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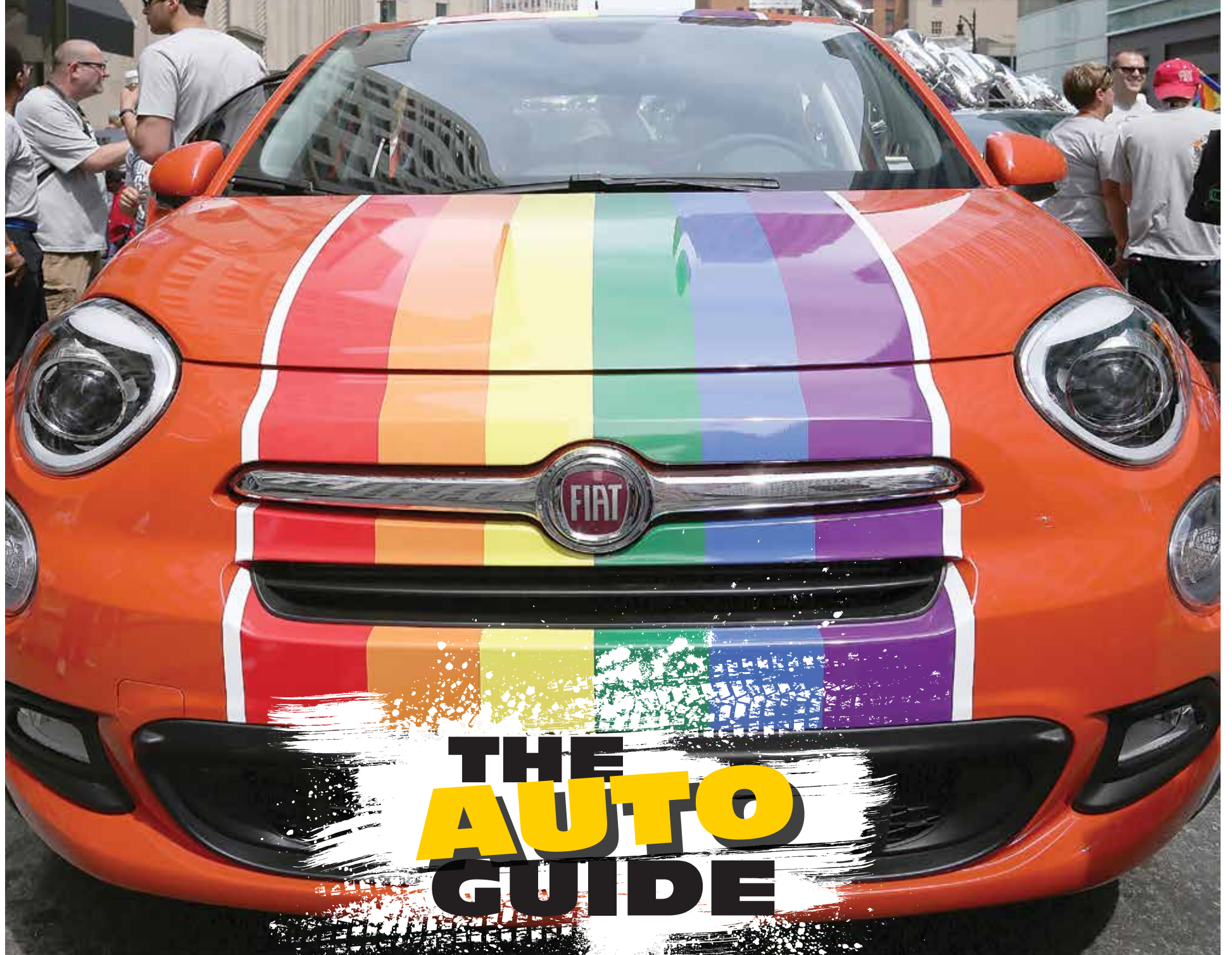
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Years

Tyler Glenn on Resisting Suicide, Losing His Religion & Being 'Unapologetically' Gay

John Allen Paving the Way for LGBTQ Youth

A Conversation with Chelsea Clinton



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As we reflect on the LGBTQ movement in the U.S. and our significant achievements over the past several years, John Allen reminds us that if we want to succeed we must continue to lead. He knew a long time ago not to expect LGBTQ youth to do what he wouldn't do personally.

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ELECTION 2016 ONLINE



BTL's Bi-Annual Guide to Progressive candidates who support LGBT equality, the environment, labor and women's rights. Now online @ www.MiVoterGuide.com. The print version is now available where BTL is distributed and will be inserted as pullout section once again Nov. 3.

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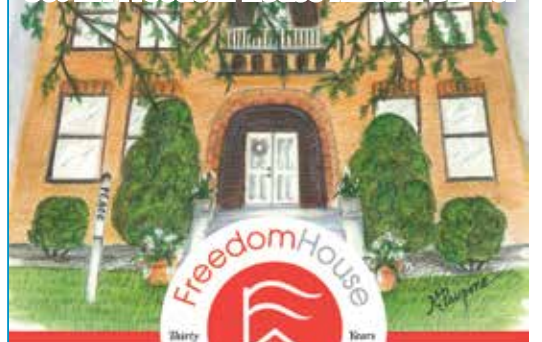
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Detroit Police Officer Dani Woods Recipient of Equality Michigan Award

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Detroit Police Officer Dani Woods is this year’s MacAllister Award winner, presented by Equality Michigan.

“Officer Woods has been such a dynamic, long-time agent of change within the Detroit Police Department and in the community at large,” said Stephanie White, EQMI executive director.

“Detroit’s LGBTQ community has been incredibly lucky to have Officer Woods working inside of the system over the years to ensure our cases and issues are taken seriously and handled with greater care and respect.”

Officer Woods is a Detroit native and 16-year veteran with the DPD. She is currently assigned to the Chief’s Neighborhood Liaison unit where she coordinates and oversees the operations of the Citizen Radio Patrol. Officer Woods was appointed as the first LGBT Liaison Officer for the police department. She formulated the first LGBT Advisory Board Committee under the appointment of Chief James E. Craig and is a driving force in the LGBT community in her efforts of “Bridging the Gap” between law enforcement and the LGBT community.

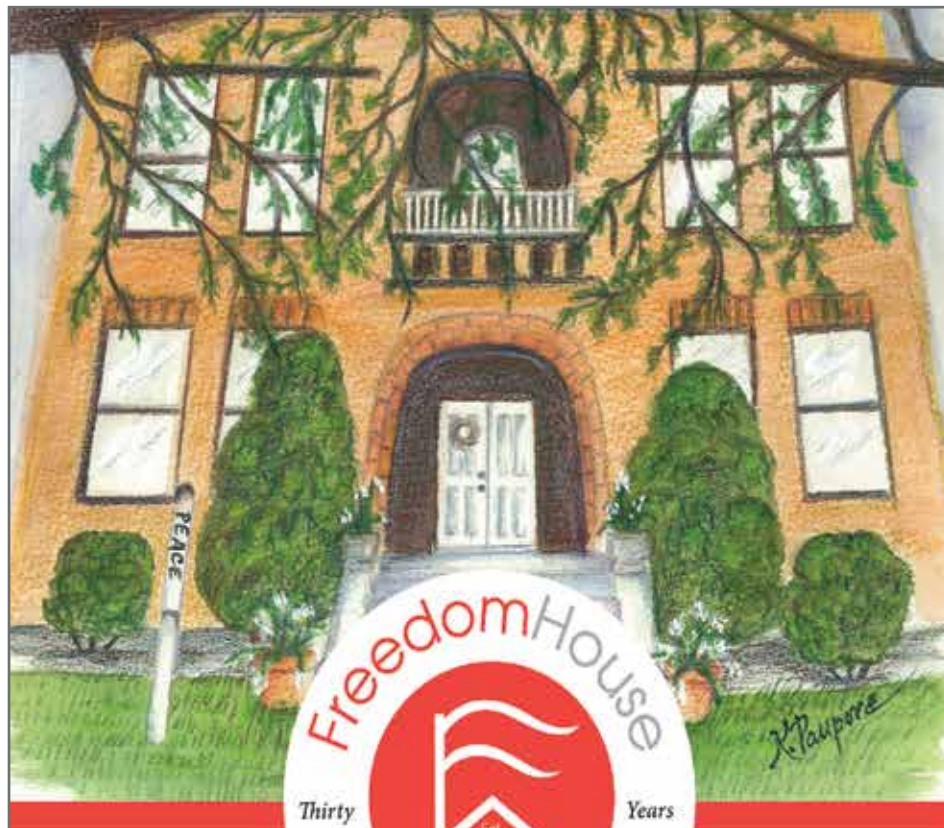
Officer Woods has not limited her career to only patrol calls. She became a Field Training

Officer while working at the 9th Precinct, offering her knowledge and experience to new officers as they join the ranks; conducted undercover operations at the Vice and Narcotic units; performed administrative duties; and never ceased to obtain training to enhance her duties and make herself a considerable asset to the Detroit community. She has a great rapport with the community and has been an invaluable ally to EQMI over the years in their victim services work.

EQMI recently announced the first two of four award recipients: this year’s Henry Messer Youth Activist Award winner, Aiden Ramirez-Tatum, and the Catalyst Award winner, Congressman Dan Kildee (D-Flint.)

EQMI will honor the awardees on Dec. 2 at DTE Energy Headquarters in downtown Detroit. This political mixer and awards reception is hosted by EQMI and presented by AT&T and DTE Energy. Join more than 200 celebrants for a powerhouse evening of political mingling, cocktails, fine cuisine, live entertainment, and a celebration of the achievements of the policymakers, businesses and community activists who have helped make 2016 such a dynamic year of political battles for LGBTQ equality.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://bit.ly/eqmi2016>.



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Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown Celebrates Same-Sex Marriages

HUNTINGTON WOODS – It’s been more than two years since hundreds of LGBT couples in Michigan were rushing to local courthouses to recite marriage vows on March 22, 2014, a day after a federal judge struck down the state’s ban on same-sex marriages.

One of four county clerks, Lisa Brown, officiated over 140 same-sex marriages. She and her colleagues worked overtime to make this possible for couples such as Frank Colasonti, Jr. and James B. Ryder; BC Cabangbang and Gary Murphy; Cathy and Laurie Fisher; Rev. Beth Rakestraw and Beverly Fernsemer; and Roland Smith and Paul Mattson.

On Oct. 27, Brown will introduce the community to the five long-time couples who married on that momentous day while celebrating her experience officiating them.

The event from 7-9 p.m. is hosted by Nina and Howard Abrams at their home in Huntington Woods. Co-hosts include Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtelmiller and Jennifer and Kathleen LaTosch, with special honorary co-hosts Gil Evans and Don Nadel.



James B. Ryder and husband Frank Colasonti, Jr. with Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown in March 2014. BTL File photo Andrew Potter

Tickets are \$50. All proceeds from the event, sponsored by Optimal Care, Inc., will benefit SAGE Metro Detroit (www.SAGEMetroDetroit.org.) The organization’s mission is to build awareness and promote change so that LGBT older adults may age with dignity and authenticity.

To RSVP, call Kathleen LaTosch at 248-812-9202 or email klatosch@gmail.com.

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Community Demands Justice for LGBTQ Prisoners

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LANSING – Around 30 Michiganders protested Oct. 12 outside the state’s Department of Corrections Headquarters on Michigan Avenue in Lansing. The rally, “Can’t Cage Our Humanity,” was organized to demand justice for LGBTQ prisoners.

“They cannot treat human beings like animals. We’re pissed and showing our support. This is a really serious situation,” said Duncan Tarr, a protestor and student at Michigan State University.

Tarr points to the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson where LGBTQ prisoners filed grievances in April against homophobic prison guards for sexual harassment. Retaliation began almost immediately. According to the protest groups’ Facebook page, bogus disciplinary tickets have been issued against the grieving prisoners. Three of seven prisoners were transferred to other units or facilities. The grievances were all eventually rejected for “insufficient evidence” despite multiple witnesses, and the homophobic prison guards have been able to continue their illegal behavior. The online post reads: “We hear reports of the exact same thing happening at other Michigan prisons. Sexual harassment of prisoners is a violation of the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, and just plain wrong.”

Since their last rally in May, Tarr said nothing has changed.

At that time, WILX News 10 reported that the complaints were taken seriously by the MDOC and were sent to their inspector, which is the highest possible level. At the time, the MDOC said no evidence of wrongdoing was found, and the department will continue to look into any specific allegations.

“It’s unlikely they will investigate and find themselves guilty,” Tarr said, noting they contacted the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman for details of the investigation to no avail.

Spokesman for MDOC Chris Gautz told BTL Oct. 14 that “the ombudsman office is not an MDOC office and does not report to the MDOC. It works separately from the MDOC as a watchdog of sorts.”

But they have been looking into the issue as well as the MDOC, which Gautz said has been cooperating with those efforts.

“There were allegations made by prisoners earlier this year and those were promptly investigated and it was determined there was insufficient evidence to prove the allegations,” he said, adding that the MDOC takes any allegations seriously and will continue to



Protestors demand justice for LGBTQ prisoners during a rally on Oct. 12 outside the Michigan Department of Corrections Headquarters in downtown Lansing. BTL Photo: Jan Stevenson

do so.

Despite that, LGBTQ prisoners continue to file grievances, said Tarr, and more tickets have been issued for offenses such as sexual misconduct for things like tucking in a shirt. Prisoners have been given excessive sanctions, such as 35 days of lost privileges for an offense that would normally carry only five days of punishment. Prisoners have been denied the right to review the alleged evidence against them, and grievance officers have refused to review camera footage to prove prisoners’ innocence.

“This is an issue a lot of people can get behind,” he said. “Many of us have or know of someone who has friends or family members in prison.”

Protester Hannah Shaughnessy-Mogill said, “When a prison guard can harass prisoners in a homophobic or transphobic way, and then retaliate against anyone who files a grievance, the system is built upon the denial of human rights.”

Prisoner Issues and Demands

- Zero tolerance for harassment or brutality by prison staff.
- No retaliation for filing grievances.

- Guards who sexually harass prisoners should be removed from their units when they’re under investigation, per MDOC’s own policy.

- These homophobic guards already have dozens, or in some cases over a hundred, grievances against them. These guards should be removed from all contact with prisoners.

- Staff should be prohibited from forming cliques for the purposes of retaliating against prisoners who file grievances.

- Staff should be required to follow MDOC’s own policies and federal policies that protect the rights of prisoners.

- Guards under investigation should be suspended or relocated until the investigation is over. This is already MDOC policy, but it has not happened in these cases at Cotton.

- Guards should be disciplined for talking about queer and trans prisoners in dehumanizing, denigrating ways to other prisoners, endangering their safety. This is already against MDOC policy.

- MDOC must provide better training for staff on professional, nondiscriminatory treatment of queer and trans people.

- Any CO under investigation is to be suspended or relocated during the investigation.

- LGBTQ PRISONERS should have the

voluntary option of a designated unit or facility and yard where they are safe from sexual harassment and assault.

- Appropriate medical care.

- Trans prisoners should be able to keep hormones in their quarters. In recent months, hormones have been put on “restricted” status, forcing all trans prisoners to request them every day. Hormones are prisoners’ personal business.

- End corruption at MDOC, such as misappropriation of the Prisoner Benefit Fund.

Advocacy groups such as Michigan Prison Abolition help to amplify the voices of LGBTQ prisoners that want the public to know about the corruption taking place in local prisons. For more information, visit their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Michigan-for-Prison-Abolition-585834328095870/.

“If people are being mistreated and having their rights violated, we would like to hear from them and see how we can help,” said ACLU LGBT Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan.

Jay Kaplan can be contacted directly at 313-578-6812 or via email at jaykaplan@aclumich.org.

Freedom House Seeks Help for LGBT Refugees

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

There were 2 million asylum applications submitted around the globe last year according to the United Nations Refugee Agency. New applications submitted in the U.S. were just shy of 173,000 – a 42 percent increase from the year before. Clearly there is a need for places like Freedom House in Detroit, a temporary home for indigent survivors of persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the U.S. and Canada. Their mission is to uphold a fundamental American principle, one inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty, providing safety for those “yearning to breathe free.”

Yet, the political climate in the U.S. poses some difficulties for refugees who hear xenophobic and downright hateful comments from people in all areas of society, especially within the media.

“They think they’re coming into a country where they’re going to be respected. These soundbites can be very hard to swallow,” said TJ Rogers, program manager at Freedom House. “Some people in the Detroit community are engaged and supportive, but there is still a huge gap.”

That gap is specifically for LGBT immigrants who can’t rely on people from their country of origin for support, then come to the U.S. and can’t rely on people in their cultural community because many of them carry homophobic stances.

“It’s a double-edged sword,” he said. “What are they left with? The LGBT community here in the U.S., because we know very much what it means to be excluded and our rights not to be fully extended to us as LGBT people.”

Rogers said there is an estimated 76 anti-gay countries around the world where it’s illegal to be LGBT, including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Afghanistan, Mauritania, Pakistan and Qatar where it’s punishable by death.

“On planet Earth in 2016, are we still dealing with this?” he said.

As a result, “We have, on a regular basis, weekly house meetings. We work with law enforcement, for example, when we’re having these conversations, doing our best to make sure that we don’t forget about this population of people who live at multiple intersections of identity, pushing for reform, more inclusivity and welcoming communities.”

While LGBT asylum seekers and refugees are not an exclusive population the Freedom House works with, they are seeing an increase because of our outreach efforts and partnerships.

“There needs to be compassion and if we truly care about our equality and our equity, then that extends to all people who are a part of our community regardless of nationality or country of origin,” Rogers said.

Working through issues of discrimination

“The simplest thing somebody can do is to stand up to hateful actions and rhetoric. If you hear something that is against what is at the core of humanity, or hear something dehumanizing somebody, stand up and say, ‘Hey, that’s not right.’”

– TJ Rogers, Freedom House

should be the least of their worries at the Freedom House. The refuge addresses the need for housing, legal aid, medical and psychosocial care, job training, financial literacy and language skills — all of which are not only necessary for someone to secure legal status and obtain a work permit, but also to secure a job.

There are a few different ways people can help.

“The simplest thing somebody can do is to stand up to hateful actions and rhetoric. If you hear something that is against what is at the core of humanity, or hear something dehumanizing somebody, stand up and say, ‘Hey, that’s not right,’” Rogers said. “If in our individual one-on-one conversations we don’t shy away from those difficult issues, that has the capacity to create change and drown out these soundbites that are getting the loudest speaker, if you will.”

Another option is to attend the “Voices of Freedom” annual dinner and auction on Oct. 27 at The Atheneum Suite Hotel on 1000 Brush St. in Detroit. The fundraising event welcomes Amy Lange, Fox2 News Investigative Reporter and Emmy award winner, as Mistress of Ceremonies, and “The Ben,” Rwanda’s top R&B artist and Freedom House alumni.

The VIP reception begins at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. Two Penny Productions will premiere a video, “How Freedom House Changed the Lives of Two Alumni.” Tickets are \$100. Exclusive reception and event tickets are \$150.

For those who cannot attend the event, please consider making a tax-deductible donation online www.freedomhousedetroit.org to support Freedom House. Checks can also be made out and sent directly to Freedom House at 2630 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48216. If further information is needed, call 313-964-4320 or email info@freedomhousedetroit.org.

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UPDATE: Holly Lanes Hosts LGBT Community Event

Following the Oct. 11 decision by the Village of Holly Council not to adopt a human rights ordinance that would have given LGBT people the same civil rights at other marginalized groups, the folks at Holly Lanes are welcoming the LGBT community and allies with open arms. They will host an LGBT and Friends night Oct. 19 to bring the community together.

“As a business owner and member of the community I’m saddened by the decision of the council. We all have the right to run our businesses the way we like with as little government regulation as possible. However, what we do not have is the right to discriminate based on who someone else is, regardless of the ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. If any one person out of any one of those groups comes in and then an issue occurs then you have the right to ask them to follow your business guidelines, but at that point you’re reacting to the action of the person, not the person themselves. It is not our job to pre-qualify a potential customer, that is simply wrong and unethical. It’s not a property rights issue, it’s a human rights issue. I’m sure if you were told sorry you cannot come into my business because I do not like you, you’d take exception to that, I know I would,” said Holly Lanes owner Brian Aubuchon.

Others in the community - businesses and residents - have discussed the ordinance in the days since the vote, where only Village Council President Ryan Bladzick voted yes.

“As a straight person, this may come out sounding silly, but I’m not sure how else to word it. I don’t look at LGBT as a separate community. I have so many friends and family that are gay. I don’t say, ‘oh, that’s so and so, my lesbian friends. They are just MY FRIENDS,” said Deanna Turner who owns Past Tense Books.

“I would never, ever, treat anyone differently, professionally or personally. That is simply not how I was raised. But all people of every race, creed, orientation, etc. are welcome at my store. I want my store to be a place of peace, literacy, conversation. Happiness. Lord knows I spend more time talking than pricing books. I believe love is love. And everyone should be treated equally.”

Aubuchon organized the in-person gathering to help people better understand the issue.

For the latest updates from Holly Lanes and discussion, check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/holly.lanes.

Village of Holly Votes 6-1 Against Human Rights Ordinance

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

HOLLY— The Village of Holly voted 6-1 against adopting a human rights ordinance that would have prohibited discrimination against LGBT people.

Several members of the public spoke against the ordinance.

“There’s a natural, inherent conflict because we’re trying to redefine terms,” Tigg Vanaman said. “It’s just amazing to me that civil, logical, natural people are having this discussion. A boy’s a boy. A girl’s a girl, no matter what you perceive yourself to be.

“But in our society everybody is protected. Everybody is right. I fear that path. Because if everybody is right, then nobody is wrong. If nobody is wrong then there are no laws. If there are no laws, there is no law enforcement. If there is no law enforcement, who’s going to protect me and my family, and what we believe?”

Resident Cat Steele said, “We always talk about how we want to make Holly more attractive to families. Is this gonna make it more attractive to families? Are people gonna want to bring their children here? If its passed down by the federal government, we’ll do it. If it isn’t, why would we want to do that?”

“...Everyone up here has a son, a daughter, a niece, a nephew, a mother for God’s sake. And I think our responsibility at this point is to look out for us and not what the Feds want to do.”

Joe Hutchins also recommended that the Village Council wait until a federal mandate was issued. “This has become the biggest controversial thing since abortion or anything else. The Feds are going to be handing this down in a very short time I think. And so what we do here – spending our money and putting this on our books and trying to enforce what? ...We’re just wasting our money.”

Nobody in the audience spoke in favor of the human rights ordinance.

On the Council, only Village Council President Ryan Bladzick voted in favor of it. He was also the one who introduced it. “Our society is split on this. There are different viewpoints and those viewpoints have been changing over the years. To me this is simply about providing justice.”

Councilperson David Cruickshank noted that Michigan is an “at-will” state, giving the example that if someone wanted to fire



On the Council, only Village Council President Ryan Bladzick voted in favor of the ordinance. Photo: Crystal Proxmire

someone they could blame it on the color of their shoes, and the ordinance would not protect their job.

He explained his no vote by stating, “Property rights are one of the fundamental pillars of liberty and freedom. That’s one of the reasons I got involved in political politics in the first place.

“I can certainly see where one would want to pass a law such as this. There are instances such as bigotry, the mistreatment of individuals who may appear different than others and they want to use government to protect those who are ridiculed for being different and that’s a natural default.

“The false belief with that is, number one, government always has the answer. And number two that we can legislate morality. If that were the case the war on drugs would have been a home run, and there would have been no one murdered since Cain killed Abel. What we have in society is a morality issue; that will not be taken care of by the ordinance. The only way this can be resolved is by culture change and market forces.”

Cruickshank added that if he knew a business was discriminating, he would tell people about it and let the financial consequences put the business under.

President Pro-Tem Debra Musgrave and Councilperson Suzanne L. Heiple said that the Village Attorney had advised against passage of the ordinance.

Councilperson Robert Kleven voted against it because it would cost the Village money to put it on the books and he believed no one would enforce it.

And Councilperson Robert Allsop said, “I don’t know why we need to deal with this,

Over 40 municipalities have enacted local human rights ordinances to protect LGBT people while in their community... The Oct. 11 vote means that Holly is not among this list.

it just needs to be gone. ...What goal is it to put this crap in an ordinance when they (Village residents) have to live with it when we’re gone... These people don’t need that punishment here.”

With no one speaking in favor of human rights protection, and only Village Council President Bladzick voting for it, the ordinance failed 6-1.

Apart from cities that have local ordinances, it is legal in Michigan to fire someone for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or otherwise gender-nonconforming. It is legal for a landlord to throw someone out if they learn they are LGBT, or not show houses to a couple because they are gay. It is legal for stores to turn away customers because they do not want to serve people based on their sexual orientation or their gender expression. Similar practices were used historically to mistreat people of color, people with disabilities and women. Civil rights laws eventually reduced the amount of violence, threats, harassment and challenges faced by people in those groups by affirming their right to be treated equally under the law.

Because the law cannot protect them, LGBT people face discrimination or the fear of discrimination in a way that impacts their day to day lives. Many feel they have to hide who they are because of the risk of losing their jobs, their homes, or their ability to be in public in their communities.

Over 40 municipalities have enacted local human rights ordinances to protect LGBT people while in their community, including Detroit, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Grand Rapids, Huntington Woods, Lansing, Lathrup Village, Muskegon, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Southfield and the Village of Lake Orion.

The Oct. 11 vote means that Holly is not among this list.

Court Vacates Sexual-Orientation Bias Ruling; to Rehear Case

CHICAGO (AP) – A federal appeals court Oct. 11 vacated a decision by three of its own judges who recently ruled in an Indiana case that existing federal workplace-discrimination law does not cover sexual-orientation bias and said the full Chicago-based court will rehear the issue.

The three-judge panel of 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in July upheld a lower court's dismissal of a lawsuit filed in 2014 by Kimberly Hively of South Bend, Indiana, a former part-time instructor who said Ivy Tech Community College in her hometown didn't hire her full time because she is a lesbian.

Civil rights groups said in filings calling on the 7th Circuit to do what it has now done that Hively's case is a chance "to correct its outdated and unworkable interpretation" Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and to expand the scope of its protections to include LGBT workers.

A brief, two-sentence order posted by the 7th Circuit didn't explain why a majority of the nine active judges on the court asked for the full-court session, called an "en banc" rehearing. A date for lawyers to argue their positions in court should be scheduled soon.

A decision to rehear an issue already

decided by a smaller panel is rare, occurring in the 7th Circuit no more than a few times a year. It can indicate that some judges believe an initial ruling was flawed.

In its July opinion, the three-judge panel criticized the lack of sexual-orientation workplace protections, saying "it seems unlikely that our society can continue to condone a legal structure in which employees can be fired, harassed, demeaned, singled out ... paid lower wages, demoted, passed over for promotions, and otherwise discriminated against solely based on who they date, love or marry."

The ruling added that any changes can't come from a circuit court of appeals but must come from Congress or a decisive opinion by the U.S. Supreme Court. The ruling noted the irony of the landmark 2015 Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage but left the question of workplace discrimination unresolved.

Hively, who began teaching part time at Ivy Tech in 2000, alleged the school turned her down for each of the six full-time positions she applied for - despite never having received a negative evaluation.

Catholic School Seeks Dismissal of Gay Marriage Bias Suit

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP) – A judge will likely rule this coming week on a Roman Catholic school's request to reconsider dismissing a lawsuit filed by a former employee who says she was fired because she's married to a woman.

The Record reports Superior Court Judge Lisa Perez Friscia heard oral arguments on the matter Friday. She had rejected Paramus Catholic High School's request to dismiss Kate Drumgoole's lawsuit in a ruling issued

in late August.

Drumgoole claims the school violated state discrimination laws by firing her as dean of guidance and head coach of the basketball team after learning she married a woman.

The school has said Drumgoole was fired because she's in a same-sex marriage. Their attorney argues that it's lawful for churches to require that employees subscribe to their tenets.

Ivy Tech Adopts Transgender Inclusive Policy

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – The Freedom Indiana advocacy group says Ivy Tech Community College has adopted a transgender-inclusive policy that will protect transgender and gender-nonconforming students and faculty from discrimination.

The group said Thursday that the policy's guidelines grant transgender and gender-nonconforming students the right to express their gender identity openly or to keep it

private; and it allows students to use facilities that match their gender identity.

The group said it also requires all school records to reflect a student's gender and name; and it requires students be addressed by the name and pronouns that correspond to their gender identity.

Freedom Indiana says the policy went into effect on July 1.

Jim Obergefell, Same-sex Marriage Plaintiff, to be Honored

CINCINNATI (AP) – The lead plaintiff in the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that led to the legalization of same-sex marriage across the county is being honored with an award given to those that better their communities.

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, in Cincinnati, says Jim Obergefell will receive its Everyday Freedom Hero award. The award recognizes people and organizations that strive to live up to the ideals

of the Underground Railroad movement.

A lawsuit by Obergefell and his dying partner John Arthur sought legal recognition of their marriage by the state of Ohio, leading to the 2015 Supreme Court decision.

Obergefell has continued as an activist for gay rights and other causes.

The Cincinnati center's president praises Obergefell as "a champion of civil rights."

The award presentation is Oct. 22.



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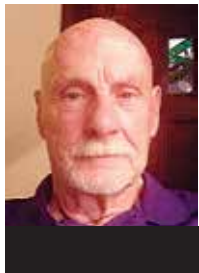


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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

“Your problems can be solved with this box of amazing cure-alls,” hOOty hOOted Exodus P. Barn Owl, Q.D., shoving a package of Miracle Elastics, Assorted Colors, Funny Farm, LTD., across his polished oak-apple desk to Reginald Rabbit, referral cotton tail patient number 583.

“They’re color coded,” added Dr. Exodus, blinking his big hypnOotic eyes behind his horned-owl-rimmed glasses, and grandly aye-fluttering his fine feathers.

“Pink’s for mania – your obsession with chasing after hares. Red’s for over stimulation – your premature ejack-rabbitulation. And orange is for those hip-hop thoughts that get you tossed into Mr. MacGregor’s briar patch. The sOOner you start snapping, Reggie, my boy, the better. Call me Barney.”

Reginald Rabbit wiggled his cottony tail, crinkled his pinky nose, and hummed softly, “I trust you, Barney. Barney, I do.”

“You’re a southpaw, so put the Miracle Elastic on your right wrist. Elastics come in different widths. The thinner, the sharper the sting. You’ll need a sting that’s sharp as a wasp but not as sharp as a bumble bee.”

“I don’t suppose a hornet sting would do the trick,” asked Reginald, who thought he knew a thing or two about things horny, tricking and getting stung.

“Tut. Tut. Tut. You shouldn’t be IOoking for the easy way out,” hOOted Dr. Exodus. “With these elastics you’ll get 500 snaps each. That’ll get you through the day without wanting to bunny hop in the bramble every hapless hare you fancy.”

“I advise you to change rubbers, er, elastics at bedtime,” the redoubtable shrink continued. “That way, should you be aroused by an off-color dream of misbehaving in Mr. McGregor’s briar patch, you’ll get around-the-clock protection of the Barn Owl Queerly Doctors Association, never-fail, pre-scare-a-tOOty-therapy.”

“How hard should I snap, Barney,” asked Reginald, wanting to make sure the cure, for which he emptied two piggy banks, would work. “Light, medium, hard or zippy-do-dah-that-hurts-like-heck?”

“The harder, the better. Oh, yes: here’s a ginger snap-happy tip. If you see a lively hare that really gets your tail in a twitter, snap with a Sky Blue elastic. There’s twelve to a box.”

“Sky Blue?”

“Yes. For holy-roly-poly reinforcement. Hare-raising thoughts can be banished forever with these power-of-positive-thinking whippersnappers. Remember: If things get too hare-oooh-ing: Be true. Go Blue.”

“I’ll try anything, Barney, if only I can hide Easter eggs without feeling guilty. How long does this pre-scare-a-tOOty-whatever take?”

“I can’t say for sure – it’s not professional – but I’ve seen hare-raising changes in 12 snappy months. And do wear long sleeves. Bruises can cause gossip from starlings, crows and magpies. (Ding bats all!) When you’ve worn out these magic elastics, come back for another box. Ten percent discount.”

Whereupon Dr. Exodus P. Hoot Owl shut his big OOs and – straight as an arrow – fell asleep, dreaming of mice, rats, delectably fat, but rarely obtainable, voles.

Reginald Rabbit took the Miracle Elastics, chose a Sky Blue one, slipped it next to his Mickey Mouse watch, and snapped it hornet strength, then hopped hopefully and gaily into the glen to pick daisies.

“Well, Reggie, are you still having thoughts about humping hares instead of jumping rabbits?” asked Dr. Exodus P. Barn Owl one year, seven days, four hours, three minutes later.

“I’m afraid so,” answered Reginald sheepishly. “I’ve snapped – snapped so many times my wrist’s gone perfectly limp. Say! What’s up, doc? I’d like my money back.”

“Well, isn’t that a hOOt,” said Dr. Exodus, staring blankly into space. “Sorry, Ex-Patient Cotton Tail Number 583. There’s no refund for hare brains like you.” (OO!)



Viewpoint

Voting Out Anti-LGBT Candidates in Oakland County



BY CRAIG COVEY

A longtime community member asked me a few weeks ago why I was running for sheriff in Oakland County. There are several reasons, the most important of which is that voters ought to be able to have a choice in such an important office.

Conservative establishment Republicans have had a near stranglehold on this county for the past 40 years, and while LGBT-supportive Democrats have begun to win offices and were able to field strong candidates this year, they did not have anyone willing to stand up to Michael Bouchard.

It was Sheriff Bouchard who ordered his Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) to raid Oakland County’s first gay nightclub back in the 1990s, known as Cobalt. Located in Ferndale, the club was very popular. This was before Ferndale was able to cement its role as a stronghold for diversity and the LGBT community, and the Republican leadership of L. Brooks Patterson and Michael Bouchard did not like a big popular gay nightclub operating in their county. I was in the club that night, and 30 officers and deputies in plainclothes and SWAT gear gear poured into Cobalt and forced everyone up against the wall with their hands up.

While nothing of note was found, the police later claimed the club was a hotbed of drugs and strippers. They forced Cobalt to close permanently, and the club sits empty to this day on Woodward Avenue. It was a huge embarrassment for the LGBT community and for Ferndale.

It was also Sheriff Bouchard who led his NET team to raid the first legal medical marijuana compassion clinic to open in Oakland County in 2009. Ferndale residents had voted four times to legalize medical marijuana and decriminalize all marijuana. After the entire state voted to do the same eight years ago, the City of Ferndale spent a year researching the legal issues, developing zoning policies for clinics, going through the planning process, and developing ordinances to open a dispensary called Clinical Relief. Within a few weeks of cutting the ribbon, the Sheriff came in with his SWAT team, snarling dogs and automatic weapons, throwing the business’ employees to the ground and handcuffing them all. They shuttered Clinical Relief and the court cases are still languishing to this day. This sheriff has spent huge resources fighting against patients with cancer, AIDS and other disorders from accessing helpful medicine that he still regards as a schedule one narcotic.

When Bouchard spoke at a candlelight vigil for Orlando held in downtown Ferndale this year, he

See Anti-LGBT Candidates, next page

► Anti-LGBT Candidates

Continued from p. 10

exhorted the largely gay crowd to “go out tomorrow and give blood,” being completely unaware that gay men have been largely prohibited from donating blood for 30 years.

LGBT voters and their allies should also vote in Oakland County to re-elect Clerk Lisa Brown. Remember that her Republican predecessor Bill Bullard Jr., along with Brooks Patterson and the Republican led County Commission, had led the fight against same-sex marriage. Brooks Patterson famously said during that struggle that if gay people could get married, then he should be allowed to marry his dog. But it was Lisa Brown who opened the Clerk’s office in Pontiac on a Saturday during that window period a few years back that allowed dozens of couples to marry before the Supreme Court finally ruled for marriage equality.

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash is also being challenged by a Republican opponent. Beyond Jim’s lifelong fight for the environment and his efforts to protect the regions lakes, rivers and streams, he has also attended Gay Pride Festivals every year. Another Republican power broker is running for Oakland County Treasurer against our longtime ally Andy

Meisner. Meisner has supported LGBT issues for two decades.

Finally, LGBT voters should remember that it was the Republican establishment, under the leadership of Brooks Patterson and Bouchard, that redistricted and gerrymandered the Oakland County Commission in 2012 that led to the elimination of four Democratic seats. For a decade, the Commission had among its 25 members an openly gay representative, first Dave Coulter, now Ferndale mayor, and then later by me. Gay residents of Royal Oak and Southfield and Oak Park and all across the county lost their single member because of that underhanded move.

LGBT voters and their friends and allies ought to remember these actions taken over the past two decades and vote accordingly. I hope they will remember their allies and vote for people like Vicki Barnett for County Executive, Andy Meisner for County Treasurer, Lisa Brown for Clerk, Jim Nash for Water Resources Commissioner, and Craig Covey for sheriff.

Covey was the first openly gay mayor of Ferndale and ran the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project for 20 years before it became part of the Michigan AIDS Coalition, which merged into Matrix Human Services and is now operating as the MAC Health program under the Matrix umbrella.

National Gay Media Association Member Papers Endorse Clinton for President

In an unprecedented move, all 12 of the country’s longest-serving and most award-winning LGBT newspapers are each separately endorsing Democrat Hillary Clinton for president of the United States.

The 12 are members of the National Gay Media Association, a trade association of the nation’s major-market legacy LGBT newspapers. NGMA members have a combined circulation in print and online of more than 1 million readers per week.

The members of NGMA who are each endorsing Clinton in their own pages are: Bay Area Reporter (San Francisco), Washington Blade, Philadelphia Gay News, Dallas Voice, Windy City Times (Chicago), Between the Lines (Detroit), Bay Windows (Boston), Georgia Voice, SFGN (Ft. Lauderdale), Watermark (Orlando and Tampa Bay), Gay City News (New York), and The Pride LA.

This is an unprecedented joint announcement from the newspapers, because several do not engage in political endorsements: 31-year-old Windy City Times has endorsed just once in 16 years, and the Dallas Voice has never endorsed for any race in 32 years.

“This race for president is showing this country a clear choice of moving backward or moving forward on LGBTQ and other human rights,” said NGMA spokesperson

Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times. “We know that the LGBTQ community is made up of diverse political voices. But the homophobia, transphobia, racism, anti-immigrant and sexist nature of Republican candidate Donald Trump means that we can’t sit on the sidelines this election season.

“Hillary Clinton has spent her career fighting for social justice,” Baim said. “While she came late to some LGBTQ issues, so did most mainstream politicians. In this presidential race, there is a clear choice to keep this country moving forward in the footsteps of President Barack Obama, the most pro-LGBTQ president in U.S. history. That choice is Hillary Clinton.”

In an op-ed for NGMA member paper the Philadelphia Gay News, Hillary Clinton talked about how, as president, she would advance the historic pro-LGBTQ equality agenda she and her runningmate Tim Kaine have embraced. She is the first major-party candidate for president to write an op-ed for an LGBTQ publication.

“If I’m fortunate enough to be elected president, I’ll protect the progress we’ve fought so hard to achieve - and I’ll keep fighting until every American can live free from discrimination and prejudice,” she wrote.

See www.nationalgaymediaassociation.com.

Creep of the Week

Donald Trump, Yes Again

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI



As part of the liberal media I have been working night and day to rig this election for Hillary Clinton and I am exhausted. And I know what you’re thinking: “D’Anne (as we are on a first name basis), you’re not supposed to admit that! It’s all supposed to be done in secret.” But Donald Trump has exposed the plan, so the pussy is out of the bag.

Granted, not all LGBT people have gotten the message. Today I watched a video of a guy in a Gays for Trump t-shirt attack an anti-Trump protester and an adorable gay couple from Ohio who say they’re voting for Trump because jerbs in the steel industry (never mind that Trump uses steel made in China. Just keep waving the American flag around). There’s also a Gays for Trump Facebook page that has over 4,000 likes. And gay billionaire Peter Thiel is giving Trump \$1.25 million at a time when other major donors are fleeing the candidate. But hey, not all gays are liberal. Not all the gays are smart, either. Then again, maybe they’re just undercover agents spying for Team Rainbow. I guess we’ll never know.

If you follow this column, you know that Trump has been my Creep for weeks now. And if you’re getting sick of it, believe me, I feel your pain. This election feels like a bad dream where you can only run in slow motion away from a rich white man trying to grope you and stick his tongue down your throat. And then you wake up to hear stories of a rich white man trying to grope women and stick his tongue down their throats and that there are people who actually want to make him President and you realize you’re living in a nightmare world.

At this point ten women have come out publicly claiming to be the victims of a whole host of sexual misconduct by Trump. The candidate denies it all, even claiming that some of the women weren’t attractive enough to molest in the first place. As if being molested by Trump should be considered some kind of compliment.

Look, Trump’s misogyny matters whether or not you’re a woman because misogyny is

at the root of anti-LGBT animus. Gay men are hated for “acting like women.” Lesbians are hated for “acting like men” and not having sex with men or existing to please heterosexual men. Bisexuals straddle both of these worlds. And the very idea of being trans is the ultimate “insult” to heterosexist gender norms. As some people who don’t understand, or care to understand, see it, to be a man who wants to be a woman is unfathomable in a world where women are considered inferior. And, of course, a woman who becomes a man is just pretending and will never be a “real” man.

So when Donald Trump brags about

We’ve made so much progress in this country when it comes to LGBT rights, but Trump is a painful reminder of how much more work we have to do. He’s also a product of backlash: it’s not a surprise that white, heterosexual, cisgender males are his biggest supporters.

being able to grab women “by the pussy” and still has people supporting him it is alarming not just because it demonstrates Trump’s total disregard for women as human beings. It also reveals a sick and limited idea of gender roles that puts heterosexual men at the top of the gender hierarchy, and everyone else existing only in relationship to whatever heterosexual men deem them good for.

We’ve made so much progress in this country when it comes to LGBT rights, but Trump is a painful reminder of how much more work we have to do. He’s also a product of backlash: it’s not a surprise that white, heterosexual, cisgender males are his biggest supporters. And to anyone who has paid any attention to history in this country, that is not a demographic that tends to do very well by women and minorities.

So get out there and “rig” the “election” by “voting” for Hillary “Clinton” on Nov. 8 at your “local” polling “place.” (As for the “quotes,” the liberal “media” and its “legions” know what I “mean.” Wink, “wink.”)

John Allen Paves Way for Brighter Future for LGBTQ Youth

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

As we reflect on the LGBTQ movement in the U.S. and our significant achievements over the past several years, John Allen reminds us that if we want to succeed we must continue to lead. He knew a long time ago not to expect LGBTQ youth to do what he wouldn't do personally.

The country has come a long way since 1986 when Allen sat in the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law library reading the *Bowers v. Hardwick* opinion. The Georgia state law banning sodomy really had an affect on him, and he knew that social change was needed.

"I remember being like so angry and so pissed off about that just reading it, but what could I do?" Allen said. So he went back to his books and finished his studies.

"I sit here now and remember that anger from sitting in the law library and reading that opinion and I got the last laugh, really," he said about the ruling that was overturned in 2003. "It only took like 30 years of Supreme Court stuff and change at the local level and all of the stuff that all of us were doing, but we got the last laugh. We've changed things. It has come full circle."

More than five years passed before Allen became active in the LGBTQ community starting with the March on Washington in 1993 where he met Jeff Montgomery, the founder of the Triangle Foundation, who died this year.

"We talked about what I thought we should be doing on a federal and national level. Jeff listened patiently and basically said there's lots of stuff that needs to be done back home," Allen said, which drew his attention to Affirmations in Ferndale.

"I just loved it. It was cool, a bunch of kids and adults hanging out. We were turning out little warriors there," he said, noting that many of the local youth were destabilized.

"We kept getting all these kids who were booted out of the house or in terrible situations. The biggest immediate problem is they had no roof over their heads, they were dropping out of school, and having risky sex."

A meeting of the minds led to the formation of the Ruth Ellis Center in 1999, which provides a short- and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth in Highland Park and Detroit.

"The sort of thinking behind all that is we can't as a movement tell society that gay is good and we can't tell kids, 'Come out, come out,' and then not have some safety net underneath them," he said. "Some are gonna



John Allen received the Ruth's Angel's Award in 2012, given to individuals in the community who demonstrate dedication to helping provide a safe space for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. Photo courtesy of the Ruth Ellis Center.

come out or be outed, and it's not going to go well. To me, it's a bit of our own collective responsibility to take care of them when that sort of thing happens."

The small group of community activists that organized the one-of-a-kind youth social services agency includes Dr. Kofi Adoma who has been on this journey with Allen from the beginning.

"John was always a voice of wisdom and reason that stood out. He planted the seed for what we've done," she said.

"He's just masterful at organizing. We looked up to him. We had that brain power in him. He was able to foresee things we needed to consider the rest of us hadn't thought about," Adoma said about Allen's knowledge of legal matters that contributed to their success.

Allen is a managing partner at Allen Brothers, PLLC in Detroit. While growing his practice, he established himself in the LGBTQ community by spending many of his off hours in service of local and national nonprofit organizations, including the Triangle Foundation (now Equality Michigan) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Allen is one of many members of the

LGBTQ community who can help us learn from our history by giving us tools we need to move forward in achieving full equality. Allen never wanted the spotlight and remains humble about his work as he talks about his successes, the lessons he learned along the way, how to make a nonprofit organization work, and the challenge of continuing the LGBTQ movement.

How did you make a connection with LGBTQ youth?

There was not a big bang moment with the kids. In the early days, it was about winning trust. When you say you're gonna be there, you gotta be there. It means that if you're giving them the expectation that you're gonna be there to help, you gotta meet that expectation. It means showing up and opening the doors. It means doing things for them that they can't do for themselves and being consistent about it. Once you win their trust, great things happen. There was a time when we really did have to work for them to take us seriously, to believe we were going to walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

What makes the Ruth Ellis Center sustainable?

We've been lucky. We've been conservative about money. We've been conservative about understanding when people give us money, they have expectations that there's going to be service delivery and that it's gonna be done the way it's supposed to be. You know, best practices always. Find the best people that are doing the best work and ask them, "How can we do this?" That's exactly the thinking that got us hooked up with Henry Ford for the Health and Wellness Center. There was a need that was unmet. There was a bunch of space that was available and the conversation was, "We don't know anything about this." We know about our kids, we know about their needs, but what do we know about running a clinic, right? So the natural thing to me was to call Henry Ford. We know people there, they're good people, they have a great system, a good reputation, they have an urban mission – it's a good fit. Let's call them up and see if they'll help us. And like everybody else that's ever come into our little orbit at Ruth Ellis, they got excited about the project and they're invested in it and we're

“It’s real easy to stroke a few keys and send off a comment somewhere, or a blog post, but to actually show up in person with a bunch of other people and be physically present, that’s what I’m afraid we’re losing. So, that’s not a criticism, it’s just a, ‘Hey, let’s not forget there’s balance we’ve gotta make here.’”

– John Allen, discussing the change in the LGBTQ civil rights movement

invested with them. The partnerships that you build make your program, so it’s just about making connections with people.

What was your big lesson?

Patience. Change doesn’t happen overnight. It doesn’t. Remember the old saying, “If you want to eat an elephant, how do you do it? One bite at a time.” Having the patience to just calmly sort of stay with something and see it through. You can’t lose faith and hope. Things are not always going to be great. You’re going to hate it sometimes, but you know, stay with it because it’s what you love and it’s what you think is the right thing to do.

How important is having a cohesive board?

We’ve had some tremendous board members over time. Once you start doing this stuff you learn how nonprofits work, and the key to having a great nonprofit is to have a great board. People that bring their own special perspective and want to stay and do the work because nobody can do it alone. People who collectively take responsibility for the mission and not micromanage.

At what level are you still involved?

The other thing that every board ought to do is have term limits, because if you’re not bringing in new people to learn the mission – to embrace it and to carry it out – sooner or later you’re gonna go stagnant. So, board members shouldn’t hang around anything forever. It took us a while at Ruth Ellis to get around to putting term limits in place because in the beginning it was just this core group of us. I served out my terms, did my thing and termed off the board, and you know what? That’s been great, because it let me get active in other areas like the Capital Campaign.

Speak to how the LGBTQ movement has changed.

The movement is maturing. A big part of the challenge is engaging the next generation of people who are going to see a need and do something about it. Here’s the ironic thing: the younger generation is the most connected generation that’s ever been by any objective measure. But I think a lot of times the human contact – the face to face, the being in the trenches everyday with a group of people that actually become family to you, a band of brothers and sisters and others – forging that in cyberspace, I mean, I don’t know, can you do that? I suppose, but to me, this

is a retail business. It’s face to face. When people are hurting and there is need, there’s no substitute for the face to face. You gotta connect with people. You know, there is really great benefit in the digital connection ... but let’s get out from behind our computers to show up at events, show up at protests. It’s real easy to stroke a few keys and send off a comment somewhere, or a blog post, but to actually show up in person with a bunch of other people and be physically present, that’s what I’m afraid we’re losing. So, that’s not a criticism, it’s just a, “Hey, let’s not forget there’s balance we’ve gotta make here.”

What do you think is a challenge for the LGBTQ community today?

The big challenge today is people that are gender nonconforming. We can’t leave anybody behind. In the movement, there is a faction of people that said we’re about gay and lesbian rights, what do we need the T for? That view does not prevail. Our work’s not done until the T is at the table fully, and that’s gotta happen. It’s probably one of the biggest challenges out there. That’s why we’re fighting bathroom bills. If you can pick off one of us, you can pick off all of us.

Do you have any advice for young LGBTQ activists?

Follow your passion. If it matters to you, then it matters. Change does not happen on the trickle down. Change happens on the trickle up, and it happens slowly. You just gotta be patient. Everybody wants the big bang. There isn’t one. Get up everyday, put one foot in front of the other. Integrate activism with the rest of your life. You have to make a living. We still have partners and spouses and houses and families. You just have to make a place for activism in your life. Here’s the other thing: change starts with each and every one of us, when we embrace our own truth and when you take that truth to your family, take that truth into the community and when you take it upwards. That’s when change begins. Everybody has the capacity to do this stuff. It ain’t rocket science and can actually be fun and satisfying.

For more about the Ruth Ellis Center, please contact Mark Erwin-McCormick, REC Director of Development, at 313-680-3359 or Mark.McCormick@RuthEllisCenter.org.



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Chelsea Clinton Speaks with Gay News

BY PGN STAFF

Chelsea Clinton took a break from addressing female and Millennial voters Oct. 14 in Pittsburgh for a phone call with Philadelphia Gay News. She talked about her time in Pennsylvania – an increasingly important swing state in the race that pits her mother, Democrat Hillary Clinton, against Republican Donald Trump.

“We’re continuing to make the case about what’s really at stake in this election,” Clinton said. “I firmly believe if we keep talking about what’s at stake that we will win on Nov. 8.”

Below is a transcript of her conversation with PGN. It has been lightly edited.

LGBT issues took center stage at the Democratic National Convention with nearly every speaker mentioning them, including you saying LGBT rights are human rights. But in the debates so far, LGBT rights haven’t received attention. Do you think the last debate will address them more directly?

I’m grateful that my mom talked about marriage equality in terms of what’s at stake for the next Supreme Court appointment. I certainly hope that the Senate will do its job and give Judge (Merrick) Garland a full and fair hearing so that we can have a fully seated court. But, certainly, thinking about what the next president will likely have before her, it will be the chance and the responsibility to nominate three, maybe even four, new justices to the bench.

I have been surprised that LGBT rights and human rights more broadly – I mean, reproductive rights, voting rights, so many of our rights that have been under assault at the state level and local level – haven’t featured more broadly in the debates. I was quite surprised that even in the vice-presidential debate, given Gov. Pence’s regressive record in Indiana, that LGBT rights and civil and human rights did not come up. I am grateful – as an American who strongly believes that LGBT rights are human rights and therefore all of us have a stake in achieving full equality under the law – that my mom talked about the need to protect marriage equality in the last debate; in the context of the potential nominees that Donald Trump has floated as almost uniformly being against marriage equality. But I certainly agree that we need to pay more attention to LGBT rights. I certainly hope that we get there in the next debate, but whether or not we actually do remains to be seen.

In your travels through Pennsylvania, what has

your engagement been like with LGBT residents and organizations?

The event I did this morning here in Pittsburgh was focused on women’s issues. But I got a question from a young woman who stood up and said, “I need to ask a question on behalf of my gay younger brother. What is your mom going to do to ensure that he can be and love whoever he wants to be and love in our country?” And a woman came up to me afterwards – she was a bisexual woman – and she said, “I just want to thank you for your personal and your family’s support of me.”

Even in public events, thankfully, people are standing up and drawing attention and sharing stories and testimonials about what’s at stake in this election for themselves, for their families and for their country. I do think this is the most consequential election of my lifetime. I think everything I care most about, which I now very much see through the prism of being a parent, is at risk and is at stake. That includes LGBT rights. My son is 3 and a half (months). My daughter’s 2. I have no idea who they’re going to grow up and discover themselves to be. But I want them to own whoever they are and know that they will be equally valued, and hopefully by the time they’re a little bit older, equally loved and respected in our country. I feel very strongly about this as a mom.

If your mom and Tim Kaine are elected, what is their plan to begin tackling the many LGBT points that are written into the latest Democratic Party Platform?

I think the contrast could not be clearer between the Democratic and the Republican party platforms. It’s something that I spoke about in Philadelphia at the HRC luncheon (in July) with how horrified I was and I remain about the Republican Party Platform’s embrace of conversion therapy, which I think is just child abuse by another name. I know that my mother strongly agrees with that.

We have to make conversion therapy illegal. We have to finally pass the Equality Act. We have to continue the march toward an AIDS-free generation, particularly given the deeply worrying demographic trend of rising HIV rates among certain demographics across our country, including young LGBT men of color ... We have a lot of work that we have to do. If we listen to our scientific community – and I’m a big believer in listening to our scientific community – we have to be investing more in research because the scientists are saying we’re reaching inflection points on an AIDS vaccine. We’re reaching inflection points on really understanding how to ensure that

PrEP can be most effective. We have to make those investments. Then we have to make sure that people can afford the medicine that is needed to protect against getting HIV or ensure that HIV can be a chronic disease and not a death sentence. We have a lot of work to do. I know my mom’s the only person who understands the work that we have to do.

Does your mom foresee any difficulty in terms of working with Congress to get some of these goals accomplished given how vitriolic this election cycle has become?

I think what someone has done is a good indication of what they will be able to do. It always, I think, is a little surprising when I talk about my mom’s strong record of being able to find common ground when it does exist, and sometimes to help create it, even from just a small speck of hope; (like) when she worked with Tom DeLay (former Republican whip) to reform the adoption and foster-care system and Lindsey Graham (Republican senator from South Carolina) to expand the VA system to include our reservists and National Guard members who serve our country overseas.

I think that my mom’s ability to find that common ground will enable her to make progress in some of the areas where, certainly, there was already progress being made ... looking at criminal-justice reform, immigration reform. But hopefully, in areas like research funding, which conventionally hasn’t been particularly partisan, we can make real progress there. We can’t ever cede ground on issues that really relate to our core values as a country. I would argue that full LGBT equality has to be in that core. I’m hopeful that she will be able to make progress in some areas quickly, and I am hopeful that ... as our next president, she’ll be able to continue to make a strong case on behalf of our real American and real family values and make progress toward full LGBT equality as well.

Your mother has actively courted the LGBT community throughout her campaign. Why did she want to write the op-ed for PGN outlining her positions?

She was grateful to have the chance to write the op-ed ... I think she was the first major-party presidential candidate to ever write an



“I’m grateful that my mom talked about marriage equality in terms of what’s at stake for the next Supreme Court appointment.”

op-ed for an LGBT newspaper. I know she believes it’s really important that she’s not the only (one) as the future marches forward. She was grateful to have had the chance. It never occurred to her to not write it when she was given the opportunity.

How important is the Philadelphia area in the upcoming election? Analysts have referred to the suburbs in the region as a bellwether.

Pennsylvania, clearly, writ large is hugely important ... I also was raised – this now might seem an old-fashioned belief – that every vote really matters, which is why we’ve had such a focus in my mom’s campaign over the last few months of registering people to vote up until the voter registration deadline ... We’re continuing to make the case about what’s really at stake in this election. I firmly believe if we keep talking about what’s at stake that we will win on Nov. 8. We certainly have to keep making that case in Philadelphia and elsewhere across the state.

Originally published in the Philadelphia Gay News.

LGBT Issues In Presidential Election

BY DAVID CRARY

NEW YORK (AP) – Same-sex marriage is now the law of the land, but there are other battlegrounds related to civil rights and nondiscrimination protections for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people. Two polarizing questions: What sort of access should transgender people have to public bathrooms? And are the advances for LGBT rights infringing on the religious freedom of some Americans?

Where They Stand

Hillary Clinton is a staunch supporter of LGBT rights; she has endorsed the Equality Act, a proposed federal law that would provide comprehensive protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Donald Trump says he would be a better president for gays than Clinton, yet major LGBT-rights groups strongly oppose him. Among the reasons: He has balked at endorsing same-sex marriage, his evangelical advisory board has included prominent opponents of advances in LGBT rights and running mate Mike Pence, Indiana's governor, last year signed a law that critics said would allow businesses to deny service to gay people for religious reasons.

Why It Matters

Whoever wins the presidency can only do so much to influence national LGBT-rights policies, unless, perhaps, if the winner's party sweeps control of Congress. The proposed Equality Act is unlikely to advance through a Republican-controlled House, even if Clinton wins. And the nationwide legality of same-sex marriage is unlikely to be threatened, though some conservatives cling to hopes that a Supreme Court reconfigured by Trump appointees might reverse the 2015 ruling extending that right to all 50 states.

On some fronts, however, the outcome of the presidential race could have a major impact - for example, in how aggressively federal agencies work to expand LGBT rights.

Clinton would probably maintain or intensify the Obama administration's efforts to bolster transgender rights. This could mean pressure on school districts to let transgender students use school bathrooms based on their gender identity.

Some transgender students have become activists on this issue, saying they face harassment and discomfort if forced to use bathrooms on the basis of the sex on their birth certificate.

There's also the matter of judicial appointments. Thus far, federal judges have generally been unsympathetic to arguments that certain types of anti-LGBT discrimination are permissible if in accordance with a person's religious beliefs. Trump has told conservatives he'd place a high priority on religious liberty and would seek to protect Christians from having to violate their beliefs. Among the types of cases in question: Whether wedding photographers or bakers who oppose same-sex marriage should be penalized for refusing to provide services for a same-sex wedding.

At the state level, the election could have important repercussions for LGBT issues. In North Carolina, for example, the Democratic candidate for governor, Attorney General Roy Cooper, opposes a law curtailing LGBT rights that was signed by his election opponent, incumbent Republican Gov. Pat McCrory. That law - which includes restrictions on transgender people's bathroom access - has been the target of an expansive protest campaign.

In Indiana, Pence's decision to forgo a second term to run for vice president boosts Democratic hopes of winning the race for governor. The Democratic candidate, former House Speaker John Gregg, has vowed to push for full LGBT civil rights if elected; at present Indiana is one of 28 states with no statewide nondiscrimination protections for gays and lesbians.

In Kentucky, there's an intriguing U.S. Senate race matching incumbent Republican Rand Paul, who failed in his presidential bid, against Democrat Jim Gray, the openly gay mayor of Lexington. Gray is an underdog in the race.



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Hypocrisy: Anti-LGBT Activists Stick with Trump Despite Video

After Stoking Fears of Trans Bathroom Assaults, a Blind Eye to GOP Nom's Aggression

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

After months of stoking fears about sexual assault in the bathrooms as a result of transgender non-discrimination protections, social conservatives are sticking with Donald Trump despite a recent unearthed recording in which he brags about making aggressive sexual advances on women.

The fears over assault and violation of privacy in the bathroom were invented and stoked by conservative activists opposed to transgender protections, but actual claims of sexual assault from the Republican nominee aren't enough to register the same level of concern with these anti-LGBT activists.

Tony Perkins, president of the anti-LGBT Family Research Council, conceded in a statement he finds the behavior exhibited in the video "deeply offensive and degrading," but nonetheless still supports Trump.

"As I have made clear, my support for Donald Trump in the general election was never based upon shared values; rather it was built upon shared concerns," Perkins said. "These concerns include the damage the Supreme Court would continue to do to this country through the appointment of activist justices, concerns over the security of our nation because of our government's refusal to confront the growing threat of Islamic terrorism, and concerns over the prospects of continued attacks by our own government upon religious freedom."

Perkins added the situation is far from ideal, but "the reality in which we find ourselves" at this point in the political process as a result of "our lack of engagement and involvement as Christians" in the election and government.

Just two months ago, Perkins commended U.S. Judge Reed O'Connor for issuing a court order blocking guidance from the Obama administration barring discrimination against transgender students in accessing the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

At the time, Perkins called the decision "a win for parental rights and the privacy of schoolchildren nationwide," insisting issues of privacy and safety are of paramount importance.

"I encourage parents in every school district in America to demand that their local school boards not sacrifice the privacy and safety of their children because of this administration's pursuit of political correctness," Perkins said. "If the American people do not speak up now on an issue like this, there's no limit to what President Obama's administration, or future



Tony Perkins, president of the anti-LGBT Family Research Council, conceded in a statement he finds the behavior exhibited in the video "deeply offensive and degrading," but nonetheless still supports Trump. Photo: Michael Key, Washington Blade.

liberal presidents, will be emboldened to do."

Ralph Reed, an anti-LGBT activist and chair of the Faith & Freedom Coalition, was even less bothered by the 2005 recording of Trump in a statement to media outlets.

"I've listened to the tape, my view is that people of faith are voting on issues like who will protect unborn life, defend religious freedom, create jobs and oppose the Iran nuclear deal," Reed said. "I think a 10-year-old tape of a private conversation with a TV talk show host ranks pretty low on their hierarchy of concerns."

But in July, after the National Basketball Association announced it would pull its All-Star Game from North Carolina as a result of the state's anti-trans law, issues of privacy were front and center for Reed.

"The NBA's decision to punish the state of North Carolina simply because it protects the privacy of its citizens in bathrooms, locker rooms and shower facilities is an assault on common sense and strong families," Reed said at the time. "The NBA should focus on basketball, not left-wing and special interest politics. Unless and until the NBA allows men to enter WNBA locker rooms, it should leave bathroom policy to state legislatures."

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, who signed the anti-LGBT House Bill 2 into law out of purported concerns of safety and privacy, issued a statement condemning the

Rea Carey, executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, condemned the remarks and called for "all elected officials and politicians, regardless of their party political affiliation, to unequivocally condemn Donald Trump's blatant sexism and misogyny."

remarks Trump made in the video, but hasn't said whether he'll pull support from the nominee.

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms the comments made by Donald Trump regarding women," McCrory said. "I find them disgusting."

Social conservatives have been fear-mongering over transgender people using the restroom at least since a non-discrimination ordinance was on the ballot last year in Houston. At the time, opponents aired TV ads in which a man follows a young girl into a public restroom stall and slams the door behind him before the video ends. The ordinance ended up being defeated at the ballot.

The image in that video isn't far from the actions Trump boasts about in the 2005 video

made public Friday by the Washington Post. Trump talks about hitting on a married woman and being able to grab women – sometimes by their genitals – to kiss them, saying they allow him to do that without reprisal because he's famous. At the time the video was made, Trump was recently married to current wife, Melania Trump.

"You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful – I just start kissing them," Trump says. "It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait. And when you're a star they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything."

Although social conservatives are sticking with Trump, the inflammatory video has shaken up the race. A number of high-profile Republicans – including Sens. John McCain (Ariz.), Deb Fisher (R-Neb.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Mike Lee (R-Utah) – say they no longer support the candidate and that the time has come for him to step aside. Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) said she plans to vote for Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence instead of Trump.

Trump has issued a video apologizing for the remarks, but insists the behavior of former President Bill Clinton was worse and vowed to remain in his position as Republican presidential nominee.

Rea Carey, executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, condemned the remarks and called for "all elected officials and politicians, regardless of their party political affiliation, to unequivocally condemn Donald Trump's blatant sexism and misogyny."

"This verbal sexual assault by Donald Trump on women is truly horrifying – and so revealing about his mindset," Carey said. "We've seen for months how his hate-filled rhetoric has contributed to violent attacks against people of color. We've watched him disparage Mexicans, vilify Muslims, dehumanize people with disabilities, perpetuate negative stereotypes of LGBTQ people, and exploit people's fears and anxiety, all the while encouraging physical violence against anyone who challenges his bigotry."

Not ready to disavow Trump was Chris Barron, the former board chair of the gay conservative group GOProud and founder of LGBT for Trump, who said Saturday he continues to "support Trump 100 percent."

Gregory Angelo, president of Log Cabin Republicans, which continues to mull whether to endorse Trump, said he won't have "any update until the LCR Board re-convenes."

Australian Opposition Decides to Sink Gay Marriage Vote

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) – The Australian opposition on Oct. 11 decided to block government plans for a public but non-binding vote on recognizing gay marriage, arguing it would better if the issue was decided in Parliament.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's conservative coalition government needs center-left Labor Party's support to get enabling legislation through the Senate to hold a national vote on gay marriage on Feb. 11.

But a meeting of Labor lawmakers unanimously decided against supporting the plebiscite, opposition leader Bill Shorten said.

While Labor supports gay marriage, it argues the plebiscite would trigger a divisive public debate. Labor argues the Parliament should decide the issue without asking the public.

"The experts have unequivocally explained to Labor that the plebiscite would cause harm to gay and lesbian people particularly but not exclusively young people," Shorten said.

"Marriage equality, let's make it a reality, let's just get on with it," he added.

The Australian Christian Lobby, which opposes marriage equality, said it was disappointed "that ordinary Australians are being shut out from having a say about the biggest social policy change in a generation."

The government late Monday released

draft amendments to the federal marriage law that would be put to Parliament if a majority of Australians endorse gay marriage in the plebiscite. Opinion polls show most Australians support marriage equality.

But gay rights advocates fear that an aggressive scare campaign could result in the plebiscite failing, putting same-sex marriage off the national agenda for decades. Some conservative lawmakers have said they will vote against gay marriage in Parliament even if a majority of Australians support it.

Religious ministers and officials would be allowed to refuse to officiate at same-sex marriages and churches would be allowed to refuse to provide facilities, goods and services for gay weddings. Some government lawmakers argue the same legal protections should be extended to cake makers and wedding singers who object to same-sex marriage.

Attorney-General George Brandis accused Labor of being more interested in scoring a political win over the prime minister than doing the right thing for gay couples.

"Today is the opportunity for the Labor Party to show that it really does believe in marriage equality or whether it's just playing a political game here," Brandis told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. before Labor made its decision.

Tens of Thousands March in Paris Against Same-Sex Marriage

PARIS (AP) – Tens of thousands of people have marched in Paris to call for the repeal of a law allowing gay marriage, six months before France's next presidential election.

The protesters ended up at Trocadero Plaza, near the Eiffel Tower. Police estimated the crowd at 24,000, while organizers gave a figure of 200,000.

They were also protesting Sunday against the use of assisted reproduction techniques and surrogate mothers to help same-sex couples have babies.

Assisted reproduction is allowed in France only for infertile heterosexual couples and surrogacy is banned.

The group organizing the march presents

itself as promoting the traditional family model of "one mother and one father." It hopes to influence the debate before the presidential election next year.

None of the major candidates in the election attended the march.

A small group of bare-breasted Femen demonstrators briefly showed up Sunday during the march to protest against what they call "homophobia." The half-dozen Femen protesters were removed by police.

The 2013 law allowing gay marriage exposed deep divisions in French society, prompting big protests for and against such unions.



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Former Chrysler Executive Talks Workplace Inclusivity

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Increasingly, LGBT people are making themselves more visible in every profession. Even in the auto industry, a historically more “macho” environment where Fred Hoffman wasn’t sure he would fit in at first.

As an openly gay man, Hoffman said, “I really didn’t know if there would be an issue.” And while he wasn’t waving rainbow flags when he was recruited by Chrysler in 1988, he was told being gay wasn’t a problem.

“I wanted to ask the question because I didn’t want to put myself in harm’s way. I was pleasantly surprised the answer was absolutely affirming,” he said.

Hoffman never hid his sexuality in the variety of positions he has maintained in the last 50 years, but said he never had a need to make a declarative statement either.

From 1967-77, he worked as a columnist and editor for the Dearborn Guide Newspapers and the Times Herald Publications. While serving as deputy mayor in Dearborn, Hoffman held the position of executive director of the Dearborn Economic Development Corporation in the early 1980s.

He later became director of the Auto & Steel Division of the state’s Commerce Department under former Gov. James Blanchard where he helped open the Jefferson North Assembly Plant in 1991. The factory located on East Jefferson Avenue was a major commitment to the downtown Detroit area by Chrysler.

“It’s extremely important for our own mental health to be open in the workplace as well as in other settings of our lives,” Hoffman said.

“I always felt that companies like Chrysler should have employees that look like their customer base in order to successfully sell vehicles.”

In 2008, when he was deciding to retire, former Gov. Jennifer Granholm asked Hoffman to be her advisor on auto restructuring and economic development until the end of her term in 2010.

Granholm told the Free Press, “The auto rebound would not have happened in the successful way that it has without Fred Hoffman. He played a multipronged role in saving the auto industry, and in making sure the landing for real people was not a harsh landing, although it was a very, very difficult time, obviously.”

She also said, “He didn’t need to get credit.



“It’s extremely important for our own mental health to be open in the workplace as well as in other settings of our lives. I always felt that companies like Chrysler should have employees that look like their customer base in order to successfully sell vehicles.”

– Fred Hoffman



He just wanted to make sure that people were served and these jobs were saved.”

Hoffman was asked how he feels about the company he served for two decades.

Fred Hoffman, former Chrysler executive and his husband, Jim Stokes, married on Nov. 29, 2015 after 32 years together. The couple resides in Dearborn. The Fiat Chrysler Automobile Group had the 2016 Fiat 500X specially-wrapped for the Motor City Pride in June 2016. BTL photo: Andrew Potter. Fiat photo courtesy of Rob Widdis.

“I love Chrysler. I loved my years there, but I’m also happy I did what I did. I will cheer on the sidelines for Chrysler. I can never really go back. It’s not the same type of organization it was when I was there, and I’m happy with what I’m doing now,” he said, adding: “The good news is that it’s surviving. It came very close to becoming a footnote in history. I’m so pleased parties came together to rescue the company. The day I left Chrysler in Auburn Hills, 5,000 of us walked out at the same time.”

Hoffman notes that he received a buyout package like everybody else in the company and it made sense to take it, but he continued working for a month afterward.

“I didn’t have everything cleaned up. There was stuff to do and things I needed to resolve before I felt comfortable leaving.”

When given the opportunity to reflect upon his many successes, Hoffman and his husband, Jim Stokes, laugh about the fact that he has “totally failed retirement.”

The couple, together for 32 years, married on Nov. 29 last year and reside in Dearborn where Hoffman has lived most of his life.

He continues to juggle a large number of boards, committees and other roles. He serves as Of Counsel to the firm’s Government and Public Affairs Group at Clark Hill in Detroit. He is affiliated with University of Michigan-Dearborn, which he serves as director of Strategic University Relationships. He also serves as vice chairman of the Detroit Wayne County Port Authority, by appointment of the Governor; as Secretary-Treasurer of the Wayne County Building Authority, by appointment of the County Executive, and since 2002, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany for the state of Michigan.

“Jim is continually trying to get me to slow down,” he said, especially since Hoffman was diagnosed with cancer in September 2015.

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Freddy Niblack, 44, is still longing to be part of the roar that hummed as his childhood's theme. He came out as a teenager and has traveled down a bumpy road filled with discrimination in his professional career.



First Openly Gay Racecar Driver in IndyCar Series Freddy Niblack. Photo courtesy of UNITE Magazine Indianapolis

Racecar Driver Comes Out on Road to Indy 500

BY NICK POUST

Freddy Niblack is the first openly gay driver in the IndyCar Series, but that's not all that defines him. As is the case for so many athletes, homosexual or not, he is also a person looking to accomplish a dream - a dream he's had since his childhood days spent carving a race track through neighbors' yards on his go-kart as the sound of the nearby Indianapolis 500 engulfed the air surrounding his family's Speedway, Indiana home.

"I literally grew up two blocks from the track, and I was born in May, which happens to be the month that all the festivities for the 500 go on," Niblack says. "My mom said I would scream and cry until she'd sit me on the porch and let me hear the Indy cars. They were like a lullaby. As long as there were racecars and motors, I was good."

Niblack, 44, is still longing to be part of the roar that hummed as his childhood's theme. He came out as a teenager and has traveled down a bumpy road filled with discrimination in his professional career. While he was racing in the Mini-Indy Series in 1992, he was the subject of hateful remarks that led to his departure.

"Someone put a poster on my race trailer that said 'AIDS cures fags,'" he says, "and so that team owner didn't want me anymore."

Niblack then went to Europe, hoping for

a better opportunity, but more of the same transpired. "People over there were even less accepting," he says. "It didn't matter if you had a podium finish, a first-place finish or a top-five, you were still the gay driver."

"With some teams gay men are viewed as the weak link, which is funny because some of my times and finishes were a lot better than my counterparts, or my teammates," he adds. "Instead of being happy for me it became a source of a pang."

That's not the case anymore, however. Niblack is back home after signing on to race for Indianapolis-based Top Kart USA, which didn't even know he was gay when he was signed. He competed in the Freedom 100 in May at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and for the first time, his presence in the driver's seat wasn't because of his sexual orientation or the sponsors and revenue that would coincide. It's about his talent.

"Here, it was all about what I brought to the table," Niblack says. "There wasn't this IndyCar mentality. And what I mean by that is a lot of IndyCar people, they forget to be human, and they forget what this sport is about. It's to have fun. It becomes a money situation, and yes, here, it takes money to do what we do, but it's also really fun. We can laugh and have a good time and be ourselves. For the first time in a long time I feel welcome. The gay thing

isn't really brought up unless I bring it up."

That's not to say his sexual orientation and its impact on the racing community doesn't matter to Niblack. It means plenty. In his 22 years on the track, no one from the LGBT community has ever come to see him in his element. That changed in March when Indianapolis's JJ Gufreda, the president of GEI, Inc. - the first transgender-owned company certified as LGBTBE by the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce - attended a testing at Lucas Oil Raceway.

"I was on the track, going about 160, 170 (miles per hour), and when I saw JJ - when I was in my racecar on the track - I waved to her," Niblack says. "To see JJ walk up was such a milestone, such a sense of pride, such a sense of 'finally.' JJ wasn't there to flip her hair or challenge the bathroom rules; she was solely there to support me. And in my entire career I cannot think of a more defining moment than seeing JJ walk up."

Niblack wants this to be the start of a pattern, to make the LGBT community feel as welcome at the race track as Top Kart USA and Gufreda have made him feel.

"To see someone come in who is different, who is out of the ordinary - and guess what, they are today's ordinary," he says. "They are today's human being. The gay community, take your place. Be supportive. Be proud of

your own people. Not everybody dresses up like Tina Turner and lip-syncs for their life. Not all gay men are strippers or escorts or wear eyeliner. Embrace diversity. Embrace our differences."

Niblack says he simply races better when he's happy, and after he saw Gufreda he increased his lap speed by 1.5 seconds. "I had this feeling of self-worth, this feeling of strength in numbers, and this feeling of love," he says. "That's huge for me. An honor, and I'm very grateful. I can't imagine if I had 100 people from the community there, what I would do."

Including the Freedom 100, Niblack raced 13 times throughout the summer this year - and while the Indianapolis 500 wasn't one of them, he plans on inhabiting one of those cars his childhood self lived to hear one day soon.

The 500 may be the ultimate goal for Niblack and Top Kart USA, but this year is about honing their craft as a team. Top Kart USA is predominately self-funded, and in March was the first time his number-22 car spent time on the ground, let alone a track.

"We're not focused on IndyCar this year," he says. "We're focused on the cars that we have, and making them well. We're not begrudging what we have and angry about what we don't have. We're happy about

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THE AUTO GUIDE

► Indy Driver

Continued from p. 20

what we have and focused on what we have. We want a winning car. We want a winning team.”

Niblack brings his individual sponsors to Top Kart USA, but unlike other stops on his road that’s not the reason behind his presence. “We don’t need that sponsor money to create something,” says Blake Deister, the team’s co-owner. “It’s already created.”

“From the front of the house to the back of the house it is every single person that works on that team to get that driver into that car to win races or be competitive,” adds Niblack. “The owners of a lot of the larger teams, without those drivers and those drivers’ sponsors they wouldn’t be where they are. It’s not just about one person’s brand here. It’s about the team as a whole. Yes, I do drive for this team, and, yes, I did bring sponsors, but these people own the shop, the semis, the cars, the mechanics, the tools.”

With all of the pieces but the driver upon

“To see someone come in who is different, who is out of the ordinary – and guess what, they are today’s ordinary. They are today’s human being. The gay community, take your place. Be supportive. Be proud of your own people. Not everybody dresses up like Tina Turner and lip-syncs for their life. Not all gay men are strippers or escorts or wear eyeliner. Embrace diversity. Embrace our differences.”

- Freddy Niblack

his arrival, the immediate acceptance of Deister and the Top Kart USA team was a weight off Niblack’s shoulders. Here, he can just race, without distaste for his sexuality in the undercurrent, waiting to rear its discriminatory head.

“It is such a small part of my life, but it is who I am,” he says, regarding his homosexuality. “It’s just not a factor here. Now, at other places, it was, ‘We don’t want you going here, we don’t want you going there, we don’t want you dealing with this publication, we don’t want you dealing with this gay event.’ Well, I am a gay man. My community - I want their support and their love, and I’m not going to be something that I’m not, and that’s the most important thing.”

That community would have much

reason to cheer. Not just because of what he represents, but because of his talent, and that of his team.

“I have the same big visions and the same big dreams, but I’m intelligent enough to know that you have to start here before you can get here,” Niblack says. “With this team, we have the facility to grow. We have the technology, the equipment, the manpower. These guys will be here until midnight if that’s what it takes.”

And so will Niblack, with his childhood’s lullaby forever in his head, striving to accomplish just one his many goals, hoping to influence a community along the way.

This story was originally published in June in UNITE Magazine Indianapolis.

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THE AUTO GUIDE

► Fred Hoffman

Continued from p. 18

He finished chemo treatments a few months ago and is now stabilized.

To support aspiring young LGBT people, Hoffman and his husband have funded scholarships for LGBT students at UM-Dearborn, Henry Ford College and Michigan State University Law School. They also support the Wayne State University Junior Year in Munich program.

“We are delighted to spend time with recipients encouraging them in public policy,” he said.

Hoffman’s efforts have not gone unnoticed. He is the August 2016 recipient of the Eleanor Josaitis Unsung Hero Award, one of the Shining Light Awards sponsored by the Detroit Free Press and Metropolitan Affairs Coalition. The awards, named for former Free Press Publisher Neal Shine, recognize those in Metro Detroit who work to make the region a more livable place for everyone and give voice to the vulnerable.

Fiat Chrysler’s Commitment to LGBT Community

While the company’s LGBT employee resource group, Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA), formed late in Hoffman’s time



Fred Hoffman with his 2015 Chrysler Jeep Cherokee. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

at Chrysler, he is “particularly pleased” that there is an LGBT organization in place for others to benefit from.

Chrysler was a leader among U.S. employers in providing domestic partner benefits to its employees in 2000. In 2013, Chrysler was among a small group of leading employers to achieve a perfect score of 100 percent on Human Rights Campaign’s Corporate Equality Index.

In 2000, along with GM and Ford, Chrysler began offering same-sex partner benefits to its employees. Eight years later, the company began covering medically necessary care for its transgender employees.

Since the Fiat Chrysler merger in January 2014, the company continues to support GALA initiatives such as Motor City Pride in Hart Plaza and the annual 5K run/walk to benefit Affirmations in Ferndale and the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park. For the few days prior to National Coming Out Day, the company displays an LGBT flag, not only outside its company entrance, but also inside Tech Plaza with the rainbow car display.

In addition, the Faces of GALA exhibit runs in June each year and is comprised of 15-20 poster boards, with information about different GALA members, including allies.

“This is a unique way of expressing that we have a welcoming culture. GALA members can show their face and their pride about who they are and what they support, right here,” said Greg Hawkins, Mopar Marketing Manager, FCA US LLC.

He said, “It’s great to know iconic figures within the LGBT community, but what about inside our building? Who do I aspire to be as an LGBT employee? We look and find ourselves.”

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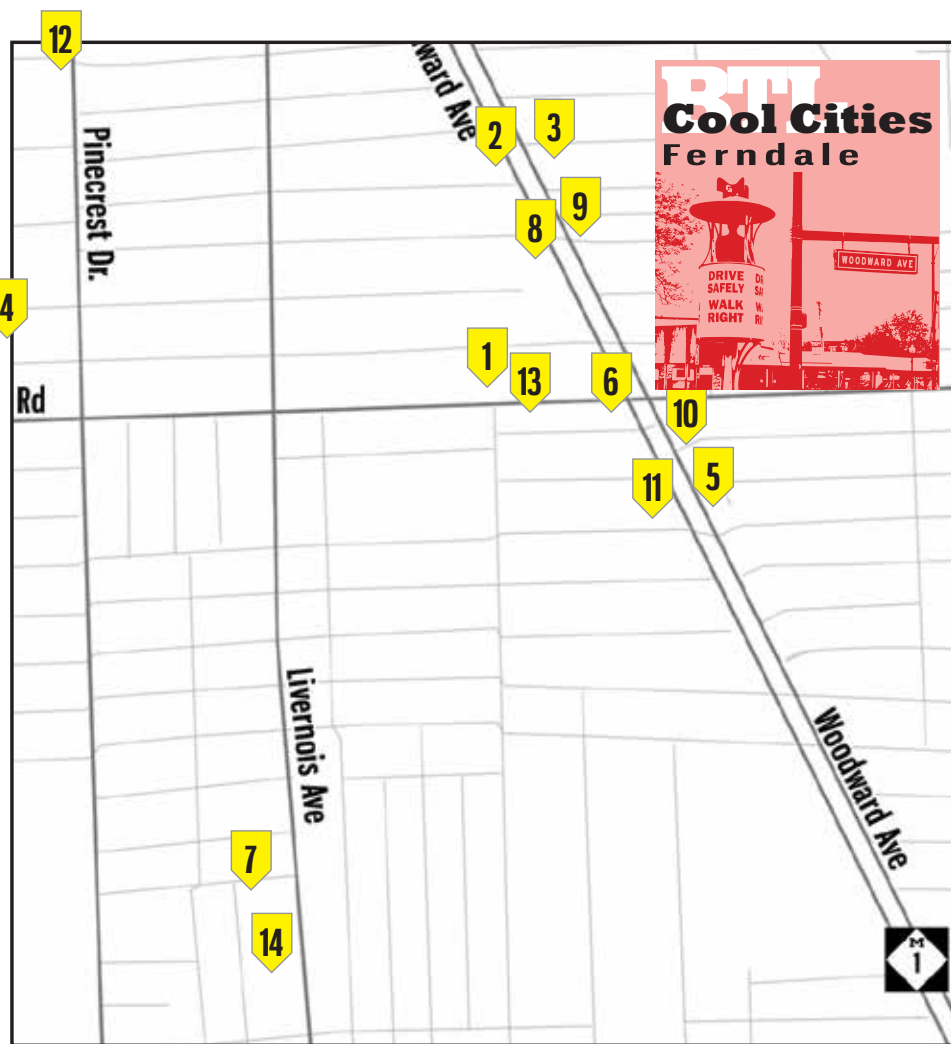
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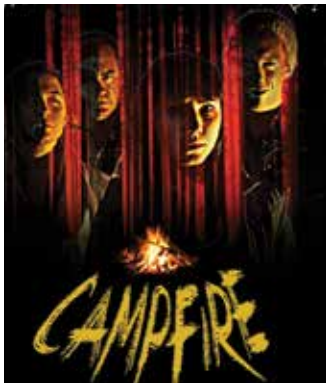
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'Campfire' Opens at The Ringwald Theatre

FERNDALE – Prolific Michigan playwright Joseph Zettelmaier's newest play, *Campfire*, has opened at The Ringwald Theatre for its tenth season. This horrifying play tells the story of Marcus Carver who has brought his niece and nephew back home, one year after the death of his brother, their father. In the woods behind his farm, around a campfire, the Carvers will tell stories as they have for many generations. But a stranger has entered the dimly-lit circle. Their tales take on a darker tone as the night grows long, and family secrets draw the stranger closer to the Carvers. But these secrets come with a dangerous price.



Campfire plays through Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Monday nights with 3 p.m. Sunday matinees. Ticket prices are \$20 for Friday and Saturday performances, \$15 for Sunday shows, and Monday nights are half off the original ticket price at \$10.

Zettelmaier's plays have been seen on many Michigan stages including *Salvage*

at Planet Ant, *Invasive Species* at Tipping Point Theatre, *The Scullery Maid* at Jewish Ensemble Theatre, *It Came From Mars* at Performance Network, and this season's *Pulp* at Williamston Theatre. Ringwald artistic director Joe Bailey said, "We are thrilled to be opening our milestone season with this terrifically scary play—just in time for Halloween—from this amazing Michigan playwright."

Brandy Joe Plambeck directs a cast that includes Eric Eilersen, Julia Garlotte, Allison Megroet, and Joel Mitchell. Set design is by Jennifer Maiseloff, costume design is by Vince Kelley and sound and lighting design is by Plambeck. Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theatre box office.

The Ringwald's box office at 22742 Woodward Ave. opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card. For more information, call 248-545-5545.

'Green' Butcher Shop, Marketplace to Open in Ferndale

Chefs Mike and Matt Romine's philosophy is simple. They believe eating local food tastes better and is better for you.

The twin brothers and co-founders of the Mulefoot in Imlay City are bringing a USDA-licensed retail butcher shop and marketplace to Ferndale in November. Much like their farm-to-table gastropub, the new location named Farm Field Table will offer a diverse selection of local, humanely raised meats and specialty cuts free of hormones and antibiotics.

The shop is designed to help Ferndale-area restaurants that do not have the means to efficiently butcher onsite.

"I think a lot of chefs specifically are interested in getting this quality of meat in a

manner where they don't have to become a professional butcher themselves," Matt said.

Farm Field Table will also provide a space to help train a "green" restaurant workforce in the proper handling and prep for butchery practices.

The shop will cater to the public but still focus on developing restaurant accounts. Matt eventually hopes to expand the shop's charcuterie business depending on what licensing is available.

Get a taste of what Farm Field Table has to offer during a four-course pop-up dinner Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at The Mulefoot. Tickets are \$75 including beverage pairing, but not tax or tip.

See Ferndale page 31

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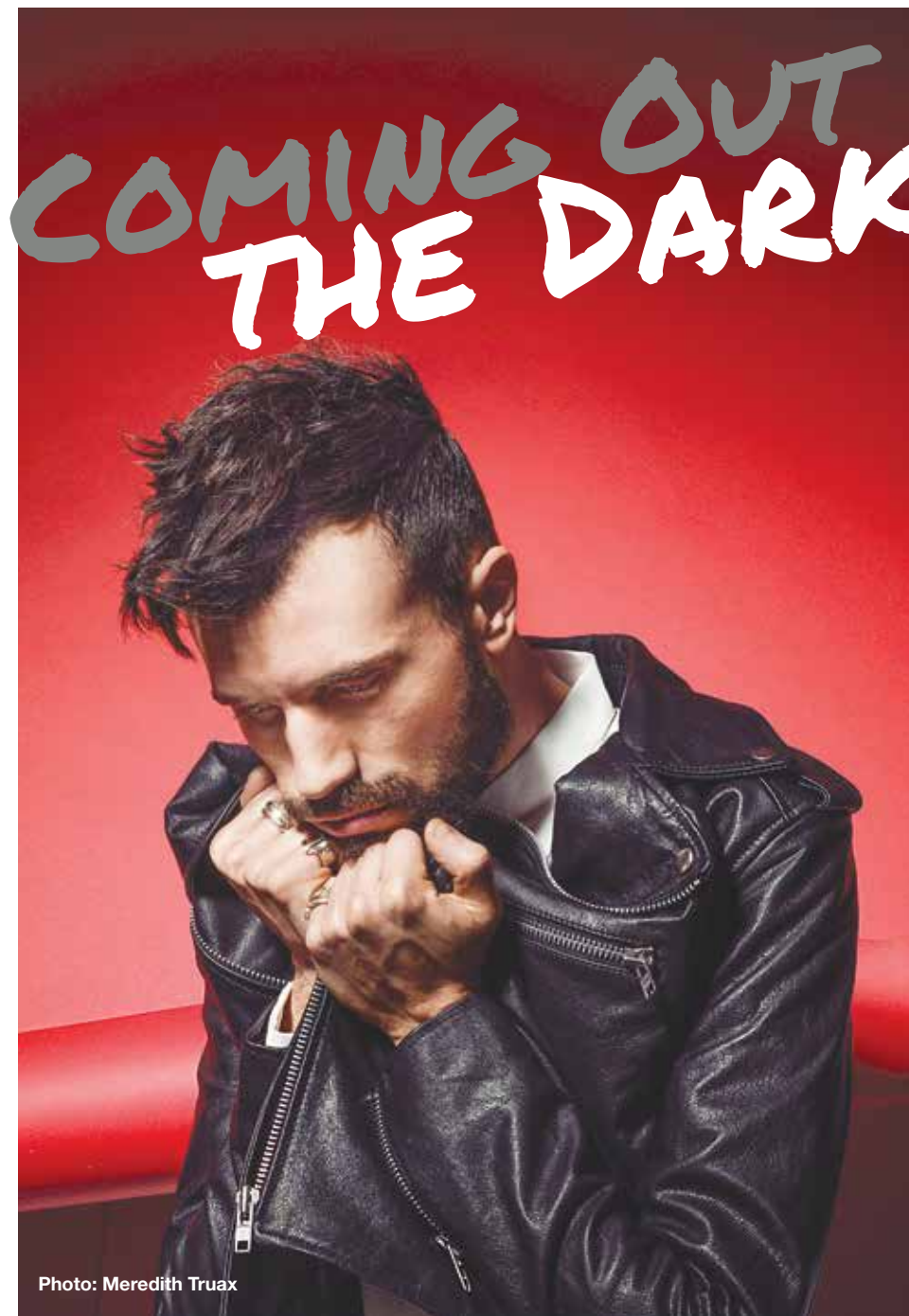


Photo: Meredith Truax

Tyler Glenn On Resisting Suicide, Losing His Religion & Being 'Unapologetically' Gay

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

"To be honest..." Tyler Glenn begins, following a telling deep breath.

Glenn's lead-in could serve as the prologue to his new no-holds-barred solo debut album, "Excommunication." Here, however, it precedes the heavy moment when Glenn, the lead singer of Neon Trees, reveals he's considered suicide twice this year.

Perhaps that comes as a surprise. The singer seemed vibrant and hopeful when he came out in 2014. At the time, Glenn was looking to reconcile his Mormon faith with being gay, and during our talk that same year he said, "I think

that there's a time and a place to come out, and I don't know if waiting till I was 30 was the best thing, but it definitely has turned out fine, and I'm a happy person."

A year later, Glenn received dispiriting news that left him feeling just the opposite: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints enacted a policy that prevents children living with same-sex couples from being baptized until age 18 – also, they must "disavow" same-sex relationships before baptism – and proclaims members in gay marriages subject to excommunication.

The church's shameful decision had a destructive effect on Glenn's well-being. "I

tried to kill myself," the singer confesses on the new album's G.D.M.M.L. GRLS (i.e. "God Didn't Make Me Like Girls"), "and I'm not the only one."

During our sobering exchange, the 32-year-old ex-Mormon spoke candidly about his descent into a life-threatening low and how his own fans pulled – and are still pulling – him through.

When were you having these suicidal thoughts and what kept you from taking your life?

(Sighs) To be honest, it was earlier this year. For me, I believed in Mormonism, and I knew I was gay, and then I tried to merge the two together. Then, when the church put out a policy that clearly put same-sex couples in their place and in a marginalized box, it was just clear to me it was a toxic space. I started looking at things that I thought I knew were true my whole life and really began to see that those things weren't true. I looked deeper and I fell down a rabbit hole. I felt the rug had been pulled out from under me, and I didn't know what to believe in. It became really dark, and I realized how it feels to want to sort of, you know, leave. And, to be honest, even two months ago I felt this thought and saw my life sort of – I don't know. It's been a long road. I totally recognize now what it's like to be that dark and to think that that might be an option, and it freaked me out.

I'm sorry you were having these thoughts just a couple of months ago. I hope that you have pulled yourself out of that rabbit hole.

I have. I hope I don't go back. I know that I need to be stronger, but there are times when it's just all fresh for me, and that's the thing with this record: I'm still sort of living it. It's not completely behind me.

How would you describe the feeling of being this beacon of light for young queer people, but at the same time experiencing the same struggles they're going through? Is it conflicting for you?

It is. (Sighs) A month ago I went to Wyoming for a weekend with LGBTQ kids to speak with Matthew Shepard's mom, to hear my own mom speak about being a mother of a queer kid, and then I just got to hear from kid after kid and adults as well who were pouring their hearts out. But the day before was probably one of the lower points in my life – of this year, at least.

I was on a plane and I was telling the lady next to me that I want to be able to tell all these people that it gets better, but I don't know that for sure. Then to be able to go and spend a weekend in Wyoming and have my perspective and attitude change – those are the things that keep me from falling completely down that dark hole. So, it's conflicting. It exhausts me because I'm actually just kind of an introvert. I know that about myself. But I am so in awe of other people's strength, and I need them as much as maybe they need me sometimes. I need to hear that it's gonna be good, that there's

a point to all this. So, I feel really bonded to my gayness, I feel really bonded to the community more than I ever have, and I'm really exploring that. That, I think, is one of the most rewarding things about this record so far for me.

What were you feeling during the process of writing and recording the songs for "Excommunication"?

I felt pretty out of my mind when I was writing a lot of it because I just felt compelled every day. I woke up and paced my apartment, manically writing beats so that I could sing the melody in my head. There are a few songs that didn't make the record that are even more raw and pointed, but what ended up making the record is a body of work that showcases the highs and lows of this transition, as well as this coming to terms with identity. In that way, writing it was really effortless, but exhausting.

Recording it was one of the most creative, joyful experiences so far in my musical career. That's what makes it worth it. It's really rewarding. I hate to sound like this guy who's like, "I don't care if it's No. 1," or, "I don't care if I have a hit off of it" – those things are important – but what's driving this record is the real-life crisis that I've gone through and shining a light on those who are also going through it. To know I'm not alone is really exciting. So, if the record reaches the audience I made it for, then I'm stoked. To me, that's success.

Which song on the album means the most to you?

That's hard for me; there's a few. There's one called "Midnight" that when I see people's reaction it means so much to me. There are a lot of songs on the record that talk about big questions and wondering about (my) purpose and feeling the hurt, but "Midnight" encompasses the universal experience of not really knowing for sure. Growing up Mormon, I knew the church was true. Now, to say "I don't know" is really kind of freeing.

Tell me about "John, Give 'Em Hell." Did you write that for excommunicated Mormon podcaster John Dehlin?

I wrote it for John Dehlin, yeah. I wrote it for John just as a friendship gift. It was on acoustic guitar, and I recorded it on my cell phone and sent it to me. Then, I just kept listening to it and going back to it, and I played it for my producer and he was like, "You gotta put this on the record."

I'm sure you'll be hearing this a lot, but "Excommunication" is the album I needed when I was 16. Has it dawned on you that you could save so many lives just by being yourself and putting this out there?

It didn't at first. I literally was just doing it so much for my own sanity. It wasn't until I started putting out songs from the record slowly that I got that feedback, and I'm just beyond stoked that that's one of the reactions – that it's helping people or carving a space for people. That to me is a huge deal.

INFO

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Where's the feedback coming from?

Mostly from fans on social media. I see it on Reddit. I see it from a lot of LGBTQ people, and also just a lot of marginalized people in religion. So, it's not just the gay community, but that's meaning a lot to me because that's the audience I intended it for. I'm glad that it's being received by those types of people.

This album will likely define a lot of coming-of-age moments for a lot of LGBT people. When you were going through your darkest moments, which artists and albums did you find yourself clinging to during your journey to self-discovery? Who did you turn to for musical salvation?

Often it was The Smiths and Morrissey just because I looked at him as doing sexuality in his own way, and I always clung to that idea that I didn't want to be defined so much by orientation. Even Lady Gaga, during 2008 and 2009, when she was first coming onto the scene, was such a breath of fresh air. I remember obsessively watching any interview I could find on her when she first started doing press for "The Fame" and "The Fame Monster." I felt validated as an artist and we hadn't even made our first record as Neon Trees yet, but I just felt like, "Damn, hell yeah, thank you."

Does she know you feel this way about her?

I told her briefly when I met her, but when you meet people you look up to – these icons – you don't always get the two-hour sit-down conversation. I also have trepidation when I meet people. I don't want to come off as the needy fan who just wants a picture, so I don't know... maybe one day I'll be able to.

When a fan of your wants to express the same sentiment to you, how do you navigate that encounter?

I honestly give a lot of time and space for that because I know how much it means to me, and I know my experience with meeting certain celebrities in the past who I've looked up to. I know that it's meant so much to me when they give me their time. I try to give as much of myself to make sure people feel validated.

What inspired the "Who the Fuck is Tyler Glenn?" shirt you're wearing in the video for "Shameless"?

It's a riff on a shirt that The Stones used to wear. (Stones guitarist) Keith Richards used to wear a "Who the Fuck is Mick Jagger?" shirt when they first started putting records out, but also, I'm sort of in a moment where I'm asking, "Who the fuck is Tyler Glenn?" I'm on the search for the meaning and purpose of life

much more now. Now, I feel way more whole than I ever have because I feel like I'm being a gay man for the first time even though I came out two years ago. I feel like I'm without filter – and I'm without a framework that never really had a space for me to begin with. Now, I'm just really free to exist and find out just who I am and what I want in life and what I want my life to be and look like.

What does it mean to you to be gay "without filter"?

When I came out, I came out as gay and Mormon, and for about a year after that experience I tried to reconcile religion and continued to try to fit the square peg into the round hole. I think now I'm kind of rebuilding my own framework. I'm still trying to fit into a space that doesn't really have any room for me or people like me. I'm excited that I'm only 32, but at the same time I wish I had done that earlier.

I've always been worried: "How do I be a good Mormon?" "How do I be the right kind of gay guy?" Now, I don't really feel like there's one way in religion. I don't feel like there's one way in the gay community either. It's way freer. Being able to hold hands with a guy that I'm seeing in public – I know that kind of sounds like baby steps, but I just feel so effortlessly comfortable in my skin and, honestly, it took me almost 32 years to get there. Where what usually occupied my thoughts was my nature, now I don't even think about it. It's so nice to live unapologetically.

Seeing as how bold and personal your solo debut is, where do you see yourself within Neon Trees going forward? Could you ever be this personal within the band?

I don't know. It's definitely been on my mind. I've had convos with the band and they've been really healing, and some of the members of the band who are still Mormon are unsure of how we carry on. I have the same questions. For me, it's completely possible because I love my band and I love what we've done, but I can't go back to it in the same way. If I'm able to write freely and if they're able to feel comfortable creating with me, then I think we might be able to make even cooler records. But I don't know.

I just can't ever create anymore in a space where there's a limitation. I wouldn't say that Neon Trees is ever limiting, because for where I was in my life at the time it was completely as authentic as I could be, but I'm just not the same Tyler Glenn from even two or three years ago when we made our last record.

You're sending a lot of messages to a lot of people with this album. But what message do you hope to send to Mormons who've condemned you and other LGBT people?

I want them to recognize that it's not a tantrum, and that there are thousands upon thousands of voiceless LGBT people within even just the Mormon community who feel like they can't ask questions and can't have doubts and can't be themselves. I want to be able to give a microphone to those people.

"EXQUISITE. AN EMOTIONAL POWERHOUSE"
-Chicago Tribune

FUN HOME

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ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office. Info: BroadwayInDetroit.com & 313-872-1000. Groups (10+): Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com or 313-871-1132.
OC 7:30PM 12/4.

Detroit LGBT Chamber of Commerce Group at Ford Field

Sunday, October 23rd at 1:00 PM
Ford Field, 2000 Brush Street, Detroit, MI
From \$99

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40 BRING 40 FRIENDS TO GET A Grey Detroit Lions Cap

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Celebrate the LGBT Chamber and the NFL Suppliers partnership with LGBT-Certified Businesses by Supporting our Lions Team on October 23rd @ 1:00pm. \$8 of every ticket sold will support the Chamber and their educational programming.

Tickets start at \$99. Great seats! Great Fun! Great Pride!

Visit: www.detroitlgbtchamber.com "Our Events"

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Oct. 20

Detroit Elders Project 5 p.m. Focus on topics specific to the LGBT older adult community. All are welcome to participate in this dialogue. Please bring a dish to share. LGBT Detroit, 4750 Woodward Ave., 3rd Floor Conference Room, **Detroit**. 313-638-2897. belcrest5440@yahoo.com

Learn Resume Writing Skills 6 p.m. Ideal for ages 13-24 but is free and open to everyone. Learn effective resume writing including professional formatting, how to get noticed among the clutter of powerful cover letters and more. Affirmations, www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. lreys@goaffirmations.org

Friday, Oct. 21

Im So Angry! How Could You Do This To Me? 7:30 p.m. Join Mark McMillan, LLMSW, in a safe space and learn about anger and whats actually underneath it, explore the difference between healthy and unhealthy anger, and learn a few strategies to begin understanding this powerful emotion. This is a free event and all are welcomed. Joe Kort & Associates, 25600 Woodward Suite 218, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-7447. Mark@CRSH.com Www.joekortandassociates.com

Red Hot Fridays 9 p.m. No cover charge before midnight. Password "Red Hot." Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-541-

1600. info@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com

Bear Expo 5 Fall Edition 10 p.m. Bear and leather expo raising money for local charities, bringing the leather, bear, and pup communities together. Menjos Complex, 928 McNichols Road W, **Detroit**. 313-863-3934.

Saturday, Oct. 22

3rd Annual Leadership for Women Summit 11 a.m. A one-day summit designed for women who want to be E.P.I.C. (Empowered, Powerful, Intellectual, Committed). Tickets \$147. Leadership for Women, 3071 W. Grand Blvd, **Detroit**. http://www.leadershipforwomen.org/

First Annual Dog Halloween Picnic

12 p.m. Pre-sale tickets: \$3, \$5 day of. Portion of proceeds benefit Detroit Animal Welfare Group. Boo Boo's BoneYard, 22156 Bordin Rd., **Armada**. 586-944-9230. www.facebook.com/boobosboneyard

Smeared Lipstick 3 p.m. A discussion group for self identified feminine lesbian women to identify issues specific to them. The group also does a monthly community service project to increase their visibility in every community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Sunday, Oct. 23

Moss PAC Brunch 12 p.m. Discuss LGBT issues in Michigan at a brunch fundraiser for MOSS PAC supporting pro-equality candidates for the Michigan

House of Representatives. Moss PAC, 18410 Magnolia Parkway, **Southfield**. jeremyallenmoss@gmail.com

Monday, Oct. 24

FTM Detroit 7 p.m. This discussion provides trans men an opportunity to discuss a fuller image of transition within their larger life including deconstruction of doubt, male privilege, vulnerability and more. Attendance restricted to FTM/transgender men, anyone who identifies on the transmasculine side of the spectrum. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Tuesday, Oct. 25

Meet Author Les Cochran At Roman Village 5 p.m. Join author Les Cochran for the kick-off of SAX CLUB, the first book in his new series Thorn Birds of Detroit - historical fiction about the tough times in Detroit starting in the late 1970s. Roman Village, 9924 Dix Avenue, **Dearborn**. 313-842-2100. Author@LesCochran.com www.LesCochran.com

Care To Dance? 7 p.m. Learn to urban ballroom. Sisterhood Social Excursions, 8670 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. www.meetup.com

Trauma and Chemical Use and Addiction 7:30 p.m. Free open to anyone with personal or professional interest. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliott Drive, **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. info@dawnfarm.org http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series



Editor's Pick

8th Annual Detroit Fall Beer Festival

Join the Michigan Brewers Guild at Eastern Market for one of the largest all-Michigan beer tastings around. Enjoy incredible food from Detroit-area restaurants and listen to top of the line local musicians. Michigan Brewers Guild has provided

a selection of over 700 craft beers from over 80 Michigan Breweries. A fun phone app will be integrated into the festival. The app allows you to flag brews to try before the festival and then work from the personal list to check in and rate during the festival. The app can work for everyone's style.

The 8th Annual Detroit Fall Beer Festival will be held Oct. 21 at 5 p.m. and Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. at Eastern Market located at 2934 Russell St. in Detroit. Tickets cost \$40-\$45 and includes 15 tasting tokens which can be exchanged for 3 oz. of any of the 700 beers on tap. Must be over 21 to participate in drinking.

Thursday, Oct. 27

Working with Transgender Clients: A Focus on Relationships 1 p.m. Learn about the issues facing transgender people with relationships, why relationships are difficult, relationships with the self and inner transphobia, and more. Tickets: \$60. Transgender Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 517-420-1544. www.transgendermichigan.givezooks.com/events/tg-clients

2016 Annual Dinner & Auction: "Voices of Freedom" 5 p.m. Featuring Amy Lange, Fox2 News Investigative Reporter and Emmy award winner, as Mistress of Ceremonies, and "The Ben," Rwanda's top R&B artist and Freedom House alumni. Tickets: \$100. Freedom House, 1000 Brush Street, **Detroit**. trogers@freedomhousedetroit.org http://freedomhousedetroit.org/index.php/2016-annual-dinner-auction

All Genders Film Night 6:30 p.m. A social group to view and discuss films that relate to the unique challenges in the LGBTQ community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Men's Film Group 6:30 p.m. 18 and up Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. mensgroup6@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

Parent Support Group 7 p.m. Dr. Melissa Farrell, LCP and Roz Keith facilitate ongoing group for parents of trans youth to better understand what it means to be transgender. Event is free. Stand With Trans, 5725 Walnut Lake Rd, **West Bloomfield Twp.** 248-661-5700. laura@temple-israel.org

Rehearsals for Metro Detroit LGBT Chorus 7 p.m. New members welcomed year round. One Voice Chorus, 1589 W. Maple Road, **Birmingham**. detroitonevoice@yahoo.com http://onevoicechorus.net

Friday, Oct. 28

Champions for the Kids Masquerade Gala and Auction Silent, super silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing hosted by emcee Paul W. Smith of WJR with music by the Simone Vitale Band. Tickets: \$250. Formal attire with a masquerade theme encouraged. Yatooma's Foundation For The Kids, 600 E. University Drive, **Rochester**. 248-652-2600. www.forthekidsfoundation.org

Metro Highlights 12 p.m. The exhibit is An all-media competition exhibition with distinguished juror Rachel Reynolds Z Artist educator and optimist. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, **Ferndale**. 2485440394. lawrencestreetgallery@gmail.com www.

lawrencestreetgallery.com

Saturday, Oct. 29

Smart Recovery 10 a.m. Smart Recovery offers people with any type of addiction a place to learn how to change unwanted behaviors through cognitive based methods. This is a non-12 step program, led by Smart Recovery trainers, and does not require abstinence. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Coming Out Over Coffee 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Alcoholics Anonymous Brownbaggers 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Homocoming Dance 6 p.m. Embrace 80s and 90s culture at this networking and socializing event for youth ages 13-20. Admission is free. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Affirmations, www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Group for gay, bisexual and transgender men ages 18 and up. This group frequently offers holiday parties and outings such as movie nights in addition to regular meetings. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Color Run Night 5k Detroit at Belle Isle 7 p.m. Glowtastic nighttime 5k to Detroit at Belle Isle! Tickets \$34.99-\$54.99. The Color Run, 1 Pleasure Dr., **Detroit**. http://thecolorrun.com/night/locations/detroit/onevoicechorus.net

Night of the Dancing Dead 9 p.m. Costume Contest and Dancing Zombies. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave, **Ferndale**. 2485411600. events@reddoorclub.com reddoorclub.com

Retro Fevre Saturdays 9 p.m. Music from 80s, 90s, and today. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave, **Ferndale**. 2485411600. events@reddoorclub.com http://www.reddoorclub.com/events/

Sunday, Oct. 30

Paddle Power 1 a.m. Yak season is April

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7:30 p.m.
TICKETS START AT: \$33

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► **Ferndale**

Continued from p. 27

Call 810-721-1019 to purchase.

The Romine brothers recently scored first place on an episode of Food Network's "Chopped." The show airs again on Nov. 3 at 9 p.m. for a championship-style episode titled "Beat Bobby Flay, Part 3."

Farm Field Table, which is still undergoing inspections, will be located in the industrial northeast area of Ferndale at 1030 Woodward Heights next door to Urbanrest Brewing Company. For more information visit www.themulefoot.com.

Pop's Expands, Daily Dinette Closes

The Daily Dinette permanently closed Sept. 26 after just seven months of operating as a 24-hour diner behind Pop's. Kramer Restaurant Group announced late September that it would be closing Daily Dinette to make way for the

expansion of Pop's located in the same lot.

Pop's will now expand into the 10,000-square-foot space previously held by Daily Dinette. The expansion will accommodate parties, pop-up dinners, visiting Italian chefs and special wine-focused events while adding more kitchen space to prep the restaurant's Neapolitan-style pizzas and more, according to the Detroit Free Press.

"The art of making pasta and Neapolitan pizza is simple — it has to be made fresh, like every day fresh, and this requires space that we currently do not have on-site unless we repurpose the Daily Dinette's space," said owner Brian Kramer. "In addition to the demand for more space to prep the fresh pasta and pizza, our phones never stop ringing for reservations and off-premise catering, so we have decided to create a room where families and friends can share special occasions."

Pop's is located at 280 W. Nine Mile Rd. in Ferndale. For more information, call 248-268-4806 or visit their website www.popsforitalian.com/home.

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- HIV Prevention & Education ⊕
- HIV Related Training and Presentations ⊕
- HIV Testing ●●
- Housing Assistance ●●
- Linkage to Care ●
- Medical Case Management ⊕
- Medical Transportation ●●
- Medication Adherence Counseling ⊕
- Overdose Prevention ●
- Prisoner Re-Entry Services ●
- Support Groups ⊕
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- Syringe Access ●
- Tobacco Reduction ●●

Locations

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 211 West Ganson Street, Suite 110 • Jackson, MI 49201 • P: 517-780-3262 • F: 517-790-0936
 3075 Clark Road, Suite 203 • Ypsilanti, MI 48197 • P: 734-572-9355 • F: 734-572-0554
 800-872-2437 • www.miunified.org •

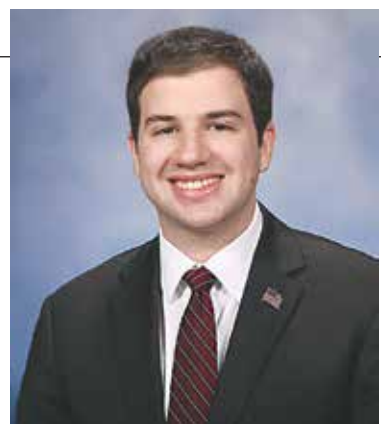
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Editor's Pick

Join State Rep. Jeremy Moss in a MOSS PAC Brunch

State Representative Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield,) is one of two openly-gay state representatives serving in Lansing. Since his election in 2014, Moss has worked diligently with Republicans to find common ground and promote LGBT rights. Recently, he appeared on an MLive podcast with conservative State Rep. Gary Glenn, known for being openly anti-LGBT. During that meeting, Glenn pointed out that if Republicans maintain the majority in the State House next year Michigan residents should not expect the Legislature to improve the lives of

LGBT because, he said, "the next Republican caucus is not going to be a little bit more conservative – it's going to be a lot more conservative."

Join Making Our State Stronger (PAC) brunch fundraiser and give financial support to pro-equality candidates in Michigan who will make sure promoting LGBT rights is a priority in the State House. MOSS PAC is dedicated to helping Democratic candidates for the state House in nine targeted districts.

The brunch will be held at 2 p.m. at the home of Southfield Mayor Kenson Silver and Zack Ismail, located at 18410 Magnolia Parkway in Southfield. Suggested contributions \$75-\$500.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 30

through October. Yak Womyn, **Ann Arbor**. sapphosis@yahoo.com

"The Bucket List of Booze Club" 2 p.m. Michigan playwright Maureen Paraventi shares her first full length work: "The Bucket List of Booze Club." Tickets: \$15-\$17. Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main Street, **Plymouth**. 734-404-6889. www.justgobarefoot.com

Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus Anniversary Dinner 5:30 p.m. The annual fundraising event will honor U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman and his wife Rozie. Historian and Author Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt will deliver the keynote address. Includes dinner, desert and afterglow reception. Tickets start at \$136. Holocaust Memorial Center, 27375 Bell Rd., **Southfield**. 248-553-2400. ruth.stern@holocaustcenter.org www.holocaustcenter.org

Monday, Oct. 31

Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Sexual Addicts Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Detroit Metro Area Pagans Monthly Meetup 7 p.m. This is an open pagan roundtable that has various discussions held on the first Tuesday of every month. Michigan Pagans, 150 Cass Ave., **Mt. Clemens**. www.meetup.com

Gamenight 7 p.m. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 MILE RD Apt. xxx, **Sterling Heights**. www.meetup.com

Narcotics Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. An open discussion group for people

identifying as transgender and their allies. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 years of age and older. Various discussion topics, social outings and potlucks are incorporated throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Sexual Minorities and Civil Rights in Poland 5:30 p.m. Join LGBT activist and Mayor of Slupsk, Poland in a discussion about the recent LGBT history in Poland following the fall of communism. Free and open to the public. Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, 525 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**.

Middlepath Meditation 6 p.m. Guided meditation covering various topics and methods followed by silent meditations. \$5 suggested donation. No registration needed. This is a drop-in event. Michigan Pagans, 224 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-548-1415. www.bostontearoom.com

Dykes on Bikes 6:30 p.m. An organization committed to creating a local community of women motorcyclists and friends of women motorcyclists. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Newly Single 7 p.m. A support and discussion group for those who are newly single and are coping with the loss of a relationship. The group offers support, resources, skill building opportunities and social events. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

MUSIC & MORE

Roustabout Theatre Troupe "The Dark Ride Radio Hour" Go on a Dark Ride this Halloween in a special performance of Joseph Zettelmaiers award-winning radio shows with a horrifying twist! Fashioned as an old-timey radio show. Tickets: \$20. Ages 16 and up. Trinity House Theatre,

38840 W. 6 Mile Rd., Livonia. 7 p.m. Oct. 21. 734-681-0112. https://www.facebook.com/events/1082666301768512/

Concerts

89X " Trial By Fire Tour: Yelowolf, Bubba Sparxxx, Struggle Jennings" All ages welcome. Tickets: \$25 - \$45. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 26. http://concerts.livenation.com/event/080050EE333A686D

AEG Live "YG" Tickets: \$30. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 25. 313-833-9700. http://tktwb.tw/2bnZTuR

AEG Live "Oh Wonder" Tickets: \$18-\$20. All ages welcome. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

Blind Pig "Joe Hertler & The Rainbow Seekers" Tickets \$15. Ages 18 and up. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Oct. 21. 734-996-8555.

Live Nation "STS9" Ages 18 and up. Tickets: \$34.50 - \$42.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 22. http://concerts.livenation.com/event/08005113B90F5734

Live Nation "Jon Bellion" Tickets: \$20-\$45. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 25. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

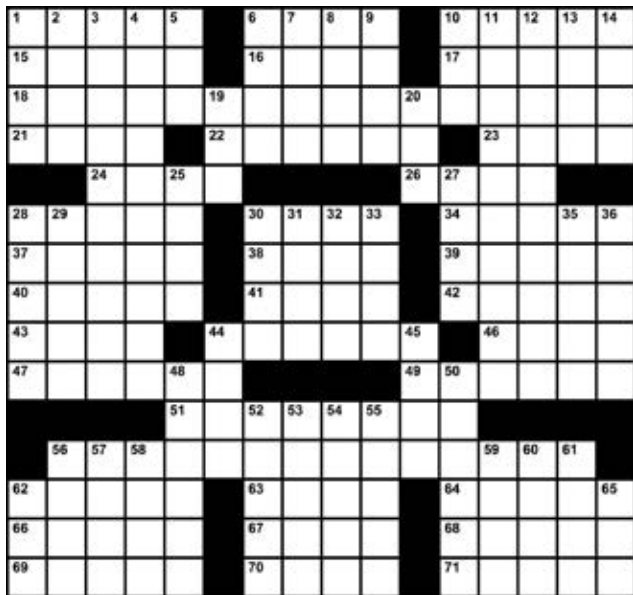
Live Nation "Yelowolf" Tickets: \$25-\$45. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 26. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

The Ark "Yonder Mountain String Band" With special guest Pert Near Sandstone. Tickets: \$39.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 26. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

Festivals

Michigan Brewers Guild "8th Annual Detroit Beer Festival" Craft beer fans converge for one of the largest all-Michigan beer tastings in the state. Tickets include 15 tasting tokens which can be exchanged for 3 oz. samples of over 500 beers locally crafted by more than 70 Michigan breweries. Attendees must be 21 or older. Tickets: \$40 - \$45. Eastern Market, 2934 Russell St, Detroit. Oct. 21 - Oct. 22. 313-833-9300. www.mibeer.com/detroit-fall-festival

Q Puzzle



Albee Seeing You

Across

- 1 Part of a strap on a stallion
- 6 Manger for Mary's boy
- 10 Rip off
- 15 Cut off from escape
- 16 Oscar-night transport
- 17 Frequent Scrabble companion of Q
- 18 Start of a quote by 44-Across
- 21 Common tater
- 22 Bearse of "Married ... with Children"

- 23 Sea bottom captain
- 24 Ironically-named burning software
- 26 Gregory Doran's partner Anthony
- 28 To do, to Debussy
- 30 One way to cook fruit
- 34 Doctoral hurdle
- 37 Emulated Neil Patrick Harris
- 38 Quaint sigh
- 39 Concerning one's coming out?
- 40 One blessed in a Billie

Down

- 1 Walk-way connector
- 2 Gather, after spilling one's seed
- 3 Balls for cannon, e.g.
- 4 Fairy-tale ball attendee
- 5 Bowie collaborator
- 6 Closemouthed type
- 7 Latvian capital
- 8 Bowie married her
- 9 Malcolm, who wrote the book in 11-Across
- 10 Beaver covering
- 11 Ministers who read "Are You Running With Me Jesus?"
- 12 Field of Woolf and Wilde

- 13 Warhol critic Greenberg
- 14 Chaplain Judge of the NYFD, e.g.
- 19 Eastern philosophy
- 20 1957 Broadway tune "Till There ___ You"
- 25 Sanford portrayal Foxx
- 27 Give a hoot
- 28 Nancy McKeon's "___ of Life"
- 29 Cold explosion
- 30 Came out with
- 31 Winter break
- 32 Thompson of "Angels in America"
- 33 Rupert Everett's "Ready to ___"
- 35 "See ya"
- 36 Cold shower
- 44 "___ On Down the Road"
- 45 Conn of "Grease"
- 48 Restraining rope
- 50 Joan of Lesbian Herstory Archives
- 52 Difficult position aftermath
- 53 Just plain bad
- 54 Moon position
- 55 Main line from the heart
- 56 Singer with wings
- 57 Internally pink
- 58 Lesbos, for one
- 59 Mardi ___
- 60 Goes on TV
- 61 It may put one in an awkward position
- 62 Tiny balls
- 65 It's used in fake meat

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Bella Thorne is 'Famous in Love'

Young, hardworking Bella Thorne – who came out as bisexual on Snapchat, like the kids all do these days (and, you know, so what if she immediately decided to start dating “Teen Wolf”’s Tyler Posey, because that’s no disqualifier; that is, in fact, what bisexual means) – has a lot going on. She has, in fact, no fewer than 10 upcoming projects coming down the road, including “Boo! A Madea Halloween.” Most of these projects are film-based, but it’s the pilot of the TV series “Famous In Love” that has us most excited. Based on the novel by Rebecca Serle, the series will follow a young actress (Thorne) getting her big break in Hollywood and the behind-the-scenes drama that ensues with newfound fame. The series also stars rising young talents like Keith Powers (“Straight Outta Compton”) and Charlie DePew (“Amazing Spider-Man 2”). Why the excitement? Because “Pretty Little Liars” has been on for a long time now, and we’re just looking for a new Millennial-based TV thrill. Simple as that.



Eric McCormack and Debra Messing. Photo: KathClick

Salma Hayek is coming to 'Dinner'

Salma Hayek (“Frida”) and John Lithgow (“Love is Strange”) are hosting what’s certain to be an intriguing party in “Beatriz At Dinner,” the latest from director Miguel Arteta and screenwriter Mike White. Hayek is Beatriz, a Los Angeles health practitioner who was raised in a poor town in Mexico. Lithgow is Don Strutt, who, true to his name, is a billionaire who thinks very highly of himself. Then they meet at a dinner party and neither of them leave the same person they were. The film co-stars Chloe Sevigny, Jay Duplass, Connie Britton and Nina Arianda, and is currently in production in Los Angeles.

And yes, we get it, the premise is the kind that could easily turn into one of those awful message movies about understanding human difference. But this is a film from Arteta and White, whose past collaborations, “Chuck and Buck” and “The Good Girl,” were bold films about complex people who didn’t fit into neat narrative boxes. In other words, we’re excited for this one.

We want more 'Will & Grace' and so does Will and Grace (and Jack and Karen)

You saw the election-based clip with the old gang. And you got excited. Why wouldn’t you get excited? We need them now more than ever. Well, they got excited, too, it turns out. And the cast members of “Will & Grace” had some things to say about their hopes for a full-on reunion. Debra Messing wants it to be on Netflix or Amazon, “where it could be the naughty version.” She has a point. Network TV in the ’90s was, quite often if you recall, no place for so much as a real gay kiss, must less anything more daring, so prestige limited series is kind of an amazing idea (and it worked for “Full House”). Eric McCormack added he’d “be interested to get that call,” and Megan Mullally chimed in with something about anything being possible. Which is true. Anything is possible, especially when you have a built in audience for your intellectual property. One change we’d make: cast Mullally’s real-life husband Nick Offerman as her this-shouldn’t-work-but-it-does love interest. Just a thought. But seriously, we’re waiting.

Romeo San Vicente cooks and keeps it hot and all those other kitchen-based innuendoes.

Dee Rees is 'Mudbound' with Mary J. Blige, 'Compton's' Jason Mitchell

Dee Rees, the acclaimed filmmaker responsible for “Bessie” and “Pariah,” is hard at work on her new movie. It’s called “Mudbound,” and it’s based on Hillary Jordan’s award-winning debut novel of the same name. Set in 1946, the story revolves around a city woman who goes to live on her husband’s Mississippi cotton farm. There she meets two WWII vets – one white, one black – who come to work the farm and find themselves having to deal with civilian life and Southern racism. Jason Mitchell (Eazy-E in “Straight Outta Compton”), Carey Mulligan, Mary J. Blige, Garrett Hedlund, Jason Clark and “Stranger Things” co-star Rob Morgan have all been cast and the film is currently in production for a planned 2017 release. We’re not sure how much lesbian content is in this one, even though Rees’ first two films featured lesbian protagonists. But, of course, there’s no law saying a lesbian filmmaker has to make a lesbian story, so we won’t worry about it; we’re happy to see any queer filmmakers getting their projects past the green light stage.



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