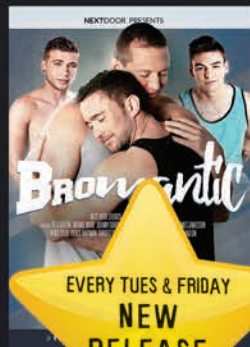
Eastern Market "Michigan Makers Market" Meet over 75 artists, authors, craft people, inventors, small business owners and more during this summer Sunday market event. Public admission is free, but art is available for purchase. Shed 5, 2934 Russell St., Detroit. 10 a.m. June 5. 313-833-9300. www.easternmarket.com/

Lawrence Street Gallery "Nature's Song" Lawrence Street Gallery presents Nature's Song, a solo exhibition of member artist Helena Kuttner-Giasson's Fine Art For Small Spaces. The opening reception will be held Friday, June 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. June 1 - June 30. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce "Clay, Glass and Metal Show" Exhibitor Contact: Mark Loeb, Integrity Shows Artists. Washington Ave., Washington Ave. (between 4th and Lincoln), Royal Oak. June 11 - June 12. 248-547-4000. www.integrityshows.wix.com/royal-oak-cgm

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Catherine Opie: 700 Nimes Road" This exhibition presents new and recent work by Los Angeles-based artist Catherine Opie, one of the essential figures in contemporary photography. Beginning in 2010, Opie spent six months taking photographs at the Bel Air, California, residence of Elizabeth Taylor. The exhibition includes 50 works drawn from two series, "Closets and Jewels" and "700 Nimes Road." A. Alfred Taubman Gallery, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. June 11 - Sep. 11. 734-647-0524. umma.umich.edu/view/exhibitions/2016-opie.php

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'After Louie' wants to turn back time

LGBT film has moved past the moment when virtually all the stories produced were about AIDS, but that doesn't mean that there aren't many more stories to tell about the trauma and devastation of the first wave of the disease. "After Louie," a film by first-time feature director Vincent Gagliostro, co-written by Antony Johnston, will look at the perspectives of two generations of men on either side of the timeline. Alan Cumming has been cast as an older artist and activist, a man who survived the '80s and '90s, and who now finds himself in a relationship with a younger man (Zachary Booth) for whom the era is something only heard about second-hand. The film is in the middle of a Kickstarter funding campaign, but the technical team and cast are ready to go: attached in supporting roles are Wilson Cruz, David Drake, Justin Vivian Bond and Joey Arias. We wish them all the Kickstarter luck in the world, but could some power-gay producer just step in and handle this, please? You know who you are.



Ellen DeGeneres, Photo: Starfrenzy

Ellen DeGeneres launches 'Ellen Digital Network'

While you weren't paying attention, Ellen DeGeneres was gently promoting digital content on daytime TV, making YouTube, Vine and Snapchat understandable and accessible to an entire population usually ignored by those platforms. Who cares if some of it is remedial (like explaining Ryan Gosling "Hey Girl" memes years after their inception)? The point is that she's basically explaining the internet to people who didn't know they wanted to care. And this is why her next step as an all-powerful mogul is so potentially lucrative. She's launching the "Ellen Digital Network," a programming slate that includes the "Damn, Daniel!" kids, an animated series about her own pets called "Ellen's Pet Dish," new episodes of "Dance Challenge," a user-generated content show called #MadeByYou, the "Ellen Show" game called "Epic or Fail," and a content development deal with social media star Tyler Oakley. Bottom line: Ellen is taking your mom into the future with her, and you'll know your own life has jumped the shark when she makes

a show out of unicycling frog meme, "Here Come Dat Boi."

Teyonah Parris: From 'Mad Men' to 'Soldier Girl'

Still not sure who Teyonah Parris is? Then you're not watching the right stuff. Already called the "Next Big Thing" by industry trade The Hollywood Reporter, Parris made a big impression as Dawn, the first black secretary hired on "Mad Men," before moving on to Justin Simien's feature "Dear White People" and starring in Spike Lee's "Chi-Raq." And now she's in talks to star in "Buffalo Soldier Girl," to be directed by Christine Swanson (the upcoming TV movie "The Miki Howard Story") from an original script by 2015 Texas Writer of the Year, author Sarah Bird. Set up by the production company Pantheon of Women, the script is based on the true story of a woman named Cathy Williams, who, disguised as a man, enlisted and fought with the African American post-Civil-War-era Buffalo Soldiers. The film is expected to shoot in Texas this fall for a 2017 release. Be on the lookout for this one.

Jessica Lange v. Susan Sarandon in feud

By now, if you even come close to other human beings who have access to the internet, you've already heard about this one: Susan Sarandon and Jessica Lange will play Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, respectively, in Ryan Murphy's new eight-part limited series, "Feud." Murphy's TV domination is an uncontested fact these days, recently bolstered by the sweeping critical approval and great ratings of "American Crime Story: The People Vs O.J. Simpson." And this latest effort is going to be catnip to Baby Boomer and senior age gay men who grew up obsessed with the very real ongoing battle between Crawford and Davis, two stars who loved to hate each other so much that their stunning early 1960s collaboration, "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" felt more like real life than fiction. Our not-so-secret wish, though, is for some women on the writing staff to have a Marcia Clark-level of empathy for these two vintage Hollywood warriors. The last thing anyone needs is a typical gay male wallow in comic misogyny. Look, someone has to say this stuff out loud, you know?

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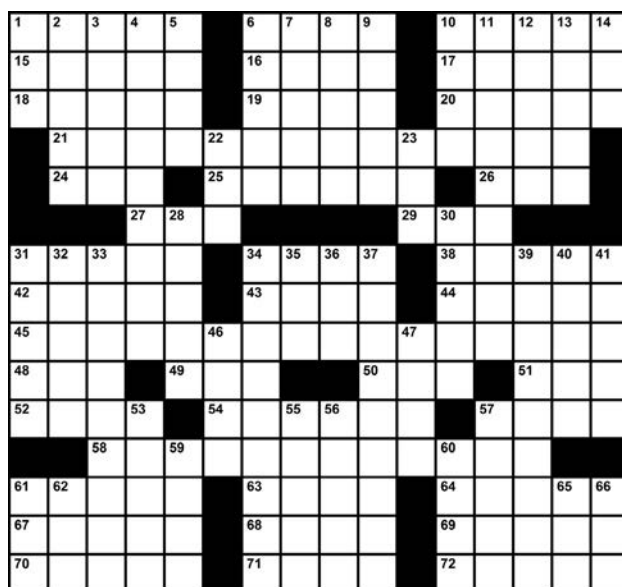
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Grace and Frankie - Portrait on a Chair

Across

- 1 Start of a favorite holiday
- 6 Drag queen on the make
- 10 Orchestra section
- 15 Stroke your boa, e.g.
- 16 "La Traviata" solo
- 17 Porno film "___ 69"
- 18 Spanish painter, with "El"
- 19 Part of Mapplethorpe's equipment
- 20 Try a Susan Feniger

cookbook, e.g.

- 21 Start of what Grace said to Robert about a portrait on a chair
- 24 P-town summer hrs.
- 25 Rubber
- 26 Cluck of condescension
- 27 B. Bean's greatest hits
- 29 Come out on the beach
- 31 Hot stuff
- 34 Army base

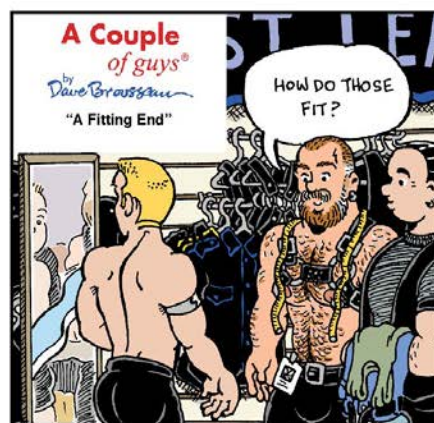
- 38 Greek fabulist
- 42 Composer Copland
- 43 Soothing agent
- 44 Words before evil
- 45 More of what Grace said
- 48 Scores by David Kopay
- 49 Arena cry, to Lorca
- 50 ___-Magnon man
- 51 On the other hand
- 52 Suffix with prefer
- 54 Inventor Otis
- 57 "Xena" deity
- 58 End of what Grace said
- 61 Opportunity for Glenn Burke
- 63 Soon, to Shakespeare
- 64 "My Fair Lady" composer
- 67 Elizabeth Perkins' role in "Weeds"
- 68 Billy Masters' specialty
- 69 Wong in a 1960 film
- 70 Went down on a body part
- 71 Groups of games, to Navratilova
- 72 Playground retort

Down

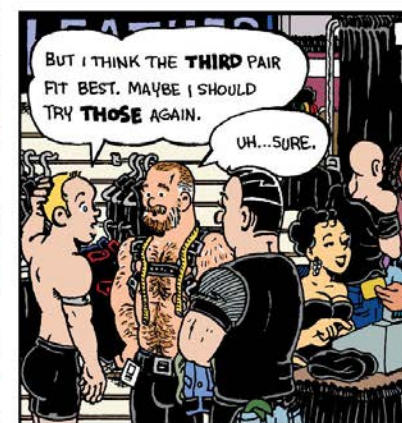
- 1 Car ad stat
- 2 It's for sweaters
- 3 Boat bottom bumpers
- 4 Jenner's Olympic event
- 5 Party to
- 6 Balls in battle
- 7 Gladiator area
- 8 Works the shaft
- 9 Out
- 10 Mel's role with Jodie in "Maverick"
- 11 Signature dish of Auden's land

- 12 Rainbow flag sticker sites, often
- 13 Are lousy
- 14 DC figure
- 22 "Let's do it!"
- 23 Land of singer S. O'Connor
- 28 Drummer managed by Brian Epstein
- 30 Opera villain, usually
- 31 Montmartre menu
- 32 "Surprise Symphony" composer
- 33 Like Pepper on "Modern Family"
- 34 Social workers' work
- 35 "I Could Have Danced ___ Night"
- 36 Francois Ozon, to himself
- 37 Inclinations
- 39 South Beach cooler
- 40 When actors should come
- 41 Bishop and Teasdale
- 46 With 40-Down, Jackie's designer
- 47 Interest, slangily
- 53 Intercourse while surfing?
- 55 Lint collector
- 56 Stallion's sound
- 57 Colette's love
- 59 "Now!" in a hospital
- 60 Lanchester of "Bride of Frankenstein"
- 61 When doubled, defensive fire
- 62 Ann Heron's "One Teenager in ___"
- 65 Ill. neighbor
- 66 Antidiscrimination letters

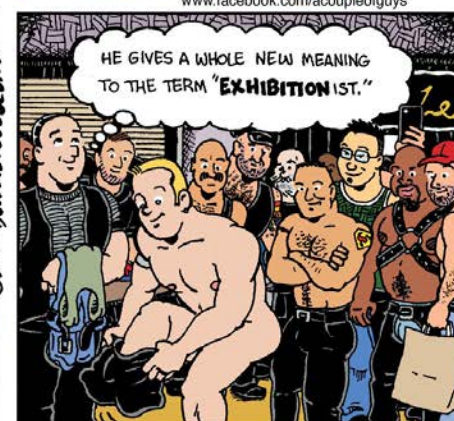
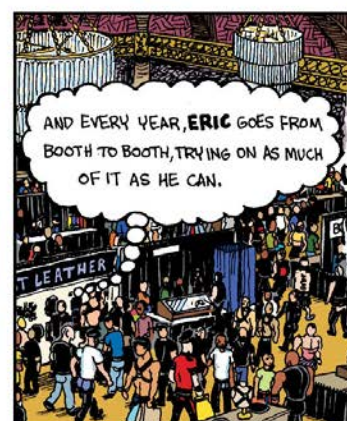
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