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BTL ²⁴ Years
Between THE Lines

Our Spring
Pet Issue
p. 19-27



All About Susan

Oscar-Winning Screen Icon Talks 'Up For Grabs' Sexual Orientation, Politics and Portraying Bette Davis p.28

March 9, 2017
VOL. 2510 | FREE
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Jackson Could Face August
Ballot Initiative
PAGE 8

Supreme Court Scraps
Consideration of Gavin Grimm Case
PAGE 14

WHAT IS ODEFSEY®?

ODEFSEY is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment, have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, and have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood ("viral load") that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL; or in people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. ODEFSEY combines 3 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with a meal. ODEFSEY is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

ODEFSEY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking ODEFSEY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

ODEFSEY may cause serious side effects:

- **Buildup of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking ODEFSEY or a similar medicine for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** ODEFSEY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking ODEFSEY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take ODEFSEY?

Do not take ODEFSEY if you take:

- **Certain prescription medicines for other conditions.** It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with ODEFSEY. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.
- **The herbal supplement St. John's wort.**
- **Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.**

Ask your healthcare provider if ODEFSEY is right for you, and visit ODEFSEY.com to learn more.

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

What are the other possible side effects of ODEFSEY?

Serious side effects of ODEFSEY may also include:

- **Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.** Skin rash is a common side effect of ODEFSEY. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get a rash, as some rashes and allergic reactions may need to be treated in a hospital. Stop taking ODEFSEY and get medical help right away if you get a rash with any of the following symptoms: fever, skin blisters, mouth sores, redness or swelling of the eyes (conjunctivitis), swelling of the face, lips, mouth, or throat, trouble breathing or swallowing, pain on the right side of the stomach (abdominal) area, and/or dark "tea-colored" urine.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you: feel sad or hopeless, feel anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **Changes in liver enzymes.** People who have had hepatitis B or C or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have a higher risk for new or worse liver problems while taking ODEFSEY. Liver problems can also happen in people who have not had liver disease. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with ODEFSEY.
- **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking ODEFSEY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ODEFSEY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems,** such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

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

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

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ODEFSEY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, mental health (depression or suicidal thoughts), or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how ODEFSEY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take ODEFSEY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ODEFSEY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking ODEFSEY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.



Please see Important Facts about ODEFSEY including important warnings on the following page.

ODEFSEY does not
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.



SHOW YOUR ▶ RADIANCE

ODEFSEY is a **complete, 1-pill, once-a-day HIV-1 treatment** for people 12 years and older who are either new to treatment and have less than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood or people whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with ODEFSEY.

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

LOVE
WHAT'S
INSIDE



(oh-DEF-see)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ODEFSEY

ODEFSEY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** ODEFSEY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking ODEFSEY. Do not stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking ODEFSEY or a similar medicine for a long time.

ABOUT ODEFSEY

- ODEFSEY is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and who have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. ODEFSEY can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL), have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **ODEFSEY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

Do NOT take ODEFSEY if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: carbamazepine (Carbatrol[®], Epitol[®], Equetro[®], Tegretol[®], Tegretol-XR[®], Teril[®]), dexamethasone (Ozurdex[®], Maxidex[®], Decadron[®], Baycadron[™]), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant[®]), esomeprazole (Nexium[®], Vimovo[®]), lansoprazole (Prevacid[®]), omeprazole (Prilosec[®], Zegerid[®]), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal[®]), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix[®]), phenobarbital (Luminal[®]), phenytoin (Dilantin[®], Dilantin-125[®], Phenytek[®]), rabeprazole (Aciphex[®]), rifampin (Rifadin[®], Rifamate[®], Rifater[®], Rimactane[®]), or rifapentine (Priftin[®]).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John’s wort.
- Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about ODEFSEY[®] and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF ODEFSEY

ODEFSEY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About ODEFSEY” section.
- Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.
- Depression or mood changes.
- Changes in liver enzymes.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

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

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

These are not all the possible side effects of ODEFSEY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking ODEFSEY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with ODEFSEY.

BEFORE TAKING ODEFSEY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, mental health (depression or suicidal thoughts), or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with ODEFSEY.

HOW TO TAKE ODEFSEY

- ODEFSEY is a complete 1-pill, once-a-day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take ODEFSEY with a meal.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about ODEFSEY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to ODEFSEY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit ODEFSEY.com for program information.



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COVER

28 All About Susan

NEWS

- 6 Powering Progress Together at Michigan Summit
- 8 NDO Supporters in Jackson Say 'Love Rules'
- 10 Local Leaders Host Title IX Panel Discussion
- 14 Supreme Court Scraps Consideration of Gavin Grimm Case
- 14 Transgender Task Force Relaunched Amid Ongoing Anti-trans Attacks
- 17 Connecticut Lawmakers Consider Banning 'Conversion Therapy'

OPINION

- 10 Parting Glances
- 10 Viewpoint: LGBTQ Community Stands with Jackson
- 11 Creep of the Week: Dave Daubenmire
- 13 BTL Announces \$5,000 Challenge Gift to ACLU of Michigan

LIFE

- 28 Oscar-Winning Screen Icon Talks 'Up For Grabs' Sexual Orientation, Politics and Portraying Bette Davis
- 30 Happenings
- 32 Hear Me Out
- 34 Classifieds
- 35 Puzzle and Comic
- 37 Deep Inside Hollywood

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- 38 Campus Chat: Local LGBT University Student Reacts to Trump Presidency
- 38 Affirmations: There's No Place Like Home



OUR PETS

- 19 Horses' Haven Provides Humane Care for Majestic Creatures
- 20 Connecting Neighbors Through Our Dogs
- 21 Places to Adopt Pets in Michigan
- 22 Pet Etiquette for Hotel Stays
- 24 Pet Events in Michigan

BTL Announces Challenge Gift to ACLU of Michigan

pg. 13



ORGANIZING



Progressive Summit Looks for Solutions

pg. 6

POLITICS



Transgender Task Force Relaunched

pg. 14

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Big Bash Planning 'No Place Like Home'

pg. 38

VOL. 2510 • MARCH 9, 2017
ISSUE 1005

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

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Powering Progress Together at Michigan Summit

March Forth: Building a Michigan That Works for All of Us

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LANSING – More than 700 progressives, both veteran organizers and newcomers to progressive activism, came together on March 4 at the Lansing Center for the Michigan Progressive Summit organized by Progress Michigan.

It was an opportunity to listen to various speeches, attend breakout sessions with community leaders, network with like-minded individuals, and gather resources from progressive organizations throughout the state.

Specific issues discussed during breakout sessions included “Islamophobia: A Threat to All,” “How We Repair Michigan’s Broken Election System,” “Organizing in Economically and Racially Isolated Communities,” “Skills for Resisting the Corporate Take Over of Your Public School,” and “Introduction to Transparency and Accountability in Government,” to name a



U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow addresses the summit. Photo courtesy of Ann Savage

few.

“We are determined to make a difference, determined to stand up and fight back and say enough is enough. We’re taking our country and our state back,” said Lonnie Scott, executive director at Progress Michigan.

“We are here to learn from each other and to move forward together. We have no time in the next four years to be fighting amongst ourselves. We have real enemies to stand up against and policies to advance.”

The summit, welcome to everyone, featured keynote addresses from Charlene Carruthers, national director of Black Youth Project; and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha who exposed elevated lead levels in the blood of Flint children. There was a “Progressive Soapbox” talk given by Stephanie Schriock, president of Emily’s List, and also a panel discussion on “Journalism in Trump’s America” featuring

See Progress Together page 16



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NDO Supporters in Jackson Say ‘Love Rules’

City council to decide if non-discrimination ordinance will go on August ballot

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

JACKSON – Since the city of Jackson passed a non-discrimination ordinance on Feb. 7, nearly 700 signatures were submitted to the city clerk to oppose it.

Therefore, the NDO will not go into effect on March 9 as originally planned. The city of Jackson has verified 368 signatures, and stopped counting after about 400 of the 682 names on the petitions, according to an MLive.com report. Only 342 valid signatures were needed to block the ordinance.

Citizens in opposition collected enough signatures in an effort to force the matter onto a ballot. The city council now has to decide on March 28 whether to discard the ordinance or ask citizens to vote on it in August.

“It sounds like if there is a referendum it would be potentially on the August ballot. Typically in Jackson, the August voter turnout has been historically low, like 3,500. I have a hunch this would drive it up to maybe 5,000. It could even go a little higher, maybe 6,500 just because of the year and I think a lot of folks are paying attention, plus there will be a competitive mayoral race. So all of those things together say people will be a little bit more tuned in,” said State Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo).

“My hunch is that this will be the kind of thing where they’re going to need to raise between \$40,000-60,000. You know something between \$8-12 a person to really fund a well-executed campaign. Think about this small universe of folks that will be the deciders for so many – we’ve seen historically that the opposition has very misleading information on these issues – so one lie can often be stickier than ten truths” he said, adding, “I also think it’s a doable amount. I think we’re going to see higher volunteer engagement this year, and because Jackson is relatively urbanized, it means when you sign up to do a door-knocking shift you can cover quite a few doors pretty quickly.”

The passing of this ordinance was considered a calculated risk, but organizations such as Jackson Together, Equality Michigan, and the ACLU of Michigan have been encouraging residents in the city of Jackson to be courageous and share their stories, which explains the 676 people who were in attendance Feb. 7 at a city council meeting to speak out during five hours of citizen comment.



Hundreds gathered in the city of Jackson on Feb. 7 to support the passage of a non-discrimination ordinance to protect LGBTQ residents. BTL Photo Todd Heywood

A statement released by the group Jackson Together said, “Discrimination has no place in Jackson. The ordinance passed by the city council – after input from hundreds of residents and local businesses – protects those who live and work here from being fired or discriminated against because of who they are or who they love.”

Conner Wood, a representative from the group, told BTL on March 3 that they are calling on the city clerk to conduct a thorough review of the petitions to overturn the NDO because of reports that “those carrying out the petition drive resorted to misinformation and fabrication to persuade residents to sign.”

However, Wood said, “if this attempt to allow discrimination is placed on the ballot, Jackson residents, businesses, and faith leaders will work tirelessly to ensure that the ordinance is sustained and that our city sends a clear message of no discrimination in Jackson.”

A rally was held on March 5 to “thank

Jackson for the passage of the NDO and recruit volunteers and supporters to defend the NDO at the ballot box if it comes to that,” said Wood.

“Over 125 people came out on Sunday afternoon to stand in support of equal rights for all Jackson residents, and we ended the event with a walk around downtown Jackson to thank this great, welcoming city for its support of the NDO.”

Members of the community began their march at the new Jackson Pride Center at St. Johns United Church of Christ on Mechanic Street, chanting “Love rules in Jackson” along the way.

During the Michigan Progressive Summit in Lansing on March 4, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan) weighed in on the divisive and dangerous fight for the LGBTQ community in Jackson.

“I think that’s very, very concerning. People really need to speak out and tell their story and make it personal,” said Stabenow. “When these things happen, it’s very easy to make

blanket statements about people and pit people against each other. It’s harder to do when people can connect and tell their own story.”



In addition to sharing stories, if this goes on the ballot officially, Hoadley said, “I would highly recommend writing that \$5, \$10 or \$50 check or more if you can, and do it early and then sign up to volunteer one day. If that’s all you can do, that’s fine. We have learned this lesson very recently that no one should take the outcome of a vote for granted. If everybody who cared about these issues gave \$5 on the day they launched, they would be well past their goal. But it means we have to do something no matter what it is as long as it’s meaningful for us. I guarantee there’s more than 700 people in Jackson who support fairness and equality so let’s just go mobilize and let’s win this thing.”

BTL Reporter Todd Heywood contributed to this story.

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Local Leaders Host Title IX Panel Discussion

Title IX Protections Will Remain in Place Despite Trump Administration Rescinding Transgender Student Guidance to Schools

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALE – Local community leaders came together March 1 to discuss the ramifications of the Trump administration rescinding previous guidance from President Barack Obama on how to treat transgender kids in public schools. The panel discussion, “Know Your Title IX,” took place at Affirmations. About 80 people attended.

“We had an amazing committee that put this event together in 72 hours,” said Roz Keith, founder and director of Stand With Trans, the group that hosted the event. “So the fact that you’re all here is really just incredible and really just a testament to how much this information needs to be put out there and how much clarity we all need.”

In rescinding the Obama administrations guidance, it’s clear that Trump and his team have turned their backs on transgender students.

“First they said that what the Obama administration had done was create confusion among schools districts with regards to what should be done regarding transgender students and their participation in school,” said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project. “I want to correct that myth. That’s absolutely untrue. Far from making things confused, what the Obama administration did with that guidance is they culled together what had happened in federal courts and what federal agencies had done with regard to Title IX, which is a law that prohibits sex discrimination in schools. And from looking at what had happened in terms of case law precedent they provided this guidance. This was in response to school districts saying they needed this guidance. So far from trying to create any confusion what they did was make it absolutely consistent with what we had seen in the law.”

While the Obama guidance was actually very broad, coverage of the issue has frequently been reduced to bathroom usage and the question of whether trans students can use the bathroom that matches their gender identity.

“The media that is covering this is solely concerned with bathroom usage,” Kaplan said. “But the guidance dealt with transgender students participating in any gender segregated activities in the public schools. That includes



John Austin, former president of the State Board of Education, speaks at March 1 panel discussion on the status of Title IX in the wake of the Trump administration rescinding guidance to schools on transgender issues. Joining him are Board of Education Secretary Michelle Fecteau and Pete Torek, the father of a transgender child. BTL Photo Jason A. Michael

athletics, that includes sometimes graduation ceremonies have different uniforms for male or female students to wear, that includes things like running for prom king or queen or homecoming king or queen. The guidance was far more extensive than just being limited to the issue of the bathroom.”

The History of Title IX

So how does Title IX, a law passed in 1972 which prohibits sex discrimination, translate to protections for transgender students? Let’s look at the history of its enforcement.

“There was a case involving not a transgender person but a cis gender woman,” explained Kaplan. “Her name was Hawkins and she worked for Price Waterhouse. She was denied a promotion at her job because they said she didn’t act feminine enough. She needed to wear more makeup. She needed to wear skirts

at work. She needed to be more deferential to her male colleagues. So she sued.”

Hawkins, in fact, took her case all the way to the United States Supreme Court.

“They agreed with her,” Kaplan said. “They said that the same law that prohibits sex discrimination, it also includes prohibiting gender stereotypes. In other words, if an employer has a gender stereotype about how someone is supposed to look, how they’re supposed to act or who they’re supposed to love, that constitutes sex discrimination. So that was a 1989 case.

We’ve seen over time, since the year 2000, a number of federal courts that have held that when transgender people are discriminated against, and when you can show that it’s based on these gender stereotypes, that it constitutes sex discrimination and this is illegal.

“We’ve seen a number of circuit courts of appeals, federal circuit courts of appeal, the

4th Circuit Court of Appeals, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers the state of Michigan, the 9th, the 11th, the District of Columbia ... We’ve also seen federal agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services all finding that when you’re discriminating against transgender people based on this gender stereotype that this violates non-discrimination laws pertaining to sex. So that’s where we have this basis of that.”

Back to the Future

The first guidance from the Obama administration on the matter came in 2010.

“The Department of Education during the Obama administration, looking at this case law, they then issued guidance even before

See next page

last year, back in 2010,” Kaplan said. “They said that transgender students were protected under Title IX with regards to bullying. Then in 2014 they issued further guidance saying that transgender students need to be treated the same as cisgender students in school as it pertains to activities. Then, of course, we have the 2016 guidance that made it very clear that when it comes to all activities, including sex segregated activities, which includes bathroom facilities, transgender students must be allowed to participate in accordance with their gender identity.”

Now Trump has tried to undo something that legally likely cannot be undone.

“It’s a shameful thing what this administration did,” Kaplan said. “It pretty much punted the issue on civil rights with regards to trans kids and pretty much gave up any responsibility. But the issue we need to keep in mind even with that guidance being removed, which no doubt is going to cause confusion with school districts, it doesn’t change Title IX and it doesn’t change how the courts have interpreted Title IX and it doesn’t change the Constitution. We have a thing in our Constitution called the equal protection clause. That says the government cannot deny equal protection to a certain group of people. And public school districts when they discriminate against certain students ... and



The “Know Your Title IX” event planning committee (left to right) Lisa Goyette, Roz Gould Keith, Char Davenport, Nicole Ellefson, and Peter Tchoryk. Photo courtesy of Stand With Trans

they are singling out a group of people for deferential treatment that can be challenged in the federal courts.

“Right now school districts still have that duty to adhere to Title IX, to adhere to the

Constitution,” Kaplan continued. “I tell every school district, because we do get a lot of calls about this issue, I tell the school district that there is no law that prohibits them from doing the right thing. And they can do the right things and allow all students, including trans students, to access the restrooms in accordance with their gender identity.”

Panelists, in addition to Kaplan, included Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan, John Austin, former president of the State Board of Education, Michelle Fecteau, Board of Education Secretary and Pete Torek, the father of a transgender son.

White encouraged any parents having difficulty with a school district to reach out to her office.

“We can help sort through it, we can help figure out what your options are and we can help advocate on your behalf or the student’s behalf,” White said. “We want all lgbt people to be able to live free and equally under the law. We have a lot of laws to change yet in Michigan.

We’re not there yet. We have a long way to go. We are vigorously pursuing advancement

of more and more non-discrimination laws both locally and nationally. We think one of the best ways to resist is to push forward. The best defense is a good offense.”

The State Board of Education released their own guidance on the subject of equal rights for transgender students in September 2016..

“The guidance that we developed predated Obama’s guidance,” said Austin. “It came in response to educators and the school community saying ‘what do we do to create an environment where our lgb and t kids get what they need to thrive in school and not be pushed away, so they can get educated.’”

Austin said for now that guidance is safe from being rescinded.

“The board is now unfortunately deadlocked four Democrats and four Republicans. That means

they can’t do anything affirmative but they also can’t undo anything. It takes five votes to undo anything. So unless one of our Democrats goes south or goes crazy or gets bought off by Betsy DeVos or Donald Trump, the guidance will not be repealed.

“Politically people are appreciating it is a real bad position to be anti-transgender in this country and this state,” Austin continued. “Thank goodness we’re at a moment in history when history is on our side.”

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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Color Code Penguins Blue

A group called Noah's Angels is spending big bucks to provide shoreline dolphins with bodysuits to stop gay activity among this frisky, highly sexually active species. (Dolphins are one of 450 animal groupings, er, groupings known to enjoy same-sex cavorting.)

The bodysuits, costing \$50 each, emit electric shocks when touching occurs between similarly outfitted dolphins.

Bodysuits are color-coded to show preferred activity as observed by NA's swim-along, camera-recording, underwater evangelists. (Blue: likes to rub; Red, likes to probe; Yellow, goes belly to belly; Green, indulges in beak/genital propulsion; Grey, Ex-Gay dolphin.)

The NA project was first tried on flamingos, a breed known to be fond of same-sex pairing. However, the NA teams had onset problems because the birds began exhibiting courtship behavior toward three of the group's thinner men, who fled into the marshes for safety, preserving their own vestigial virginity with prayer.

If the NA project works, bodysuits will next be provided to giraffes. It's felt that this will curtail "necking," which not infrequently can last for hours "with as many as five giraffes observed rubbing away" and "repeated mountings that just look missionary position funny." (Quotes from Gay Animal Conversion Therapy Journal)

Because female giraffes "do not 'neck'— they do however bond — they will not be body suited, saving the NA project needed financial resources for challenging priestly look-alike penguin communities, much more in need of monitoring of spiritual issues of decorum and good taste."

"Body suiting involves measuring, color coordinating, hand stitching, pinning and padding, huffing and puffing, selecting appropriate Bible verses to add as aesthetic admonitions. Much also depends upon whether a female is a so-called soft or so-called 'stone butch'."

Dr. Quinine P. Curbsitter, NA therapist, warns that "such same-sex carryings on in the animal kingdom are not necessarily biological error, because free choice is not an issue. As animal husbandry specialists stress, that distinction is reserved only for Homo Erectus Gay Lesbius in metropolitan settings. Animals copulate by smell. Gays, by cologne."

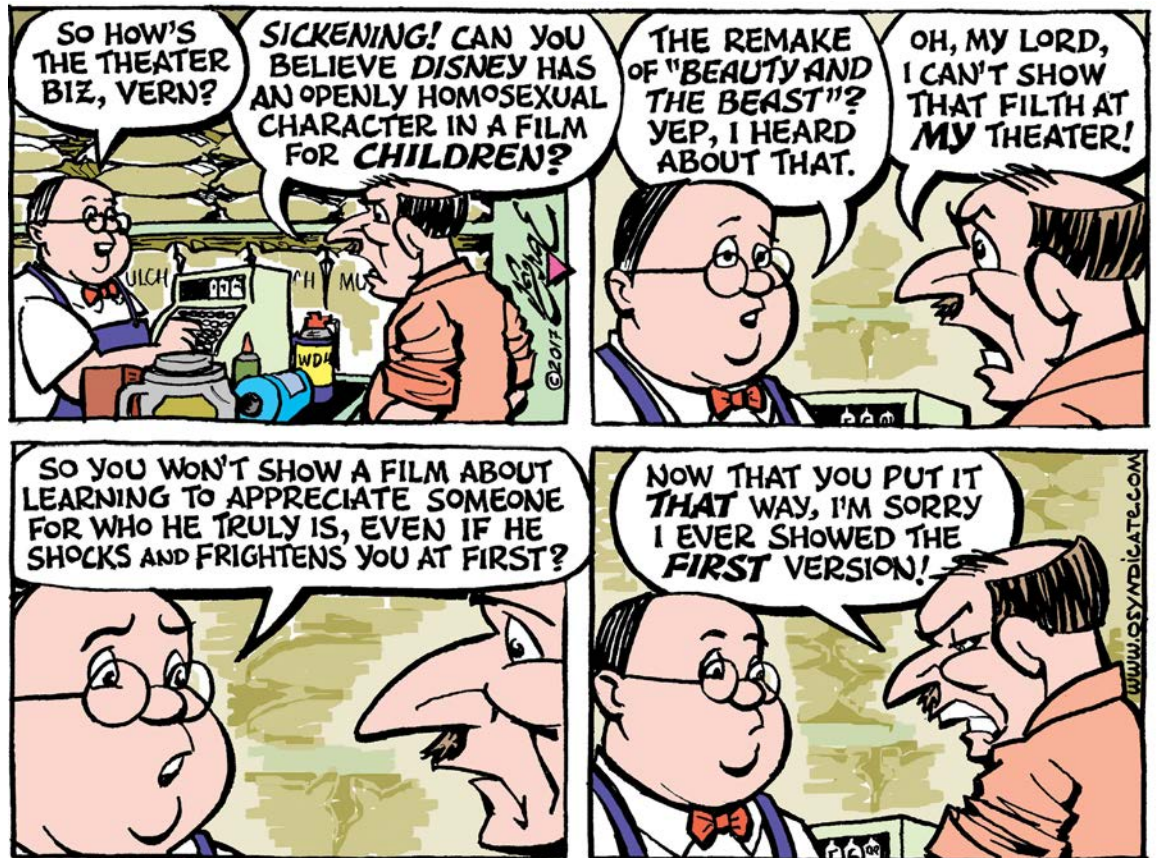
Continues Dr. Curbsitter, "It's important to make the animal kingdom free of any same-sex activity that might set bad examples for families who see animals in zoos, circuses, aquariums, aquatic shows and Pentecostal snake-handling church socials.

"It's just not American to feed peanuts to a gay elephant, even if he, she or it is a Republican - is it?"

Predictably, animal rights advocates are protesting the whole costly NA project, arguing that dolphins exhibit loyalty to same-sex partners and often spend a lifetime in committed relationships. (The less said about bonobo chimps, the better.)

Unfortunately, if NA's go global in its missionary zeal, no penguin, chimp, skunk, prairie dog, hedgehog, gerbil or non-spawning trout will be safe. Question: If VP Pence has his way, are LGBT's next?

Pray for 40 days of torrential White House rain. And for heaven's sake, neuter all gender-suspect, foul-mouthed parrots.



Letter

LGBTQ Community Stands with Jackson

In response to petitioners blocking the non-discrimination ordinance in the city of Jackson on March 3, transgender advocate and special lecturer at Oakland University, Char Davenport delivers a message to the community.



BY CHAR DAVENPORT

On the path to freedom, no one ever gets very far by walking alone.

While the LGBTQ community and allies in Jackson, were celebrating their big win with the passing of a local non-discrimination ordinance, the opposition (led by three local Catholic Churches) already had a counter-offensive in mind. Now, the city of Jackson and its city council are held hostage by the signatures of a mere 342 voters who oppose the ordinance.

Those opposed to the NDO did their homework, formed coalitions, rolled up their sleeves, and got down to business before the members of the Jackson City Council ever cast a single vote.

Not only has the opposition shown us how staunchly they oppose equality for the LGBTQ community in Jackson and throughout Michigan,

but they have shown us how well organized they are and why it is so important to build coalitions across boundaries before there is a crisis.

Common ground is the essence of any coalition, and the strength of a coalition depends almost entirely on its diversity. A coalition is only as effective as the degree to which each member is committed to the success of the other members.

Democracy is for grownups and this is how it works. If we say we belong here, let's act like it.

This is not an admonishment. The fact is, the LGBTQ community and allies in Jackson must now find it in themselves to work even harder and longer to achieve what they set out to do.

I encourage the statewide LGBTQ community to see that the fight for civil rights in Jackson is our fight, too.

Creep of the Week

Dave Daubenmire

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hi there! What are you up to? Me, I'm just reading about the Republican plan to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act that will end up bankrupting and killing people. But first I was reading about the plan to separate women from their children at the border to learn them a lesson for being illegals. Fun times are these.

Hey, they don't call the Republicans pro-life and pro-family for nothing, amirite?

But enough about the country and maybe the world falling apart. Let's talk about what a dum-dum brains Rachel Maddow is.

Full disclosure: I watch Maddow's show as often as I can. I've read "Drift," her book about the military. I find her insightful, funny, super hot, and, above all, brilliant.

But then I heard Christian sportz radio talker Dave Daubenmire tell me that she's A IDIOT.

During his March 2 broadcast Daubenmire complains that some people think he's dumb. He lashes out at "those people, those elitists, people who go to university."

"They think they're smarter than everybody else," he says. But they're not! Because only people dumb as rocks would pay for some kind of fancy learnin' education.

"What we're seeing going on in the American society today is the adoration of knowledge," he continues, apparently unaware that Trump's election win indicates that a big part of "American society today" isn't so hot for brains right now.

And to prove that he's the smartest (but not, like, elitist smart), he wants to debate... Rachel Maddow?

"I'd love to get on there with that man/woman/man, what's her name? On MSNB-Sin? Maddow!" he says. "I'd love to get on there with that dude."

"Hey, Rachel, are you listening? I'm supposed to take advice from you and you don't even know that you're supposed to love a man?" he continues. "You're telling

me that you're on MSNBC and you're giving advice to the world and you don't even know who you're supposed to love? Are you kidding me? You don't even know how plumbing works?

Ooh! Sick burn! Maddow doesn't even know the biblical equation of penis+vagina=love. I mean, that's got to be the only reason she isn't a raging heterosexual, right? Because of her homodumbness? Talk about a lezard!

Now, you might be tempted to point out that Maddow went to Stanford. That she was a Rhodes Scholar. That she has a doctorate from the University of Oxford. That she has, you know, her own TV show on a major network. That she's written a best selling book. But then you'd just be worshipping the human brain instead of the human Jesus, now wouldn't you?

But ask yourself, does she have her own YouTube video movie show like Daubenmire? No. No, she does not.

Does she harass Target store employees because Target doesn't force transgender people to

pee behind the building by the dumpsters AS GOD INTENDED and then capture this harassment with Blair Witch Project-style camera phone footage like Daubenmire?

Does Maddow wear dollar store glasses? I don't know, but Daubenmire does and he mentions it more than once during his March 2 broadcast for some reason.

Does Maddow know that Obama and Hillary Clinton are controlled by demons? That God "supernaturally intervened" to make Trump president? That chemtrails and Pizzagate are real? That public education is "the spiritual raping of children?" That Satan orchestrated the Super Bowl performances of both Katy Perry and Lady Gaga? Because if she'd been listening to Daubenmire for the past couple of years she'd Know the Truth.

During his March 2nd show, still directly addressing Maddow, Daubenmire asks, "You're the smart one and I'm the dumb one?"

I'M GONNA GO WITH YES.



"What we're seeing going on in the American society today is the adoration of knowledge," said Daubenmire ... apparently unaware that Trump's election win indicates that a big part of "American society today" isn't so hot for brains right now.

BTL Announces \$5,000 Challenge Gift to ACLU of Michigan, Join Us

BY JAN STEVENSON AND SUSAN HOROWITZ

The ACLU of Michigan has been a champion for our equality for decades. Jay Kaplan, the organization's staff attorney of the LGBT Project, has for years provided us a thoughtful, serious and effective voice for LGBT equality. What gains the LGBT community has made would not have been possible without the ACLU of Michigan.

We at BTL are horrified by what is currently going on in our government at both the federal and state levels. New attacks on legal protections for LGBT people, immigrants and others are announced almost daily out of Washington and Lansing. We are finding it increasingly difficult to hope for a brighter future for LGBT people, people of color and varied abilities in our schools, places of business and houses of worship.

But the good news is that we are not helpless – in fact we have extraordinary resources to resist and to fight for basic human rights for everyone, regardless of their color, sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, ability, gender identity, marital status, age or other defining characteristic.

The ACLU of Michigan is one of our most powerful resources. BTL values the organization's consistent, principled legal challenges to protect our Constitution and Bill of Rights, the hard work they have done for decades, often outside the glare of public attention. The ACLU of Michigan has stood up for LGBT people in countless cases involving the issues of equitable parenthood, accurate gender markers on drivers' licenses for trans people, spousal benefits at work, healthcare insurance discrimination cases, marriage equality and more.

We at BTL are horrified by what is currently going on in our government at both the federal and state levels. New attacks on legal protections for LGBT people, immigrants and others are announced almost daily out of Washington and Lansing.

The work of the ACLU of Michigan is more important now than at any other moment in modern times. As we and our progressive partners and allies face this current political backlash against full equality, we need the ACLU of Michigan to be strong, to have whatever they need to stand up for fairness and equality. That is why BTL announces a new matching LGBT gift to the ACLU of Michigan of \$5,000.

We are inviting you – our readers – to join us in supporting the ACLU of Michigan by making a donation – and BTL will match your gift up to \$5,000.

Together we can make a difference. Your gift today will send a strong message to the ACLU that the LGBT community of Michigan stands ready to support this vital organization. They fight for us – now we must support them together.

To donate, go to www.PrideSource.com. Click on "BTL's Challenge Grant to the ACLU of Michigan" button at the top of each page. Make your gift and BTL will match your gift 100 percent.



Supreme Court Scraps Consideration of Gavin Grimm Case

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

The monumental ruling expected this year from the U.S. Supreme Court on transgender rights will have to wait for another time.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday scrapped consideration of the case filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of transgender student Gavin Grimm, who's seeking to use the boys' room in Virginia school consistent with his gender identity.

In a notice of the court, justices grant summary disposition in the case, remanding it to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals for reconsideration in the aftermath of the Trump administration revocation of Obama-era guidance assuring transgender students can use the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

Supreme Court scraps Gavin Grimm case

The issue of whether courts should defer to the guidance under precedent of the 1997 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Auer v. Robbins* formed the basis of the first question before the court in the case. The Fourth Circuit had relied on the guidance in its decision last year in favor of allowing Gavin Grimm to use the restroom at his Gloucester County high school.

But the Supreme Court was also set to consider a second question on whether Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 also bars schools from discriminating against transgender kids or denying them access to the restroom consistent with their gender identity. With the Supreme Court punting the case to the Fourth Circuit, an ultimate determination on whether the prohibition on sex discrimination under Title IX protects transgender kids will have to wait for another time.

Joshua Block, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU who's representing Gavin, said in a statement the Supreme Court's decision to scrap the case isn't "the end of the road."

"Nothing about today's action changes the meaning of the law," Block said. "Title IX and the Constitution protect Gavin and other transgender students from discrimination. While we're disappointed that the Supreme Court will not be hearing Gavin's case this term, the overwhelming level of support shown for Gavin and trans students by people across the country throughout this process shows that the American people have already moved in the right direction and that the rights of trans people cannot be

ignored. This is a detour, not the end of the road, and we'll continue to fight for Gavin and other transgender people to ensure that they are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve."

The decision by the Supreme Court to punt the case back to the Fourth Circuit wasn't entirely unexpected after the Trump administration rescinded the guidance, although some legal observers thought the Supreme Court would at least hear oral arguments as scheduled on March 28 before making a decision. The decision by the Trump administration to rescind the guidance on the



basis the states, not the federal government, should determine whether transgender kids can use the restroom in accordance with their gender identity shook up the pending case before the Supreme Court.

Eliza Byard, executive director of the LGBT student group GLSEN, said in a statement the Supreme Court "missed an opportunity to end the painful discrimination" across the nation by remanding the case to the Fourth Circuit.

"We remain confident the courts will ultimately stand with Gavin and other transgender students in seeking access to school facilities that correspond with their gender identity and determining their gender-affirming name and pronouns, but in the meantime trans students are left without clear protections from our Federal government while the case is reheard," Byard said.

Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign, placed the blame squarely on the Trump administration for extended litigation before a final resolution on the issue of whether Title IX protects

transgender students.

"The Supreme Court of the United States sent this case back to the Fourth Circuit as a direct result of the Trump Administration rescinding school guidance protecting transgender students," Warbelow said. Now, thousands of transgender students across the country will have to wait even longer for a final decision from our nation's highest court affirming their basic rights."

Tony Perkins, president of the anti-LGBT Family Research Council, said in a statement the Supreme Court "provided good news to parents and students concerned about privacy and safety" in school facilities.

"We are encouraged that policymakers and the Supreme Court are increasingly skeptical of the federal government forcing boys and girls to shower together, room together on school trips, and use the same locker rooms and bathrooms," Perkins said. "The American people have shown at the ballot box that they want to get away from Washington bureaucrats imposing a one-size fits all policy. State and local officials working together with parents are best equipped to design policies that respect the dignity, privacy, and safety concerns of all students."

The Supreme Court scraps the case one week after a bevy of friend-of-the-court briefs were filed in favor of Gavin, such as filings from more than 50 businesses, nearly 200 members of Congress and 80 school administrators and school districts.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said in a statement the Supreme Court decision is a disappointing detour, but it does not change the reality of the law," citing the brief filed by lawmakers.

"Nearly 200 Members of Congress filed an amicus brief in this case because we know that transgender students have the same right to a safe environment at school and in their community as everyone else," Pelosi said. "LGBT students are owed the same protections as every other student - and transgender children are some of the most at-risk in our schools. No child should suffer discrimination because of who they are. We are confident the court will ultimately rule in support of LGBT children's right to live and learn free from discrimination."

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Media Association..

Transgender Task Force Relunched Amid Ongoing Anti-trans Attacks

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Amid the Trump administration's rollback of guidance protecting transgender students and increasing reports of anti-trans violence around the country, members of the U.S. House have relaunched the Transgender Task Force to draw attention to harms facing the transgender community.

The new leader of the transgender caucus in the 115th Congress is Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-Mass.), who spoke at an event Thursday outside the U.S. Capitol to support trans people.

"You shouldn't have to battle for the protections that most of us take for granted because representatives should always have their back," Kennedy said. "To the transgender community, the one message that we can deliver to you today is that this task force has yours, no matter the opposition, no matter the setbacks, no matter who occupies the Oval Office."

Kennedy assumes the leadership of the Transgender Task Force in the aftermath of the retirement last year of former Rep. Mike Honda, who has a transgender granddaughter and previously led the task force.

The seven members of the bipartisan transgender Task Force in addition to Kennedy are Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.), Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.), Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.).

Facilitating the Transgender Task Force is the LGBT Equality Caucus as well as openly gay members of the U.S. House — Reps. Jared Polis (D-Colo.), Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), Mark Takano (D-Calif.) and Sean Patrick Maloney (D-N.Y.) — who were present at the relaunch event on Capitol Hill.

The relaunch of the caucus comes one week after the Trump administration revoked Obama-era guidance prohibiting schools from discriminating against transgender students or denying them access to the restroom on the basis of gender identity. The stated reasoning for rescinding the guidance — which is based on well-established interpretation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 — is

See next page

that the issue is best left to the states, not the federal government.

Pocan said the country has made “incredible progress” on extending legal protections to transgender people, but they’re under threat in the Trump administration.

“Our children and our teacher understand the importance of respect and fair treatment for everyone,” Pocan said. “Unfortunately, extremist voices on the right still don’t understand the simple idea that our children seem to understand.”

Polis said during the event the Obama-era guidance provided “clarity” to schools on transgender bathroom access and revoking it has left schools in confusion.

“In fact, the joint guidance was issued because school districts requested it,” Polis said. “Countless lawsuits have been filed against school districts because they either did or didn’t give transgender students access to facilities in accordance with their gender identity. The guidance helped alleviate all those lawsuits and unfortunately, with the rescinding of that guidance, schools are now subject to more costly lawsuits and uncertainty, and transgender students can continue to be denied access to the appropriate facilities.”

Accompanying the relaunch was the publication of an open letter from 122 House members organized by Pocan calling on the Trump administration to put back in place the transgender guidance and meet with families to understand better the implications of the rollback.

“Title IX provides transgender students the right to equal treatment in accordance with their gender identity,” the letter says. “Unfortunately, rescinding this guidance only serves to confuse school administrators and take away a vital tool for students and their families who want to be treated with dignity and respect. Further, this action sends the wrong message – a very dangerous message – to transgender youth and their peers.”

A White House official responded to the letter by emphasizing President Trump’s position on the issue is best reserved for the states, not the federal government.

“As President Trump has clearly stated, he believes policy regarding transgender bathrooms should be decided at the state level,” the official said. “The joint decision made by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education returning power to the states paves the way for an open and inclusive process to take place at the local level with input from parents, students, teachers and administrators.”

In an interview with the Blade prior to the event, Kennedy said the relaunched task force would seek advancements in three main areas: health care, health disparities and education.

Because of the Task Force’s emphasis on education, Kennedy said it is “disappointing and telling” that revoking the guidance is among the first acts of the Trump administration.



Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-Mass.) is the new leader of the Transgender Task Force. Washington Blade photo by Michael Key

“We’re here, we’re not going away, we’re going to work hard, we’re going to advance our agenda,” Trans people need this. The transgender people of color who are under fire every day in our cities and towns. We’re not backing down.”

- Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality,

“While some folks might say that’s not a big deal, the fact is that when children are in hostile environments in school it makes it a lot more difficult to learn,” Kennedy said. “There’s data out there showing children who experience bullying are twice as likely not to pursue post-secondary education.”

The Transgender Task Force announcement follows a spate of anti-trans violence around the country. At least seven transgender women, six black, have been murdered so far in 2017 – two of them in the past week in New Orleans.

Kennedy said he would seek to address anti-trans violence by highlighting the challenges faced by transgender people, particularly transgender women of color, and looking at potential reforms both at the federal and local levels.

“For policy makers and particularly members of Congress who might not have had exposure to members of the transgender

community before – in their work prior coming to Congress or even as members of Congress – making sure that they’re aware of some of these challenges, understanding how existing policies affect members of the community and trying to mobilize some of those federal resources and policies working with state and local authorities is critical to this,” Kennedy said.

Also speaking at the relaunch event was House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who referenced an amicus brief led by House Democrats in the Supreme Court case filed by transgender student Gavin Grimm, and House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.). Nearly 200 lawmakers signed the brief, which was led by Polis, Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Al Franken (D-Minn.) and submitted to the Supreme Court Thursday when briefs were due in favor of Gavin Grimm.

Sarah McBride, national press secretary for the Human Rights Campaign, was present at the event with HRC President Chad Griffin and said the relaunch “could not come at a more important time” after the Trump administration rescinded transgender guidance.

“Following the rescinding of life-saving guidance last week by the Trump administration, many transgender young people woke up the next day wondering whether the heart of this country is big enough to love them, too,” McBride said. “And while no single act by a president can fully rescind the protections to transgender people, there is no doubt that this disgraceful action fostered bullying in classrooms and state legislatures.”

Also present at the event was Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan, policy counsel and Trans/

GNC Justice Project Director for the National LGBTQ Task Force, who emphasized the importance of the task force in a statement to the Blade.

“At a time when the transgender community faces a full-fledged assault on its rights and in the wake of the Trump administration’s assault on the right of transgender children to be safe and free from mistreatment and abuse in schools, we need initiatives such as the Transgender Equality Task Force more than ever,” Rodriguez-Roldan said.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said the Transgender Task Force demonstrates the arms of the federal government work for all people, including those who are transgender.

“This is our Congress, that is our Supreme Court and the White House is our White House,” Keisling said. “This is our president and we demand a president who is an adult, I demand a president who thinks through things, I demand a president who makes decisions carefully and after talking to the people it affects.”

Making a joke that a lack of transgender inclusion in America would be along the lines of having a “Trump without a ‘T,’” Keisling said she expects to continue to fight.

“We’re here, we’re not going away, we’re going to work hard, we’re going to advance our agenda,” Keisling said. “Trans people need this. The transgender people of color who are under fire every day in our cities and towns. We’re not backing down.”

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Media Association.

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► Progress Together

Continued from p. 6

Michael Cohen from the Boston Globe and Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza from the Center for American Progress, moderated by Nancy Kaffer from the Detroit Free Press.

Hanna-Attisha, a Flint pediatrician, asked the audience to think about the city of Flint when they hear Republicans talking about deregulation.

“We need an active government, a responsive government, a strong government to help keep us safe. Government should not be run like a business,” she said. “This is such an important gathering at a most critical time. We need your voice, we need your advocacy, we need all of you.”

As a 31-year-old Black, queer feminist who is the national director of the BYP 100, Carruthers said she knows what it means to be in Detroit, “a post-industrial city that is a black city that is slowly becoming not a black city.”

While traveling the world, Carruthers is encouraging people and communities across the globe to transform themselves.

“We have a duty to replicate ourselves, but make ourselves better. To make better leaders than who we are right now. In doing that, we can actually transform this place into somewhere we want to live and want to see. Somewhere our children can

make even better and bigger than what we imagined it to be.”

Carruthers reminds attendees that, “It’s not just enough to dismantle a system without imagining what’s possible. We need to have something to replace it with.”

To be progressive, she said, we have to support solutions that work for everybody, even those we consider “the least” in society. That means, “if you’re discussing how to solve problems and you’re surrounded by people that look like you, have the same background as you, have the same experiences as you, that’s a problem.”

The audience erupted when U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow unexpectedly entered the room to encourage attendees to continue mobilizing.

“We have to be loud and organized and push back,” she said, pointing to the number of healthcare, airport and women’s rallies she has witnessed over the last few months.

“I tell you nothing makes me feel better than to see a pink hat. It’s phenomenal, this kind of engagement, speaking out against racism and sexism and homophobia. What you are doing is making an incredible difference.”

For more information about Progress Michigan, visit the organization’s website www.progressmichigan.org.

Progressive Resources

AFT Michigan
2661 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit
313-393-2200
www.aftmichigan.org

America Votes
www.americavotes.org

Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan
104 W. Fourth St., Suite 306, Royal Oak
231-631-4469, info@mieconomicjustice.org
www.mieconomicjustice.org

Global Detroit
4444 2nd Ave., Detroit
primary@globaldetroit.com
www.globaldetroit.com

AFL CIO Michigan
419 S. Washington Square, Lansing
517-587-5966
www.miaficio.org

Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights
www.facebook.com/MRCCUnion

EMERGE Michigan
PO Box 250661, Franklin
contact@emergemi.org
www.emergemi.org

Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association
28342 Dartmouth St., Madison Heights
313-655-7945
www.2glrea.org

ACLU of Michigan
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit
313-578-6800
www.acluofmich.org

Planned Parenthood of Michigan
PO Box 3673, Ann Arbor
734-926-4800, contact@ppmi.org
www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-michigan

Mothering Justice
248-607-0879, info@motheringjustice.org
www.motheringjustice.org

Michigan Education Association
1216 Kendale Blvd., East Lansing
800-292-1934, webmaster@mea.org
www.mea.org

Michigan League for Public Policy
1223 Turner St., Lansing
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Judge Says Pulse Gunman's Wife Should Stay in Jail, For Now

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) – The wife of the Orlando, Florida, nightclub shooter must remain in jail, at least for the time being, a federal judge in Florida ruled March 2, a day after a magistrate judge in California said she could be released.

U.S. District Judge Paul Byron in Orlando issued an order saying Noor Salman should stay in jail while he decides if she should be detained or released pending her trial on charges that she helped her husband scout out potential targets and created a cover story for him.

A day earlier, a federal magistrate judge in Oakland, California, ordered Salman's release as early as Friday, saying it's "debatable" whether the government has enough evidence to convict her. U.S. Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu also said Salman, 31, is not dangerous and there is no proof she has ties to the Islamic State group or holds extremist views.

The criminal charges were filed in Florida, but the detention hearing was held in California because Salman was living in the Bay Area at the time she was taken into custody.

Salman has pleaded not guilty to charges of aiding and abetting, and obstruction of justice.

She faces life in prison if she is convicted.

Salman's husband, Omar Mateen, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State during the attack at the Pulse gay nightclub on June 12. The deadliest mass shooting in recent U.S. history left 49 people dead and dozens more injured. Mateen was eventually killed by police.

In their motion asking that she be detained, prosecutors said there is a presumption in the law for Salman to be held in jail since the crime involves terrorism, and that prosecutors need not show anything more than an indictment to back up their request.

"Here, the defendant proffered evidence of her husband's alleged abuse, the affidavits of friends and family, and her lack of overall danger in support of an argument that she does not constitute a flight risk or danger to the community," the prosecutors said. "Such proffered evidence falls far short of justifying a finding in favor of release, particularly in light of the nature of the charged offense."

Salman's attorney, Linda Moreno, said the motion seemed a rehash of what was argued in the California courtroom.

"The court found that the evidence they claim supports these allegations was debatable," Moreno said. "It's far more than debatable. It's groundless."

Vandals Damage Gay Rights Advocacy Group's Office

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP) – A gay rights advocacy group says its office at the Jersey shore has been vandalized while its executive director was inside the building.

Authorities say two people allegedly smashed the glass front door of Garden State Equality's office in Asbury Park on Saturday. A rainbow flag draped on the door apparently

wasn't damaged.

Christian Fuscarino, the group's executive director, said he was inside the office preparing for an event when the incident occurred. He said the vandalism was captured on surveillance footage.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

Gay Moment Nixes 'Beauty and the Beast' at Alabama Drive-in

HENAGAR, Ala. (AP) – An Alabama drive-in theater won't show a new re-telling of the classic fairy tale "Beauty and the Beast" because one of its characters is portrayed as homosexual.

A Facebook post for the Henagar Drive-In Theatre says its operators are "first and foremost Christians" and will not compromise on what the Bible teaches. They said they will show family-oriented films so customers can

"watch wholesome movies."

The post said the owners were taking a stand and making a choice not to show the film, which includes manservant Le Fou, who plays the sidekick to the story's villain Gaston and, according to director Bill Condon, "is confused about his sexuality."

Theater operators did not immediately respond to emails or phone messages to confirm the Facebook posting.

Connecticut Lawmakers Consider Banning 'Conversion Therapy'

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) – Connecticut is the latest state to consider legislation that would ban any licensed professional from engaging in "conversion therapy," a practice that attempts to change a young person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

The General Assembly's Public Health Committee is scheduled to hear testimony Tuesday on a bill that would prohibit the practice involving a person under the age of 18.

Other states, including Rhode Island

and New Mexico, are considering similar legislation this session.

Proponents of the bill, who contend the practice is harmful to young people, are planning a news conference before the public hearing.

Speakers include Robin McHaalen, the executive director of True Colors, a nonprofit organization that works to help LGBT youth. People who have experienced "conversion therapy" are also expected to be on hand.

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Horses' Haven Provides Humane Care for Majestic Creatures



Horses' Haven is a volunteer-run agency in Howell that depends solely on the generosity of its volunteers and supporters who share a love and compassion for horses, ponies, donkeys and other large animals in need. Snickers, a dark chocolate Bay, is greeted by volunteers at Horses' Haven in Howell. Photo courtesy of Horses' Haven

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The Horses' Haven in Howell welcomes anyone who has ever been moved by the grace and nobility of a horse to volunteer their time to help the non-profit agency carry out their mission. Providing humane care for aged, abused, unwanted, rescued and neglected horses, ponies, donkeys and other large animals is the agency's priority. This includes horses with owners who can no longer afford to keep them.

Founded in 1995 by Barbara Baker, Horses' Haven depends solely on the generosity of its volunteers and supporters who share the same love and compassion for animals as do the people on the agency's board of directors.

"Helping these animals gives you the utmost sense of gratification and purpose. We give them their voices and they give many people new direction, training and leadership skills," said Diane Norman, intake coordinator, board member, and member of the inspection committee at Horses' Haven.

Some of the horses are animal control seizures throughout various counties in the state of Michigan.

"A larger portion of them are owner surrenders for various reasons," said Norman. "People usually run into financial problems, health problems, or something happens to the horse - they develop a medical or physical problem, or sometimes develop behavioral issues - and sometimes people move and can't afford to take them."

Horses' Haven sees a lot of "off-the-track thoroughbreds" or OTTB's that are discarded, similar to dogs that are no longer suitable for breeding.

"If they reach a certain age in their racing career, as young as 7, they are considered washed up and people get rid of them," said Norman. But many horses can live well into their 30's. A couple ponies, she said, have lived at Horses' Haven until the age of 42.

There are about 68 horses, ponies, and donkeys on the agency's 21-acre farm where a maximum of 70 large animals can be taken in.

Nearing capacity, Norman stressed the need for more volunteers who are willing to commit to four and five hour shifts.

"They are going to get dirty when doing this work - going out to pastures to feed hay, dumping water in and cleaning troughs, administering medications and supplements based on the horse's needs, exercising them, taking temperatures,

INFO

Visit with representatives from Horses' Haven at the Michigan Horse Expo March 10-12 at the Michigan State University Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing.

>> <http://michiganhorseexpo.org>

See Horses Haven, page 26



Janice Milhem of Milhem Images, Inc. enjoys her walks and travels with her Schnauzer-mix rescue, Mike. Photo courtesy of Janice Milhem

Since many of the dogs came directly from the Humane Society, I thought the book might be about rescue dogs of Ann Arbor. I later discovered that not all were technically rescued pups, but some were pedigrees from a long lineage of champion breeds. I concluded, regardless of how and where the dogs were acquired, there was a common connection. Someone was rescued. More often than not, it was the dog who rescued their owner – either from loneliness, boredom or lack of routine in their lives. Dogs made them happier people; helped them create family and community

Connecting Neighbors Through Our Dogs

BY JANICE MILHEM

I'm a local photographer and a dog owner with a new book, "Dogs of Ann Arbor's Old West Side." I always wanted a dog. As an adult with a hectic work/travel schedule, it just wasn't fair to leave a dog alone for long periods of time. After leaving corporate marketing, I decided to change my career into a passion of mine, visual storytelling. At Milhem Images, Inc. I help businesses incorporate imagery through use of still and motion photography to tell their story and to convey who they are and what they do. When messaging becomes more visual, it becomes easier for the viewer to digest, understand and recall content.

One day, while traveling across town to purchase bathroom fixtures, I unexpectedly stopped at a pet store holding adoptions. There was this cute little pup. I hemmed and hawed. He was lovely. Long story. I didn't come home with a shower head, but I came home with a bundle of joy. Now, four years later, I understand the unique bond we have with our dogs.

After spending several months away from home last year, I was ready to come back and become grounded in my community. I wanted to get to know my neighbors – and what better way than through our dogs. I also wanted to begin to market my craft locally as a professional photographer/storyteller by doing something I really enjoyed. And thus my "pet project" was born.

My initial inspiration for the dog project began a while back during a photo shoot for which I was hired for capturing our Old West Side neighbor, Sarah Okayama's Burnt Toast Inn. While photographing rooms in her beautiful eclectic inn, I began to incorporate her dogs into the compositions. It just made sense to include both her beloved Buddy and Bojangles since they were so much a part of the overall ambiance.

I began photographing more neighbors with their best friends, capturing a particular "moment in time." The idea began to evolve as more portraits were taken. My goal was to capture as many dogs as I could within a particular neighborhood with their primary owners – within the Old West Side. The project's focus was on the dogs. I also discovered a new apartment complex that accepts dogs at 618 South Main across the street from the Washtenaw Dairy. I found a wide mix of mix-breed and pedigree subjects. My aim was to show as much diversity as possible, i.e. ethnicity and generationally. A few owners requested captures of the whole family. Although doable, I declined since this

was not the objective of the project. I wanted to keep the series focused on moments shared between dog(s) and one or two primary caregivers.

I set out to photograph dogs and their owners within the confines of the Old West Side, bordering north at Huron, Pauline to the South, Main to the east, and to Bemidji to the west. The result was meeting 70-plus households and photographing them with their dogs on their porches. I learned that many owners had stories about their dogs. Some only commented briefly that they couldn't imagine life without one.

Since many of the dogs came directly from the Humane Society, I thought the book might be about rescue dogs of Ann Arbor. I later discovered that not all were technically rescued pups, but some were pedigrees from a long lineage of champion breeds. I concluded, regardless of how and where the dogs were acquired, there was a common connection. Someone was rescued. More often than not, it was the dog who rescued their owner – either from loneliness, boredom or lack of routine in their lives. Dogs made them happier people; helped them create family and community; got them out of bed, walking, keeping their owners physically and mentally fit. The project has positively impacted the community – at a recent New Years Day party, many neighbors had mentioned the book and recognized the dogs and owners around town – it gave them a chance to meet new neighbors through a common bond.

The book is timely. Given recent news events all over the world, including right here at home, the project has brought a glimmer of hope and happiness to our lives and our community. I want to thank all the owners who participated and especially the area businesses and individuals who generously made the project possible. They're listed in the back of the book.

"Dogs of Ann Arbor's Old West Side" was recently published and distributed to the dog owner participants. If you haven't seen the book, it is now available for purchase at Downtown Home and Garden, Argus Farm Stop and Literati Bookstore. One third of all book sales will be donated to the Humane Society of Huron Valley. I am happy to say that I have already delivered the first check to HSHV.

Janice Milhem has been an Ann Arbor resident and homeowner in the Old West Side for over ten years. She is a documentary photographer and a strategic marketing expert at Milhem Images, Inc. For more information, visit www.milhemimages.com.



Places to Adopt Pets in Michigan

COMPILED BY KATE OPALEWSKI

MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY

Mackey Center for Animal Care at the Dresner Foundation Animal Care Campus
7887 Chrysler Drive, Detroit, 313-872-3400

ROCHESTER HILLS CENTER FOR ANIMAL CARE

3600 W. Auburn Road, Rochester Hills, 248-852-7420

Berman Center for Animal Care

900 N. Newburgh Road, Westland, 734-721-7300
www.michiganhumane.org

CATFE LOUNGE

821 Livernois, Ferndale, 248-968-5955
https://catfelounge.com

MICHIGAN ANTI-CRUELTY SOCIETY

13569 Joseph Campau Ave., Detroit, 313-891-7188
https://macsshelter.org

DETROIT ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP (DAWG)}

78440 McKay Road, Romeo, 586-354-8500
http://dawghouse.com

HUMANE SOCIETY OF HURON VALLEY

3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor, 734-662-5585
www.hshv.org

SHELTER TO HOME

266 Oak St., Wyandotte, 734-556-3135
www.shelbertohome.com

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www.romi.gov/362/Animal-Shelter

ALMOST HOME

25503 Clara Lane, Southfield, 248-200-2695
http://almosthomeanimals.org

MICHIGAN PUG RESCUE

23927 Wesley St., Farmington, 248-473-8389
{URL www.michiganpugrescue.com}

PAWS ANIMAL RESCUE

4114 Seymour Road, Schwartz Creek, 810-635-9649
{URL www.pawsanimalrescue.net}

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www.spcaswmich.org

ADOPT-A-PET

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CASCADES HUMANE SOCIETY

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{URL http://midmichigancatrescue.org}

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http://mikittens.org

CRAFTY CAT RESCUE

Washtenaw County, 734-680-2418
{URL www.craftycatrescue.org}

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www.animalwelfareofseamichigan.org/adoption.html

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Pet Etiquette for Hotel Stays

BY BTL STAFF

Planning a getaway for you and your pet? Be sure to plan ahead and take all the necessary precautions to ensure that your pets' travel experience is a happy and safe.

For many, pet travel means staying at a pet-friendly hotel. It's important to make sure that you and your pet are prepared. Following some simple tips will help to ensure that your hotel stay with your pet is an enjoyable one.

It's recommended to book a room on the ground floor and by an exit. This will make it much easier for you to take your pet out for bathroom breaks.

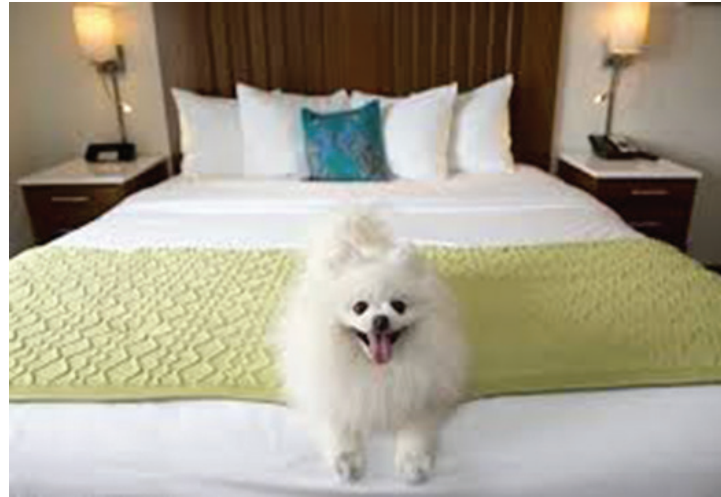
Make sure to always clean up after your pet as well.

Be sure to exercise your pet...this means walks. Ask hotel personnel about the best places to walk your pet.

Treat the hotel room with respect...this means covering any furniture and beds that your pet may be allowed on.

If traveling with cats, place their litter boxes in the bathroom. This will make clean-up much easier.

It's recommended to not leave your pet unattended in your hotel room. Even the best behaved pets can bark and become destructive



when in new surroundings. If you must leave your pet alone, be sure that it's for a very short time. Alert the front desk that your pet is alone in the room and try putting on the TV or a radio to make your pet more comfortable. If your pet travels with a crate or kennel, place them in it when leaving the room. In addition, place a note on the hotel door indicating that your pet is in the room.

Don't leave any pests behind. Before leaving home be sure to give your pet a good cleaning and de-flea & de-tick them. This

means a good flea and tick bath along with utilizing preventative flea and tick control. Leaving behind a stinky smell, or worse, fleas or ticks is the kind of thing that makes accommodations change their pet friendly policy. In addition, if a deposit is required, these types of things could very well prevent you from getting it back.

Accidents happen. Even pets that have never had an "accident" indoors may do so under stress. Bring along a disinfectant as well as a rag in the event that you have to clean up

after your pet. Not doing so could also cause a loss of deposit.

To ensure that you're welcomed back, keep your pet on a leash and avoid taking them into dining rooms and other restricted areas.

Following some common sense rules will help ensure that you and your pet have a happy and safe trip.

These tips are courtesy of Trips with Pets online. If you decide to leave your pet home, find boarding, grooming and other pet care services online at www.pridesource.com.



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www.threedogatthecreek.com

CAT TALES STORYTIME

Tiny Lions Lounge & Adoption Center
5245 Jackson Road, Suite A1, Ann Arbor
March 12, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Benefit for the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Designed for ages 2-5, Cat Tales is based on "Little Paws Storytime" to keep your tot engaged through stories, crafts, finger plays and cat interactions.
www.tinylions.org

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DOG'S CONTEST

Four Paws Dog Bakery
1880 Haslett Road, Ste F, East Lansing
March 14-17, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Bring your pup to the bakery in St. Patrick's Day attire, take a photo to be posted on Facebook by March 18 at 6 p.m. for voting. Pup with the most "likes" by March 21 at 10 a.m. wins \$50 bakery gift card.
www.fourpawdogbakery.com



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5245 Jackson Road, Suite A1, Ann Arbor

March 17, 7-9 p.m.
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www.tinylions.org

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Tickets: \$10 (plus \$5 for optional wine tasting)
www.facebook.com/events/1191088877680618

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Tickets: \$35, reserve seats online
50 percent of all registrations will be donated back to Tigerlily
www.paintingwithawhist.com/events/viewEvent.aspx?eventID=938225

MUDPUPPYPALOOZA

Belle Isle Nature Center
176 Lakeside Drive, Detroit
April 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Celebrate all things mudpuppy - also known as "slime dog" and "snot otter" - a permanently aquatic salamander that inhabits the Detroit River.
<https://belleislenaturecenter.org/events>

PINS FOR PETS

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2145 Avon Industrial Drive, Rochester Hills
April 22, 1-4 p.m.



Email Kristin DeFranco at Bodlek18@gmail.com for sponsorship information
Tickets: \$10-20

9TH ANNUAL DIRTY DOG TRAIL RUN

Midland City Forest
2840 E. Monroe Road, Midland
Aug. 26, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
To benefit the Judy V. Spencer Fund via Shelterhouse and SOS Animal Rescue. <https://dirtydogtrailrun.itsyourrace.com/register/>

12TH ANNUAL MUTT STRUT 5K RUN & WALK

Hosted by Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit
Ford Field Park, Dearborn
Free parking at 22051 Cherry Hill St.
May 13, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Proceeds benefit Dearborn Animal Shelter
Call 313-389-6938 for details. www.muttstrut5k.org

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► Horses Haven

Continued from p. 19

monitoring respiration, eating and bathroom habits, and taking care of their hooves,” she said, adding that “It’s okay to not know how.”

And while more experienced volunteers are available to provide guidance, she said, “Volunteers are never obligated to work with a horse they are not comfortable with.”

Norman notes that some of their volunteers are women who are survivors of trauma from physical or substance abuse, for example.

“It’s very interesting. These women find something in these horses that gives them purpose and meaning. They connect with these horses and form a bond much like you would a dog or a cat,” she said. “Some of these horses themselves have been traumatized. Learning their body language, their way of communicating and developing their trust is special.”

Horses’ Haven has become a sanctuary for a majority of the horses that are under constant veterinary care in combination with massage, chiropractic treatments, and energy-based therapies to release their trauma.

Horses’ Haven has become a sanctuary for a majority of the horses that are under constant veterinary care in combination with massage, chiropractic treatments, and energy-based therapies to release their trauma.

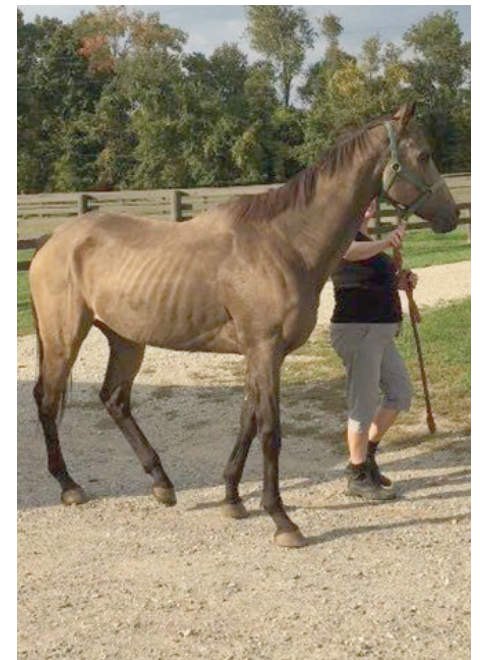
“Some horses will never leave. There is a small population that come in to be rehabilitated and rehomed,” said Norman. More than 25 horses were adopted in 2016.

Although the number one request from adopters is a trail-riding horse, Norman said, “We are not a riding facility. Some of these horses have medical and care needs and can only be adopted out as a good companion pet. They just can’t be ridden. Their special needs require costly care and a home with a great level of horse expertise.”

Because the agency follows up annually on the care of the animal throughout its lifetime, Horses’ Haven generally adopts animals to homes that are 400 miles or fewer from the Howell area.

“We will do our best to learn the needs of the person adopting the horse, and what their skills are to pair them with the right horse,” said Norman, referring interested members of the community to adoption coordinator Kristine Dvonch.

Horses’ Haven adoption fees are much lower than the market value of the horse because the home is of the utmost importance. Expect the adoption fee to range between \$200-750 based on factors such as the animal’s age and the level of training completed.



Valor, a rescue horse, arrived recently at the Horses’ Haven in Howell. Photo courtesy of Horses’ Haven



Lola, in her blanket, gets a second chance at a loving home and bonds with a new friend. Photo courtesy of Horses’ Haven

If adoption is not an option, volunteering is not the only way to offer support to Horses’ Haven. The agency has posted a wish list for specific donations on its website. A horse, pony, donkey or other animal friend can also be sponsored for a minimum of \$20 per month, which allows sponsors to visit their animal once a month on Sponsor Day to spend time with and even groom their animal.

“This part of our program eases the financial burden and allows us to properly care for the animals who are unable to enjoy a home of their own,” said Norman. “And it’s a great way to put your arms around an animal that really needs you.”

For more information about Horses’ Haven, visit the organization’s Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MIHorsesHaven>, call 517-548-4880 or email horseshavenmi@gmail.com.

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All About Susan



Oscar-Winning Screen Icon Talks 'Up For Grabs' Sexual Orientation, Politics and Portraying Bette Davis

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Maybe gay people are customarily compelled to thank Susan Sarandon for her longstanding advocacy, because that's how I begin my frank, anything-goes conversation with the 70-year-old multi-hyphenate. After all, no matter where you stand on Sarandon's divisive decision to vote for Green Party candidate Jill Stein in the recent presidential election, we can all agree that the Oscar-winning actress has used her massive screen-icon prestige to aid in the advancement of LGBT rights. She's been a staunch supporter through the AIDS crisis and the fight for marriage equality – even in times when vocal Hollywood allies were scarce.

Reinforcing Sarandon's pro-queer stance is a breadth of bold, iconic and uninhibited film roles dating back to 1970: Sarandon had sex with her co-star, Catherine Deneuve, in a lesbian-favored scene that steamed up 1983's vamp flick "The Hunger"; as Janet, she got her freak on in the cult classic "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"; and then, in 1987, teamed up with Cher for "The Witches of Eastwick" to, presumably, offer fresh fodder to every late-'80s drag queen. Later, in 1995, Sarandon appeared with many of her industry peers in the acclaimed documentary inspired by gay activist Vito Russo, "The Celluloid Closet," which examined depictions of LGBT characters in Hollywood.

The next step in being a gay icon, apparently, is playing one: Starring alongside fellow acting dynamo Jessica Lange as Joan Crawford, Sarandon portrays beloved Hollywood legend and "All About Eve" leading lady Bette Davis in Ryan Murphy's "Feud: Bette and Joan." Sarandon was fresh off the set of the FX series when she dished on "Feud," and numerous other aspects of her storied life and career.

"I'm just getting back and acclimated," she told me, dramatizing her experience shooting Murphy's latest creation. "I've been gone for a very long time. Once I joined this cult, I didn't get out."

Free from "Feud" and any canned-answer pretense, Sarandon refreshingly freewheeled

through revelatory discussions about her "up for grabs" sexual orientation, the gay actor she once romanced, and her impassioned response to critics ("to blame me is not productive") who challenge her political convictions.

Between "Feud," your film career and your LGBT activism, I'd say you have more than earned your queer cred.

(Laughs) Well, I hope so! I mean, I feel like an outsider myself. My people, my family for all these years have always been my allies and have always been very, very important to me, very dear to me through the AIDS crisis and everything. It's just a natural, very easy extended family for me.

You grew up Catholic in Jackson Heights, a neighborhood in the northwestern end of the borough of Queens in New York City. Would you say LGBT people felt like family then too?

Well, not in my high school; I had 500 in my class. This was ages ago. But sure, in college, of course if you're in a theater department or in any of the arts, that's just part of the landscape, so there wasn't any delineation as I became an adult. It was just natural. And, honestly, the people who I made friends with in my early day in New York in the '70s are still my friends.

I find the guys who don't stick with you are the guys that you've had affairs with or marriages... or whatever! (Laughs) It's very rare that those guys – once you're not involved in a relationship, it's hard to maintain those ties. So, really, my friends I've had forever and ever and ever are gay men and women.

That makes sense, unless you're having affairs with gay men.

Well, I did at one point have a very successful and very loving and wonderful affair with a man who then wasn't with another woman after me, and that worked out fine! I don't think you had to declare yourself as rigidly as you do now in terms of having to declare yourself almost politically about your sexual preference.

Just to clarify – you were in a romantic relationship with another actor who was gay?

Yeah. Philip Sayer (who also starred in "The Hunger") – he was a wonderful actor. He passed away, but yes, he was gay, and we had a great relationship in every way.

Is your sexuality more or less rigid these days? Basically, should we be welcoming you to the family?

(Laughs) Well, I'm a serial monogamist, so I haven't really had a large dating career. I married Chris Sarandon when I was 20, and that went on for quite a while – each of my relationships have. I haven't exactly been in the midst of a lot of offers of any kind. I'm still not! I don't know what's going on! (Laughs) But I think back in the '60s it just was much more open.

Are you open regarding your sexuality?

Yeah, I'm open. My sexual orientation is up for grabs, I guess you could say. (Laughs)

The great thing about "Feud" is having you, a gay icon, play a gay icon. I can't think of many things gayer than that.

(Laughs) Well, I hope the appeal seems to be broader! I'm hoping we reach out across the aisles to heterosexuals also, because what I think the story is about is a really interesting examination of all kinds of things: power and roles and misogyny and aging. Have you seen it?

Not yet – episodes weren't available before our

interview. But because it's my due diligence as a gay man, I've seen "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" countless times.

Oh, you're gonna love it then! Although it's not all about that. We do move on, so at least you don't think I'm wearing gobs of makeup (the whole time). There are some younger folks who haven't seen "Baby Jane" who are like, "What is up with that? Does she do that through the whole thing? I don't get it." But we had a lot of fun recreating gesture for gesture, voice pattern for voice pattern. And some of the little snippets of the scenes were very tough.

What's the closest you've come to a Bette/Joan-type feud?

I think I'm just a little too young to see women as my adversary. I think that changed. I really haven't experienced that. I think women just a little bit older than I am tried to align themselves with power, which were the men, and saw every woman as a threat. With my generation and slightly younger, you might be jealous that someone is getting all the good parts, but it's just a different time – you don't see them as your enemy. So, women are producing more projects, are finding things on their own. I feel very comfortable with all the women that are my competition.

There was someone that came (to "Feud") for two seconds who was not particularly collaborative, and I didn't get rid of her, but that was just not the tone. She kind of announced herself, and she was gone in two days. Because Ryan is responsible for having a wonderful environment with a very collaborative atmosphere, and it starts at the top. He just doesn't tolerate anybody who isn't part of that family, and looks at the bigger picture. And that was it. She was gone.

But it wasn't about women against women – it was just about somebody who came in, sat down and announced that she was going to be difficult. I'm sure that came from a place of fear, in all fairness to her, but there wasn't time or interest in developing a relationship with someone who isn't a team player. Everybody was a team player on this. And I've seen men go at it on films, but I've never had an experience myself. It doesn't work for me to work in an environment where there's tension. I go out of my way to make sure there's not.

Can you imagine throwing your guts out there and you have to be brave and you're in a hostile environment? It's just impossible. You open up your heart and all your energy, and you can't do that if you're in a protective mode. There's a line that I found in one of Bette's books where she said, "I would rather have a go at something I feel, and be hurt, than always be protecting myself – that way, one does not really live." And she did that in romance, and I think she did that in her work.

That's definitely where our philosophies align. You can't live your life according to just what looks good on paper. I think the

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See Susan, page 31

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Happenings



The Company of the RENT 20th Anniversary Tour. Rent will be at the Fisher Theater March 21-26. Photo Credit Carol Rosegg, 2016.

OUTINGS

Thursday, March 9

LEAD Institute Seeks Applicants Apply by March 10. For LGBTQ professionals in a leadership role. LEAD Institute is a three-month transformational leadership course which provides education and networking opportunities. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-677-7226. bbudde@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org/lead

Free Legal Consultations & Services for LGBTQ Immigrants 1 p.m. Second Thursday of every month Grand Rapids Pride Center and Justice for Our Neighbors, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-

3511. www.grpride.org

NEXTGen Pride's Open Mic Story Slam 7 p.m. Open Mic. Theme is: Love is love is love. Rules: Story must be true, told under five minutes. Register online. Free event. NEXTGen Detroit, 1737 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-205-2535. lansky@jfm.d.org www.jewishdetroit.org/event/storyslam/

Relationship Skills Class 7 p.m. Build stronger connections with co-workers, family, friends and romantic partners. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-677-7226. bbudde@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, March 10

3rd Annual BMM GSAs Working Summit

12 a.m. An all day event for youth, by youth to educate, learn, network, and get inspired. Adults welcome. No registration fee. Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health, 1 Campus Dr., **Allendale**. 517-318-1414. info@moash.org www.moash.org/join-our-email-list

Monday, March 13

Kellogg's 5th Annual B2B 1 p.m. Meet corporate buyers, distribute capability statements, exchange business cards. Free to attend. Educational and business development opportunities as well. Kellogg's, 11177 E. Michigan Ave., **Battle Creek**. www.eventbrite.com/e/5th-annual-b2b-in-battle-creek-tickets-31541983923

RuPaul's Drag Race Premiere 8 p.m. Briggs Detroit, 519 E. Jefferson, **Detroit**. 313-656-4820. www.briggsdetroit.com/

Tuesday, March 14

Sexual Assault Survivors Support Group 4 p.m. Facilitated by LGBTQ Victim Advocate/Counselor Brooke Lindley. Youth group (13-17) from 4-5 p.m., adult group (18+) from 5:15-6:15 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-345-5595. blindley@ywcakalamazoo.org www.kglrc.org

Thursday, March 16

Detroit Elders 5 p.m. Attendance is free. SAGE Metro Detroit, 4750 Woodward, **Detroit**. 313-833-1300 ext. 15. https://sagemetrodetroit.org

LGBTQ Book and Movie Club 7 p.m. Meets the 3rd and 4th Thursday of each month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

Sunday, March 19

Drag Queen Bingo 11 a.m. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Reservations required. 18+ Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

PFLAG Monthly Meeting 2 p.m. Entry from parking lot behind church. Every third Sunday. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division at Catherine Street, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-0659. info@pflagaa.org www.pflagaa.org

Support Ferndale Pride 2017 6 p.m. Jay's will donate 20 of proceeds during March Madness to Ferndale Pride. Ferndale Pride, 22726 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-398-4070. http://ferndalepride.com

Monday, March 20

Factory Monday 9 p.m. Goth-industrial night. Main room: DJ Void6 hosted by MC Yoda. Red Room: DJ Madisi. Tickets: \$1-3. Necto, 516 E. Liberty, **Ann Arbor**. www.necto.com

Tuesday, March 21

Gamenight 1 a.m. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 MILE RD Apt. xxx, **Sterling Heights**. www.meetup.com.necto.com

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 9 a.m. For more information please call 877-529-5532 or visit the website. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-258-0440. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

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Gilda's Club Grand Rapids "Gilda's LaughFest 2017" Festival include stand-up, improv/sketch, college stand-up and college improv. Individuals of all ages, and groups of any size are encouraged to showcase their talents. Gilda's Club Grand

Rapids, 1806 Bridge St NW, Grand Rapids. March 9 - March 19. 616-735-HAHA. www.laughfestgr.org/

AEG Live and The Ark "Patti Smith" Tickets: \$45-75. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 7 p.m. March 11. 248-399-2980. www.rontlive.com

UMS "Snarky Puppy" Mixture of funk, jazz, gospel, rock and R&B. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. March 16. 734-761-1800. www.ums.org

UMS "Kidd Pivot and Electric Company Theatre" Created by Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. March 17 - March 18. 734-764-2538. www.ums.org

UMS Choral Union "Beethoven's Missa Solemnis" Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra f/ conductor Scott Hanoian. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. March 11. 734-761-1800. www.ums.org

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint (UUCF) "Tret Fure" "Legendary Women's Music Pioneer, Storyteller and Activist in Concert. Tickets: \$12-15. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint (UUCF), 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, **Flint**. 7 p.m. March 9. 8102324023. uufflint.org

Les 7 doigts de la main "Cuisine & Confessions". Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., **Detroit**. March 18 - March 19. 313-887-8500. www.musicall.org

Editor's Pick

Patti Smith Plays Special Show at ROMT

Patti Smith's "Horses," recorded in 1975, has come to be regarded as a seminal and landmark recording that continues to have resonance and relevance for succeeding generations of musicians and artists. Now, 40-plus years later, Smith will honor the longevity and lasting influence of the album with a series of special shows centered around the album. Accompanied by two members of the original group, Lenny Kaye and Jay Dee Daugherty, along with bassist/keyboardist Tony Shanahan, who has been a part of her band for twenty years, Smith will play March 12 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the show, co-presented by AEG Live and The Ark. Tickets are \$45-75. For more information, call 248-399-2980 or visit <http://www.royaloakmusictheatre.com>.



See Happenings, page 33

► Susan

Continued from p. 29

most interesting things happen when you're out of your comfort zone, and this was *way* out of my comfort zone. It took me a good five weeks working with Ryan and working with Tim Monich, my dialect coach, to really get the fear/fun ratio to a place where it was in my favor (laughs). I was just terrified! I said to Ryan, "This really, really scares me. I just don't know." And he said, "Well, I'm scared too. We'll find it together." And that made me jump at it.

How do you explain the gay fascination with Bette Davis and Joan Crawford?

Well, I can't speak for Joan – I can only speak for Bette. But, first of all, being some kind of outsider – she was an intruder at the time, when she was trying to get good parts, because she wasn't your classic Hollywood beauty. So, she started off as an outsider, and I think that she had a secret, and in the early days of being gay – and still in some places – that has to be a secret. I think she had a lot of secrets, and you sense that she was trying to do things that were not easily done as a woman and as an artist, and she was a very straight shooter. When we were working on it, our biggest challenge was trying to make it grounded in reality because they're so big. Her gestures, everything – I felt like, "Here

goes another meme!" (Laughs) The question was, are we able to make this into something that people are actually moved by? It's very funny, obviously, and interesting.

Do you think audiences might come away with more empathy for Bette as we watch this?

I hope so. In watching all of her interviews and TV appearances, and in reading all the books she wrote and that her daughter wrote and other people wrote, she was pretty special in her focus to find good work that (gave her) some control over her choices at a time when you were given the protection of the studio in exchange for your freedom. Now, of course, if you do episodic TV, you're right back in the same kind of contractual bind. Films have been liberated, but not these seasonal TV shows, because you really don't know what they're going to do with you. You sign away for years at a time, which was exactly what she was fighting against.

Shifting to politics, some LGBT people were disappointed in your decision to cast your vote for someone other than the predicted winner, Hillary Clinton. If you would've known that Trump would be elected, and that we'd currently be experiencing such a threat to human rights, which I know are so important to you, would you have voted differently?

This is the thing: To have the conversations about "woulda, shoulda, coulda" opens up

everything about the primaries and all kinds of things. The important thing right now is that we stop harping on blame because blame, if you really want me to talk about this election – you know, I was not the person who brought Trump into power. The DNC has a lot of... there are already suits all over the country about how that was rigged, the primary.

So, to talk about this, for me, is a waste of energy. I think right now we're about to appoint Scott Pruitt, which is the end of the EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency), and we've got this gal, (Betsy) DeVos. People have to get over what happened, take some personal responsibility for being in a bubble and not paying attention to what was going on in the country, and start applying their anger and their energy to rectifying what's going on.

We're at a moment in history where a revolution is taking place. We have a guy in there who is so obvious that he gives you very clear targets – this didn't happen overnight. In the last eight years, the Democrats have lost thousands of seats. In the last eight years, we've put fracking and Monsanto and everybody in place. In the last eight years, there were tons of people deported. This guy is horrible. But this didn't happen overnight.

So what are we gonna do now? This is a moment where we have to start using our energy and the time that we have and the media to divest from our banks that are

building these pipelines all over the place, not just in Dakota, which are going to bring down this country. Fracking is going to go full speed ahead. We have to stop that. And we have to protect those who are vulnerable under this administration, and that's not gonna happen until we let go of what happened before and really dedicate ourselves to making phone calls, putting our bodies in the street and, most of all, taking our money out of organizations, banks and networks that are supporting the actions of this guy.

Now that everybody is awake, we have to take that and that fear, and we have to not indulge our depression – not indulge on pointing fingers – and get out there and work with some of the people who are going to be betrayed by Trump who voted for him and use that as a force for real change, because now it can happen. And we're in a moment in history where you're gonna either be on one side or the other, and to be quiet or to be depressed or to blame me is not productive, so that's what I would say about that.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).



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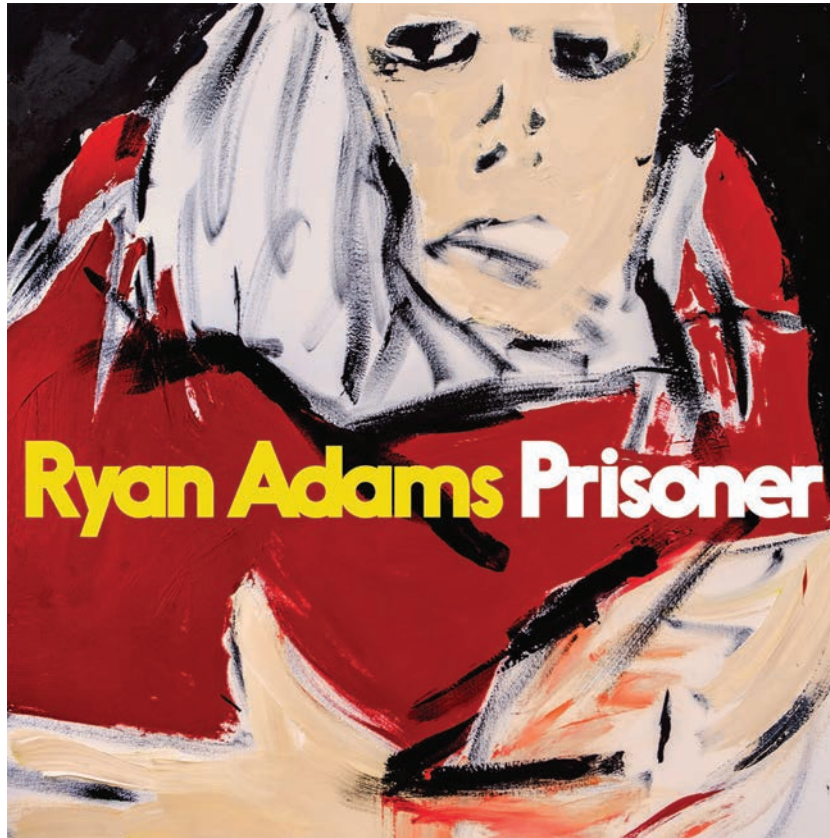
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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

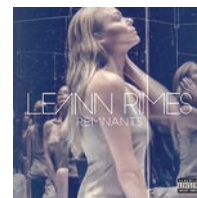
Ryan Adams, LeAnn Rimes



Ryan Adams, 'Prisoner'

Ryan Adams, known in part for making Taylor Swift cooler to pop-resistant granola girls (he recorded, in full, a beautiful version of her Grammy-winning "1989" behemoth), is back to his old tricks on "Prisoner." As usual, the beloved feelings guy dives deep into his torn psyche for rockers doused in punchy guitars rhythms from his favorite decade, the '80s, and the heartbreak brought on by his divorce to former pop star-turned-adored TV actress Mandy Moore. The guitars on "Do You Still Love Me?" scorch like heaven on fire as they tear through the track with impassioned verve, making for one helluva start to your late-night drive playlist. Those guitars simmer on "Breakdown," and beam on "Anything I Say to You Now." If you asked Adams what his favorite adult toy is, he'd say the guitar. "Prisoner," then, is his playground. For that reason, Adams delivers a melodically on-point work more rousing than anything he's recorded in years – yes, my dear Swifties, even more so than his surprising take on the pop singer's blockbuster album. One of Adams' originals, the forlorn "Shiver and Shake," is a sonic extension of the lo-fi vibe heard on his "1989" reimagining; in fact, it sounds almost identical to his

living-room rendition of "Shake It Off." Too much of a good thing is just fine, though, especially since Adams gives these ditties new life, even those that fall right within his emo-rock wheelhouse where the only confrontation he's having – nevermind that Mandy person, he seems to say – is the one involving his own shattered self. *Grade: B+*



LeAnn Rimes, 'Remnants'

I once saw LeAnn Rimes at a casino even though LeAnn Rimes is too young to be playing casinos. That's where artists go when a) the performer is blasé about the energy of the "we're just here to use our comp ticket" crowd, or b) the performer is an AARP member. Rimes is 34 years old, just a year older than Carrie Underwood, who sells out arenas. If there was any justice in the world, Rimes would receive as much acknowledgement for "Remnants," her 13th studio album, as she does in the tabloids. Still, niche success has been good to Rimes, who, once again, goes her own way because she can – no fickle masses, no big label heads. The opener misses the mark – she

delivers a too-slick cover of out singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile's guttural "The Story" – but otherwise, "Remnants" is an accomplished set that fortunately finds Rimes answering to no one except her own artistic instincts. Highlights include grungy jazz-inflected banger "Dang Dang" and smoky torch number "Dangerous Love," a fired-up ballad about outsider relationships soon to be heard at all your queer weddings. More transparently gay is the buoyant pop song "Love Is Love Is Love," the Ally for Equality honoree's anti-hate anthem, which also serves as a call to "start a revolution." You know, maybe we can't fight the moonlight, but that's only because Rimes, armed with an album's worth of strong-willed mantras and an ode to equality, is too busy fighting more important fights. *Grade: B*

Also Out

Reba McEntire, 'Sing It Now: Songs of Faith & Hope'

Reba McEntire, country music's biggest gay icon this side of Queen Dolly, must know you're trying your damndest to keep it together as this fragile world falls to pieces in the grabbing hands of a reality-show star currently serving as the President of the United States: She's just offered your dying soul 20 God-centric songs meant to restore your faith in... *everything*. "Sing It Now: Songs of Faith & Hope" is touted as a mix of "uplifting covers and originals," with her take on the churchy "Oh Happy Day" that, given the current political hell we're experiencing, might be her most ironic work, and the sweet-if-silly "God and My Girlfriends," which, depending on her definition of "girlfriend," could be the cheesy gay anthem 2017-2021 needs.

Vanessa Carlton, 'Liberian Live'

If you're too busy protesting to catch Vanessa Carlton at a venue near you – she's touring in support of her remarkable "Liberian" album, released in 2015 – then, resisters, you're in luck. "Liberian Live" might just be what your restless mind is craving after a long day of Trumpisms, "fake news" and protest marching. Famous for providing the drunken sing-along for you and your trashed friends, "A Thousand Miles," Carlton has made quite a name for herself in the underground world where pop stars go when they're done being pop stars. If only the noteworthy dreamscapes on "Liberian Live" had the same spectacular reach.

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Editor's Pick

Macdeath

The Planet Ant Theatre presents an original musical comedy adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* written and directed by Mikey Brown and Shawn Handlon. *Macdeath* is set in a dystopian, post-apocalyptic world. With dwindling resources in a rapidly warming world, ragtag bands of survivors are at war. On their return from squashing an uprising against Dunkin, King of Lakeside, Generals *Macdeath* and Bank encounter three strange witches, who prophesy that *Macdeath* will become king, setting into motion the bloody rise to power and tragic downfall of the once great warrior. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through March 18, and on March 12 at 6 p.m. at 2357 Caniff St. in Hamtramck. Non-refundable tickets are \$20, including the online processing fee. For more information, call 313-365-4948 or visit www.planetant.com/for-reservations.



▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 30

THEATER

Almost, Maine Tickets: \$17-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murnin Ave., Ann Arbor. March 9 - March 12. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/shows/almost-maine

Dr. Heidi Jekyll Tickets: \$12. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Through March 12. 313-9869156. www.slipstreamti.com

Firepower by Kermit Frazier Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 12. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Gay Fan Fiction Wanted Submit a script (performance time of 30 minutes or less) for the 8th Annual Gay Play Series. Deadline is April 15. See website or email for details. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 14. 2485455545. www.theringwald.com

Hand to God Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through March 13. 2485455545. www.theringwald.com

Macdeath Shakespeare with musical adaptation. Tickets: \$10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through March 18. 3133654948. www.planetant.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Detroit Institute of Arts "Detroit After Dark: Photographs from the DIA Collection" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 5 - April 23. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "How Many More?" An anti-assault weapon themed all media exhibit Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. March 1 - March 31. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

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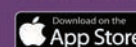


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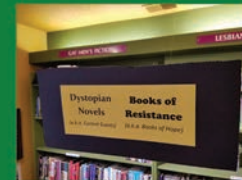


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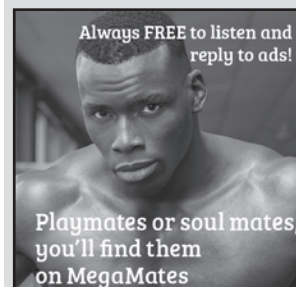
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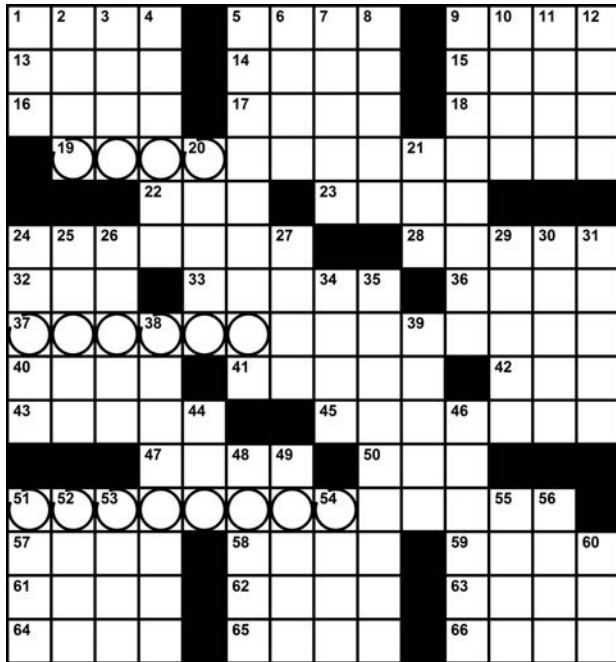
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Q Puzzle



- 33 Stops sucking
 36 Kunis of "Black Swan"
 37 Country ruled by a dictator?
 40 One of Grampa Walton's granddaughters
 41 Presbyterian minister Jane
 42 Went down on
 43 Cul-____
 45 Equated
 47 Like Albee's three women
 50 Neighbor of Ariz.
 51 Computer storage of phallic pictures?
 57 Date opening?
 58 Mary Richards' spunk, for example
 59 "Charlie's Angels" role
 61 Second fruit eater
 62 "____ Upon a Mattress"
 63 Hairy twin
 64 Anna Madrigal's daughter
 65 One who looks into crystal balls
 66 Cold-cock
- 11 Ticked pink
 12 Like a desk blotter
 20 "If I'd only ____!"
 21 Ball holder for Patty Sheehan
 24 Like Orlando Cruz before a bout
 25 Gay-friendly, perhaps
 26 Meaning of the homojis that appear in circles
 27 Canvas covering
 29 City of Da Vinci's "Last Supper"
 30 Top
 31 Competed at Indy
 34 Scott of "Beautiful Thing"
 35 The hole she bang, perhaps?
 38 Curse from Jeremy Irons in "The Borgias"
 39 Dweebish "Family Matters" boy
 44 The Batmobile, e.g.
 46 Caused to come out
 48 HRC's equal sign, and others
 49 "SNL" producer Michaels
 51 Word to a dominatrix
 52 Bring to naught
 53 Trey does his voice on "South Park"
 54 Disney's Mickey and Minnie, e.g.
 55 Bear up there
 56 Guillermo of "Weeds"
 60 Wicks of the WNBA

Down

- 1 Word after pro
 2 Source of oil-based lubricants
 3 Robert De ____
 4 Top of the world
 5 Where motorists get off
 6 What comes to mind
 7 One of the Obama girls
 8 Vidal's "Visit to a ____ Planet"
 9 Where the ancients stuck their bones
 10 Barbra's "Funny Girl" guy

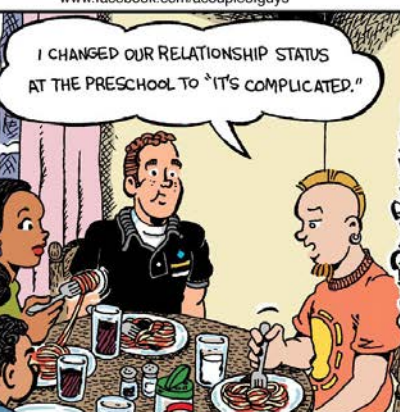
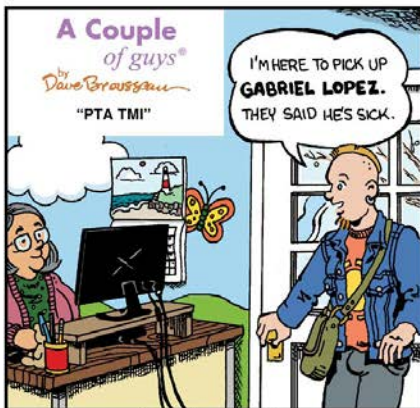
Homojis

Across

- 1 Collette of "United States of Tara"
 5 Puts the tongue between the cheeks
 9 "____ fan tutte"
 13 "Ben Hur" or "Spartacus"
 14 Red rind contents
 15 Sherman Hemsley religious sitcom

- 16 Unimportant
 17 Ward of "Once and Again"
 18 Aquarium
 19 Gathering for tops and bottoms?
 22 Writer Castillo
 23 Mapa of "Switched at Birth"
 24 Connection with people
 28 Marine role of Jim Nabors
 32 Be in the hole

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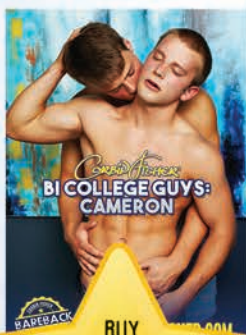
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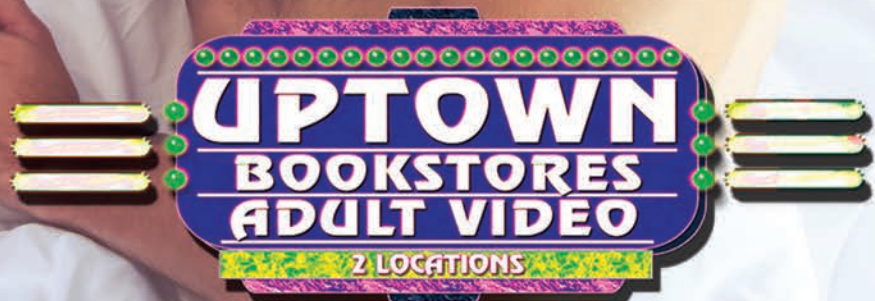
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Jodie Foster checks into 'Hotel Artemis'

Jodie Foster has acted in a grand total of two films in the past seven years. She starred in "Carnage" in 2011, and hasn't been seen on screen since 2013's disappointing "Elysium." This causes us cinematic distress, quite frankly, because we love her and always will. She is High Classic Lesbian and we need her more than ever. Good news, then, that she's signed on for the directorial debut of Drew Pearce, the TV producer and music video director, who's written a script called "Hotel Artemis." The futuristic thriller's plot is being kept under wraps, but the trickle of information we do have involves Foster playing a nurse in an underground hospital that houses dangerous criminals. We don't know exactly how one goes about setting up an underground hospital, as the ambulance noise in and out of the ER seems like it might give away the location more or less immediately, but we're going to go with this story for the sake of art. Foster learns that one of her patients has come to the hospital to assassinate another one, and boom, there's your story. Signed on to co-star is "Guardians of the Galaxy" beef-slab and ardent hetero ally Dave Bautista (he has queer family and can be enjoyed on the internet talking trash about homophobes in the most delightful way). And that's all we know. This project is in development right now, which means 2018 is the earliest we might set eyes and ears on it. So we'll keep waiting patiently for the return of our favorite lady.

Darren Criss as Cunanin in 'American Crime Story: Versace'

Ryan Murphy cannot seem to lose. "American Crime Story: The People vs OJ Simpson" cleaned up in the ratings, with critics, and with awards-giving bodies. Next stop, then? More of all that, most likely. The just-announced "American Crime Story: Versace" will tackle the tragic 1997 assassination of fashion designer Gianni Versace at the hand of gay serial killer Andrew Cunanan. After a murder spree that took four other victims, young Cunanan shot Versace, then killed himself eight days later on a houseboat as police moved in on him. The script for "Versace," from Tom Rob Smith ("London Spy"), is based on Maureen Orth's true crime book, "Vulgar Favors," and Murphy himself will direct the first episode of the 10-hour series.

Meanwhile, Edgar Ramirez ("The Girl on The Train") has been cast as Gianni Versace and "Glee" alum Darren Criss will work against type and play the murderous Cunanan. Fans of the other version of Criss will always have their YouTube clips of him singing "Teenage Dream" to keep them warm at night.



Jodie Foster.
Photo: KathClick

'Jawbreaker,' back and bigger than ever

Back in 1999, maybe you saw and loved the otherwise under-appreciated teen movie "Jawbreaker." And then maybe you watched it, say, several dozen or more times in the past 18 years. You would not be alone. The wild comedy from gay filmmaker Darren Stein – which starred

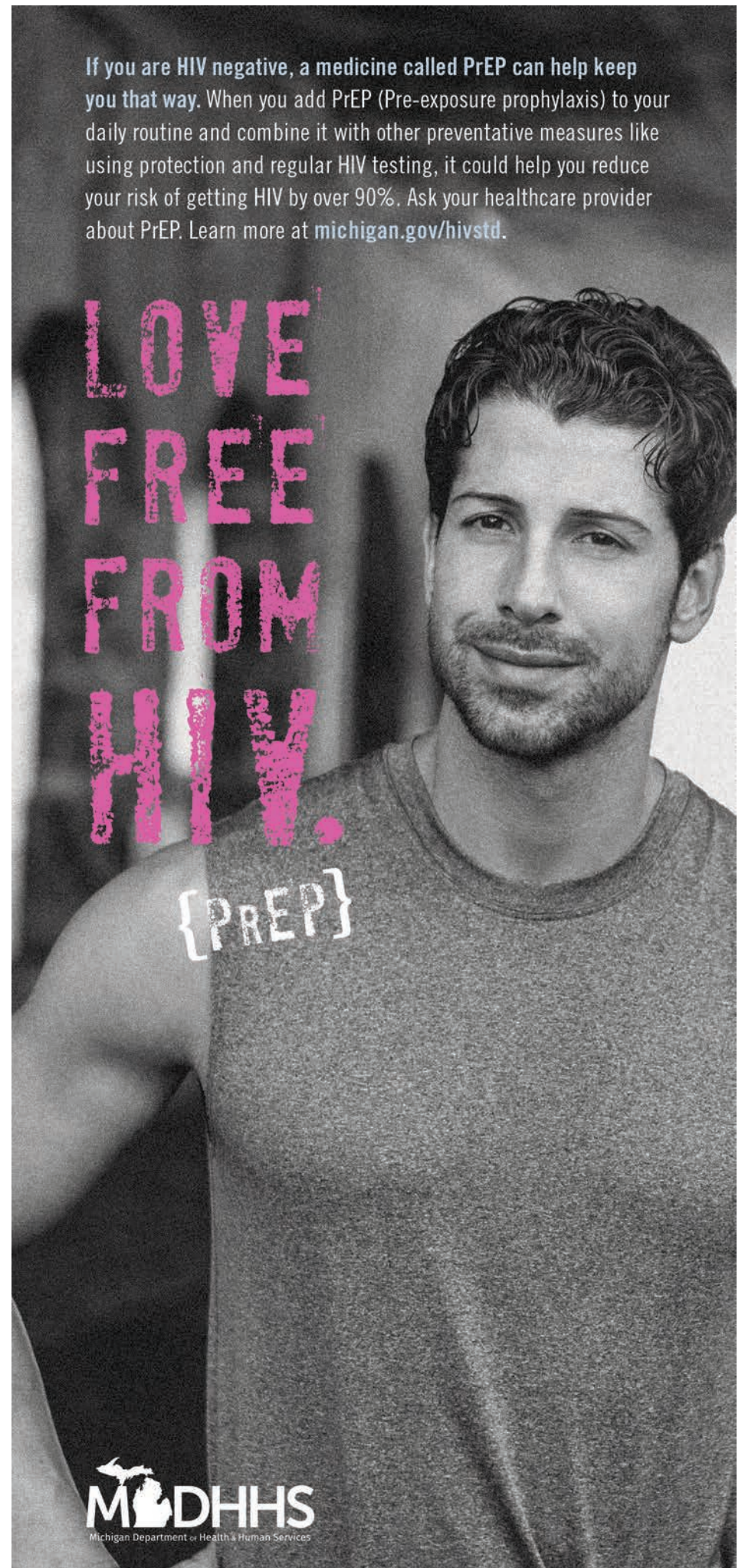
Rose McGowan, Rebecca Gayheart, Julie Benz and Judy Greer – has earned itself cult film status over the years, thanks to kids (and post-kids) who stayed hungry for routine doses of adolescent snark, the kind seen in like-minded movies such as "Heathers," "Mean Girls" and "Clueless." Lucky all of us, then, that E! has decided to take the property and start developing "Jawbreaker" as a TV series. Described by the network as a "wild reimagining of the teen cult classic set in the fame-obsessed world of Beverly Hills," it centers on "a new clique whose world is rocked by an accidental murder at a bachelorette party." And you know what? It's working for "Riverdale," so if this is a new trend, bring it on. Other teen movie pun intended. You're welcome.

Ralph Fiennes dances with Nureyev

Two-time Academy Award nominated and BAFTA winner Ralph Fiennes ("A Bigger Splash") has announced his next directorial effort, "The White Crow." The screenplay from David Hare ("The Hours") is based on Julie Kavanagh's biography "Rudolf Nureyev: The Life." The bisexual ballet star, a man who defied expectations placed on male dancers in both the ballet world and in life, died from AIDS complications in the early 1990s, but this isn't that story. Instead, the tale of Nureyev's defection from the USSR to Paris in 1961 is what's on the menu. Russian dancer Oleg Ivenko will play Nureyev and Palme d'Or winner Adèle Exarchopoulos ("Blue is The Warmest Color") will play Nureyev's close friend Clara Saint, who helped not only to convince the dancer to leave his homeland behind, but to put the plan into action. Shooting begins this summer in St. Petersburg and Paris, most likely for a 2018 release.

Romeo San Vicente prefers that Dave Bautista keep the shirt off.

If you are HIV negative, a medicine called PrEP can help keep you that way. When you add PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) to your daily routine and combine it with other preventative measures like using protection and regular HIV testing, it could help you reduce your risk of getting HIV by over 90%. Ask your healthcare provider about PrEP. Learn more at michigan.gov/hivstd.



Campus Chat: Local LGBT University Student Reacts to Trump Presidency

BY DREW SAUNDERS

As a self-identified straight, female-to-male transgender man, Morgan Shaw-Andrade said, he is “scared.”

The Oakland University student is worried that his rights will be taken away if the Trump administration continues to roll back the progress the LGBT community has made in terms of policies and protections.

“I’m also worried about the insurance thing because my insurance covers my testosterone and all of my doctor’s appointments,” said Shaw-Andrade, who is also the fitness and nutrition coach at Transcend the Binary (www.transcendthebinary.org) in Ferndale.

During a panel discussion at the 33rd Annual Women and Gender Studies Film Festival on Jan. 21 at OU, he said he thinks the LGBT community “should become loud again as we’ve been quiet and fearful since the election of Donald Trump.”

He is doing his part to “give my community a friendly face where they feel comfortable and they don’t feel they have to fit this certain mold – that they can be authentically themselves because that’s how we’re happiest. I feel that when you are happy with yourself and authentic with yourself you give others the freedom to do the same.”

Shaw-Andrade is one of several local university students in and around metro Detroit who discussed his thoughts and feelings with BTL about what a Trump presidency means to him, which the publication will continue to feature in a series.

Not only are you a transgender man, but you are a cultural minority as well. How has this affected you?

My mom is a citizen. She’s not from Mexico, she’s from Chile. However, we’re a Hispanic family. People tend to generalize us as Mexicans. It’s concerning. And there’s been a lot more hatred since he’s been so vocal about his feelings toward other races. He separates himself as a white person from other races by saying “The Hispanics,” “The blacks,” “Look at that black man.” He said he wanted to have a registry for Muslim people. Why? They’re not different from us, but he’s making divisions. It’s an issue across all



Oakland University student Morgan Shaw-Andrade. Photo courtesy of Drew Saunders

minorities.

Do you feel like an easy target?

Not so much an easy target, but I think as a more powerful individual he just goes after who he thinks is less powerful because he thinks it’s less of a threat.

As a transgender person, do you feel more vulnerable to discrimination?

We have less privilege than other parts of the LGBT community. Obviously not the entire LGBT acronym, but definitely with the LGB portion, we have less privilege. Not only just because we’re trans. But there’s a lot of intersectionality because there’s gay trans people, which also knocks them down another level. Since trans people have become more vocal, we’ve kind of become the scapegoat for all the negative people. All of the sudden we’re the scapegoat for all the sexual predators, which I don’t really understand, but we are. So I think we’re at a higher risk...just because they don’t understand.

What are you doing right now to protect yourself?

I already submitted my name change and my gender marker changed on my passport. It was what I planned on doing eventually, but now it’s much more rushed because I’m finding myself paying for tuition and paying for all of this mess, just to cover my own ass essentially.

What do you think about Trump moving forward?

I don’t think the man is well. He doesn’t even realize that he flip-flops. He just flip-flops and then he’s so convinced that this has always been his stance. It’s not right. There’s something wrong.

Affirmations: There’s No Place Like Home

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The annual Spring Bash at Affirmations is the organization’s biggest fundraiser of the year. “It’s how we are able to keep the lights on and our doors open. This event enables us to support programs that may not be fully funded through grants,” said Brad Bell, development committee chair of this year’s event themed “Emerald City” on March 18 at MGM Grand Detroit.

“The services we deliver are fundamentally needed today regardless of what’s going on in the world. We are a home for the community in times of crisis, such as Orlando, and we function as a host for the community to come together in good times as well, like we did during the Supreme Court marriage decision,” said Bell, pointing to the number of support programs provided, such as health and wellness groups, a variety of LGBTQ support groups, and community activities and events - which Affirmations plans to grow and develop each year.

“It’s incredibly critical and the event is conveniently a ton of fun at the same time,” said Frank Aiello, president of the board of directors at Affirmations. “It’s a great cause and a great way to connect with people, both in the LGBTQ community and the allies who support our mission.”

The evening, which attracts around 400 or more guests, will feature a VIP reception at 6 p.m. followed by the general admission program at 7 p.m. The night will also feature a variety of fun and unique raffle and auction items from around the metro Detroit area.

As staff and volunteers prepare for the big night, Aiello said there is a “renewed sense of energy and mission” with respect to Affirmations and creating a safe space for members of the LGBTQ community.

“We know now that we can’t take anything for granted. It would have been hard a year ago to imagine how important the community center has become. It’s our home, where we gather to be together. It’s the one place where you know that you can be your authentic self,” he said.

Aiello adds that “those who might be relatively stable down the road in their coming out process can sometimes forget what it was like at the beginning. More so for more marginalized parts of our community, particularly transgender people, our youth and the older adult population. For those that are still so vulnerable, the center is incredibly important.”

This will be part of the narrative at Spring Bash as the organization prepares to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the 17,000-square-



Affirmations board of directors president Frank Aiello with program services director Lilianna Reyes, and recipient of the 2016 Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award, Jennifer Stacer. Photo courtesy of Affirmations



Several hundred people, including Richard O’Regan and Richard Hanson, attended the 2016 Affirmations “Casino Royale” Spring Bash event. Photo courtesy of Affirmations

foot building made possible by Allan Gilmour and Eric Jirgens, who will be in attendance. The event officially launches a year of “recognition activities,” which will culminate in an anniversary celebration at Fall Fling on Oct. 7.

“One of the most touching moments of the evening is the presentation of awards, when we commend the people who have been helping us in different ways,” said Aiello, noting the Hero Award is new this year and will be presented to John Corvino, who has been a strong advocate for the LGBTQ community.

Corvino will celebrate the 25-year anniversary of his lecture, “What’s Morally Wrong with Homosexuality?,” first delivered at the University of Texas at Austin on April 15, 1992, and since honed before hundreds of audiences around the country.

Other award recipients include the Jan Stevenson Award winner, Hannah Hartley; the Lorna Utley Award winner, Debbie Kenjorski; the Charles Moyer Philanthropy Award winner, Henry Grix and Howard Israel; and the Volunteer of the Year Award winner, John White.

To purchase tickets for the event at 1777 Third Ave. in Detroit, visit www.goaffirmations.org/spring-bash-2017. For questions or more information regarding Spring Bash 2017: Emerald City, contact Katie Koch at kkoch@goaffirmations.org or call 248-677-7227.

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