

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



DeVos Meets with LGBT Groups Over Trans Student Protections

PAGE 12

WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM

Community Speaks
Out on Gavin Grimm
Transgender Case

PAGE 4

3 LGBT Community
Centers Vandalized
in Disturbing Trend

PAGE 14

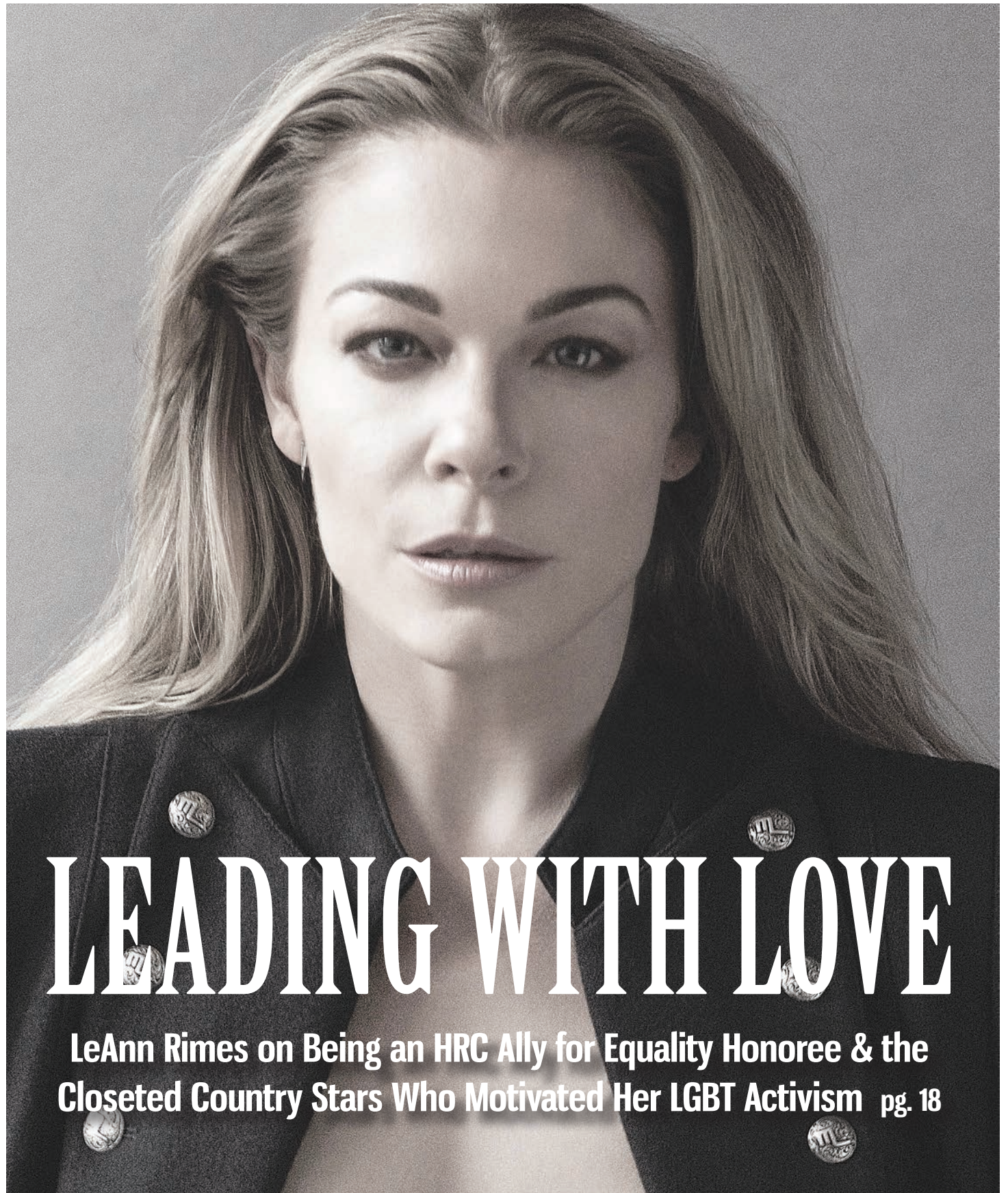
5 Gaycations With a
Purpose to Plan

PAGE 23

Our Guide to the
Best LGBT Events

PAGE 24

March 16, 2017
VOL. 2511 | FREE



LEADING WITH LOVE

LeAnn Rimes on Being an HRC Ally for Equality Honoree & the
Closeted Country Stars Who Motivated Her LGBT Activism pg. 18



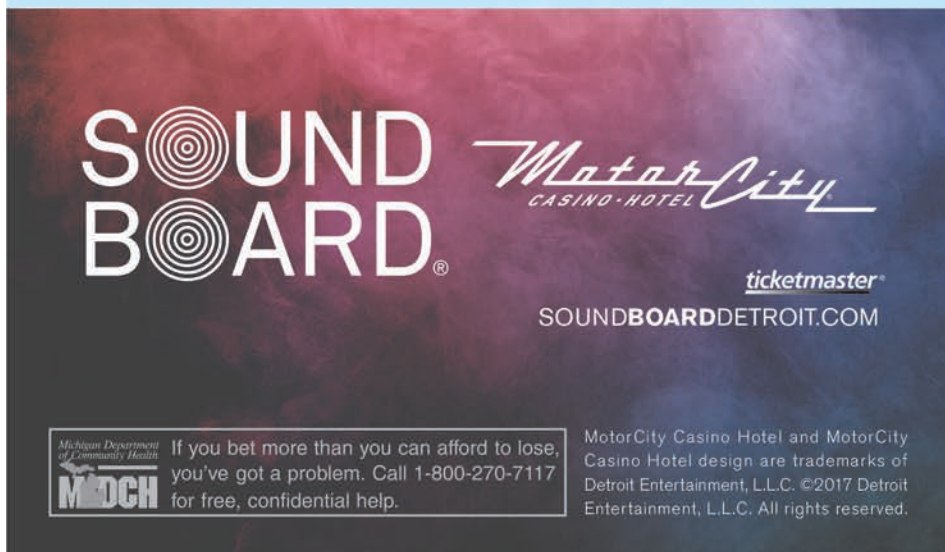
RACHELE FERRELL
MARCH 23



**MARSHA AMBROSIUS
& ERIC BENÉT**
MARCH 30



LEELA JAMES WITH DALEY
APRIL 19



SOUND BOARD
MotorCity CASINO HOTEL
ticketmaster
SOUNDBOARDETROIT.COM

Michigan Department of Community Health
MDCH If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for free, confidential help.

MotorCity Casino Hotel and MotorCity Casino Hotel design are trademarks of Detroit Entertainment, L.L.C. ©2017 Detroit Entertainment, L.L.C. All rights reserved.



LGBT Rights in the Trump Era - What Lies Ahead
with Attorneys Jay Kaplan & Angie Martell
Sunday March 26
11 a.m. - Noon
at MotorCity Casino Hotel
LGBT Wedding Expo Noon - 4 p.m.

Register Online @ www.MiLGBTWedding.com

Use Code "WKS17" for limited free tickets.



The Theatre Company presents
Avenue Q
March 23 - April 9
Very limited tickets!
\$30, \$27, \$22, \$15

Tickets at **UDMarts.com**
Call **313-993-3270**

Performed at the YMCA
The Marlene Boll Theatre
1401 Broadway St. Detroit

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ROBERT LOPEZ and JEFF MARX
BOOK BY JEFF WHITTY
BASED ON AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY ROBERT LOPEZ and JEFF MARX
DIRECTED BY GREG GROBIS

AVENUE Q is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com



What the fuzz are you looking at?

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY
Build A Boundless Future

Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



COVER

18 Leading With Love

NEWS

4 Local Community Speaks Out on Gavin Grimm Transgender Case

4 Justice Delayed in Gavin Grimm Case, But For How Long?

6 Emerge Michigan Prepares Democratic Women for Public Office

8 Court Rules Anti-Gay Workplace Bias Allowed Under Existing Law

12 DeVos Meets with LGBT Groups Over Trans Student Protections

13 N.H. Lawmakers Table Transgender Rights Bill

14 3 LGBT Community Centers Vandalized in Disturbing New Trend

15 Spicer Denounces Anti-LGBT Violence - Sort Of

OPINION

10 Parting Glances

10 Transmissions: A Tale of Two Dolls

11 Creep of the Week: Steve King

LIFE

16 LeAnn Rimes on Being an HRC Ally for Equality Honoree, Meeting RuPaul & the Closeted Country Stars Who Motivated Her LGBT Activism

20 Cool Cities: Royal Oak

23 The Frivolist: 5 Gaycations With a Purpose to Plan This Year

24 Happenings

28 Classifieds

29 Puzzle and Comic

HAPPENINGS



LGBT Wedding Expo Coming Up
pg. 7 & 24



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

30 Meet Becca Budde, Affirmations Education and Training Manager

30 Call for LGBTQ Artists
30 Q&A with New EQMI Board Member Buzz Thomas

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

POLITICS



Emerge Michigan Helps Democratic Women Run for Office
pg. 6

NATIONAL NEWS



3 LGBT Community Centers Vandalized
pg. 14

Join Us! BTL Challenge Gift to ACLU of Michigan

pg. 31



VOL. 2511 • MARCH 16, 2017
ISSUE 1006

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate



EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Senior News Editor

Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 10
kate@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Emell Derra Adolphus, Todd A. Heywood,
Jason Michael, Amy Lynn Smith

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
Mikey Rox, Dan Woog
Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter
Alexander Godin

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2017 Pride Source Media Group

ONLINE AT

"Between The Lines Newspaper"

Follow us @YourBTL

Email your op-eds to editor@pridesource.com

Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

Local Community Speaks Out on Gavin Grimm Transgender Case

Rally for Transgender Rights Planned for March 28 in Lansing

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

They were supposed to take the case up March 28. But on March 6, the Supreme Court decided to remand the case of Gavin Grimm, the Virginia teenager who sued for the right to use the restroom that matched his gender identity at his high school, back to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. The decision came after the Trump administration rescinded Obama era guidance to public schools in support of transgender students and based on recent case law that has more often than not proven that transgender students are protected under Title IX, a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination and gender stereotyping.

Members of the local LGBT community came together March 1 for a panel discussion following the new guidance issued from the Trump administration, which rescinded the Obama administration guidelines. They are now speaking out against the Supreme Court and for Grimm. These conversations will continue during a rally at the state Capitol planned for March 28, the day the Supreme Court was scheduled to hear opening arguments in the Grimm case, will proceed as planned.

"I'm disappointed," said Lisa Goyette, a board member of Stans with Trans and a parent of a transgender child. "There was a great deal of anticipation leading up to the March 28th date. What we were hoping for was that a decision could be made at a national level so that we do not have to have states deal with a civil rights issue."

Had the case been heard by the Supreme Court, Char Davenport, a transgender activist who is affiliated with Stand with Trans and the National LGBTQ Task Force, said it would have been hard to win with the court's current makeup of only eight justices – four liberal and four conservative.

"With the four-four court at this time it was going to be probably a tough case to get a majority on," said Davenport. "By remanding it back down to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals we're going to have to argue the case from a different perspective or within a different context. Gavin Grimm's case is just one of several cases that are making its way through the appeals court process. We've had some victories – I think there are maybe four cases moving forward – so we're hopeful that we'll win those cases or at least be able to advance them forward. Obviously, the context now rather than in the Obama era in terms of the guidance that the Obama administration offered

Had the case been heard by the Supreme Court, Char Davenport, a transgender activist who is affiliated with Stand with Trans and the National LGBTQ Task Force, said it would have been hard to win with the court's current makeup of only eight justices – four liberal and four conservative.

is that without that guidance we have to go back to what does sex discrimination mean and does that include protections specifically for trans students?"

For Roz Keith, founder of Stand with Trans and the mother of a transgender son, the fact that any child would be forced to go to court just to be able to pee in the bathroom that matches their gender identity is insulting.

"I feel that nobody should have to go to any court, local or federal, to use the bathroom," Keith said. "As a parent of a transgender teenager there's just so much wrong with that. [This latest setback] is so much more than just a court hearing being changed or canceled.

"The fact that we've reduced transgender rights to a bathroom issue is really the bigger issue because it's so much more than that," Keith continued. "I think that it's difficult for anyone to truly understand what it's like to be born in the wrong body. And even if you have a family member a child or a parent that identifies as trans, you still can't fully know what that means. I could never pretend I knew what it was like to be [my son] Hunter. If you don't have lived that experience you can't understand it and it shouldn't be judged. It's OK to say 'I don't understand so help educate me.' But it's not OK to say 'I don't understand it so we're not going to recognize these people as citizens with full rights in our country.'"

While this particular battle may seem momentarily lost, the war on transphobia, leaders say, will continue.

"While it is disappointing that the Gavin Grimm case will not be heard at the Supreme Court, it is certainly not the end of the fight," said Equality Michigan Executive Director Steph White.

"Like our allies across the country, Equality Michigan is still fighting from every angle to support transgender students. Just last week I led a delegation of transgender students and their parents to have a conversation with the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. I wanted the students and families who are most impacted by this issue to have the chance to speak to her directly, and I'm glad that she agreed to hear them out. We also introduced her to two of the leading national policy organizations who work on schools and trans issues, GLSEN and the National Center for Transgender Equality."

White said the March 28 rally is in support of "not only Gavin, but all transgender students. It's more important than ever that we show up for transgender young people

and send a message to policymakers that all students, regardless of their gender identity, deserve safe schools and communities."

Davenport said that good attendance numbers at the rally are crucial if the cause is going to have an impact.

"I would encourage every trans person, every parent of a trans kids, educators, allies – I would encourage them to go. Don't walk away from it. The more people we have the better."

Changing hearts and minds, she said, is what's going to ultimately lead the community onto victory.

"Maybe we didn't win the day, but we've taken such huge steps forward. We're going to get there. We're winning."

Justice Delayed in Gavin Grimm Case, But For How Long?

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to scrap a case on bathroom access in schools has left transgender people waiting in the wings for a nationwide ruling affirming their rights and no clear path or timing for when the day will come.

Two years after the Supreme Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to marry, hopes are dashed for a similarly monumental ruling in favor transgender rights this year -- perhaps indefinitely.

Gavin Grimm, the plaintiff transgender student seeking to use his high school boys' room consistent with his gender identity, said during a conference call Monday despite the high-profile nature of his lawsuit coming to an end, he's glad he could take part.

"Going through this in my senior year has been definitely stressful," Grimm said. "I, of course, never wanted to be in this fight, but I don't have any regrets with respect to what I've done. I think everything has been totally worth it, but it's just frustrating that I'm in this position at all."

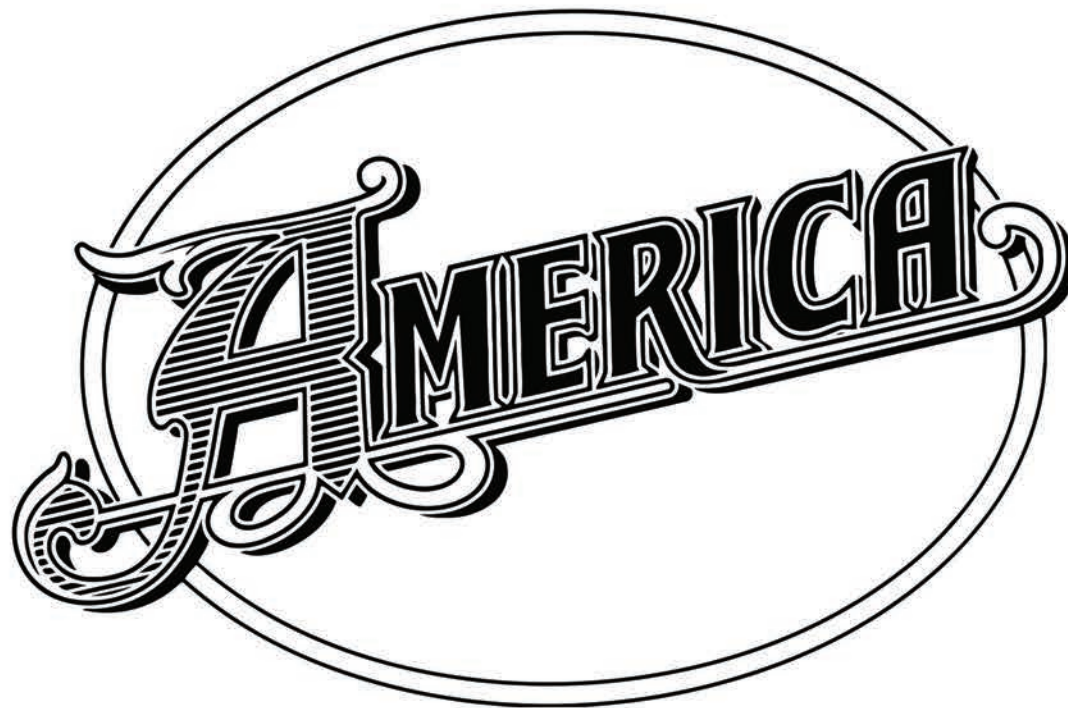
In light of the Trump administration revoking Obama-era guidance from the



Friend-of-the-court briefs were filed before the Supreme Court in the Gavin Grimm case. Photo courtesy of American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia

Justice and Education Departments assuring transgender students access to school restrooms consistent with their gender identity, the Supreme Court remanded Grimm's case for reconsideration before the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The federal appeals court's ruling relied heavily on the guidance, but the situation

See Justice Delayed, page 16



THURSDAY, APRIL 13
MGM Grand Detroit Event Center



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT **ticketmaster**[®]

If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for confidential help.



MGM RESORTS
INTERNATIONAL[®]



MGM GRAND
DETROIT
mgmgranddetroit.com

©2017 MGM Grand Detroit | Excludes Michigan Disassociated Persons.

Emerge Michigan Prepares Democratic Women for Public Office

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

One of the few good things to come out of the presidential election is the enormous uptick of women who want to influence positive change.

“We haven’t had to go out and build that passion and build that wave because that wave came out of the election. Women looked at what happened, looked at the president who thinks it’s okay to grope women, and women are standing up now and saying ‘no, it’s not,’” said Beth Kelly, executive director of EmERGE Michigan, the premier training program for Democratic women that inspires them to run for public office and hones their skills to win.

EmERGE Michigan, launched in 2015, is an affiliate of EmERGE America, a national organization currently working in 18 states. Since the first EmERGE state was established in California in 2002, the organization has trained more than 2,000 Democratic women to run for office.

EmERGE America reports that American women are still vastly underrepresented at all levels of government.

- Only 37 women have ever served as governor across the U.S

- Only 27 states have ever had a woman governor

- Women make up just 19.4 percent of the U.S. Congress and 24.8 percent of state legislatures

- Women make up only 18.8 percent of mayors in cities with a population of more than 30,000

Too often, women do not see themselves running for office as they assume they aren’t experienced enough or they don’t know where to begin. EmERGE Michigan has made it their mission to change the way women view politics.

“Even after working in politics for over a decade, the prospect of putting my name on the ballot still felt intimidating. Through the EmERGE Michigan fellowship my confidence increased and I felt prepared to run a competitive campaign and win,” said Sommer Foster, the first African-American person and the first woman of color to serve on the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

“Not only did I benefit from the curriculum and the expertise of our trainers, I joined a sisterhood of amazing, accomplished women and I was able to lean on them for support and encouragement,” said Foster.

The fairly new entity had their first class of 16 women in 2016. Foster was one of five who ran for office last year and one of four of



EmERGE Michigan board and EmERGE Executive Director Beth Kelly.



those five who appeared on the election ballot.

“In a really tough year, she won, which is really great. She’s amazing. We’re very proud to call her a graduate of our program,” said Kelly, who was hired on in February 2016. She said that while working in Democratic politics for more than a decade, she has never worked for a female candidate.

“This is a huge issue right now in our state,” she said, further explaining why the organization is so committed to women specifically.

“Women tend to focus on more gender-salient issues, but they’re also natural consensus builders and have a tendency to focus less on hierarchy. I recognize that we need more women who are going to help us to stop bad bills from getting passed, but also be able to work with folks on the other side of the aisle to accomplish a more justice-oriented agenda in Michigan.”

The EmERGE Program

EmERGE Michigan offers 70 hours of intensive training over a five-month period. The program’s trainers are comprised of an elite team of campaign consultants, advisors and staff from all over the country, who have been involved in some of the most successful campaigns and initiatives seen in recent election cycles. Participants learn from these experts and develop practical knowledge in areas such as public speaking, fundraising, campaign strategy, voter contact, media and messaging and others.

Kelly said all registered Democrats can apply. This includes women of all ages, races, nationalities, marital status, religious

EmERGE Michigan offers 70 hours of intensive training over a five-month period and all registered Democrats can apply. This includes women of all ages, races, nationalities, marital status, religious affiliations, sexual orientations and physical abilities.

affiliations, sexual orientations and physical abilities.

“We are open to a diverse group of women,” she said. “That’s our goal. If we ended up with a room full of lawyers, for example, the lack of diversity in experience would be a disservice to the class.”

There is a rigorous selection process though. Criteria includes evidence of political leadership experience or potential; meaningful involvement in workplace or community; interest in pursuing political office; demonstrated ability to bring together disparate groups to achieve a goal; ability and desire to build effective networks; ability to articulate a personal political vision; demonstrated ability to inspire others; and commitment to full participation and attendance requirements of the trainings.

On average, Kelly said the organization spends around \$3,000 per student to train, yet tuition only costs \$750.

“There’s a huge investment on our part. That’s why fundraising is critical for us to support this program that’s really going to

change politics in the state,” she said. “We are very lucky. We have enjoyed the support of the Michigan Democratic Party, which has been critical for our success and sustainability, but a majority of our funding comes in the form of grassroots donations.”

With 12 active board members, EmERGE Michigan is building relationships across the state to help with recruitment and training. A few of the organizations they partner with are MI Women Win, the Great Lakes Political Academy and the Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan.

“We’re creating this leadership ladder for candidates and their multiple access points so wherever you are in your interest for running for office – whether it just popped into your mind and you’re not sure what you want to

run for or what you’re doing and you need a weekend training to figure it out – we have a program for you, and if it’s not us, it’s one of our partners,” said Kelly.

Class of 2017

EmERGE Michigan selected a group of 25 women for this year’s training program. Kelly confirmed the organization started with 17 applications on Election Day and ended with 83, a significant increase from just 20 in 2016.

“I have always been a grassroots organizer, and always felt that the most effective change can come from the ground,” said Fatima Salman of Bloomfield Hills. “After this election cycle, and having had the privilege of attending the Joint Congressional Speech in D.C. in February, I recognize even more than ever that change comes from the top just as well as the bottom. If we do not have the right leaders in positions of influence, there is only so much the grassroots can accomplish, and vice versa. I look forward to being part of this year’s class.”

Kelly Rossman-McKinney of Lansing said, “I’m proud to be a part of EmERGE Michigan’s 2017 class and am looking forward to learning how to use my skills and experience in a new capacity. It’s time for more women to learn, lead and run. I hope my classmates and I will go on to grow Michigan’s female political leadership.”

For more information about how to join or support EmERGE Michigan, visit their website www.emergemi.org

Expo Workshop Will Address LGBT Rights in the Trump Era

Local Attorneys Discuss What Lies Ahead

BY BTL STAFF

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo is a great opportunity to think about and finalize wedding plans, but many LGBT couples are concerned about same-sex marriages and what they will look like under the Trump administration. While the president does not have the right to unilaterally scrap marriage equality, he used his power to appoint Supreme Court justices who can.

In an effort to educate and inform LGBT people, Between The Lines will host a workshop, "LGBT Rights in the Trump Era – What Lies Ahead," on March 26 at 11 a.m. in the second floor ballroom at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit.

The event will be facilitated by Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project and Angie Martell of Iglesia Martell Law Firm, PLLC in Ann Arbor.

"I'm going to talk about how despite the monumental marriage equality decision, threats to LGBT equality remain, most notably efforts by legislators to pass laws that would permit discrimination under the guise of religious beliefs," said Kaplan. "I will also address the proposed draft Executive Order from the Trump Administration that would also permit this type of discrimination, as well as Michigan's law permitting faith based adoption and foster care agencies that contract with the State to refuse to work with LGBT families. I also talk about the backlash targeting transgender people for discriminatory treatment, such as the bathroom bills we've seen introduced around the country."

Martell's conversation will center around the Obergefell case decided in June 2015, and the complexity of the issues the LGBT community has been up against since then,



Attorneys Jay Kaplan and Angie Martell will be on hand to discuss LGBT rights in a Trump era.

such as transgender marriage, the resurrection of civil unions and domestic partnerships in other states, divorce, financial planning and prenuptial agreements, name changes, adoption and family planning, and estate planning.

"We understand because we stand in your shoes. We understand and are connected to the pulse of issues in our movement," she said, noting the importance of talking with a culturally competent attorney. "We understand how complex the trajectory still is regarding LGBT issues and are aware of all the issues we still must address and navigate."

The first 50 workshop registrants will receive free access to the Expo. Register for this event at www.milgbtwedding.com. Use the code: WKS17.

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo, a Between The Lines project, is March 26 from 12-4 p.m. at the Motor City Casino Hotel in Detroit. For updates, follow www.facebook.com/UltimateLGBTExpo on Facebook, @BTLExpo on Twitter and @BTLEXPO on Instagram. [imateLGBTExpo](http://www.facebook.com/imateLGBTExpo) on Facebook, @BTLExpo on Twitter and @BTLEXPO on Instagram.

The first 50 workshop registrants will receive free access to the Expo. Register for this event at www.milgbtwedding.com. Use the code: WKS17.

**Find us on Facebook
Between The Lines Newspaper**

THE SUBARU A LOT TO **LOVE** EVENT

We know that moving forward means remembering where you came from. That's why we're proud to say that Hodges is celebrating nearly 90 years in Ferndale, Michigan; and over 40 years as Hodges Subaru. Since we may have had the pleasure of helping your grandparents purchase their first Subaru 360, or helped your parents pick out that blue GL, we would love the opportunity to find the perfect Subaru for you. We'll help you get where you're going, because you've helped us get where we are. Thank You!

**2017 CROSSTREK
2.0i**

SUBARU

HODGES SUBARU
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220
248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com
HOURS: TUES, WED, & FRIDAY SALES – 9 A.M.-6 P.M. SERVICE – 7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.
MONDAY & THURS SALES – 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. SERVICE – 7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.
SATURDAY SALES – 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE – 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL CARE
FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES

PartridgeCreek
Obstetrics & Gynecology

**OUR NEW LOCATION IS:
1991 Hall Road, Suite 105 • Macomb, MI 48044**

Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG

Left:
Marcie S. Mullins, MSN, CNM
Hina Javaid, MD
Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC

Right:
Tanya M. Vaughn, MS, CNM, FNP-BC
Angela V. Viviano, MSN, FNP
Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC

<p>MAIN OFFICE 1991 Hall Road, Suite 105 Macomb, MI 48044</p>	<p>586.247.8609</p> <p>partridgecreekobgyn.com</p>	<p>NORTH OFFICE 58851 Van Dyke, Suite 100 Washington Twp., MI 48094</p>
---	--	---

South Dakota Governor Signs First Anti-LGBT Law of 2017

Similar to Law Gov. Snyder Signed Last Year in Mich.

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard has signed into law a measure allowing taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to deny services and child placement to LGBT families out of religious objections, making him the first governor in 2017 to sign an anti-LGBT law.

Daugaard signed the measure, Senate Bill 149, with little fanfare Friday after the Republican-controlled legislature approved it by significant margins. The new law prohibits the state from taking adverse action against child placement agencies that discriminate against LGBT families, including the elimination of tax-exemptions, the imposition of fines, the cancellation of contracts or discrimination against the agency in a state benefit program.

Laura Durso, vice president of the LGBT research and communications at the Center for American Progress, said in a statement Daugaard signed legislation "shamefully targeting LGBT parents and vulnerable kids."

"SB 149 allows religiously-affiliated foster care and adoption agencies to turn away qualified LGBT parents and single moms who simply want to start families and give young people a safe, loving home," Durso said. "Same-sex couples are six times as likely to foster than different-sex couples are, and this bill proves once again that opponents of equality are happy to put children at risk and deny them permanent homes to further their anti-LGBT agenda."

Many child placement agencies are faith-based organizations, such as Catholic adoption agencies, but the new law makes no distinction between agencies that are religious or otherwise affiliated.

According to the Associated Press, Daugaard said before signing the bill he was concerned private child-placement agencies could be subject to a lawsuit if they denied placement to people in a "protected class," such as members of the LGBT community. He said he hopes the new law would forestall that.

Adoption agencies in Massachusetts, Illinois, California and Washington D.C. ended adoption services after in those states after they enacted marriage equality, saying they couldn't place children into LGBT families. Although the organizations said they were forced to close because of same-sex marriage, they ended services on their own volition.

See Anti-gay Law, page 17

Court Rules Anti-gay Workplace Bias Allowed Under Existing Law

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

A federal appeals court has ruled against a lesbian employee seeking relief after being harassed and forced out of her job, declining to accept arguments discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation violates existing laws against gender bias.

In a 2-1 decision, a three-judge panel on the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination on the basis of sex, affords no protections to Jameka Evans, a security guard targeted for harassment and effectively terminated from her job at Georgia Regional Hospital for being a lesbian.

U.S. District Judge Jose Martinez, a George W. Bush appointee sitting by designation on the 11th Circuit, ruled Title VII doesn't prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation based on the federal appeals court's existing precedent, such as the 1979 decision in *Blum v. Gulf Oil Corp.*

"Evans and the EEOC question these decisions, in part, because of *Price Waterhouse and Oncale*," Martinez writes. "Whether those Supreme Court cases impact other circuit's decisions, many of which were decided after *Price Waterhouse* and *Oncale*, does not change our analysis that *Blum* is binding precedent that has not been overruled by a clearly contrary opinion of the Supreme Court or of this Court sitting en banc. Accordingly, we affirm the portion of the district court's order dismissing Evan's sexual orientation claim."

The decision largely upholds a ruling from a district court, which dismissed the complaint Evans filed against her former employer in 2015 on the basis that Title VII doesn't protect her as a lesbian. The district court later allowed the appointment of the LGBT legal group Lambda Legal to represent Evans, who initially filed the lawsuit on her own accord. Lambda argued on her behalf before the 11th Circuit in oral arguments in December.

But Martinez also allows Evans to amend her complaint to sue on the basis that she was discriminated on the job based on sex stereotyping. The decision found "she did not provide enough factual matter to plausibly suggest that her decision to present herself in a masculine manner led to the

The decision largely upholds a ruling from a district court, which dismissed the complaint Evans filed against her former employer in 2015 on the basis that Title VII doesn't protect her as a lesbian.

alleged adverse employment actions," which led the district court to reject that argument as well. Thus the 11th Circuit affirms the district court's order in part, vacates it in part and remands it for further proceedings.

Had the court ruled in favor of Evans, it would have the first-time ever a federal appeals court found Title VII prohibits discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Although a growing number of trial courts and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have found anti-gay discrimination is barred under current law, no federal appeals court have thus far subscribed that view. Meanwhile, federal appeals courts have created substantial case law finding Title VII bars discrimination against transgender people.

U.S. Circuit Judge William Pryor, another appointee of George W. Bush, wrote a concurring opinion expressing frustration the EEOC in the case of *Baldwin v. Foxx* would find discrimination based on sexual orientation is the same as discrimination based on gender stereotypes.

"But just as a woman cannot recover under Title VII when she is fired because of her heterosexuality, neither can a gay woman sue for discrimination based on her sexual orientation," Pryor said. "Deviation from a particular gender stereotype may correlate disproportionately with a particular sexual orientation, and plaintiffs who allege discrimination on the basis of gender nonconformity will often also have experienced discrimination because of sexual orientation. But under Title VII, we ask only whether the individual experienced discrimination for deviating from a gender stereotype."

Pryor's opinion contrasts with an earlier

decision he joined in 2011 finding the prohibition of sex discrimination under Title VII applies to transgender people. It should be noted Pryor was reportedly on President Trump's short list as a potential replacement for the late U.S. Associate Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court.

Dissenting from the decision was U.S. Circuit Judge Robin Rosenbaum, an Obama appointee, who wrote the panel "ignores this clear mandate" the Supreme Court delivered in the 1989 *Price Waterhouse* decision that workplace discrimination based on sex stereotyping is unlawful.

"Plain and simple, when a woman alleges, as Evans has, that she has been discriminated against because she is a lesbian, she necessarily alleges that she has been discriminated against because she failed to conform to the employer's image of what women should be -- specifically, that women should be sexually attracted to men only," Rosenbaum writes. "And it is utter fiction to suggest that she was not discriminated against for failing to comport with her employer's stereotyped view of women."

Now that the decision has come down, Lambda has the option of either letting the decision stand, seeking an "en banc" rehearing before the full 11th Circuit or filing a petition from certiorari to seek redress before the Supreme Court. The organization announced in a statement it has settled on the second option.

"This is not the end of the road for us and certainly not for Jameka," said Lambda's employment fairness project director Greg Nevins. "Keeping your job shouldn't depend on whether or not you pass for straight. There is no way to draw a line between sexual orientation discrimination and discrimination based on gender nonconformity because not being straight is gender-nonconforming, period. Ninety percent of Americans believe that LGBT people should be treated equally in the workplace. The public is on the right side of history, and it's time for the 11th Circuit to join us."

This article originally appeared in the {URL Washington Blade www.washblade.com} and is made available in partnership with the National Media Association.



Get all the discounts you deserve.

Joan M Warner Ins Agcy Inc
Joan Warner, Agent
joan@warneragency.com
Toll Free: 888-298-8020
www.warneragency.com

FREE Discount Double Check®.
Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®
CALL ME TODAY.





Whosoever MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Selma Massey
FOUNDER & PASTOR

SUNDAYS AT 11:00
2930 WOODWARD AVE.
DETROIT, MI 48201
313.259.0000

WWW.WHOSOEVERMINISTRY.ORG



Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit

ETHAN & GRETCHEN DAVIDSON

MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEATURING



Ester Rada
Life Happens

"Ester Rada has a powerful soul voice and a dramatic, eclectic style that reflects her history." - THE GUARDIAN

"...perhaps the best thing that has happened to (the Israeli music scene) in years." -MTV Iggy

theberman.org | 248.661.1900



The Berman App Available




Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit
D. Dan & Betty Kahn Building
Eugene & Marcia Applebaum Jewish Community Campus
6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322



Hagopian + You = SAVE!

The formula for a clean home is simple - Hagopian always has the best deals to get rugs, carpet and furniture in tip top shape without breaking the bank!

Affordable, competitive prices • Cleaning Specialists average 14 years experience

HAGOPIAN
Expect the Best... Expect the Purple Truck!
Oak Park • Birmingham • Novi • Plymouth • Utica • Ann Arbor
Serving our customers for 78 years!

1-800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742) www.OriginalHagopian.com

78th Anniversary Sale
RUG CLEANING SPECIAL

2 FOR 1

Bring your rugs to any of our drop-off centers and we'll clean every other one FREE!

Must present coupon at time of rug drop-off.
Expires 4-15-17. Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.

78th Anniversary Sale
CARPET CLEANING SPECIAL

\$78

Any 3 Rooms In-Home Carpet Cleaning

Must present coupon. Expires 4-15-17. Up to 250 sq. ft. each room. Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers. Some restrictions apply.



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

What's Past Is Unfortunately Prologue

During the Nazi reign of terror that ended only in Germany's defeat by the Allies in 1945, about 15,000 gay men were incarcerated in concentration camps, where an estimated 60 percent were brutally worked to death.

Those pink-triangle gays who survived found liberation by British and American soldiers to be of short duration. As homosexual criminals under Germany's Paragraph 175 penal code they were sent back to prison. Many perished there.

Gerhard 'Gad' Beck, a gay Jew of mixed Jewish and gentile parentage, early on because of his classified status was fortunate to serve only one year of concentration camp incarceration.

In his autobiography – "An Underground Life: Memoirs of A Gay Jew in Nazi Germany" – he tells of an incident that occurred during up-at-dawn roll call.

An unfortunate gay prisoner, starved, freezing, did not call out his ID number loud enough. As penalty a milk bucket was placed over his head, hands tied, and prisoners standing next to him were forced to whack a wooden board over, and over, and over, and over against the bucket.

Beck, who died in 2012 at age 88, was what the 1935 Nazi-imposed Nuremberg Jewish Laws classified as a "mishling." Half Jew, half gentile. His mixed "status" aided his survival.

Beck was also a courageous underground resistance fighter, at one point daring to rescue his Jewish lover from certain concentration camp death. He stole a German Youth uniform, entered Auschwitz, and requested the release of his friend for a fake road building defense project. Beck's pretense worked.

His friend was granted escorted leave; but then told lover Gad, with much sorrow, that he could not leave his parents behind. He and his family perished in the gas chambers.

Recently some members of biblical Fundamentalist mental low-wattage have stooped to a new egregious low by telling yet another Trump-like Big Lie – one might add, just like the Nazis propagandists once did – claiming that homosexuals in Nazi Germany were responsible for the Holocaust.

(Fundamentalists don't seem to be aware that the New Testament Gospel of St. John is anti-Semitic, blaming Jews, not Romans, for Jesus' death. Pontius Pilate washes his hands of the matter, and turns Jesus over to the mob.)

(Nor do these Bible-belters know that Martin Luther, founder of Lutheranism, wrote an eight-item diatribe of how he felt Jews – killers of Christ – should be treated. It's chilling. Homes and synagogues were to be burned.)

(Shamefully, and point by vicious point, Luther's recommendations were implemented by the Nazis on Kristal Nacht, 1938. The skies were filled with suffocating terror. Gas chambers and flaming ovens followed soon after.)

Should today's Christians be blamed for recent bullying, abuse, and murders of Jews?

And what about North Carolina Pastor Charles L. Worley, of Providence Road Baptist Church, who suggests airlifting all the "queers and homosexuals" and dropping them off into electric fenced pens until they all die?

There's a slogan making the rounds these days in many mainline churches. "God is good all the time." One can only wonder.

Maybe good just some of the time. For some of the people. Jews and gays not included. Especially if hate mongers Trump and Pence have anything to do about it.



Viewpoint



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

A Tale of Two Dolls

In 1976, as a Georgia peanut farmer was elected to the Presidency and America went into a patriotic fervor over its bicentennial, the Ideal Toy Company decided to cash in on a popular television show. All In The Family, a Normal Lear production that was starting to grow a little long in the tooth, graced characters Michael and Gloria Stivic with a child, Joey. The show, no stranger to controversy with its socially conscious scripts centered on bigoted Archie Bunker and his family, added one more notch to its belt by having Bunker become the first character to change a diaper on national television.

Ideal saw a marketing opportunity in Joey Stivic, creating a baby doll in the rough likeness of the newborns used on the show. This was a largely typical baby doll, featuring vinyl skin and rooted blond filaments for hair. Perhaps so you could relive that important television moment, the doll could "drink" from a bottle, and "wet" its diaper.

While was not entirely unique at the time, one other feature did make it noteworthy. The doll had genitals. While Mattel Inc. had beaten Ideal to the punch by three

years, it was Ideal's Joey Stivic doll that promoted itself based specifically on what was in this doll's simulated diaper.

"This is the new baby in our family. A baby doll. A famous doll. Archie Bunker's grandson, Joey Stivic. So of course he's special. Your child can give him a drink from his bottle, then he wets - and when his diaper is changed, it's clear that Joey Stivic is a physically correct boy doll. My husband and I think that's terrific," boasts the faux mother in the television commercial for the doll. Indeed, it mentions the "physically correct" nature of the doll twice within the thirty-second ad.

This was not without contention, which of course was exactly what I think Ideal was aiming for. I suspect knew they would likely sell more units by courting controversy than they ever could have hawking the doll of a five-year-old television franchise.

In 1976, I had been on earth only a few years more than All in the Family, and I can recall the big news about the Joey Stivic doll. It was controversial, and

See next page

► Tale of Two Dolls

Continued from p. 10

therefore a hot property. I did not want one, however, having grown too old for a baby doll and moved onto Mego Wizard of Oz dolls and my long-loved Bionic Woman doll complete with faux hair and bionic modules you could reveal under a roll-up skin sheath on her arm.

Perhaps the Stivic doll was a sign of the sexually liberated 1970s, or a harbinger of things to come. Today we live in a world where babies are ruthlessly gendered, from the parents throwing a “gender reveal” party, through endless “pink princess” and “blue action hero” play sets. While “anatomically correct” dolls never fully caught on, we certainly apply a lot of heavy gendered expectations on our flesh-and-blood offspring.

In 2017, as a New York property developer and reality show host assumed the Presidency and America feels more divided than ever, the Tonner Doll Company decided to cash in on a popular television show. I Am Jazz, a reality show on TLC focuses on the life transgender teen Jazz Jennings and her family. Unlike All In The Family, the show is likely only controversial in the eyes of those offended by anything to do with transgender people. The show, if anything, shows how conventional the life of a teenaged girl in America can be, regardless of trans status.

Much like Ideal, I’m sure the Tonner Doll Company a marketing opportunity in a doll in the likeness of Jazz Jennings. It’s a high quality doll, along the lines of an American Girl doll, and from a company that is more designed to appeal to an adult, rather than child, toy market. They’re also expected to retail at somewhere around \$90.00, which is a big step above the Stivic doll, which can be found on the secondary market today, in box, for less than half that price.

The doll itself is, of course, being hailed as the “first transgender doll” in the press, and that may be true. I don’t recall any that predate it, in spite of a few Ken Doll mishaps and one-offs from doll enthusiasts. There’s no Christine Jorgensen nor Renee Richards dolls floating around that I know of, nor any other

The doll itself is, of course, being hailed as the “first transgender doll” in the press, and that may be true. I don’t recall any that predate it, in spite of a few Ken Doll mishaps and one-offs from doll enthusiasts. There’s no Christine Jorgensen nor Renee Richards dolls floating around that I know of, nor any other trans celebs.

trans celebs.

Unlike the Stivic doll, however, Tonner Dolls does not seem all that intent on pushing the “transgender” angle on their Jazz Jennings doll.

“I don’t even know if the word ‘transgender’ will be on the package,” Robert Tonner, the company’s owner and sculptor, was quoted as saying in the New York Times. “She’s a great kid. She’s a very brave, special person. And that’s what we’re trying to get out there.”

Of course, the Jennings doll is only a “transgender” doll because the person it is based on is transgender. If you have a prurient interest, you will not find genitalia under her garments. I might even argue that this is the point: this is a doll of a girl. That she is transgender is, in its own way, irrelevant to the doll. She is, both in life and in doll form, simply another young woman in this world.

If the Joey Stivic doll heralded an era of increasing gender specialization and separation, perhaps the Jazz Jennings doll will open doors for transgender people in the decades to come in its own way.

We certainly need sort of hope in these difficult, uncertain times.

Gwen Smith still plays with dolls. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com

Creep of the Week

Steve King

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI



In May King blasted the Obama Administration for issuing guidelines to schools about keeping trans students safe. King sneered that the next directive would call for all students to become “transgendered vegans.”

We all remember back in the 1850’s when a well-known politician famously said about the influx of Irish immigrants to the United States, “Culture and demographics are our destiny. We can’t restore our civilization with somebody else’s babies.”

For context, remember that back then the Irish were not considered American (i.e. “white”), and therefore were treated as less than human because “real” Americans didn’t appreciate those dirty Irish sullyng up the gene pool.

Thankfully discrimination no longer exists in America and as proof we have one day a year when everybody dons shamrock attire and day drinks, and the streets run green with vomit.

I am, of course, kidding. Not about the end of discrimination in America (it’s still very much alive even if the Irish are no longer the targets). Or the green vomit (college towns are excellent places to look for specimens). But about the U.S. Representative who said the super racist shit about “somebody else’s babies.” Steve King (R-Iowa) didn’t utter those words over 160 years ago, he said or, rather, Tweeted them on March 12.

There was plenty of outrage on Twitter in response to King’s “babies” comment, as there should be, but anyone who has been following King at all during his time in the House knows that he’s a racist creep who thinks that only white people contribute to civilization and that brown people don’t belong here.

He is also a raging homophobe. He’s been Creep of the Week more than once before for his hateful and stupid ideas about LGBTQ people.

Imagine that. Racist AND homophobic. It’s almost like if you hate people because of their skin color you’re likely to hate them because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, too.

In May King blasted the Obama Administration for issuing guidelines to schools about keeping trans students

safe. King sneered that the next directive would call for all students to become “transgendered vegans.”

Shortly after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality nationwide, King said that Justices Elena Kagan and Ruth Bader Ginsburg should be impeached since they’d participated in weddings for same-sex couples and thus should have recused themselves.

Shortly before the marriage equality ruling he claimed that it would throw the country into “endless trauma” because Americans would never accept it. He even introduced legislation that would ban federal courts from hearing any cases related to marriage equality.

In 2014, King suggested that gays don’t go to Heaven because they’re sinners. Earlier that year he suggested that business owners had a “God given right” to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

I could go on but you could always just Google him. If you haven’t recently eaten. His long litany of racism is on full display as well. All archived on the Internets for all to see. Did I mention that both David Duke and Richard Spencer are Steve King fanboys?

You know, a few years ago in the summer I saw a package of raw meat that had been run over in a Barnes & Noble parking lot. I suspect that if that package of raw meat run over in a parking lot had a mouth, it would say things like, “We can’t restore our meat civilization with somebody else’s meat babies” and “The natural meat family is a meat man and meat woman joined together hopefully in holy meat matrimony blessed by Meat God with meat children.”

In other words, Steve King is a hateful meat head. So why not donate \$5, roughly the cost of a pound of raw hamburger, to Kim Weaver, who is planning a run against him? You can do so here: <http://gaybe.am/tm>

Shop The Rainbow

BTL
Between! Lines



There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan’s LGBTQ community!



DeVos Meets with LGBT Groups Over Trans Student Protections

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Representatives from a trio of LGBT organizations and families with transgender kids met March 8 with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos in the aftermath of the Justice and Education Departments revoking Obama-era guidance assuring transgender students access to the bathroom consistent with their gender identity.

Mara Keisling, executive director of National Center for Transgender Equality, said the meeting came about as a result of the Trump administration rescinding the guidance, which informed discriminating against transgender students would violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

“They made an arbitrary, political, ideological decision to hurt trans youth, so we wanted to talk to them about enforcing the law that they’re statutorily required to enforce,” Keisling said.

The meeting was set up as a result of efforts by Equality Michigan, which is the state LGBT group for DeVos’ home state of Michigan and where she once served as head of the Michigan Republican Party. According to Equality Michigan, the Education Department informed the organization on Friday she had agreed to the meeting.

Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan, said her organization sought out the meeting to convey the “profound negative consequences” of the withdrawal of the guidance protecting transgender students.

“We also ensured that the secretary heard from transgender students and their parents directly about the impact of discrimination and harassment at school,” White said. “We wanted her to understand that these are life and death issues for transgender young people across the country and that we will not waver or compromise in our commitment to ensuring that every student, regardless of their gender identity, is provided with equal protection and opportunity to thrive.”

In a statement, DeVos said she’s “grateful for the opportunity” to speak with families and LGBT rights supporters “about their concerns, thoughts, fears and suggestions.

“Every school and every school leader has a moral responsibility to protect all students and ensure every child is respected and can learn in an accepting environment,” DeVos said. “I remain committed to advocating for and fighting on behalf of all students. Today’s meeting was compelling, moving and welcomed, and part of an ongoing dialogue with families and students throughout the country.”

Discussion consisted of two consecutive



Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan, said her organization sought out the meeting to convey the “profound negative consequences” of the withdrawal of the guidance protecting transgender students.

has to enforce Title IX and that’s who allegedly cares about students,” Keisling said, adding she was unsure if any effort was made for LGBT groups to meet with Sessions or LGBT groups.

None of the LGBT groups issued any notice the meeting would take place prior to the time it happened, although the Education Department did include a notice on DeVos’ weekly schedule she’d meet with “Equality Michigan leadership and parents” in a closed press meeting. After the meeting GLSEN issued a general news statement, followed by the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Keisling said not issuing a public notice prior to the DeVos meeting is consistent with the practice of her organization, which she said typically doesn’t promote meetings with administration officials.

“We’re there to actually get work done, not to have a photo op,” Keisling said. “I wouldn’t have wanted this to be a photo op. In fact, I probably wouldn’t have gone if this was a photo op. We’re not in the business of making people feel better after they do something bad, so that wasn’t what this was about. This was about having her listen to families.”

A controversial figure who’s reviled by many in the LGBT community, DeVos has faced criticism before and after the time of her confirmation, encountering in her few first days in office protestors, including a gay refugee from Afghanistan turned citizen, who followed her until she entered her vehicle during a visit to a D.C. public school.

Cathy Renna, a GLSEN spokesperson, referred to DeVos’ public schedule when asked why the organization issued no statement about the meeting prior to the time it took place. White said their organization has a general practice of not issuing notices for meetings also.

meetings - one between DeVos and transgender families, the other between DeVos and representatives from LGBT groups - GLSEN, the National Center for Transgender Equality and Equality Michigan - and four Education Department officials. Both meetings lasted about an hour each, sources familiar with the meeting said.

Eliza Byard, executive director of GLSEN, in a statement said LGBT groups addressed the immediate consequences of withdrawing the guidance and “ways that she might be able to mitigate the pain, fear, and confusion that decision has caused.”

“Above all, we ensured that DeVos heard – directly from us – that we will not budge or compromise when it comes to the full support and protection that all of our children, including LGBTQ youth, deserve from this administration, from the Department of Education and from its Office for Civil Rights,” Byard said.

The meeting, Keisling said, yielded no firm policy commitments. Nonetheless, Keisling said it was “a good first meeting” because “it’s always good when people are willing to sit down and talk, when people are willing to be told that what they did was really bad.”

“Right now, we’re limited in what we can do with the federal government, but this was one thing we could do,” Keisling said. “We could bring families, and that was really the important thing here. I think so many people were just outraged that they took a policy that had taken a decade or more to craft and do the groundwork, and then just threw it out in less than a week of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions being in office. He came into office and immediately started shooting at trans

people, and she was only in office a couple weeks more than that.”

Transgender rights supporters insist that even without an affirmative ruling from the Supreme Court, the prohibition on sex discrimination under Title IX based on legal precedent bars schools from discriminating against transgender students or denying them access to the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

According to media reports in the Washington Post and the New York Times, DeVos objected to rescinding the non-discrimination guidance for transgender students before ultimately agreeing to allow it to happen. Attorney General Sessions needed her consent to move forward because the guidance was issued jointly by both their departments and President Trump had to intercede, forcing DeVos to accept the revocation of the guidance or else resign, the Times reported.

Keisling said DeVos didn’t say anything about objections she had to withdrawing the guidance because the meeting wasn’t focused on the process getting there, but protecting transgender students going forward.

“I’ve heard the rumors, too, that she was against it and Sessions for it, but the bottom line is she signed,” Keisling said. “He signed it, she signed it, so it doesn’t really matter to me whether she wanted to sign it because she signed it.”

The meeting, Keisling said, was with DeVos as opposed to Sessions or White House officials because the Obama-era guidance came from the Education Department and the Education Department would be responsible for putting it back in place.

“That’s where the guidance is, that’s who

N.H. Lawmakers Table Transgender Rights Bill

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

Members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives on Thursday voted 187-179 to table a bill that would have added gender identity to the state's nondiscrimination law.

Lawmakers also rejected a motion to reconsider debate of House Bill 478 that gay state Rep. Ed Butler (D-Harts Location) introduced.

"I introduced HB 478 because transgender Granite Staters need to be protected from the real and pervasive discrimination they face," said Butler in a statement. "It motivates me to redouble my efforts to ensure everyone in New Hampshire is treated equally and fairly under the law, including transgender residents and visitors."

“ It is shameful that opponents of HB 478 would use scare tactics to permit discrimination against transgender Granite Staters. ”

-Gerri Cannon, a trans woman who is a member of Freedom New Hampshire

Jasper (R-Hudson) led the opposition to the bill ahead of the March 2 vote.

"Those legislators who heard from transgender constituents, learned about their lives and why these protections are needed, voted overwhelmingly in favor of the measure just two weeks ago," said Gerri Cannon, a trans woman who is a member of Freedom New Hampshire, a coalition of groups that support HB 478. "It is shameful that opponents of HB 478 would use scare tactics to permit discrimination against transgender Granite Staters."

Thursday's vote took place three days after the U.S. Supreme Court said it would not consider the case of Gavin Grimm, a trans student who filed a federal lawsuit against his Virginia school district's bathroom policy.

President Trump on Feb. 22 rescinded guidance on how public schools should accommodate trans students. The Obama administration had said Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972 requires them to allow students to use bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.

Then-Gov. Maggie Hassan, who is now a member of the U.S. Senate, last June signed an executive order that bans discrimination in state government based on gender identity. New Hampshire remains the only New England state that does not include trans-specific protections in its nondiscrimination law.

"This coalition is not going anywhere," said Freedom New Hampshire Campaign Manager Linds Jakows. "We will continue our efforts to obtain explicit nondiscrimination protections for transgender individuals in New Hampshire."

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



/ therapy for today's world

Julian Diaz, LMSW

2075 West Big Beaver Road / Suite 520
Somerset Corridor /
Troy Michigan 48084 / 248 646 6659 /
www.birminghammaple.com /



Birmingham Maple Clinic

AMERICAN MATTRESS GALLERY

**43235 12 Mile Rd. at Novi Rd.
Novi MI. 48377
248-349-2000**

Open Daily: 10-9 Saturday: 10-8
Sunday: 12-6

www.americannattressgallery.com
In the Hagopian Building

icomfort
Sleep System by Serta®

From \$699.00

SYNCHRONY 0% FINANCE 12-24-36 MONTHS

TEMPUR-PEDIC

From \$1149.00

90 Day NO CREDIT CHECK - NO INTEREST - NO PROBLEM

Savvy Rest

Certified Americas BEST Organic Mattress from **\$749.95**

Amish Solid Wood Furniture Built to last a Life time
Custom Finished in Oak-Maple or Cherry

90 Day NO CREDIT CHECK - NO INTEREST - NO PROBLEM

Complete Sets, and a Free Frame **\$249⁹⁵**

\$299⁹⁵

\$399⁹⁵

\$499⁹⁵

\$599⁹⁵

The Perfect bed for guests, studio apartment's or vacation condos. No installation required and includes an 8 inch Memory Foam Mattress for perfect comfort. All wood cabinet in several finishes and styles. Includes Free 50" TV

Adjustable Bed with Memory Foam Mattress
Your Choice Twin XL - Full or Queen
\$888⁸⁸

Sale Ends March 31

Michigan's Largest Mattress Gallery

A GOOD HEALTHY LIFESTYLE BEGINS WITH

HEALTHY NIGHTS SLEEP

3 LGBT Community Centers Vandalized in Disturbing New Trend

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

At least three LGBT community centers have been vandalized in recent attacks that could be part of a national trend of rising hate seen since President Trump's election.

In the last few weeks, vandals smashed a window at the office of Equality Florida in Orlando, the city where last year a shooter took the lives of 49 people and wounded 53 others at a gay nightclub, and windows were smashed at the headquarters in Asbury Park of the New Jersey LGBT Garden State Equality.

In Tulsa, Okla., 13 shots were fired from a pellet gun at the Equality Center on Monday just hours before a man came into the lobby yelling profanities and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric at front-desk staff. According to Tulsa World, the Equality Center had never been the target of vandalism in the 12 years since Oklahomans for Equality moved into the building.

"We're getting reports like this from all over the country," Toby Jenkins, the Equality Center's executive director, was quoted as saying. "Gay community centers being vandalized; welcoming churches being vandalized; gay businesses being vandalized. Now it's happened in Tulsa."

The trend of attacks on LGBT centers echoes anti-Semitic attacks since the inauguration of President Trump, who ran a campaign rooted in animosity toward minority groups, such as Muslims and immigrants. Trump also won with the support of white nationalists like David Duke, who as former Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan has advocated anti-Semitic and racist ideology.

The anti-Semitic attacks have been especially prominent in recent weeks. Last month, bomb threats forced evacuations at Jewish schools and community centers on a single day in 11 states. Within the course of one week, nearly 100 tombstones were found overturned at a Jewish cemetery in Philadelphia and more than 150 tombstones were vandalized at a St. Louis Jewish cemetery.

Other minority groups are also facing attacks. Just this week in Washington State, a man still not apprehended by law enforcement shot a Sikh man in his driveway after telling him to "go back to your country." The incident is being investigated as a hate crime.

Accompanying the vandalism at the LGBT community centers is ongoing violence against transgender people, which has existed long before Trump took office. At least seven transgender women, six black, have been murdered so far in 2017.

Daniel Pinello, a political scientist at the City University of New York, said the attacks on LGBT centers as well as mosques and



Anti-LGBT attacks have included this vandalism at Garden State Equality headquarters. (Photo courtesy Facebook)

synagogues are "no surprise" because the nation is so deeply divided after Trump's election.

Pinello said the Women's March on Washington "marked a high point of overt opposition to the new president" and demonstrations continue on the left, such as the newly formed anti-Trump Indivisible movement. But these progressive demonstrations, Pinello said, could "provoke their own backlash on the right."

"As a result, mosques and synagogues and LGBT centers provide ready targets for whatever rage flares up among ultra-conservatives," Pinello said. "Their retaliation is particularly rife when the opportunity for significant policy changes by the new administration seems on the verge of being squandered because of too many daily hiccups by Donald Trump and the White House. In truth, I wouldn't be surprised if these homophobic and anti-Semitic and Islamophobic attacks continue at a brisk pace as the Indivisible and related movements openly progress in response to the current regime."

Facing calls to denounce the anti-Semitic attacks, Trump has repudiated them on repeated occasions, most notably last late month at the beginning of his speech before a joint session of Congress.

"Recent threats targeting Jewish Community Centers and vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, as well as last week's shooting in Kansas City, remind us that while we may be a nation

divided on policies, we are a country that stands united in condemning hate and evil in all its forms," Trump said.

Kelly Love, a White House spokesperson, said in response to the Washington Blade's request for comment on the attacks on LGBT centers Trump's condemnation of bigotry extends to this vandalism.

"President Trump condemns hate and evil in all of its very ugly forms, including attacks against the LGBT community," Love said.

Amid the attacks on LGBT centers, Jewish cemeteries and mosques, a Quinnipiac poll published March 9 found Americans believe hate is on the rise in the United States since the election of President Trump. The poll found 63 percent of American voters believe the level of hatred and prejudice has increased and 77 percent of voters think prejudice against minority groups in the U.S. is a "very serious" or "somewhat serious" problem.

The poll found concern about anti-Semitism in particular has jumped in the last month. The poll found 70 percent of American voters believe the specific issue of prejudice against Jewish people is a "very serious" or "somewhat serious" problem. That's up from 49 percent in a Feb. 8 Quinnipiac University Poll.

American voters, the poll found, are divided on President Donald Trump's response to bomb threats against Jewish community centers and vandalism of Jewish cemeteries. The poll found 37 percent of Americans approve and 38 percent disapprove.

Amid the attacks on LGBT centers, Jewish cemeteries and mosques, a Quinnipiac poll published March 9 found Americans believe hate is on the rise in the United States since the election of President Trump.

"Americans are concerned that the dark forces of prejudice and anti-Semitism are rearing their ugly heads," Assistant Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll Tim Malloy said in a statement. "Voters are less than confident with the new administration's response."

It remains to be seen whether the anti-LGBT attacks will continue. Such violence would be a blow to the LGBT community, which is still recovering from the tragedy of the Orlando shooting at the Pulse nightclub.

JoDee Winterhof, the Human Rights Campaign senior vice president for policy and political affairs, said Trump must not only condemn the violence, but give assurances he won't discriminate against LGBT people.

"Whether it's against Jewish Americans, women, Muslims, immigrants or LGBTQ people, there's no room for hate in our country," Winterhof said. "Many LGBTQ Americans are scared right now -- they're scared of their rights being taken away, scared for their families, and scared that they may no longer be protected in the country they live in. The president has done little to calm those nerves. He owes it to the LGBTQ community to not only disavow these acts of hate, but also to restore protections for transgender kids and totally rule out his license to discriminate executive order."

Winterhof was referring to the draft "religious freedom" executive order circulating among federal advocacy groups that would enable discrimination on the basis of religious objections to same-sex marriage, premarital sex, abortion and transgender identity. Media reports indicated Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner convinced Trump not to sign the order, but White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer has said the administration will soon "have something" on the issue.

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



White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer. Photo courtesy of CSPAN

Spicer Denounces Anti-LGBT Violence – Sort Of

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer denounced the recent trend of vandalism at LGBT community centers, but qualified his remarks by suggesting free speech under the First Amendment is appropriate to use against them rather than violence.

Spicer made the comments under questioning from the Washington Blade after an attack over the weekend at Casa Ruby, an LGBT community center in D.C. serving transgender and gender non-confirming people. The attacker smashed a window and assaulted a transgender staffer.

Asked whether President Trump would condemn the rash of anti-LGBT vandalism culminating in the attack, Spicer replied, “Sure.”

“I think that one of the points that we’ve made in previous statements on this is that this is not the way that we as Americans solve our differences,” Spicer added. “We don’t attack each other.”

Spicer’s words echo remarks Trump made before a joint session of Congress last month in which he condemned anti-Semitism after bomb threats at Jewish schools and vandalism at Jewish cemeteries in St. Louis and Philadelphia.

But Spicer afforded some nuance to his response by saying freedom of speech, not violence, is the appropriate way to respond, suggesting that denouncing LGBT community centers is OK.

“We don’t engage in this kind of behavior and, I think, we have a First Amendment that allows us to express ourselves, and that’s the appropriate way, but doing it when you’re threatening violence or destruction or vandalism is inappropriate in all of its forms,”

Spicer said.

The string of vandalism against LGBT community centers – consisting of at least four attacks in recent weeks – comes shortly after the Trump administration revoked Obama-era guidance prohibiting schools from discriminating against transgender students or denying them access to the bathroom consistent with their gender identity.

But Spicer rejected the idea that the onset of vandalism at LGBT community centers was connected to Trump’s decision to revoke the guidance.

“I don’t believe there’s any connection between – I think that that would be a stretch to say the least,” Spicer said.

Aside from the most recent attack at D.C.’s Casa Ruby, attacks on LGBT community centers include vandalism at the Equality Center in Tulsa, Okla., Garden State Equality headquarters in New Jersey and an Equality Florida office in Orlando. The perpetrator of the Casa Ruby attack was not necessarily a Trump supporter, but an individual, staffers say, who’s straight and has visited Casa Ruby several times for the purpose of meeting transgender women there.

The perpetrator of the vandalism at the Equality Florida office is unknown; the vandals at the Garden State Equality office were two men caught on surveillance; and the Equality Center attack consisted of 13 shots fired at the building before a man who described himself as a veteran came in and yelled profanities at the staff.

Accompanying the vandalism at the LGBT community centers is ongoing violence against transgender people, which existed long before Trump took office. At least seven transgender women, six black, have been murdered so far in 2017.



DakhaBrakha

Wednesday, March 29 // 7:30 pm
Michigan Theater | Ann Arbor

Drones and beats, crimson beads, and towering black lambswool hats all serve as a striking backdrop for an unexpected, refreshingly novel vision of Eastern European roots music. This hit Ukrainian folk-punk quartet stirs up a mesmerizing sound that melds traditional Ukrainian folk music, African grooves, Eastern colors, and a contemporary, trans-national sensibility that the band calls “ethno-chaos.”

MEDIA PARTNERS
Ann Arbor’s 107one
WDET 101.9 FM



Michael Fabiano, tenor Martin Katz, piano

Saturday, April 1 // 8 pm
Hill Auditorium | Ann Arbor

Michael Fabiano’s vibrant voice and emotional commitment to every role that he sings brings an intensity to his art that is all too rare in the world of opera today. “A marvel... Fabiano’s sound was so beautiful, and the transition from the bottom to the top of his range so seamless as to proclaim him ‘the’ tenor that we have all been waiting for.” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*)

PRESENTING SPONSOR
Oscar Feldman Endowment,
in honor of Ken Fischer

MEDIA PARTNERS
WGTE 91.3 FM
WRCJ 90.9 FM

► Justice Delayed

Continued from p. 4

has changed now that Trump has revoked it.

Joshua Block, who represents Grimm as a senior staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the Supreme Court's action is "justice delayed, not justice denied" and even though the outcome isn't the one sought before the Supreme Court, Grimm's lawsuit has still put a national spotlight on issues facing the transgender community.

"Over the past few weeks, I think we have accomplished an incredible amount in making people see transgender students, see the reality of their lives, see that they are not sexual predators in a dress, see that they are children just like any other child," Block said. "I think that being able to allow Gavin and allow so many other trans kids and so many other families share their stories with the public...has done an enormous amount of good."

Now that the case has been remanded to the Fourth Circuit, Block said he expects the court to issue a briefing order in the new few days and the opportunity to file supplemental briefs on whether Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 continues to protect transgender students in the aftermath of the Trump administration withdrawing guidance asserting those protections.

The Fourth Circuit

The next time the Fourth Circuit holds a sitting and the opportunity for oral arguments is May. If the Fourth Circuit rules on an expedited basis, the injunction could come down that month, allowing Grimm to use the restroom at his high school consistent with his gender identity for one month.

Jay Holland, a civil rights attorney with the D.C.-based firm Joseph Greenwald & Laake, said, however, the federal appeals court "will take some time" to rule and "this isn't going to be decided by the Fourth Circuit or the Supreme Court anytime soon, most likely."

"Assuming the Fourth Circuit asks for the case to be rebriefed in light of the removal of the guidance, and given where we are in the Fourth Circuit's calendar for the year, it wouldn't be surprise me -- it's entirely up to the court, they could expedite it -- but it wouldn't surprise me if this didn't occur, including all the briefing and oral arguments, and finished until the fall term," Holland said.

Grimm's case is now one of several cases percolating through federal courts seeking to affirm transgender kids can use the restroom in schools consistent with their gender identity.

Others include the cases of Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified School District, which is pending before the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and Doe v. Board of Education

Joshua Block, who represents Grimm as a senior staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the Supreme Court's action is "justice delayed, not justice denied" and even though the outcome isn't the one sought before the Supreme Court, Grimm's lawsuit has still put a national spotlight on issues facing the transgender community.

of the Highland School District, which is pending before the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Last week, a federal judge ruled in favor of Juliet Evancho -- the sister of Trump inauguration singer Jackie Evancho -- who along with two other plaintiffs sued their Pennsylvania high school to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

Also ongoing are the related lawsuits -- one filed by the U.S. Justice Department, another by the ACLU, ACLU of North Carolina and Lambda Legal -- against North Carolina's House Bill 2, a state law that bars transgender people from using the restrooms in school and government buildings consistent with their gender identity. (It seems unlikely the Justice Department will continue its case with newly confirmed U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the helm. Just this week, the department took a step back in the case by withdrawing its request for a preliminary injunction against the law.)

It's hard to say when as a result of this litigation the Supreme Court would, if ever, grant certiorari to hear a case that would enable a nationwide ruling in favor of allowing transgender people to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

The losing parties in each of the cases before federal appeals courts could seek "en banc" rehearings of the litigation, which would eat up additional time before the case would reach the Supreme Court. Although it's conceivable a petition for certiorari could reach the Supreme Court in time for a ruling in 2018, the high court may not agree to take it up if each of the circuit courts are ruling in a consistent way that justices deem is compliant with the law.

Holland said the Supreme Court will reexamine the legal landscape when and if another petition for certiorari is filed before the Supreme Court on bathroom access for transgender people.

"Is there a conflict between the circuits, is there a conflict between the district court decisions and circuit court decisions of various circuits and states, so is there a question indeed for the Supreme Court to decide?" Holland said. "If there's no conflict between the circuits and all the circuits are going one way or the other, the Supreme Court could well decide this is not a case that's right to even go back to."

Meanwhile, bills seeking to bar transgender people from using the restroom consistent with

their gender identity continue to move through state legislature.

Texas

In Texas, a Senate committee on March 1 approved anti-trans Senate Bill 6 after hearing testimony on the legislation during the previous day. Mirroring North Carolina's House Bill 2, SB6 guts existing municipal non-discrimination protections in public accommodations from transgender people and bars them from using the bathroom consistent with their gender identity in public spaces, such as public schools, open enrollment charter schools, government buildings and public universities.

Transgender rights supporters insist that even without an affirmative ruling from the Supreme Court, the prohibition on sex discrimination under Title IX based on legal precedent has and will always continue to bar schools from discriminating against transgender students or denying them access to the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

Ilona Turner, legal director for the San Francisco-based Transgender Law Center, was among those saying the underlying law protects transgender students even without an affirmative ruling from the Supreme Court.

"It's unfortunate that the Supreme Court did not take this opportunity to clarify once and for all that transgender students are protected under Title IX, but this doesn't change the fact that the vast majority of other courts do look at this issue, have concluded that transgender students are protected under existing federal non-discrimination laws, so it doesn't have a significant practical effect in terms of the law," Turner said.

Even though the Fourth Circuit once deferred to the Obama-era guidance to determine Title IX applied to Grimm, Turner said courts won't give the same deference to the Trump administration's letter undoing that guidance. The letter, Turner said, doesn't meet requirements for deference under the precedent of the 1997 Auer decision of being long-standing guidance.

One question is whether Grimm will still have standing in the case if the litigation is drawn out under consideration before the Fourth Circuit. After all, he is set to graduate

from high school this year, which may occur before the lawsuit is resolved and potentially could remove any live conflict from the case.

If the case is prolonged after Grimm graduates, Block said the apparent lack of conflict isn't an issue because the lawsuit seeks relief not only for Grimm to use the restroom as a student, but also nominal damages from the school and injunction assuring him access to the boys' room as an alumnus.

"In terms of an injunction, most people go home from college to a reunion event at their high school," Block said. "It would be great if Gavin was able to use the bathroom when he goes to his reunion. So I think that the injunctive relief does remain a significant issue and a time-sensitive one, just given the way that life works."

Another question is whether Grimm's case or any other transgender lawsuit will be ill-fated at a later time before the Supreme Court if the U.S. Senate confirms to the bench Trump's nominee U.S. Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch. The nominee, whom LGBT rights groups oppose, has a history of ruling in cases for "religious freedom" in a way that suggests opposition to LGBT rights in the future.

Block confidently said he doesn't think Gorsuch's confirmation to the Supreme Court would make a difference "because we would win the other eight justices regardless," or at least the same justices who ruled for same-sex marriage.

"I think that if the same lineup for this case is similar to the lineup where the court has ruled for same-sex couples, then I think it's just the difference between a 5-3 decision and 5-4 decision," Block said. "I think if the only change on the court that happens is the addition of Judge Gorsuch, I think that would probably leave things where they currently are."

Even if an ultimate resolution from the Supreme Court doesn't happen for another decade, Grimm said he's willing to stick with the case to ensure a favorable outcome for transgender students nationwide.

"Obviously this is not what we wanted and it's disappointing that it's going to drag out this conversation for even longer, which is going to keep trans kids that are in school right now and that are coming into school age, is going to keep them in limbo for an extended period of time, but I am still as passionate and happy to be doing this as ever," Grimm said. "I think that everyone is just empowered and ready for it as we've always been, and if it took 10 years I'd stick with it."

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

► Anti-gay Law

Continued from p. 8

Last year, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law similar legislation allow agencies to deny child placement in LGBT families for religious reasons. Other states that have similar laws, according to the AP, are North Dakota and Virginia.

Libby Skarin, policy director of the ACLU of South Dakota, said in a statement she's "deeply disappointed" Daugaard signed the measure into despite pleas from these organizations to veto the measure.

"This discriminatory legislation takes South Dakota in the wrong direction, and sends the message that our leaders are more concerned with the desires of religious agencies than the rights of individuals and children in our state," Skarin said.

Daugaard's decision to sign the anti-LGBT measure into law contrasts with his veto last year of legislation that would have allowed South Dakota schools to deny transgender kids access



South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard (R-S.D.) has signed an anti-LGBT law. Photo public domain.

to the public restroom consistent with their gender identity.

Local and national child welfare experts sent letters opposing SB 149, such as The Adoption Exchange, Child Welfare League of America, National Association of Social Workers and Voice for Adoption. Others who opposed the measure were family law experts and South Dakota pediatricians.

James Esseks, director of the ACLU's LGBT Project, said in a statement Daugaard's decision to sign the bill is "deeply troubling" because it's "only one of many bills moving through state legislatures across the country that authorizes taxpayer-funded discrimination against LGBT Americans."

"These laws run contrary to one of our core American values: The rule of law, which means we are all held to and protected by the same laws," Esseks added. "These religious exemptions laws run contrary to this belief by encouraging people to pick and choose which laws they are going to follow based on their religious beliefs."

Other states that are considering anti-LGBT bills that would allow discrimination in the name of "religious freedom" are Texas, which is considering Senate Bill 892 and House Bill 1805; Oklahoma, which is considering House Bill 1507; and Alabama, which is considering Senate Bill 145.

The Washington Blade has placed a request in with the office of Daugaard seeking comment on his decision to sign the legislation.

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



 MCC Detroit

GROW DEEPER

Join us for Sunday Worship
and our Children's Ministry at 11am

2441 Pinecrest Ferndale, MI
248-399-7741
www.mccdetroit.org



B. Ella Bridal
Are you a B. Ella bride?

570 S. Main · Downtown Plymouth
(734)459-0000 · dameofdresses@aol.com

www.b-ella-bridal.com



Photo: Steven Sebring

LEADING WITH LOVE

LeAnn Rimes on Being an HRC Ally for Equality Honoree, Meeting RuPaul & the Closeted Country Stars Who Motivated Her LGBT Activism

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The moonlight can wait – LeAnn Rimes is busy fighting for our rights.

On a recent afternoon, the country-prodigy-turned-genre-bender calls in after finishing her daily meditation (hey, times are tough), a practice she started a year ago.

“Let me come back to life,” the 34-year-old singer begins. Then, Rimes walks us

through her devotion to LGBT activism just weeks before being honored with the Ally for Equality Award at the 2017 HRC Nashville Equality Dinner.

Congrats on the Ally Award, LeAnn!

Thank you! I’m very honored and very emotional, actually. (Laughs) I think I’ve cried a couple of times thinking about it. I know I’m gonna completely ruin my makeup

on stage. I’ve won many awards, but nothing feels as good as when you’re being honored for your heart.

How does this honor feel compared to winning a Grammy?

To me, it stands above everything. It’s different. Music is amazing – that is a part of my heart, obviously – but when you’ve left something behind on a different level than

just creating music, it’s very special, so I’m very honored.

A gay couple recently got engaged at your London show. What was it like experiencing that and sharing that moment with your fans – and can you find me a husband?

(Laughs) I’m sure I can. It’s so funny: My mom’s always like, “Do you have any straight friends?” I’m like, “I don’t think I

do.” So, I’m sure I have a husband for you lying around somewhere! (Laughs)

But it’s amazing to be a part of someone’s memories like that. Music is so powerful, and I’ve always heard stories from people that I’ve been a part of their wedding or a funeral or whatever it may be, or they remember their first love or their first kiss because my song was on, so to be a part of someone’s fabric of their life is really beautiful. To have that happen live was very cool, and they were so sweet. Love is so beautiful, and to have them experience that with me, and for them to allow me to be even a part of that moment in their life, was pretty incredible.

Considering the resistance to marriage equality, do you see that moment as a political statement?

Yes and no. Since 13, when I started, I’ve always been a huge supporter of the LGBTQ community, and I think maybe people would’ve thought from the outside looking in that I’ve always tried to make a statement about that, but for me it’s just about love and it’s about equality and it’s about doing what’s right and relating, human to human. It’s really that simple. I don’t understand why it’s so complicated.

What prompted your passion for LGBT issues?

Well, first off, my uncle was gay and he passed away from AIDS when I was 11, so that propelled me, especially (living) in the South and (it) being such an aversion, like, this is a disease. I just wanted to run the other direction, and I just never quite understood it.

I remember meeting a lot of my fans who were young – my age – and I knew that they were gay, obviously. So, when I’d have fans come back and they were these young gay guys and girls, it was just something I related to. I just understood, especially being so young and being in the spotlight, because I was always judged and it was very intense in that way. So, in some ways, I understand some of that judgment from a different point of view, but it was just that they related to my music and I related to them – something just clicked.

How did you reconcile your pro-gay stance with the fact that your outspokenness may vex your conservative fan base?

That’s the thing: I was young and I was a country artist at the time, and that was when people were hiding it just to be an artist in the country community, but it was something I dove right into. It felt very natural. It was about humanity, it was about love. To see people hiding it and to have known that people were hiding – people that I loved and cared about – and to see the struggle they were going through just to be an artist, I think that fired me up a bit. I’ve never really thought about it... but even before music, before fans, comes the humanity of everything and doing the right thing. That always comes first to me;

my career comes second. The heart’s what I wanna leave behind.

I’ve known publicists who’ve distanced country stars from LGBT press to avoid potentially alienating their conservative fans.

Oh yeah.

It still seems difficult for country artists to be gay-affirming. Even politically, it’s interesting that while the entertainment industry as a whole has taken a stand against Donald Trump and his hateful rhetoric, country artists seem hesitant to do the same.

Yeah, even I don’t like to get involved in all of that, although I have very strong opinions about it, obviously. I feel like... that’s a hard one for me. I think people know, obviously, with my support of the LGBTQ community, where I stand, and I definitely don’t support any kind of bullying or bigotry or anything that is not equality. I’ve definitely been shocked by a lot of things that I’ve seen. (Laughs) That’s putting it lightly.

But you draw the line at making any political statements?

Yeah, I do, I think, at the moment. There might be a time when that changes, but for now, when I talk about things, I want to talk about them from a place of love because I feel like there’s a lot of anger in this world right now. When I do speak about things... and I know I will... I’m sure I will in the future talk about political stuff, because I know myself, and I know there’s so much stirring underneath that’s inside of me that believes very passionately about certain things, especially about LGBTQ issues. So, I know that will happen. But I wanna always make sure I do it from a place of love because I think that’s the only place to make change, that’s the only way somebody’s gonna listen.

Your new album, “Remnants,” makes many gestures and statements about love. Is this release your reaction to what’s happening in the world right now?

With this album, I feel almost secondary to the message of the record. And with my last record (2013’s “Spitfire”), I felt it was very much an artist making an album about their personal story. There’s all of me all over this record, but I feel like a vessel for whatever decided to come out. And there was so much love.

We were taking a look at love from so many different angles – giving it, receiving it, standing up for it – and I guess it was kind of in response to what was going on, seeing so much negativity out in the world. I made a conscious effort as an artist this time to put out something that could bring joy and make people think a bit. Like the line in “Love Is Love Is Love” – “I just want to start a conversation.”

See Rimes, page 23

Detroit REPERTORY THEATRE

World Premiere
Mar 23 to May 14, 2017

CAPITAL

by James Armstrong

Directed by Leah Smith

Free
Attended
Parking



A farcical romp about Karl Marx, his daughter, a renowned celebrity, and money madness. Set in 1858 the money and fashion madness would fit neatly in many living rooms today.

General Admission: \$17 Advance; Perf. Day \$20 —All Seats, All Performances
Curtain Times
8:30pm Thursdays & Fridays — 3pm & 8:30pm Saturdays
2pm & 7:30pm Sundays

Box office & Information 313·868·1347

BTL Cool Cities Royal Oak



NOIR LEATHER
Select From a Vast Assortment Of Nain Rouge Attire!

Fête Du Nain Rouge
March 26th
Cass Corridor
marchedunainrouge.com

March 15-25th
At Noir All Red Items
15% Off!

Mention Where You Saw This Ad To Receive Discount

Voted Best Adult Toys!

124 W 4TH ST ROYAL OAK (248-541-3979)
MON-THURS 11-9 FRI-SAT 11-10 SUN 12-6
WWW.NOIRLEATHER.COM
Retail-Adult Only Styling-Adult Only Photo-Jean Grehan

SHELTON & DEON Law Group
Anticipate Innovate Advocate

*A full service law firm for businesses, families and individual LGBT people
Your same-sex divorce and custody specialists*

The Shelton & Deon Law Group provides clients the quality and depth of experience that is expected of a large firm with the flexibility and individual attention only a small law firm can offer.

**612 East 4th Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-494-7444 | www.sheltondeonlaw.com**

Royal Oak Established as a 'Welcoming City'

On Feb. 13, officials in Royal Oak established the city as a "Welcoming City," to affirm Royal Oak as "a place where all foreign-born and native-born Americans can live, work and play together, share in each other's customs and ideals, and appreciate and promote cultural diversity."

In a recent Patch report, Carol Schwanger of Welcoming Michigan said, "This is an important step for Royal Oak to take. It sends a positive signal. In the rush to stereotype people, it's going to take education to disavow those stereotypes. In America, we're all Americans, and we don't have to all be alike to fit in our society."

One important distinction, Schwanger said, is that the action doesn't mean Royal Oak is a "sanctuary city" and federal funding isn't in jeopardy. In January, President Trump signed an executive order that cracks down on sanctuary cities that shield undocumented immigrants. The order came with the implicit threat that the federal government would withhold federal funds to those local governments that offer sanctuary to illegal immigrants.

The state and a growing list of counties and cities are part of the Welcoming America



Photo courtesy of Victoria Mitchell, C & G Newspapers

Initiative, based on the belief that communities are stronger when everyone feels welcome and valued, including immigrants and refugees. Members are cities, counties and organizations.

Other Michigan members of the Welcoming America network include the communities of Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Clinton Township, Detroit, East Lansing, Hamtramck, Lansing, Meridian, Sterling Heights and West Bloomfield; the counties of Macomb and Kalamazoo; and the Michigan Office for New Americans.

Birmingham Schools Superintendent Condemns Hate Speech

Birmingham schools superintendent Daniel Nerad sharply condemned anti-Semitic graffiti and hateful language that has been displayed in some areas of the school in a letter to parents on March 1, saying that while media accounts have "relayed the facts, but have been unable to adequately express our district's condemnation due to these cowardly acts."

In February, Patch staff reporter Beth Dalbey wrote about Derby Middle School authorities finding a disturbing message using manipulative letters arranged to spell "Heil Hitler" and a swastika. A week later, administrators at the Birmingham school sent an email blast notifying parents that graffiti hate speech had been found on posters, bathroom walls and student work displayed in hallways. A locker was vandalized, and a musical instrument removed and damaged beyond repair.

While school officials are working with the Birmingham Police Department on the vandalism reports, several students have



Photo courtesy of Derby Middle School

been disciplined in the swastika incident, school spokeswoman Marcia Wilkinson told The Birmingham Eccentric.

"We do not tolerate racism and anti-Semitism, or any other form of -ism for that matter, in any form," Nerad wrote in his letter. "We do not tolerate bullies or those who disrespect others. We do not tolerate behaviors that devalue or denigrate anyone. Our preferred future is one where every child, parent and staff member is accepted, respected and celebrated."

He said the district should "double down on our diversity and character education efforts."



Zoom Special \$249 One hour Teeth Whitening

*Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 4/30/17

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

Dedicated to make our community brighter
One Smile At A Time

248-399-4455

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.
Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4, Berkley, MI 48072

www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on facebook



C & N PARTY RENTALS

5140 Meijer Drive,
Royal Oak, MI 48073



**Marquees, Canopies and Tents • Tables • Chairs • Linens
Dinnerware • Glassware • Flatware • Silver Service
Food Service & Cooking Equipment • Convention & Meeting Equipment**

We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!

248-435-3580 • 800-351-0031 • www.cnparty.com



The Print **STOP** *Inc.*

If you can think it, we can ink it

248-543-7867

- ❖ Invitations
- ❖ Newsletters
- ❖ Menus
- ❖ Color Copies
- ❖ Typesetting
- ❖ Letterhead
- ❖ Brochures
- ❖ Business Forms
- ❖ Fax Service
- ❖ Business Cards

3172 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley
Serving the community since 2001

ROYAL OAK BTL ADVERTISERS

LGBT Non-Profits

- Common Ground.....*
- Higher Ground.....*
- Lambda Car Club.....*
- Sing Out Detroit Chorus.....B
- AIDS Walk Detroit.....*

BTL Advertisers

- Autometric Body Shop.....*
- Bidwell Tovarez Pllc.....1
- C & N Party Rentals.....*
- Christine Cantrell, Ph.D.....2
- Changez Salon.....*

- Cloverleaf Fine Wine3
- D'Amatos.....4
- D.J. Murray Plumbing*
- Five 155
- Fuller Life.....6
- Gentlemen's Consignment.....7
- Great Lakes Collision.....*
- Harbour Tax & Accounting.....*
- Inn Season's Cafe8
- Denise Joseph, Ph.D.....2
- Rosemary A. Jozwiak9

- Joe Kort, Ph.D. & Associates, PC 10
- Kuderik & Associates 11
- Miner's Den*
- Namaste Yoga..... 14
- New Beginnings Counseling Center15
- Noir Leather.....16
- North Main Animal Hospital.....*
- Thane Ostroth Dds*
- Dr. Bernadine Petzold PhD, L.P.C. B.C.P.C.9

- The Print Stop.....*
- RE/MAX Jim Shaffer..... 19
- Royal Oak Farmer's Market ...20
- Royal Oak Music Theatre.....21
- Shelton & Dean Law Office 22
- Stagecrafters.....23
- Sullivan & Son Funeral Dir....24
- Matt Sweet, MSW, PC 10
- Two Bags & A Mower.....*
- Ron T. Williamson DDS.....*

CLOVERLEAF FINE WINE

Good wine has soul.

248-399-7166
www.CloverLeafWine.com

711 South Main St.
Royal Oak, MI

BIDWELL TOVAREZ PLLC
PROVIDING BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

For a Fresh Start and
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Providing personal and compassionate assistance with financial problems including Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies, foreclosure, garnishments and elimination of second mortgages.

What clients say about Bidwell Tovarez:
"Most trustworthy and experienced"
"Outstanding representation"
"Services with a personal touch"

Bidwell Tovarez PLLC
 333 W 7th St., Ste. 140 432 N. Saginaw, Suite 800
 Royal Oak, MI 48067 Flint, MI 48502
 248-270-3333 810-222-6422

www.bidwelltovarez.com
david@bidwelltovarez.com

Call 248-270-3333

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy code.

5 Gaycations With a Purpose to Plan This Year

The Frivolist

BY MIKEY ROX

I've never been interested in an all-gay getaway. The idea of making the annual 4th of July pilgrimage to Fire Island, New York, or boarding an Atlantis cruise, the only escape from which is to jump overboard (which has happened), just doesn't appeal to me. My lack of interest in spending days on end with thousands of drunk, oversexed gay folk, however, doesn't mean I can't have a memorable gaycay. If you're in the same boat (or dangling from its side), here are a few getaway ideas with an LGBT agenda to plan this year.

AIDS/LifeCycle

If the seven-day, 550.3-mile bike ride down the coast of California, beginning in San Francisco and ending in Los Angeles, is too daunting of a task, you still can participate in the annual AIDS/LifeCycle event to raise funds and awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS. For about \$100, the organization will set you up with everything you need to volunteer along the route, including food and lodging. Over the course of the week, you'll assist the 2,500-plus cyclists and more than 500 roadies who pull off this incredible feat of endurance and determination by providing hydration to riders, serving lunches, packing the trucks and picking up trash; dirty job, sure, but somebody's got to do it. Fair tradeoff, considering that you'll enjoy priceless views of a large swath of the West Coast for the cost of a single Bennie. For more information visit, aidslifecycle.org.



Gay Wine Weekend

LGBT oenophiles can one-up each other with their knowledge of delicious vintages – or just kick back and get lit – at Gay Wine Weekend in Sonoma County, California, July 14 to 16. The three-day grape escape features tasting excursions, champagne brunches, wine auctions and pool parties, and kicks off with a VIP welcome reception and winemaker dinner. Before heading home, venture off the beaten path to discover some of the 425 wineries that call the region home. Hosted by Out in the Vineyard, GWW benefits Face to Face, Sonoma County AIDS Network. Cop your tix at outinthevineyard.com



MiFo LGBT Film Festival

For the past 19 years, the former Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival – rebranded as MiFo, which now includes the former Fort Lauderdale Gay & Lesbian Film Festival – has committed itself to entertaining and educating the public through international and culturally diverse films, video and other media that provides should-be-required glimpses into the LGBT experience. The Miami edition, running from April 21 to 30, offers a robust schedule of programs, including regular screenings, parties, a spotlight on female filmmakers and culinary/cinema infusions. Can't make it to Magic City this spring? Hit up the Fort

Lauderdale edition from Oct. 7 to 16. Fill your calendar at mifofilm.com.

HONfest

You'll feel like an extra on the set of a John Waters film at the 23rd HONfest (June 10 and 11), a one-of-a-kind wink-and-nod to the area's "Hon" culture, which began humbly as a regional term of endearment in the Hampden neighborhood of Baltimore City in the 1950s and '60s. Sky-high beehives, cat-eye glasses and over-the-top, time-capsuled costumes that rival any drag queen's getup keep this hyper-local gala of gaudiness a time-honored tradition in a town known more for its steamed crabs than its commitment to fashion. Warp over to honfest.net to begin your transformation.

International Gay Polo Tournament

Polo-playing Prince Harry may be out of your reach, but you can ogle the next best things at the 8th annual International Gay Polo Tournament (who knew there was such a thing?) at the International Polo Club Palm Beach in Wellington, Florida, April 6 to 9. Put your hosting skills to the test in an elaborate tailgating competition, clink glasses of bubbly with fellow Ralph Lauren-clad well-to-dos, and make an appearance at the Gay Polo League VIP tent on tourney day to indulge in tableside service with an open bar before stomping the divots. Interpret that however you'd like. Saddle up at thepalmbeaches.com.

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

► Rimes

Continued from p. 19

What's the story behind "Love Is Love Is Love"?

I was at (producer) Toby Gad's house, and he just put on a groove and was playing this little melody, and I started singing "love is love is love," and that kicked off the song. Obviously, that (line has) been spread around social media and that's a big thing, and I guess it just stuck with me. And the LGBTQ influence – I wanted to take a stand on that in my own way. I felt like I wanted to stand up for love not in any political sense but maybe in more of a spiritual sense.

You were 14 years old when "One Way Ticket" was released, a song that's easy to relate if you've ever sought to be more fearless. As someone who, years later, would live that song and take her own path,

does singing it now feel different? Are you singing it within a new lived-in framework?

Oh, wow, yeah. And now that we've arranged it the way we have, it's much more meaningful and is a deeper experience for me to perform. There are times when I've cried singing it (laughs), because I really have – I've lived every one of those words, and to have that fight in you – "I will fall in love again because I can" – and to have that spark in you that never goes out, I mean, I've been through it and I understand how dark it can get. I think I come from that place when I sing it, and it is really powerful. It's so interesting how an arrangement can completely change a song like that, but it's definitely much deeper for me.

You guest judged "RuPaul's Drag Race" in 2014. Was that everything you dreamed it would be?

I loved that! Oh so fun! I love (RuPaul). He's

so fun. I've known him for a while, actually. I don't even know if he remembers this, and I forgot what award show – maybe it was the Grammys, maybe the AMAs – but we were by Tower Records off of Sunset and somehow he ended up in my limo! (Laughs) He was just the sweetest person in the world.

And tall!

He's huge!

What's your memorable run-in with a LeAnn impersonator?

I don't know if I've seen a LeAnn impersonator! I've seen drag queens do my songs, though. I was told that at a club in Nashville after the HRC Dinner, at Play, they're gonna be doing a whole LeAnn Rimes night. I'm sure I'm heading over there, so hopefully someone will dress up as me! (Laughs)

What is your advice for an aspiring LeAnn queen?

I don't know!

They should probably practice meditation.

They meditate, yes! They become very neurotic – just kidding (laughs). No – work it. Have fun. I'm having more fun on stage than ever, so just being free in the moment is definitely a way to kind of be a little bit more like me.

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).



LGBT Wedding Expo Sunday, March 26

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo, a Between The Lines project is March 26 from 12-4 p.m. at the Motor City Casino Hotel in Detroit. An 11 a.m. pre-Expo workshop will look at LGBT Rights in the Trump Era. (See pg. 7) For more information, visit www.milgbtwedding.com.



Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

Located in Royal Oak
www.christinecantrell.com
christinecantrellphd@gmail.com

CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

Happenings

OUTINGS

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>

Saturday, March 18

Spring Bash: Emerald City 7 p.m. Black or Green Tie event. 6 p.m. VIP reception. Affirmations, 1777 3rd Ave., **Detroit**. 248-398-7105. kkoch@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org/lead

Sunday, March 19

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>

Tuesday, March 21

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

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 23

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. redbellyseagal90@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

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 24

Allies in Counseling: LGBTQ+ 8 a.m. Discussion with Dr. Joe Kort. Pre-registration suggested. Tickets: \$25-75 before March 10. \$35-90 day of conference. Oakland University's

See Happenings, page 27

Editor's Pick

DIME Detroit's Open House

If you can't imagine a life without music, and you want to study the thing you are most passionate about, then go to the Detroit Institute of Music Education's Open House on March 18 from 1-3 p.m. Take the first step toward becoming a singer, songwriter or music entrepreneur with classes taught by music industry professionals, masterclasses from major-label artists, and a creative and inspiring learning environment. This is an opportunity to meet DIME Detroit instructors, staff and students. Check out the facility, catch live performances, and learn about degree programs and classes starting in the fall this year. For more information, call 313-223-1600 or email info@dime-detroit.com. Check out the DIME online at www.dime-detroit.org.



TIE ONE ON



Free Bow Tie Tying Lessons

Saturday, April 8th
Noon - 6 p.m.

Quick, fun, easy steps,
taught by experts all day.

10% OFF

items on event day
when you mention this ad.
Very few restrictions apply.



GENTLEMEN'S CONSIGNMENT

The finest Upscale Men's Clothing
at a Fraction of the Price



Consignors Welcome by Appointment

D&G
DOCE GABBANA

Zegna

ARMANI

BOSS
HUGO BOSS

TOM FORD



248.591.4554 | www.GentlemensConsignment.com

623 S. Washington, Royal Oak, MI 48067 | Mon-Sat 11am-7pm

Changing the world one Cosmo at a time since 1995

"Changing the World" has always been more than a slogan.
It is a way of life...now more than ever.
This month we are collecting money for Transgender Michigan.



Recognized nationally and internationally for their service and advocacy work.



Tuesday Night Jazz
with the
Jesse Kramer Trio
9pm-midnight



Common
Language

CJameson
Bushmill's
Tullamore Dew

St. Patrick's Day

Friday, March 17th

Open at noon
Irish Food & Drink

Corned Beef Dinner
Shepherd's Pie

featuring
Ann Arbor's Best
Corned Beef Hash

Guinness Stout
Harp Lager
Bailey's Irish Cream

Follow us on



Like us on



\aut\ BAR
315 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 994-3677
www.autbar.com

Common Language Bookstore
317 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 663-0036
www.glbttbooks.com

"PHENOMENAL VOICE... EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE...
IMPECCABLE TASTE." (*New York Times*)



Gabrielle STRAVELLI

On the Road

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

BLACK BOX THEATRE
at the Detroit Opera House

First show at 7 p.m. | Second show at 9:30 p.m.*

*Enjoy a three-course dinner before the show!

For more information or to order tickets, please
call 313.405.5061 or visit cabaret313.org

CABARET 313

Only totally cage-free facility in Michigan



Off The Chains. Always.

673 South Main Street • Plymouth • 734-459-3647
www.happyhoundsdaycare.com



Call Eric Hay, Sales Manager

248-548-6300 x204

hay@ferndalehonda.com

21350 Woodward Ave.,

Ferndale, MI 48220

Lease a 4-Door Automatic

2017 Honda Fit LX
ONLY \$140

0.9% APR for 60 mo. Model GK5H5HEW



OR

Lease a 4-Door Automatic

2017 Honda Civic LX
ONLY \$165

1.9% APR for 60 mo. Model FC2F5HEW



Now hiring in sales

(call or stop in in person)

\$1999.00 down plus tax, 1st month payment plus tax, title, tags, and doc fee. Based on tier 1 credit approval thru A.H.F.C. 36 month with 12k miles per year. All incentives to dealer. Picture may not represent actual vehicle. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 03/31/2017

Honda
dream
garage

SALES EVENT

The LGBT Market. DELIVERED.

ATLANTA | BOSTON | CHICAGO | DALLAS
DETROIT | FT. LAUDERDALE | LOS ANGELES
NEW YORK CITY | ORLANDO | PHILADELPHIA
SAN FRANCISCO | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Advertise in America's premier LGBT publications today.

212-242-6863 • sales@nationalgaymediaassociation.com

National Gay Media Association
www.nationalgaymediaassociation.com

Hello? I've got a question.

Talk to a live expert about STDs

800 872 2437

The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. Live weekdays, 10 am - 6 pm.

- CALL NOW** FIND A TESTING SITE NEAR YOU.
- CALL NOW** LEARN ABOUT PREP, PEP AND OTHER RISK REDUCTION TOOLS.
- CALL NOW** LOOKING FOR FREE CONDOMS?
- CALL NOW** GET CONNECTED WITH CARE.
- CALL NOW** THINK YOU WERE PUT AT RISK?
- CALL NOW** NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?
- CALL NOW** FIND SUPPORT GROUPS.
- CALL NOW** LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

ONLINE CHAT NOW AVAILABLE
WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG

THE MICHIGAN HIV/STD HOTLINE IS A PROGRAM OF UNIFIED - HIV HEALTH AND BEYOND

Editor's Pick

Reaction: The Art of Social Commentary

In the 1930s, works on paper showing scenes of union organization, racial violence, fascism, and other political and social issues became more prevalent. Artists used the print medium as a tool of social commentary, creating the artistic and political movement called Social Realism. The Social Realism movement often used art as a tool to expose the struggle of the working class. Although some of the issues have changed, artists still create imagery that expresses their opinion and comments on social, political and economic subjects.

Some have faced intense criticism for their art while others have been commended for their courage. The exhibition, "Reaction: The Art of Social Commentary," at the Flint Institute of Arts, examines works by Social Realist artists such as Hugo Gellert, George Grosz and Ben Shahn, as well as contemporary social activist artists such as Sue Coe, Andy Warhol, Rupert Garcia and David Wojnarowicz.

The exhibit runs now through May 7 at 1120 E. Kearsley St. in Flint. Museum hours are Monday-Friday, 12-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 810-234-1695 or visit www.flintarts.org for more information.



"Star Wars Terrorism, 1985" - Works by Paul Peter Piech

► Happenings

Continued from p. 24

Theta Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, 201 Meadow Brook Road, **Rochester**. smcdaniel@oakland.edu <https://orgsync.com/34048/chapter>

Sunday, March 26

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

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo 12 p.m. Between The Lines, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 866-782-9622. www.milgbtwedding.com

Monday, March 27

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 28

#StandWithGavin 10 a.m. Equality Michigan, ACLU of Michigan, Affirmations, OutFront Kalamazoo, Jim Toy Community Center, LGBT Detroit, Polestar LGBT+ Community Center of Traverse City, Trans Sistas of Color Project, Lansing Association for Human Rights, and more. Equality Michigan, 100 N. Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. ntriplett@equalitymi.org www.equalitymi.org

Wednesday, March 29

International Transgender Day of Visibility Flagship Event 6 p.m. Poetry night Transgender Michigan, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 2485152551. www.transgendermichigan.org

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

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/

Concerts

Cabaret 313 "On the Road Again" Featuring Gabrielle Stravelli. Tickets: \$25-125. Black Box Theatre, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7 p.m. March 25. 313-405-5061. <http://cabaret313.org/shows/gabrielle-stravelli-march-25-2017/>

The Ark "Susan Werner". The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 24. 7347611800. www.theark.org

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

Other

Detroit Institute of Music Education "Open House" Check out the facility, see live performances, and meet with instructors, staff and students. DIME, 1265 Griswold St., Detroit. 1 p.m. March 18. 313-223-1600. www.dime-detroit.org

Shows

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

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Red Velvet Cake War Tickets: \$20-22. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415

S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. March 24 - April 9. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Professional

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

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

FIA "Reaction: The Art of Social Commentary" Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. March 9 - May 7. 810-234-1695. www.flintarts.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

Promote Your Events Online & In Print

Submit Calendar Listings online @ www.pridesource.com



Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

Arie Lipsky, Music Director and Conductor



27 MAR

CHAMBER CONCERT

Music with Friends

Monday, March 27 • 1:30 p.m.

Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor
2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(Stone School Road, North of I-94 bridge)

FROM PARIS WITH REEDS

Special guests:

Timothy Michling, *oboe*

Christian Green, *bassoon*

John Boonenberg, *piano*

(734) 994-4801 • a2so.com

RENT
20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

BEGINS TUESDAY!
MARCH 21-26 • FISHER THEATRE

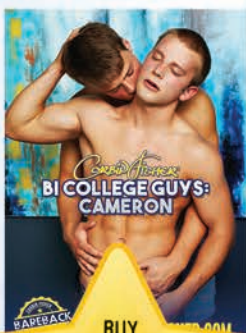
Broadway In Detroit sponsored by **PACIFICA** ChryslerDealer.com

ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office. Info: BroadwayInDetroit.com, 313-872-1000. Groups (10+): Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com or 313-871-1132. **OC 8PM** March 23.

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!



ALL XXX
DVD RENTALS
AS LOW AS \$1.25
EVERY DAY!



BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95



EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY



**JOIN OUR
VIDEO CLUB
AND RECIEVE
5 FREE
RENTALS**
MARCH 16-26, 2017

**MARCH
SPECIAL**

50% OFF

BUY ONE DVD AT REG. PRICE
AND GET THE SECOND DVD AT
1/2 PRICE, SECOND MUST BE
SAME OR LESSER VALUE, RED
STICKER ONLY
MAR 8-12, 2017

- Rush - Jungle Juice Platinum - Maximum Impact - Swiss Navy Lube Silicone - Uninhibited 2-Ring Harness - Wii Vibe - Lucid Dreams #14 - Dual Bunny Teaser - Butterfly Kiss Pink - Titan Enlargment System - The Exotic Water Garden Massager

**UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO**

2 LOCATIONS

WWW.UPTOWNADULTVIDEO.COM

16541 Woodward Ave.
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"
Highland Park
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

Hours:
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm
Sun Noon - 8pm

**PHARMACY
UPGRADE**

248.542.2300

www.medcartpharmacy.com
1964 West 11 Mile Road, Berkley
Between Woodward & Coolidge



Classifieds Call 734-293-7200 ext.22

350 PETS - PETS

**HappyHounds Dog
Daycare & Boarding**
Always Cage-Free
734-459-3649

**Call Us Today to Place
Your Classified Ad Here!**
734-293-7200 x22



Always FREE
to listen and
reply to ads!

Playmates or soul mates,
you'll find them
on MegaMates

1-888-MegaMates™

Detroit:
(313) 481-9301
www.megamates.com 18+

320 EMPLOYMENT -
WANTED

**Licensed Veterinary
Technician**

PetCalls - in Midtown Detroit
In home veterinary company
looking for motivated individual.
Must be personable, open to
new technology, be able to carry
30 lbs up a flight of stairs, have
an excellent driving record and
must be licensed with the state of
Michigan.

Excellent pay, Benefits included
Email resume to kjackson@pet-calls.net or call (313)788-7387 (PETS)

Full-time, Required licenses
or certifications: Veterinary
Technician, Drivers license

401 AUTOS

Ferndale Honda

Call Eric Hay today!
248-548-6300
hay@ferndalehonda.com

**HIRING MUST
LOVE DOGS !!**

Happy Hounds Dog Day Care is
now hiring part-time hourly dog
lovers. Please call or stop in to
fill out application.

734-459-DOGS
673 South Main St.
Plymouth, MI 48170

**1102 EROTICA -
MASSAGE**

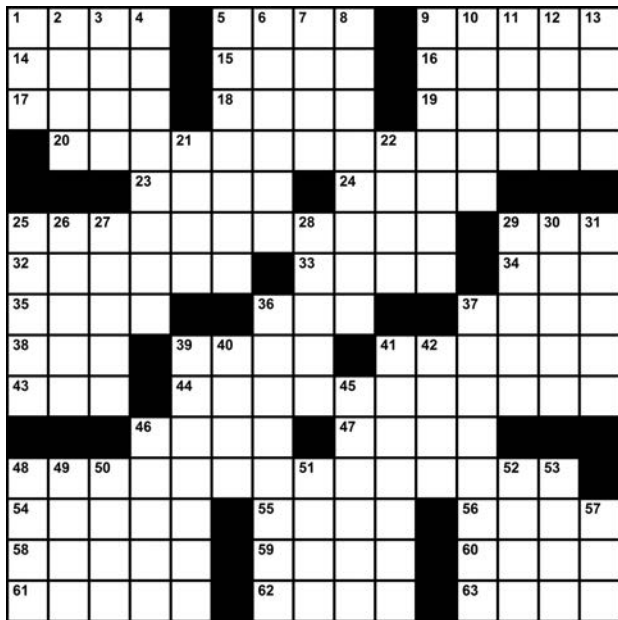
MASSAGE

Massage for men. Safe-Discrete,
good prices. Royal Oak Area.
12yrs. Experience.
Call Lee 248-548-6516

**Hot Oral
Massage**

Soothing gentle massage with
happy ending. I am Jake, white,
42, short dark hair, clean shaven.
I host hotel (\$150). I travel (\$120).
Call 248-765-2402.

Q Puzzle



Mother-in-Law

Across

- 1 Y.M.C.A., e.g.
- 5 Type of father Robert Reed played
- 9 Madea cross-dresser Perry
- 14 In the pink
- 15 Greek queen of heaven
- 16 ___ Cologne
- 17 First name among lesbian poets
- 18 Auth. unknown

- 19 Emulated Neil Patrick Harris
- 20 Samantha's husband on "Bewitched"
- 23 "___ Enchanted Evening"
- 24 Owl sound
- 25 He played 20-Across on TV
- 29 Shakespeare's Puck, e.g.
- 32 Like Parminder Nagra's parents
- 33 Diana of "Lady Sings the Blues"
- 34 Lesbian opponent of Wade

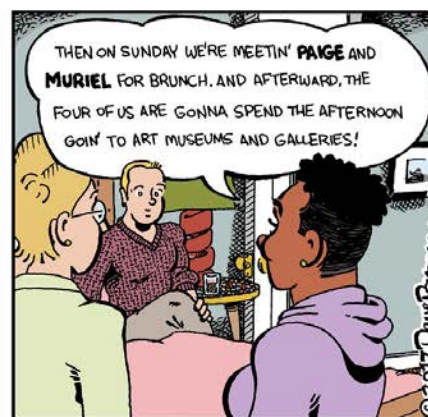
- 35 "Doggone!"
- 36 Sweetie pie
- 37 Salty, white stuff from the Greeks
- 38 B'way hit sign
- 39 Deli side dish
- 41 More fruitless
- 43 Pro follower
- 44 He played 20-Across in the movie
- 46 Cabaret singer Edith
- 47 "___ Upon a Mattress"
- 48 She played Endora, the mother-in-law of 20-Across on TV
- 54 It may be out on a limb
- 55 Positive sign
- 56 Bone shot, often
- 58 Make easy to swallow
- 59 "Desire Under the ___"
- 60 Trials and tribulations
- 61 Great balls of fire
- 62 Sally Ride's org.
- 63 Work your fingers to the bone

Down

- 1 Mandy Patinkin's "Evita" role
- 2 Cheryl of "Charlie's Angels"
- 3 Wrist bone
- 4 Hairy guy's hide?
- 5 "Hairspray" scorer Marc
- 6 Equivalent of two fins
- 7 Boy who shoots off arrows
- 8 Group of Greek gods
- 9 Oolong brewers

- 10 Cruise in style
- 11 Guitar of Shakespeare's day
- 12 James Dean's "East of ___"
- 13 Cincinnati team
- 21 Painter Bonheur
- 22 Years on end
- 25 Performed, for Byron
- 26 Harden
- 27 PC drive insert
- 28 Kennel warning
- 29 Cara of "Fame" fame
- 30 Norman Bates' place
- 31 Jethrene Bodine's mother
- 36 Like a suggestive blouse
- 37 Way out
- 39 Nothing-but-net sounds, for Sue Wicks
- 40 "Kinsey" title role portrayal Neeson
- 41 Williams of "Ugly Betty"
- 42 Rainbow shape
- 45 Open discussions
- 46 Pears or Paige
- 48 Bites of Marc Antony's girlfriend
- 49 Excess supply
- 50 "You've Got Mail" female
- 51 Earthenware jar
- 52 The younger Guthrie
- 53 "Limp Watches" painter
- 57 Fashion initials

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



Naked Men's YOGA

Meets in Ann Arbor
TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM

Contact Dave at message4@aol.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

Shop The Rainbow

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!

A Tension Getter

Massage Therapy

by David Rosenberg
(734) 662-6282

Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain

2 Downtown Locations

Ann Arbor	Berkley
209 West Kingsley	W. 12 Mile Road (just west of Greenfield)

(Couple blocks west of main, between Ashley & 1st.)

"I can bring my massage table to your home, too!"

Massage Class for Men

Learn some massage techniques. Meet others in a safe and caring environment.

Thursday at 2 pm.
 Tuesdays & Saturdays at 8pm
 \$10 per session
 209 W. Kingsley St.
 Ann Arbor, MI
 (734) 662-6282

Find me on the Internet at <http://www.trymassage.com>

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Meet Becca Budde, Affirmations Education and Training Manager

In an effort to establish strong relationships and build trust, Affirmations gives members of the LGBTQ community an opportunity to get to know Becca Budde, the organization's education and training manager. She is responsible for programs such as the Relationship Skills Class, the LEAD Institute, and LGBTQ Learning Labs.



Becca Budde on this leadership role.

What is your favorite book?

I read a lot and it seems like I always have a new favorite book, but if I had to pick an all-time favorite it would be the Harry Potter series.

What is your favorite thing about Affirmations?

My favorite thing about Affirmations is how much the center belongs to everybody in the community and that it's a place where people come together.

We have so many partner agencies and groups that come into the space, so many people working on so many different things, and we get to be a part of that in addition to our main programs and services.

What is your favorite weekend (non-work) activity?

I love to cook and experiment with making new things. I've also been running and am planning on training for a half marathon this fall.

Do you have a favorite meal?

My aunt makes this baked chicken that I've loved since I was a kid. It's delicious, but it's also always surrounded by good times with my family.

Why do you do this work?

I love having the opportunity to bring opportunities for education and development to the community. I also want to help build understanding of the LGBTQ people and issues and the rest of the community.

Where is the place you long to vacation?

I would love to visit Peru but I'd want to brush up on my Spanish first.

Contact Becca Budde at bbudde@goaffirmations.org.

Call for LGBTQ Artists

Hot Works, LLC is seeking artist submissions from local LGBTQ professional artists for the 15th Annual Orchard Lake Fine Art Show July 29-30 at West Bloomfield High School in West Bloomfield.

"Artists are a very diverse group, and applications are accepted from everyone. I welcome LGBTQ artists to apply," said Patty Narozny, executive producer of the fine art and craft show, which recently joined the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce in support of the LGBTQ community.

Narozny said both pre-show jurying and on-site judging are based on originality, technique, execution, and booth appearance. There is \$2,500 in professional artist awards for authentic, personally handmade high-quality paintings, clay, glass, sculpture, wood, fiber, jewelry, photography and more.

All work will be reviewed by Hot



Fiber Artist Kevin Kichar represents the LGBTQ community at a previous Hot Works Orchard Lake Fine Art Show. Photo courtesy of Patty Narozny

Works, LLC to assure originality. The Orchard Lake Fine Art Show has been listed in the top 100 art fairs nationwide the last 10 years in a row, out of several thousand art fairs, by Sunshine Artist Magazine.

The deadline to apply is April 3. For questions or more information, contact Narozny at 248-684-2613, 941-755-3088 or email patty@hotworks.org.

Q&A with New EQMI Board Member Buzz Thomas

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Former State Senator Buzz Thomas was added to Equality Michigan's board of directors in January to strengthen the work of the organization as the LGBT and allied communities of Michigan continue to build the path towards expanding statewide non-discrimination laws.

"The political fight for LGBT rights is more important than ever and I'm honored to join an organization that is leading that work in Michigan," said Thomas. "I look forward to using my experience at navigating the rough and tumble world of policy and politics to help make equality under the law a reality."



Buzz Thomas

He started Thomas Group Consulting where he helps manage relationships for his clients, how they interact and relate to businesses, government leaders and the community in general in the city of Detroit. He is known for his vast network of government relationships. Thomas spent 14 years serving as Democratic Floor Leader in the Senate and as Democratic Leader in the House. He was co-chairman of the 2008 Michigan Presidential campaign of Barack Obama. In 2013, he founded and co-chaired Turnaround Detroit, the Super PAC (political action committee) credited with electing Mike Duggan Detroit's Mayor.

Thomas spoke briefly with BTL about his experience working in the Michigan legislature, what he hopes to accomplish on the EQMI board, and how the community can help.

Why did you choose to join Equality Michigan's board?

I had the opportunity to join a number of boards for non-profit organizations, which I really enjoy. Giving back means a great deal to me. I've been watching Equality Michigan kind of reassert itself and reengage in a process of advocacy. I was asked by Jim Murray to consider joining the board after talking with Steph White for a long time, and decided this is something that would be an exciting opportunity.

How do you know Jim Murray, the new board chair?

Jim and I met while serving in the legislature. I've had a professional relationship with him for a long time and trust his political wisdom and wanted to be supportive of his leadership.

What was attractive to you about joining a board with multiple political perspectives?

I think it's important now given the tone of American politics – which can be very negative and everyone's looking to blame someone for something – it seemed easier for the LGBT community to be singled out and picked on. It seemed to me that now is the time to become active and be an activist. If not now, when? And now was the time.

Having served in the state legislature, maybe you can lend an ear to how frustrating it has been historically with a red majority in place to make things happen?

I remember introducing, in the early 2000s, the first anti-bullying bill based off of legislation called the Dignity for All Students Act, which kind of started on the West Coast and it was really designed to protect gay kids, even those kids that are perceived to be gay. Seeing it go nowhere for so many years – and it took ten years for what should be a simple layup piece of legislation to ever make it through the Michigan legislature – just kind of puts you on notice that you really do have to work intentionally and work hard, and understand there are plenty of people in society that will judge negatively simply because of one's sexual orientation.

It's disgusting and wrong and it can be very frustrating. I do appreciate that Equality Michigan is really trying to understand that there are advocates and leaders and allies in both political parties and figuring out a way to make both political parties work together.

Given the heightened state of concern in our community – basic civil rights are being destroyed and there is a lot of fear – what tactics or strategies are you thinking about applying while on the board?

It's important for Equality Michigan to fundraise, to organize and to build a network of support across the state. Not just Detroit-based. Not just Lansing-based. We need to remind people that there are gay people in every community and as an organization we need to be very visible and continue to work that way.

There have been some great successes with a number of local communities passing ordinances that support the LGBT community. We need to continue that work and be as active as possible, and when opportunities present themselves at the state level, we need to work tirelessly to ensure that the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act includes us.

What do you think the community can do to help?

The community needs to support Equality Michigan and Equality Michigan needs to do a better job of speaking to the community and leaders within the community – those that have been political and those that have never been political – need to engage whether it be grassroots organizing and the supporting of campaigns or promoting victims rights and advocacy that way. We all need to lock arms together and say that we will stand together and we will win together.

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.





**SUPPORT
& Discussion
Groups**



COMMUNITY VOICE

Affirmations' Support & Discussion Groups are peer driven, community run groups which allow everyone to tell their story; stories from which all may gain insight and courage.

Dedicated peer volunteers are trained to facilitate our groups, each one unique, to mediate conflict and aid the group in leading itself. Everyone is welcome, all remain confidential, in every group where emotional, social and physical safety are to be had for all.



For more information, contact
Heather Aymer at haymer@goaffirmations.org

290 W. Nine Mile | Ferndale | MI 48220 | 248-398-7105 | www.goaffirmations.org







Dr. Paul Benson's
Be Well
Medical Center

Complete Medical Care since 1980

LGBTQ Primary Medical Care
HIV Prevention (PrEP) • HIV Care & Clinical Trials
Transgender Welcome!



1964 Eleven Mile Rd
Berkley, MI 40872
(248) 544-9300
doctorbellow.com

Join Us Sunday, March 26 Celebrating Marriage Equality

Find Great Equality Vendors Who Value Your Business

Between THE Lines™

at
MotorCity
CASINO · HOTEL

11 a.m. Pre-Expo Workshop
Will Address LGBT Rights
in the Trump Era
*Free Tickets when you
register with code WKS17*



LOVE
Wins

Platinum Sponsor

MotorCity
CASINO · HOTEL

Gold Sponsors

B. Ella Bridal

&N PARTY
RENTALS

Silver Sponsor

Comerica Bank

THE ULTIMATE LGBT WEDDING & ANNIVERSARY EXPO

Tickets \$10 in advance • \$15 at the door
Great Door Prizes • Floor Shows • Free Parking

Sunday, March 26 Noon to 4 p.m. @
MotorCity Casino Hotel
Pre-Expo Workshop Begins at 11 a.m.

Register Online! Use Code "WKS17" for Limited Ticket Giveaway

MiLGBTWedding.com