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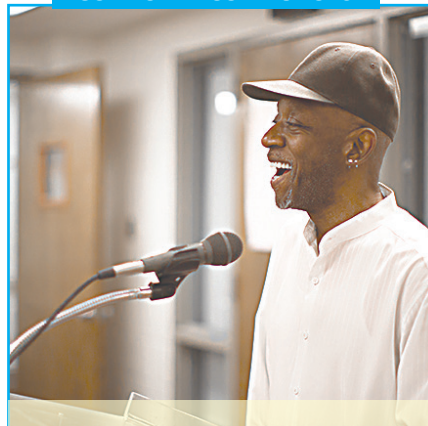
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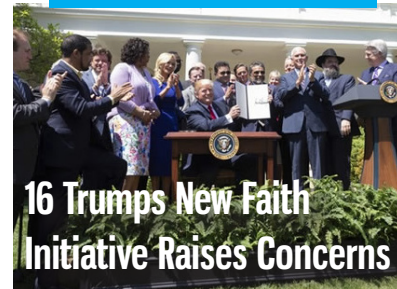
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The World Swipes Right on Adam Rippon

America's Favorite Out Skater on Finding His Gay Power, Sex-Inspired Costumes and His Post-Olympics Clapback for Tinder Ghosters

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“Yes, this is an interview,” a schoolgirl-giggly Adam Rippon deadpans to fellow figure skater Charlie White who, naturally, is curious about the current topic of conversation: sex and harnesses, and how both come together to inspire his uniquely nontraditional collection of on-ice ensembles. Rippon is chatting while putting on his performance makeup in a locker room inside a Rhode Island arena, about to serve a graceful two-song solo during a “Stars on Ice” stop, featuring his Olympic peers.

“(Charlie is) like, ‘I’ve never done an interview like this before,’” Rippon tells me. “He said he’s never been honest and open.”

Rippon takes a long, very “Adam Rippon for dramatic effect” pause, the kind you know and love if you’ve been obsessing over every fabulous, filterless turn of phrase our self-proclaimed “glamazon bitch” has turned: “You should try it out!”

No kidding: The 28-year-old ice champion leads by example, proving with unapologetic defiance – he fiercely came at the vice president of the United States for his anti-gay rhetoric – and iconic Folsom elegance, like the S&M gear he wore during the Oscars this year, that being yourself can take you places. If you’re Rippon, who’s from Scranton, Pennsylvania, it can take you to Pyeongchang, South Korea, where Rippon set fire to the ice during the 2018 Winter Olympics, becoming the first openly gay U.S. male athlete to win a (bronze) medal in a Winter Olympics.

Rippon’s mere existence as a brazenly gay global inspiration with a tongue as sharp as the blades on his skates has been celebrated for his “faggy magic,” as coined by journalist Peter Moskowitz. And at a recent “Stars on Ice” show in Detroit, he elicited the wildest applause, from suburban moms to girl tweens and a squadron of genuinely proud queers. Reese Witherspoon loves him. So does Elmo.

And like any good mother, Sally Field tried to set him up with her gay son.

My roommate was starstruck even before Rippon rang me, so nervous just knowing Adam Rippon would be calling that she left our Airbnb apartment. I share this with Rippon, who’s, again, all giggles: “It’s a really high compliment that your roommate needed to leave.” (Later, during our goodbye, he playfully says, “Tell your roommate I said ‘hi.’”)

Rippon would make his “Dancing with the Stars” debut weeks after our call, slaying a voguing cha-cha to RuPaul’s “Sissy That Walk.” But before he competed against Tonya Harding with partner Jenna Johnson during the ABC dance-off, the skater opened up about how booze kills his wit game and what he tells guys on Tinder who want a second chance with him and inspiring suicidal queer youth, all the while, being his irresistible self. That’s all you can really ask for – and in Rippon’s case, want.

I want to give you a phone hug and say thanks for giving this 35-year-old man a new level of realness to aspire to.

I’m hugging you back.

You stood next to Britney Spears at the GLAAD Media Awards recently for a pic. I heard she liked the way you smelled.

Yes, she did. It’s just, like, weird – you’ve seen somebody your whole entire life, and then you walk up to them and you’re like, “Oh, you’re real.” But she was really nice. We just congratulated her on her award and she was like, “You smell really nice,” and I was like, “Thank you so much, ’cause that’s so important to me.”

Is it weird that now I want to know how you smell?

I smell nice.

Like primrose?

Yes.

And that night was special because gay Olympian Gus Kenworthy kissed you on stage. How exactly would you describe your relationship with Gus at this point?

Umm (laughs), so, I mean, we’re just friends, obviously. His boyfriend was backstage laughing at him, and so he was just trying to be funny. Gus is a nut.

But you’re so close. And both of you being gay Olympians, it seems you’ve really bonded.

Oh, absolutely. We’re just like brothers. I

guess brothers who kiss. But no, I love him, he’s so nice, and we’re very good friends.

You seem like the kind of person who likes a few nice things in his dressing room. What is on your “Stars on Ice” tour rider?

I try to keep it super simple so I don’t forget a lot of things. So, when I am traveling I literally just have my skates, my costume, and that’s basically it. I try to keep it so super simple or I’m gonna lose all my shit.

Don’t you have people who can remember this stuff for you? An entourage?

It’s getting there. Slowly. But I still want to, like, be able to be self-sufficient, you know what I mean?

For a while, at least.

At least for the rest of the month.

I think that’s a lofty goal.

You know, dream big.

So, “Dancing with the Stars”: Can you even believe that you’re competing against Tonya Harding?

(Sighs) Ah, I cannot.

What is that like?

It’s not a super big deal, but I think she’s got a lot going on, so I’m just gonna let her do her own thing, probably. Probably best.

You’ve met?

I did meet her. She’s very pleasant.

Team Tonya or Team Nancy?

Well, I mean, Tonya tried to kill someone, so I’m Team Nancy, probably.

Honestly think that’s probably the safe choice to make.

I think it’s probably the *right* choice.

What did you think of “I, Tonya”?

I loved it. I thought Margot Robbie (who played Harding) was great. Amazing.

Who would you cast as Adam in “I, Adam”?

Well, Margot did so well, so maybe just Margot Robbie is a safe bet.

Who inspires your on-ice style?

The skating world inspires it a little bit, and then... you’re just gonna know that I’m trashy. I look at like, um, sex stuff and stuff people wear – harnesses and stuff – and the design is quite amazing. I will bring them to my costume designer and we will make them



Photos: Mitchell Haaseth/NBC

more appropriate for a competition.

For a PG audience?

Yes. But actually, it's not for that audience. But I make it for them.

That harness you wore to the Oscars in March: Where is it?

It's in (fashion designer) Jeremy Scott's office. The suit was by Moschino, and so it was from Jeremy's office and he lent it to me. I'm obsessed with Jeremy. He's amazing.

Do you get to keep these costumes?

I keep my own costumes. Because, like, I bought them, outright. But the Oscars outfit was for the runway – from the carpet back to the office.

Hard to give that up. So many opportunities to wear something like that.

I know! Like to a wedding.

Or a funeral.

Yeah, anything. The grocery store.

What's the biggest difference between 12-year-old Adam Rippon and the Adam Rippon I'm talking to right now?

I think the biggest difference is all of the things that I've been through. I think now I have a better idea of who I am, and I think I had a lot of self-discovery to go through when I was young. I was just as trash – but now I'm just older.

More comfortable with the trash?

Yeah, I'm just more comfortable being trashy.

Were you a sassy kid?

I don't think I realized how sassy I was till I was at the Olympics and people were like "Ahahaha, you're so sassy" and then I was "Ahahaha... you think so?" And they're like, "Oh yeah, you're, like, SASSY." And I was like, I just thought I was fresh. Like, "No – you're sassy." Oh. OK.

Who inspires your sassiness?

The person who inspires me to be sassy is my mom.

So it's in the blood.

(Laughs) Yeah, it's definitely in the blood. It's something I can't control. You know how you're born – you sometimes have curly hair or blue eyes, and I have curly hair, but I don't have blue eyes. But I also have my mom's sassy attitude.

Born this way.

Born this way, for sure. Genetics.

Your future: What's off the table? Where do you draw the line?

Like, I'm not gonna do porn. That's drawing the line, I guess.

A reality show?

I don't think I would do a reality show – I mean, I'm doing "Dancing with the Stars." That's a reality show. I'm not gonna do, like, "Big Brother" or anything.

Are you getting a lot of offers?

Yeah, I'm getting a lot of offers to do stuff. A lot of it's ghetto.

What percentage of these offers are you turning down?

I'm talking a little bit to everybody, and honestly my schedule's so crazy right now I don't even know who. I barely even know where I am right now.

You've been asked to do a lot of things you may not have done if it weren't for the Olympics, such as getting custom-made condoms from Thrillist because you thought the condoms in South Korea were "generic." The New York Times also basically wrote an entire feature on your abs. What is the most ridiculous request that's been asked of you?

I don't know if I've had a super ridiculous request, one that I can really think that I took seriously. I think people have asked me to do crazy things and I'm like, "Hahaha." And then I forgot about it a minute later.

The media loves getting you drunk.

Here's the thing: I don't drink a lot. Barely anything. And so everyone's like, "Haha, come on the show and just have drinks!" And I'm like, "OK." So, I'll have one or a little bit, but I feel like I'm way funnier not drunk. I'm not as sharp, I'm not as witty; I'm not myself when I'm drunk. I mean, I feel like I like to be in the moment, and if I'm in the moment, I can focus and then I can be quick and witty.

This wild ride: If you could relive any part of it, which part would that be?

I don't know, because I still feel like I'm in the middle of a wild ride. I haven't had a moment to really be like, "This Olympics experience is over," 'cause right now I'm still skating a bunch with "Stars on Ice," and I think when I finally have a day off, I'll be like, "Oh, wow, there's a lot going on." But I haven't had a day off, which I actually think is amazing and great, and I'm trying to enjoy every single second. I think one thing that saved me is, I don't really know what my schedule is. I just kind of plan a few days in advance; I don't feel overwhelmed. I'm just having a good time with it.

How will you spend that day off?

Um, probably napping.

The whole day?

The *whole* day.

Anything you haven't been able to do since you've been on this all-consuming ride?

Honestly, the only thing I haven't been good



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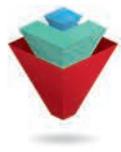
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BIKTARVY.com

Please see Brief Summary of Patient
Information with important warnings
on the adjacent pages.





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bictegravir 50mg/emtricitabine 200mg
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

Brief Summary of Patient Information about BIKTARVY[®]

BIKTARVY (bik-TAR-vee) (bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with BIKTARVY. For more information, see “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?”

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

BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. If you have an HBV infection and take BIKTARVY, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking BIKTARVY. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**
 - Do not run out of BIKTARVY. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your BIKTARVY is all gone.
 - Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider. If you stop taking BIKTARVY, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking BIKTARVY.

For more information about side effects, see “What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY?”

What is BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY is a prescription medicine that is used without other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) in adults:

- ▶ who have not received anti-HIV-1 medicines in the past, **or**
- ▶ to replace their current anti-HIV-1 medicines for people whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements.

HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

BIKTARVY contains the prescription medicines bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide.

It is not known if BIKTARVY is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

Do not take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

Before taking BIKTARVY, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- ▶ have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection
- ▶ have kidney problems
- ▶ are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant during treatment with BIKTARVY.

Pregnancy Registry: There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- ▶ are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take BIKTARVY.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - At least one of the medicines in BIKTARVY can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in BIKTARVY can pass into your breast milk.

Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines may interact with BIKTARVY. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- ▶ You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with other medicines.

Continued on next page.

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How should I take BIKTARVY®?

- ▶ Take BIKTARVY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. BIKTARVY is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- ▶ Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.
- ▶ Do not change your dose or stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care during treatment with BIKTARVY.
- ▶ If you take antacids that contain aluminum, magnesium, or calcium, take BIKTARVY on an empty stomach 2 hours before you take these antacids.
- ▶ If you take supplements that contain iron or calcium, take these supplements with food at the same time that you take BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Do not miss a dose of BIKTARVY.
- ▶ If you take too much BIKTARVY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- ▶ When your BIKTARVY supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to BIKTARVY and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **See “What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?”**
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- ▶ **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys when starting and during treatment with BIKTARVY. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Too much lactic acid is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:** weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.

What are the possible side effects of BIKTARVY? (continued)

- ▶ **Severe liver problems.** In rare cases, severe liver problems can happen that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms:** skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY are diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of BIKTARVY.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use BIKTARVY for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give BIKTARVY to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about BIKTARVY. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about BIKTARVY that is written for health professionals. For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.BIKTARVY.com**.

Keep BIKTARVY and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: February 2018



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When There Were Seven

What We Learned About the Seven Candidates Vying to be the Next Governor

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

Come Jan. 1 there will be a new Governor, but for now, there are seven competing for the position. And, with all seven people vying to occupy the office sitting on a simple stage in East Lansing Thursday, May 10, one would expect a clash of ideas and a battle of wills. But, the four GOP and three Democratic candidates answered questions for the Michigan Press Association with relatively few bumps.

There was a cantankerous and divided Republican field – consisting of Attorney General Bill Schuette, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, State Sen. Patrick Colbeck and Dr. Jim Hines. On the Democratic side, they heard a Bernie Sanders’ like rally call by Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, a reserved and middle-of-the-road former Sen. Gretchen Whitmer and a billionaire on a vanity tour, Shri Thanedar.

Here are some key takeaways:

Trump-mancing

The GOP candidates don’t agree on much except their undying devotion to President Donald Trump. In fact, despite Trump’s endorsement of Bill Schuette, the candidates are still vying to wrestle that endorsement from the attorney general’s hands to clutch it for themselves.

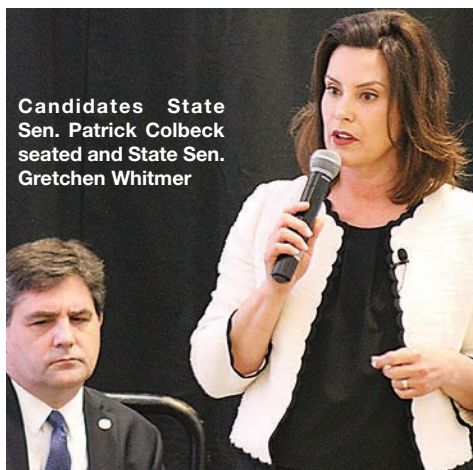
On May 9, on a debate produced by WOOD TV 8, Colbeck made a plea for Trump to “reconsider” his endorsement of Schuette. Hines in both his appearance on the television debate and the MPA conference made the case that he was for “always Trump” because he saw him as disruptive as an outsider. Schuette, meanwhile, smacked Calley around verbally for withdrawing his support of then-candidate Trump when the infamous “Access Hollywood” tape surfaced. That’s the tape where Trump is heard discussing grabbing women by their privates and forcing himself on them. At the time, Calley said he would be unable to vote for Trump and would write in Pence. He ultimately voted for Trump he said.

Colbeck argued Trump should rescind his endorsement of Schuette and instead give it to Colbeck.

The only high-profile endorsement given and withdrawn so far, however, has been Fox News host Sean Hannity’s endorsement of Colbeck. More on that later.

The candidates also showed a partisan divide between whether the media was treating Trump fairly. Colbeck accused the media of doing “Mad Lib” reporting.

“A lot of stories that I found get written about different events are actually more like



Candidates State Sen. Patrick Colbeck seated and State Sen. Gretchen Whitmer



Candidates Attorney General Bill Schuette seated and Lt. Governor Brian Calley.



Candidate Dr. Abdul El-Sayed



Candidate Shri Thanedar

a ‘Mad Lib’ where people have actually filled in the adjectives,” Colbeck said. “The story’s already written, the tone’s already set, and for me that’s disconcerting because our republic depends upon the people who are electing people into office getting good information.”

Calley said he is troubled by the reliance on unnamed sources.

“It’s a gotcha-type of reporting, it tends to lead with conjecture and unnamed sources at a level that I’ve never seen before,” he said. “And what I’ve come to tell people when I’m asked about some sort of a sensational story about Donald Trump is, you have to wait 24 to 48 hours because in most cases there’s other information that comes out that provides a more balanced view on what happened. And I think it’s unfortunate because the media does have such an important role to play in our democracy, we’re talking about first amendment rights here.”

Schuette, for his part, accused the national media of being “elites.”

“These are the same elites that look down on the heartland of America in terms of the nitty gritty tough plumbers and electricians and builders, the folks that built this state and



Candidate Dr. Jim Hines

the folks that need to rebuild our infrastructure as well,” he said. “They look down on people who work.”

Meanwhile, Democrats Whitmer, Thanedar and El-Sayed said they thought that Trump was being covered fairly. El-Sayed however offered a more nuanced analysis of coverage of Trump.

“I think the right question is, is somebody who occupies the highest office in the land fair to the media? Because when you go

around calling the media fake news, when you go around destabilizing what is truth from falsehood, you have to ask yourself, what actually is truth anymore?” El-Sayed said. “I respect deeply the work that you do, because you’ve got to tell the story. There is no democracy without a free press, and when you have a president attacking that very institution of a free press, you have to ask yourself, where are we as a society?”

The whole question of how fair the media is also feeds another important issue: Transparency.

Michigan has consistently gotten poor scores on governmental transparency. The state legislature and the governor’s office are both exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, while the judiciary, which is tapped to fill certain countywide posts when they are vacant, is not subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Transparency

Here’s the deal: Michigan has consistently gotten poor scores on governmental transparency. The state legislature and the governor’s office are both exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, while the judiciary, which is tapped to fill certain countywide posts when they are vacant, is not subject to the Open Meetings Act.

And just how much do the various candidates have in the bank? Who do they owe money to? What property do they own? None of that is required for disclosure either under Michigan law.

The candidates all agreed that transparency was important, but the reality of transparency offered by the candidates is blurry at best. This issue also opened the door for an attack by Calley leveled against Schuette.

“Not only have I released my tax returns, but I did complete the federal form. And, I just want to point out the hypocrisy here,” declared Calley. “Why put out a tax return but not the federal form? Why do you have to wait for a law to pass? What is it that’s being hidden? What we have heard is that they can’t really put out a financial disclosure, Bill Schuette

See Governor Candidates, page 17

Flores Says 'We're Going Through a Process' During Public Town Hall

Community Members Raise Concerns About Search for New Executive Director

NEWS

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALÉ – Members of the community were invited to Affirmations on May 11 to discuss changes at the LGBT community center and to get input and ideas from the organization's supporters. The public town hall was held following the resignation of the executive director, Susan Erspamer, in late March; the board president, Brad Bell, last November; and the treasurer, Jon Beasley, last July.

The community conversation addressed questions about the Center's finances, the election of new board members, and what the future holds for Interim Executive Director Liliana Reyes, who hosted the meeting along with Interim Board President Michael Flores.

A small crowd of about 20 attended, and they were all passionate about the Center. Reyes made the effort to alleviate any doubt and speak to concerns.

She said Affirmations sees about 30,000 guests annually, offers 200 different support and discussion groups, has over 200 active volunteers and is conducting more LGBTQ sensitivity trainings than ever before.

"From January 1 till today, we've trained about 750 individuals, and that's a two-hour training," said Reyes. "Including last year, we've trained over 2,000 professionals."

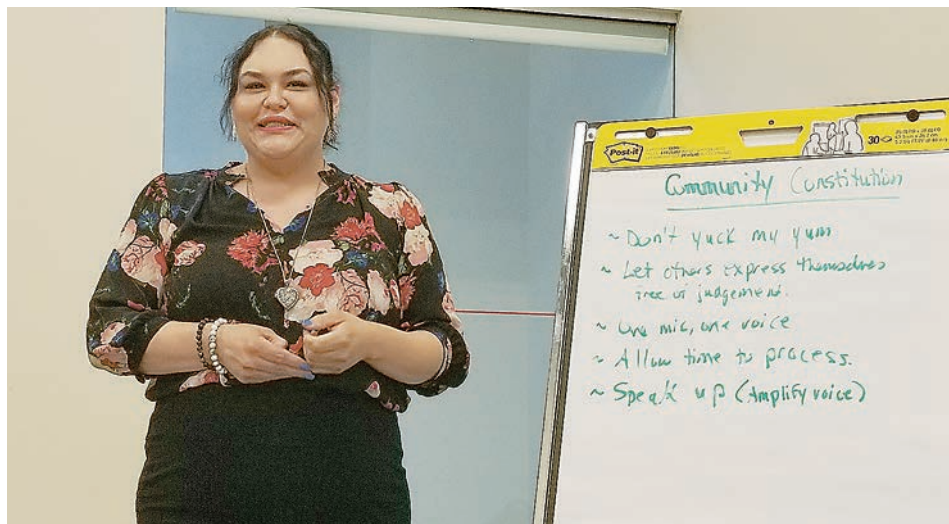
Affirmations does this with a small staff of nine that includes Katie Koch, Development Director; Kyle Taylor, Development Coordinator; Becca Budde, Educating and Training Manager; Heather Aymer, Community Resource Coordinator; Ian Unger, Youth Coordinator; Ryan Fowler, Facilities Coordinator; Angela Sawyers, Finance Director; and Shelly McCallister, Counseling Supervisor.

Reyes spoke enthusiastically about reaching out and taking the center in new directions.

"We're actively working with almost every major LGBT community center in Michigan," she said. "We need to be everywhere. Part of what I'm doing is expanding the borders of Affirmations. We believe and I believe in real partnerships."

Reyes pointed to the Human Rights Campaign and the Trans Sistas of Color Project, both of which have office space at the Center now.

"This is the very first time Trans Sistas of Color Project has met outside of the city of Detroit. And they're not only renting space here, they've given us a grant to do Trans Sistas of Color Project work," said Reyes.



Interim Executive Director Liliana Reyes during a May 11 public town hall meeting at Affirmations. A second public town hall will take place on June 21. BTL Photo: Jason A. Michael

Reyes discussed her plan to reach further outside the realm of traditional LGBTQ work. This month, Affirmations staff and volunteers will deliver water to Flint.

"Water has nothing to do with LGBT, but if water is supporting life, [then] life is supporting LGBT," said Reyes. "So it's thinking outside of just the gay sphere and pushing it ... We're thinking of unique ways to push the LGBT agenda that isn't the historical way of just going to other LGBT communities."

To Search or Not to Search

As far as the search for a new executive director is concerned, at the meeting, Flores said, "We are going to go through a process where we're going to evaluate one – are we going to conduct a national search, and two – are we going to solicit the services of a third party or are we going to do that internally? And we're obviously going to go through the process of interviewing any potential candidates."

But for some in the crowd, the talk of another national search was not encouraging. The board conducted a national search to find executive director, Darrius D. Hilmon. When he left the Center, the board went back to their original search to hire Erspamer, their number two on the list. Both had brief tenures at the Center.

"You've gone through two search processes and they both dudded out," said Michelle Fox-Phillips, founder and executive director of the Gender Identity Network Alliance.

Flores deflected somewhat, stating that no one currently on the board had been involved

in the previous two searches.

"I do hear the concern that the previous two searches did not yield [good] results," said Flores. "I don't think anyone [on the board] was there to give us details on what happened. However, we need to evaluate everything and determine what the most effective way to move forward with selecting a new ED is. We need to outline all the available avenues to the board. Then the board needs to select the best avenue and then proceed forward with that avenue."

Flores, who has been nominated for board president, said input is needed from everyone.

"I'm leaning toward having some sort of cross-functional committee that involves the board and staff and the community to be able to look at different candidates and select the right candidate."

However, members of the community said the search should already be over as they voiced confidence in Reyes and her leadership ability.

"We don't want to bring an outsider in who doesn't know Detroit's LGBT community because every LGBT community is different," said Jameson King, LGBT Detroit's social media coordinator. "We need someone who's already here to continue to make it better."

Fox-Phillips continued, "As far as I'm concerned, we've found our executive director. I'm going to give her a vote of confidence."

A former Affirmations board member, Michelle Brown, concurred.

"I want to second what Michelle said about moving forward," she said. "We have been waiting. You went on a search and found an executive director who didn't have knowledge not only of the LGBT community but of this

community. And we all held our breath. Then you got the next person and we were all holding our breath to see when Affirmations would get it together. We don't have time. I would say we are in a unique position right now. We have someone with a connection to the community and the qualifications. We don't have the money to spend on another search."

Reyes also received a vote of approval from the staff at the center.

"On behalf of the staff we want to 100 percent back Liliana," said Koch. "We support her. We believe in her. And we're committed in Affirmations succeeding and for Affirmations to succeed we want Liliana to succeed."

When asked if she were interested in the position, Reyes, who has worked at the Center for almost four years, and served under three different executive directors, beamed.

"Of course I am," she said. "Of course I am. I really love Affirmations and I mean really love it."

The Money

Flores spoke about the Center's budget and expenses as well.

"In terms of finances, I sit down with Liliana on a weekly basis. We are basically to budget. Moving forward we do see some gaps. But as a whole over these next couple of months, we are in the black," he said. "It's something that's new to Affirmations to be in the black but we're confident that we're going to end the year in the black again."

One key to that is development, said Reyes.

"Katie and I have met with every staff member and board member to talk about what development looks like. So every single staff member is doing development. Every single member of staff is thinking about their costs and expenses," she said.

An audit of the center was recently completed though the auditor's findings have not yet been submitted. Flores said the board will review the budget after the first half of the fiscal year is over.

"The plan is not to make a change but if we need to we will," he said. "Moving forward our income projections have to be realistic and based on facts and probability."

Affirmations will host a second public town hall on June 21 at 11 a.m. Visit [facebook.com/Affirmations/](https://www.facebook.com/Affirmations/) for more information.

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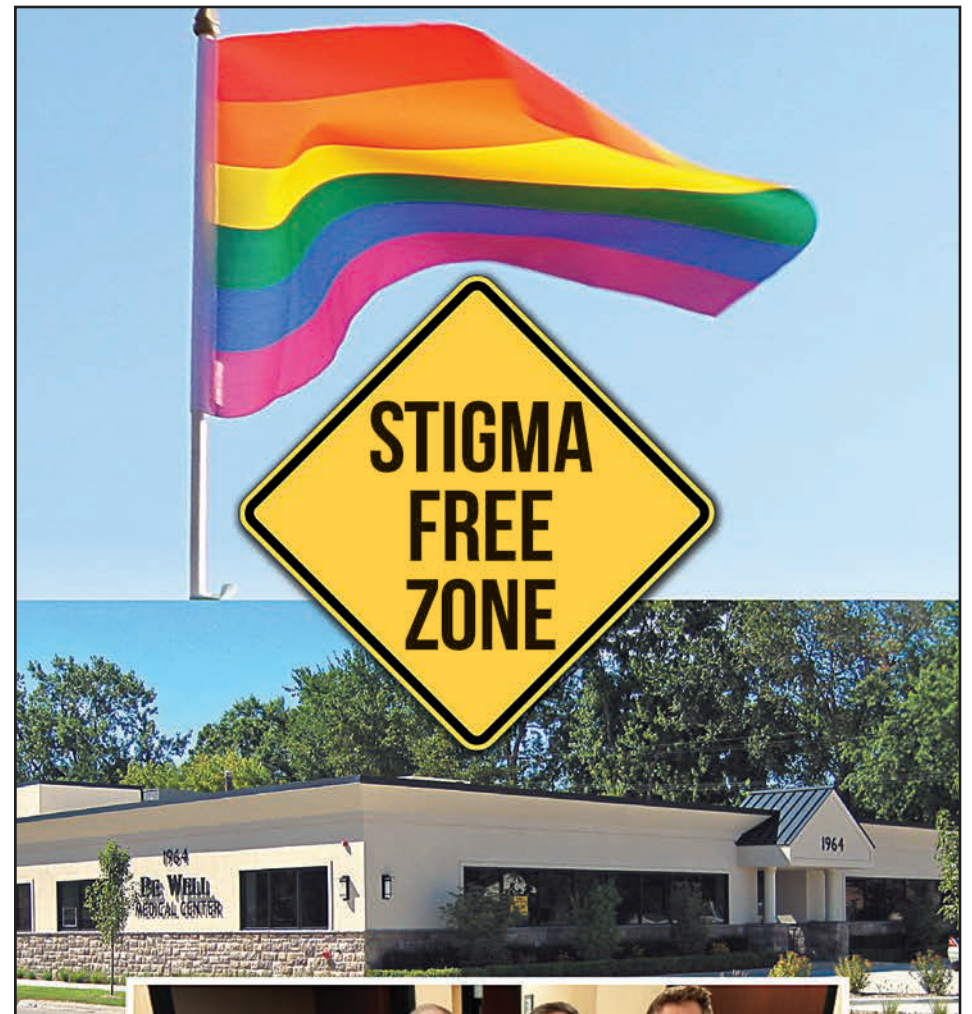
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Oklahoma Governor Signs First Anti-LGBT Law of 2018

NEWS

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed into law on May 11 a “religious freedom” bill enabling taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to deny placement into LGBT homes, marking the first time in 2018 a state anti-LGBT bill became law.

In a statement on May 11, Fallin announced she signed Senate Bill 1140 into law “after many hours of consideration and investigation of Oklahoma’s current practice” amid a groundswell of opposition from LGBT rights supporters and child care agencies.

“SB 1140 allows faith-based agencies that contract with Oklahoma to continue to operate in accordance with their beliefs,” Fallin said. “In a day and time when diversity is becoming a core value to society because it will lead to more options, we should recognize its value for serving Oklahoma also because it leads to more options for loving homes to serve Oklahoma children.”

LGBT rights supporters had criticized SB 1140 and urged Fallin to veto the measure because it would enable religious-based adoption agencies in the state, which receive taxpayer funds, to deny placement into homes with LGBT placement over “religious objections.” Conceivably, the bill could also permit these agencies to subject LGBT children in foster care to widely discredited “ex-gay” conversion therapy.

A massive outcry from LGBT rights supporters emerged as SB 1140 moved through the state legislature and to Fallin’s desk. Joining LGBT groups in opposition to the bills are child welfare organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Child Welfare League of America and the North American Council on Adoptable Children.

Others who spoke out against the bill were Oklahoma native and “Will & Grace” star Megan Mullally, singer Kristin Chenoweth and former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power. According to Freedom for All Americans, more than 15,000 Oklahomans sent letters to their lawmakers urging them to reject the bill.

Supporters of the bill are organizations supporting Catholic adoption agencies — such as Catholic Charities and the Catholic Conference of Oklahoma — who say these agencies will have to shut their doors if forced to place children into LGBT homes.

In her statement, Fallin denied signing SB 1140 into law mean Oklahoma would be “in any way restricting current practice allowing LGBTQ individuals and couples fostering or



Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed the first anti-LGBT law of 2018. Photo by Michael Vadon via Wikimedia Commons

adopting.”

“It does not ban same-sex adoption or foster care in Oklahoma,” Fallin said. “Instead, the bill will help continue Oklahoma’s successful placement of children with a broad array of loving families and basically maintain the status quo by setting forth in statute practices which have successfully worked for the best interest of Oklahoma children.”

As Fallin noted, other states — Mississippi, Michigan, Virginia, Texas, Alabama, South Dakota and North Dakota — have similar laws on the books. A lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union against the Michigan law is pending in the federal courts.

Insisting she’s “committed to preserving the rights of all Oklahomans who are eligible and want to be considered for parenting,” Fallin added she’ll sign an executive order to order the Oklahoma Department of Human Services to publish a list immediately of Oklahoma adoption and foster agencies on its website “who are willing to serve everyone who meets the Department of Human Services criteria for being a foster or adoptive parent.”

But Fallin’s assurance the law isn’t discriminatory and she’ll take additional action for potential LGBT parents wasn’t enough for LGBT rights, who condemned her for signing the measure.

JoDee Winterhof, senior vice president of policy and political affairs at the Human

Rights Campaign, said in a statement it is “shameful” Fallin would sign SB 1140.

“Gov. Fallin has cemented her legacy, siding with discrimination and the legislature in throwing kids under the bus to create a ‘license to discriminate’ against LGBTQ Oklahomans,” Winterhof said. “With this action, Oklahoma has the negative distinction of being the only state to sign an anti-LGBTQ bill into law this year. Oklahoma’s leaders must live with that, and live with the reputational fallout that it may bring. This is wrong.”

Prior to Fallin signing the bill into law, LGBT rights supporters had hoped none of the 120 anti-LGBT bills pending before state legislatures this year would make it into law. Now that Fallin has signed the anti-LGBT adoption bill, those hopes are dashed.

Troy Stevenson, Executive Director of Freedom Oklahoma, said he’s “deeply disappointed” Fallin signed the measure, but is “more concerned about the children — desperately looking for homes — that will be harmed by this disgraceful legislation.”

“And the countless young people who will be stigmatized by state sanctioned hate,” Stevenson added. “Make no mistake, we will fight for the most vulnerable Oklahomans targeted by this law.”

Stevenson also told the Blade LGBT rights supporters plan to file a federal lawsuit challenging the new Oklahoma anti-LGBT

law.

“We are going to litigate,” Stevenson said. “I met with our attorneys [Friday] night, and will meet with our national coalition and the broader legal team on Monday. We will be announcing something early next week.”

An opponent of same-sex marriage, Fallin has an anti-LGBT history as governor of Oklahoma. When the Obama administration ordered the U.S. military to provide spousal benefits to service members in same-sex marriages, Fallin said the Oklahoma National Guard would stop processing benefits for couples — gay and straight. Only after the Obama administration threatened a loss of federal funds to state withholding those benefits did Fallin agree to a deal enabling same-sex couples to obtain them.

Lucas Acosta, LGBT media director for the Democratic National Committee, predicted Oklahoma residents would hold Republicans and Fallin accountable at the polls for enacting SB 1140 — pointing to recent unexpected victories for Democrats in Oklahoma during special elections.

“With over 400,000 children in foster care nationwide, including more than 16,000 in Oklahoma alone, the Oklahoma legislature should be focusing on how it can attract more qualified and loving parents to the system — not rejecting potential homes based on the gender identity or sexual orientation of the parents,” Acosta said.

Before Fallin signed SB 1140, the legislation wasn’t the only state anti-LGBT adoption bill headed toward becoming law. In Kansas, the state legislature has sent Senate Bill 284 to the desk of Gov. Jeff Colyer, who’s also expected to sign the measure despite opposition from LGBT groups.

Currey Cook, counsel and director for the Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project at Lambda Legal, urged Colyer not to follow Fallin’s lead and veto the anti-LGBT adoption bill pending before him.

“We hope that other governors, most immediately Kansas Gov. Colyer, will not follow Oklahoma’s example and will put the needs of the child first,” Colyer said. “To deny qualified parents eager to foster or adopt children in need of loving homes because of their sexual orientation or gender-identity or particular religious belief is not only wrong, but impacts the most vulnerable the most.”

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

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan Endorse Dana Nessel for Michigan Attorney General

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING — Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan (PPAM) announced its endorsement of Dana Nessel for Michigan Attorney General. Nessel, a noted civil rights attorney and former Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, has worked “tirelessly to protect the people who need it most over her 25-year legal career,” said PPAM.

“We’ve weathered some brutal attacks on women’s access to vital reproductive health care over the past few years, and it’s time Michigan’s women and families had an Attorney General who used their power to protect our rights instead of chipping away at them,” said PPAM President and CEO Lori Carpentier. “Dana Nessel has spent her entire career fighting – and winning – on behalf of the people who need it most. The people of Michigan need Dana in office, fighting for us, and that’s why we are thrilled to endorse her.”

Perhaps Nessel’s most noted case is that of a same-sex couple who wanted to adopt their foster children. That case, *DeBoer v. Snyder*, successfully overturned Michigan’s ban on

gay adoption and was consolidated into the landmark Supreme Court case that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

“For far too long, the people of Michigan haven’t had an Attorney General on their side,” Nessel said. “Bill Schuette has spent his time as AG using the power of his office to undermine women’s constitutionally protected right to access safe, legal abortion, and to restrict access to basic health care for thousands of Michiganders. It is my honor to accept the endorsement of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, and with it the responsibility of protecting all Michiganders from harm.”

PPAM is the advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood of Michigan. PPAM works in conjunction with Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Planned Parenthood Action Fund at the national level, as well as our health center/education affiliate Planned Parenthood of Michigan, supporters and patients at the state level to ensure access to reproductive health for all Michiganders.



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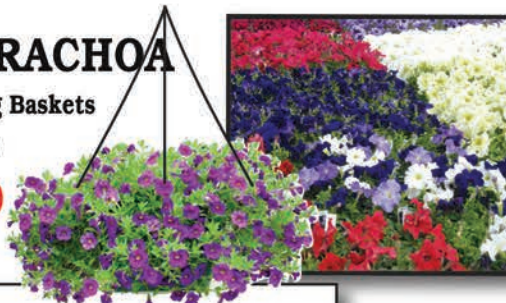
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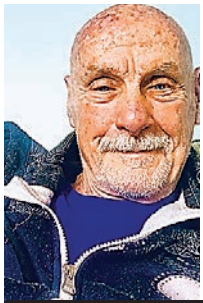
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Best of Sr. Scatterpin (2 of 3)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I had a tarot reading last Sunday by a psychic friend of Sr. Serena Scatterpin.

“She’s a marvel and a looker,” was Sister’s intro. “If just a tad off her ever-lovin’ spiritual rocker.”

Glad that the holidays are over – and finding myself 40 pounds fruit cake heavier, I was intrigued – I have a persistent fondness for ever-lovin’ rockers.

Tarot reader Lady Novena Knightly – 6’ 7” in flats – self identifies as a pre-op recovering catholic and bisexual drag queen in hetero remission.

She works at a popular bistro that caters to all psychic types – some short in crew socks, some tall in high heels – who themselves are, or who need to be, in remission: mentally, monetarily or morally.

She’s also Sister’s makeup advisor and frequent fashionista euchre partner (Father Manly Evergrope, Sister’s on-again, off-again escort, prefers hands-on video games and late-night, non-fashionista Stud Poker playoffs.)

My reading took place in the Convent of the Renegade Sisters of Mary multimedia room. A five-buck love offering was suggested, for which I got a taped reading, a bracing cup of essence of yohimba oolong tea, and a seven-chakra, let’s-get-really-acquainted, digital tappy tap.

“I see contradictory things in your spread,” began Lady Novena. “You bottomed out last year, but 2009 will see you on top for a welcome – if somewhat unbelievable – change. So, in a big way, put small things behind you.”

“Who knows, Sister? Heaven works in mysterious ways its wonders to perform. What does Father Evergrope say?”

For this remarkable reading I generously purchased three packets of RSM-marketed Lights Out for Brotherly Love incense.

To say Lady Novena (aka, one-time IRS accountant Dudley Brownberry, Jr.) is striking is, well, understatement. She’s a towering presence and, obvious to all who meet her, she’s been around the parish block a few times. Her calves are angelically well-honed. Her thighs, heavenly suggestive of enterprising

goal setting. Her hips beatifically redolent of metaphoric marathons yet to come – or, something like that.

“What did you think?” asked Sr. Scatterpin. “Did the tarot cards have you pegged?”

“Sis, I haven’t had a back rub like that in ages! And that cup of oolong tea worked wonders. You might get the Renegade Sisters to bottle it,” I said. “One question, ‘tho. What’s this about Lady Novena being a tad off her spiritual rocker?”

“Well, just between us RC girls. Lady Novena says she gets dressing room visits at odd times from the Virgin Mary,” she said. “She claims the BVM visited her the year she turned 21, inspiring her eventually to go into show business. If you can believe that.”

“Who knows, Sister? Heaven works in mysterious ways its wonders to perform. What does Father Evergrope say?”

“Evergrope says that if Lady Novena thinks she’s getting visitations and it helps her drag queen performances, what’s the harm?” she said. “The problem’s that Pope Benedict XVI’s just decreed that

See next page



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

There is a certain popular culture view of transgender people that cannot be easily shaken: transgender people are born as men or women, and choose to become women or men.

Aside from the above completely sidelining non-binary and other identities, this view does a huge disservice to transgender people as a whole. It is also a view clearly crafted by people who don’t know a thing about being transgender.

Those who might state such are looking at the body as being the arbiter of who we are or are not, but it is likely that these same people would not apply the same feelings when applied too their own body; they would likely claim it is their brain that holds sway, and has ultimate sway over their being.

That’s by and large how it is for those of us who are trans.

Our bodies – that is, the skin-based wrapper you see overlaying a collection of bones, nerves and other squishy bits – is just the container of our consciousness - and while it serves as an avatar which we pilot through this existence, our innate sense of “being” is firmly between our ears.

So perhaps we can say that physically, a trans person may opt to adapt their bodies to align with their minds,

but they truly are the gender they sense within themselves. This is why it is so disingenuous when people try to mock trans people by claiming we can simply decided one day to change our genders out of the blue, or that we might do so to gain entry into a changing facility or restroom.

A majority of us may well spend years of our lives, starting as a child, grappling with feelings of wrongness. We may not exactly have a handle on what the issue is, especially if we grow up in situations where information on being trans is hard to come by – but we know there is something.

It’s one of the bitter realizations I think many of us go through, too: we may fight for years of our lives, feeling that maybe were just not being man or woman “enough” in our day to day lives. I’ve known more than my share of people who shoehorned themselves into the most stereotypical expressions of the gender they were assigned at birth, hoping it would somehow “cure” them of feeling as they do – only to discover that it intensified the feelings of innate “wrongness” they felt.

While the access to information and support is changing

See next page

To compare, imagine what it is like to have to hear, again and again, that one doesn't need to be gay, or that one simple "hasn't found the right man/woman," or all of that claptrap? This is what its like for transgender people to have their identities reduced to their physical bodies, and be told that this collection of cells is who we are no matter what we may think.

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 14

things, for some it's years, even decades, before we're able to truly be ourselves – and when we finally do come out, we face rejection, discrimination and derision for doing so. Our very being is called into question, based in large part of the body we inhabit.

To compare, imagine what it is like to have to hear, again and again, that one doesn't need to be gay, or that one simple "hasn't found the right man/woman," or all of that claptrap? This is what its like for transgender people to have their identities reduced to their physical bodies, and be told that this collection of cells is who we are no matter what we may think.

Not too long ago, I decided to try a simple experiment. I opened a poll on my Twitter account. Now, I'm not going to try and claim that such a thing is in any way scientific, particularly given the relatively small sample size and otherwise non-controlled aspect of such a thing. Nevertheless, I found it interesting to get a small sample of my friends to give some feedback.

First, I asked my non-transgender friends to think about photos of themselves from 10 or more years ago, and tell me if the person in those shots still feels like them. Then I asked my trans friends about photos of themselves from pre-transition years, and if they felt that person was them.

Unsurprisingly, to me, the transgender people on my timeline pretty overwhelmingly

(71 percent) said that that pre-transition person they saw in old photos did not feel like them, with an additional 24 percent willing to say that they sort of felt it was.

Meanwhile, half of the non-transgender folks were more willing to say that it sort of was, with roughly a third saying that those old photos certainly felt like them.

When I look at old photos of myself, I remember the time and place, I recall the experience just like anyone else - but it's more like looking at a picture of someone else, not me. I'm not delusional, and do understand the reality of the picture in question – but there is a huge disconnect between what I see, and how I feel about it. It's just not "me" per se.

That's how this feels. We may know the realities of our physical selves – sometimes all too well – while knowing that the essence of our beings is something quite different. To paraphrase a friend of mine, while many might look into a mirror and be dismayed by a gray hair, a pimple, or some crow's feet, we may see a face and figure staring back at us that feels distinctly wrong, and that disunion between who we perceive ourselves and what we see staring back in the mirror is so often at the heart of the dysphoria a transgender person struggles with.

This is why that simple notion of us being men or women who become women or men just doesn't fit. We are what we are, and we may take steps to express that better, and to literally feel like we belong in our own skins.

Gwen Smith is a collection of some 37.2 trillion cells. You can find her at gwen-smith.com.

"I'd really make it a first for all parties concerned, including fundygelical-du-jour Rick Warren. A 15-second cameo appearance in DC at Obama's inaugural, well, what can I say? The Republicans would go bonkers. The pope apoplectic. That's show biz!"

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Face Book images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 14

persons claiming BVM drop ins – drag queens included – have to be examined for authenticity by a church-sponsored shrink?

"It's one way of getting 15 minutes of fame, I suppose, Sister. It certainly beats having stigmata. And a lot less messier, too," I said. "Come to think of it, as far back as I can remember there's never been a drag queen with stigmata. At least outside of the Castro or New York's club baths. But, who knows? Could be a first for LGBT Michigan."

"If I were the BVM," sighed Sister Scatterpin, herself a now-and-then virgin.

Creep of the Week

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Being in prison sucks. Granted, I have never been in prison, but one doesn't actually have to spend time behind bars to know it's awful. I've been conditioned my entire life to recognize that prison is not somewhere I ever want to go. And so it's a pretty good motivator to be a law-abiding citizen (recognizing, of course, that being a cisgender white woman gives me plenty of unearned and unfair advantage).

There is, unfortunately, a perception in America that prison should be horrific. The more horrible the better. We have a very punitive prison justice system. The goal of putting people in prison is to punish them, not rehabilitate them. We want people who break the law to suffer (unless those people are white and have lots of money. Those people apparently get to be president).

And boy do we love to lock people up. The United States has the largest prison population in the world. I'm not talking per capita, I mean total. We're #1. We also love to try children as adults and put them in adult prisons. Which is sick.

But for those of us not in prison, it's really easy to say something like, "If you can't do the time don't do the crime" and "It's prison, it's not supposed to be a resort."

It's easy to forget that the people in prison are, well, people. They are human beings.

So you can imagine that it's especially hard for trans men and women to be in prison. Because even trans folks who are NOT in prison have to constantly defend their very humanity against constant assaults.

The Trump administration has been a disaster for transgender people. For such an already marginalized and relatively small group, they've sure been singled out for harm by this administration. All of the gains made for trans rights under Obama are being rolled back for no other reason than that the Trump administration doesn't like trans people and they don't like black people and they'll be damned if they let a black guy tell them how they should treat trans folks. And so we've seen direct attacks on transgender service members and transgender students from Trump and company. And now it's prisoners.

Unlike service members and students, prisoners don't have the advantage of being part of a group that many people like or even admire. They have few advocates in actual power. Transgender prisoners are the most marginalized of the already marginalized.

Which is probably why the Trump administration decided to undo rules put in place during the Obama Presidency that allowed trans prisoners to be housed

All of the gains made for trans rights under Obama are being rolled back for no other reason than that the Trump administration doesn't like trans people and they don't like black people and they'll be damned if they let a black guy tell them how they should treat trans folks.

in facilities that aligned with their gender identity. In other words, if you are a transgender woman, you shouldn't be thrown into a men's prison. For obvious reasons. But in case those reasons aren't obvious, the intention behind the rules was to protect trans prisoners from sexual and physical assault.

The change was prompted by a lawsuit brought by four evangelical Christian prisoners in Texas. These women argued that being housed with "men" (as they refuse to acknowledge or accept trans identity) put them at risk and made them feel "icky" (that's a legal term, obviously). And Trump and his ilk were more than happy to throw trans inmates to the wolves.

This has, not surprisingly, drawn criticism from the LGBTQ community.

"Once again, the Trump Administration is turning its back on those most vulnerable," Lambda Legal Staff Attorney and Criminal Justice and Police Misconduct Strategist Richard Saenz said in a statement. "There is no justification for this policy shift; it is a deliberate recipe for violence against transgender people based in inexcusable prejudice."

While I agree with Saenz, I don't really think its accurate to say that the administration is "turning their backs" on transgender people. After all, in order to turn away from someone you have to acknowledge they exist in the first place. Instead, Trump and his minions want to erase them entirely. As for "deliberate recipe for violence," that's exactly what this is. Remember, if prison is supposed to be hell for cisgender folks, it follows this sick line of reasoning that it should be especially hellacious for trans people the system barely sees as human.

Also, "Based in Inexcusable Prejudice" would make a great title for a book about the Trump presidency.

Trump's New Faith Initiative Raises Concerns Among LGBT Activists

NEWS

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

President Trump's new initiative to support faith-based organizations with federal assistance is stirring unease among LGBT rights supporters, who say they'll keep watch to ensure the program doesn't enable anti-LGBT discrimination.

Trump, who created the initiative by executive order on May 3 on the National Day of Prayer, said during a signing ceremony in the White House Rose Garden the program will "help design new policies that recognize the vital role of faith in our families, our communities, and our great country."

"This office will also help ensure that faith-based organizations have equal access to government funding and the equal right to exercise their deeply held beliefs," Trump said. "We take this step because we know that, in solving the many, many problems and our great challenges, faith is more powerful than government, and nothing is more powerful than God."

Among those present for the ceremony were Vice President Mike Pence; Jean Bingham, general president of the Relief Society for the Mormon Church; Archbishop of Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl; and Narayanachar Digalakote, priest at the Sri Siva Vishnu Temple in Lanham, Md.

The executive order renames as the White House Faith & Opportunity Initiative the program known under the Obama administration as the Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives.

According to the White House, the initiative will provide policy recommendations for the administration's faith-based and community programs, such as ideas on helping these programs deliver more effective solutions to combat poverty.

The initiative is also charged with apprising the administration of any failures within the executive branch in complying with "religious



President Trump signs an executive order creating a new faith initiative.

freedom" protections – a term often used to mean anti-LGBT discrimination – and to reduce the burdens on the exercise of free religion.

Tony Perkins, president of the anti-LGBT Family Research Council, praised Trump in a statement.

"The announcement of President Trump's faith initiative is further evidence that this administration is not only committed to protecting our First Freedom but in also acknowledging that our faith in God contributes to the guidance and well-being of our country," Perkins said.

The Obama-era program was itself a restructuring of a program established in 2001 during the administration of George W. Bush. The Bush-era program was criticized as a potential violation of the Establishment Clause and as a payoff to faith leaders to encourage support for Bush's presidency and re-election in 2004, which may be Trump's aims as well as the congressional mid-term elections approach.

Trump signs his executive order creating the initiative on the anniversary of a "religious freedom" executive order he signed last year. That order was criticized by LGBT rights

supporters because it directed U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to create "religious freedom" guidance seen to enable anti-LGBT discrimination under the law.

The new initiative also echoes the creation of the Conscience & Religious Freedom Division at the Department of Health & Human Services. Critics say that division will enable medical practitioners to deny services to women seeking abortions or transgender people seeking transition-related care, including gender reassignment surgery.

Although LGBT rights supporters weren't ready to pounce on the new Trump initiative, they expressed concern about the program and said they were wary of its impact.

Daniel Mach, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's program on freedom of religion and belief, said in a statement the new initiative must not direct taxpayer money to organizations that discriminate against LGBT people.

"Freedom of religion is one of our most fundamental and cherished rights. But that freedom does not give any of us the right to harm other people, to impose our beliefs on others, or to discriminate," Mach said. "The ACLU will be watching this initiative closely

to ensure that it does not promote policies that violate these core principles."

Sharon McGowan, director of strategy for Lambda Legal, said, "there isn't a lot of substance" in the executive order, but it reeks of earlier Trump administration efforts enabling anti-LGBT discrimination in the name of 'religious freedom.'

"As we saw in the proposed rule coming out of HHS last January, this administration thinks that it burdens someone's religious belief to have to provide appropriate health care to a trans person, or even to make a referral to someone who will," McGowan said. "This EO is very much of a piece with last year's EO, Jeff Sessions' proclamation from last fall, and what's come out of HHS."

McGowan said the executive order is also consistent with Sessions' pledge to the anti-LGBT Alliance Defending Freedom to restructure the federal government to favor religious freedom even at the expense of protecting others from discrimination.

"So while there isn't really much in here that's new, it is another piece of the larger structure that this administration is building to weaponize religion," McGowan said. "Faith doesn't have to be synonymous with discrimination, but that certainly seems to be what this administration means."

Kasey Suffredini, president of strategy at Freedom for All Americans, went a step further and said the initiative makes religion "a tool to cause harm."

"By allowing agencies that receive taxpayer dollars to discriminate against LGBTQ people as long as they cite religion as the reason for doing so, this administration has weaponized religion in a way that prioritizes anti-LGBTQ bias over vulnerable children finding loving homes," Suffredini said. "President Trump's continued attacks on LGBTQ families hurt everyone – and they will not stand."

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

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Continued from p. 9

cannot put out a financial disclosure form because he put all of his assets into a blind trust, that's been the story. But, it appears that though, we've been directing the purchase transfer of millions of dollars in offshore assets while attorney general."

Schuette declared he'd happily release his tax returns, but was refusing to fill out a federal disclosure form. Calley jumped on that, noting it was likely because Schuette's assets were supposed to be in a blind trust and without his involvement. Calley raised the issue of millions of dollars of property owned by a company listed at Schuette's Midland address. The property is located in the U.S. Virgin Islands and has been sold.

Crains Detroit reported that not only had it been sold, but that Schuette used employees of the attorney general's office to witness and notarize the property transaction paperwork. Schuette has also been under pressure for allegedly hiring political operatives on the state's dime.

Schuette denied the allegations, calling Calley "desperate."

"Now listen, Brian you go around the state," Schuette said. "You go around the state making false accusations that are not true. All my assets are in a blind trust, I comply with that fully and completely. And I've released my income taxes for the last seven years, I do so again this eighth year as attorney general. And you're so desperate, you're so behind there's nothing you won't do to try to make false accusations and attacks."

Another contention was the issue of FOIA application. The candidates all said they said supported extending the law, which allows citizens to access government documents, to the legislature and the governor's office.

But here is where Schuette, again, fell short. While talking about his compliance with FOIA as attorney general, he failed to note that he is currently being sued by Progress Michigan, a liberal activist group, for using private emails to avoid FOIA.

This division and hammering by Schuette and Calley on each other could result in a door opening for Colbeck to garner the nomination of the GOP come August. He's a relatively unknown statewide, and as a former, literal, rocket scientist, presents some policy solutions the Detroit News has said have merit.

Islamophobia

But that alleged merit in his policy solutions should be clouded over by his blatant Islamophobia and outright drive for a Christian government. This straddles the transparency issue a little because Colbeck was upset that BuzzFeed News reported on his claims that Muslims were undertaking a "civilization jihad" to impose sharia in America.

In the speech highlighted by BuzzFeed, he claimed El-Sayed was part of this modern day

boogeyman conspiracy. The Detroit News called his "evidence" thin, at best.

"I have very deep concerns around that obviously," Colbeck told the gathering of journalists. "Regards to Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, you've got a handful of affiliation with Muslim Students' Association, which has been identified as an affiliated organization in that Explanatory Memorandum. And if you guys go off and look at Muslim Students' Association across the nation, you'll find that they've had Al-Qaeda leaders speaking to their people, and they've also found out that ... So there's some serious concerns around that, and frankly, this is one of those areas that got me ticked off in regard to the fairness of the media. They pitch this as a comment around concerns around ties to the Muslim Brotherhood as a concern with Muslims in general."

Each of the candidates were asked if they thought sharia was a threat to Michigan or America. Interestingly, the GOP candidates noted that the courts understood their role and would never impose it. But the Democrats grasped on the question and Colbeck's role in promoting it alongside Kamal Saleem, whose claims to have been a member of the Muslim Brotherhood before converting to Christianity are questionable at best.

Thanedar called it "bigotry."

Whitmer went further.

"I'm really horrified that so many people use issues like this to divide us," she said. "The greatest strength of our state is the rich diversity of our state. We want to make sure that this is a place that people come to for opportunity so we hand grow our population so we can diversify our economy."

But perhaps it was El-Sayed who hammered it home the hardest.

"Here's the thing, one of the biggest frustrations that I've had is that the assumption that there should be some sort of association between me and some dastardly group, functions simply upon the fact that I choose to pray a particular way," he said. "It is implicit that it used to raise the specter that has everything to do with that concept ... what frustrates me more is not that you have blatant racism on the part of certain people. But in the words of Martin Luther King, 'One of the most dangerous aspects is not when bad people speak out, it's when good people fail to speak up.' And what I have not heard is the Republicans on this panel, decisively and swiftly, call out this kind of Islamophobia, this kind of racism in the context that they are running to represent the state that has the highest per capita number of Muslim-Americans in the country."

Colbeck, who has backed resolutions calling on the state to ignore the marriage equality ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, assured El-Sayed he had no ill will toward Muslims.

"I love Muslims," Colbeck said. "It's not an issue, the issue is terrorist organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood."

El-Sayed shot back; "Now you might not hate Muslims, but I'll tell you Muslims definitely hate you."

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MARRIAGE NEWS

Report Shows Support For Same-Sex Marriage Isn't Unanimous

A majority of conservative Republicans (58 percent), Republicans overall (51 percent), Mormons (53 percent), white evangelical Protestants (58 percent) and adults in Alabama (51 percent) oppose same-sex marriage, according to a survey released last week by the Public Religion Research Institute.

The PRRI survey, which relied on more than 40,000 interviews nationwide conducted in 2017, made a lot of headlines for finding substantial gains in the number of Americans who support same-sex marriage over the past few years. Overall, 61 percent of Americans say gay and lesbian couples should be legally allowed to marry, compared with 52 percent in a 2013 survey conducted by PRRI and the Brookings Institution. Only 30 percent are opposed to legal same-sex marriage, while the other 9 percent said they didn't know or declined to give an answer.

A majority of black people (52 percent), Hispanics (61 percent) and white people (63 percent) back same-sex marriage. The majority of people in all but six states support it. And even in those six states — Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia — only in Alabama are opponents an outright majority.

PRRI also asked Americans whether they support small businesses being able to deny services to gay or lesbian people if doing so would conflict with the business owner's religious beliefs. Overall, 33 percent of Americans support that idea, while 60 percent oppose it. The majority of conservative Republicans (59 percent), Republicans overall (52 percent), Mormons (53 percent) and white evangelical Protestants (53 percent) support such religious-based denials of services.

According to Perry Bacon Jr.'s analysis in FiveThirtyEight, the headlines touting the widening acceptance of same-sex marriage weren't wrong. But he said he thinks it's worth looking closely at the 39 percent of Americans who don't support same-sex marriage, including the 30 percent who outright oppose it. "That group really matters because it includes a majority bloc in the Republican Party, which dominates U.S. politics nationally and in many states. They haven't exactly given up on this issue — the question of same-sex marriage itself has become less of a political football, but LGBT rights more generally may be taking its place," he said.

In short, the legal debate over same-sex marriage is over. But, according to Bacon Jr., questions about the cultural and political acceptance of same-sex marriage and other LGBT rights endure.

Read his full analysis online at fivethirtyeight.com/features/support-for-same-sex-marriage-isnt-unanimous.

LGBTQ Couples Shake Up Gender Norms in Wedding Industry

BY MOLLY SPRAYREGEN | AP

Traditional weddings are deeply rooted in gender-based rituals, but the growing LGBTQ wedding industry is reimagining that. Many couples are engaging with centuries of tradition but crafting their own way to the altar.

"Structurally, what is required in the wedding planning process is the same," says Kathryn Hamm, an education and diversity specialist at WeddingWire.com, "but because traditionally speaking, the gender roles in weddings are so deeply engrained, there is a very concrete necessity for two grooms or two brides to figure out how to plan within that schema."

So how is it decided who does what in LGBTQ weddings?

Unsurprisingly, there's no single answer. Because they can't adhere to gender norms, LGBTQ couples can be creative. Many are putting a new focus on equality between the two people getting married.

"It's very freeing from the idea that there are these rules, and you must do this and you must do that," says Kirsten Palladino, founder of the LGBTQ wedding website EquallyWed.com. Among the innovations Palladino has seen are trains sewn into grooms' tuxedos, drag-queen flower girls, and a double aisle, so both marriers can walk at once and "not one of them comes first or second," she says.

Proposals are planned based on what makes sense for the couple. Lib Tietjen and Claire Skirvanos, who married in Fairlee, Vermont, in May 2017, purchased their engagement rings together. Tietjen later proposed to Skirvanos, beating her by a week in what they deemed a friendly competition for who would pop the question first.

"It hadn't really occurred to me how engrained the script of a wedding was,"

says Tietjen. "There was something really freeing and also really terrifying about knowing you got to do an entirely different script."

In their wedding, Tietjen and Skirvanos didn't want it to appear that either of them was playing the man's or woman's role. "We walked down the aisle together," Tietjen says. "We didn't want our fathers to give us away. No one was giving us to anyone. We were



giving ourselves to each other."

PJ Painter and Ryan Bedinghaus, who will marry in August in Louisville, Kentucky, have similar concerns and hope to avoid any illusion of gender roles in their ceremony. "I think there's a general mindset that whoever is in the lighter color clothing is the woman in the relationship," says Painter, "which we obviously don't want to portray because there is no woman in our relationship. So we decided to wear the same color suit."

Painter and Bedinghaus will have three aisles: the middle one for their wedding party, and two outer aisles they will walk down at the same time. They

will have both men and women standing up for them.

Hamm says the trend of mixed-gender wedding parties is growing in heterosexual weddings as well as LGBTQ ones. According to WeddingWire, the number of straight couples dividing weddings by gender has dropped 14 percent since 2015. "To me," Hamm says, "This is a really clear example of straight people attending same-sex weddings and saying, 'I can do that too.'"

Stripping away gender norms, however, doesn't necessarily mean tossing out tradition. Plenty of LGBTQ couples still want traditional weddings. For instance, Palladino says, "a mother-son dance is maybe just a parent-child dance."

"I think straight readers would be surprised just how traditional most LGBTQ couples are," she says. "They're just two people committing their lives to one another in front of the people they love and respect."

And LGBTQ weddings are contributing to a trend in which many couples of all sexualities are thinking hard about the reasons behind rituals.

Millennials as a whole have shown a strong desire for more customized weddings, industry experts say, although planning a traditional wedding also remains popular. "We just want people to have a choice," Hamm says.

If you peruse Google for what LGBTQ couples are asking about their weddings and engagements, you'll find inquiries like, do gay men wear engagement rings? How do you know who proposes? Who pays for what?

Hamm's advice is the same for both heterosexual and LGBTQ couples: Do what you want.

Palladino agrees. "The only thing you must do is send out thank you notes," she says. "Everything else is up to you."

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Voters Not Politicians Calls for Board of State Canvassers to Certify Proposal for November Ballot

LANSING – Volunteers and campaign leadership urged the Board of State Canvassers to certify the Voters Not Politicians proposal for the November ballot at a meeting in the State Capitol on Thursday, May 10, which would establish a transparent process to prevent manipulation of legislative and congressional district lines for political purposes.

“We remain optimistic that the Board of State canvassers will quickly move to certify our proposal for the November ballot so the voters have a chance to decide on this important reform for our democracy,” said Katie Fahey, founder and executive director of Voters Not Politicians. “It’s clear that the people of Michigan are eager to enact meaningful reform that will make our government more transparent and accountable so we can solve some of our state’s biggest challenges like repairing our infrastructure, ensuring safe drinking water and making sure every child receives a high quality education.”

The all-volunteer petition collection effort culminated in turning in more than 425,000 signatures collected in 110 days representing each of Michigan’s 83 counties to the Bureau of Elections on Monday, Dec. 18, 2017, more than 140 days ago.

The Bureau of Elections staff found – and campaign consultants at Practical Political Consulting confirmed – that more than 92 percent of signatures reviewed were valid, which means the campaign collected over 100,000 more signatures than required under state law. No challenges have been brought against the signatures themselves.

The Board of State Canvasser website says regarding constitutional initiatives, “If the petition is determined to contain a sufficient number of valid signatures by the Board of State Canvassers, the proposed amendment is placed on the next general election ballot for the consideration of the state’s voters.”

“We have the signatures. They have been verified. They are not challenged. We expect the board to put the measure on the November ballot at its next meeting,” said Jim Lancaster, campaign counsel for Voters Not Politicians. “The people of Michigan deserve a chance to end our current redistricting process, which allows politicians working behind closed doors to manipulate districts to their personal and partisan benefit, and replace it with an open, citizen-driven process.”

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Over 300 Cases of Lyme Disease Reported in 2017

Michiganders Urged to Take Tick Precautions

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is encouraging Michigan residents to protect themselves from ticks as the warm weather approaches. Tick-borne diseases, particularly Lyme disease, are expanding across the state.

Although ticks can spread multiple illnesses, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in Michigan. Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted by the blacklegged or deer tick.

The blacklegged tick is well-established in Michigan's western Upper and Lower Peninsulas. However, it is expanding into new areas across the Lower Peninsula. In 2017, there were more than 300 human cases of Lyme disease reported, and approximately two out of three cases reported exposure in Michigan. Lyme disease-infected ticks have currently been identified in 34 of Michigan's

83 counties. Information about Lyme disease risk by county is available at Michigan.gov/lyme.

"With the expansion of blacklegged ticks into new areas in Michigan, the best way to protect against Lyme disease is to prevent tick bites," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "If you find a tick attached to your body, promptly remove it. Monitor your health, and if you experience fever, rash, muscle or joint aches or other symptoms, consult with your medical provider."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported last week that diseases spread by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas tripled in the U.S. from 2004 to 2016. The report also concludes that Lyme disease is an increasing concern for Michigan. To read the full report, visit the CDC website at cdc.gov.

People can protect themselves against Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases by following these tips:

- Avoid tick-infested areas.

- Walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with overgrown grass, brush and leaf litter at trail edges.

- Protect your pets too. Dogs and cats can come into contact with ticks outdoors and bring them into the home, so using tick prevention products on pets is also recommended.

- Use insect repellent.

- Apply repellent containing DEET (20 to 30 percent) or Picaridin on exposed skin.

- Treat clothes (especially pants, socks and shoes) with permethrin, which kills ticks on contact or buy clothes that are pre-treated. Do not use permethrin directly on skin.

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying repellents.

- Perform daily tick checks.

- Always check for ticks on yourself and your animals after being outdoors, even in your own yard.

- Inspect all body surfaces carefully, and remove attached ticks with tweezers.

- To remove a tick, grasp the tick firmly and as closely to the skin as possible. With a steady motion, pull the tick's body away from the skin. Cleanse the area with an antiseptic.

- Bathe or shower.

- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that are crawling on you.

- Washing clothing in hot water and drying on high heat will kill ticks in clothing.

Michigan citizens can submit ticks to MDHHS for identification and possible Lyme disease testing, free of charge. Or residents can send electronic photos of ticks to the MDHHS for identification to MDHHS-Bugs@michigan.gov. For more information on how to submit your tick and/or photos, visit Michigan.gov/lyme. For more information about Lyme disease, visit Cdc.gov/lyme or Michigan.gov/lyme.




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OUTINGS

Saturday, May 19

LezRead May: Girl Mans Up 4 p.m. ***Be sure to note the date change as we're meeting on the third instead of the fourth Saturday in May (May 19th at 4 p.m.) *** We're taking a break from N.K. Jemisin's Broken Earth Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867

Spring Fling Dance - Women Out And About 7 p.m. DJ Carol, BYOB, Private Dance Party at the Dance Scene. FREE Parking, Free Leis, and more! \$15 Advance, \$20 at the door. the dance scene, 25333 van dyke, centerline. 248-943-2411 womenoutandabout.net/event/spring-fling-dance-2/

Soho's 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest 8 p.m. Another great Ferndale Pride event happening at Soho! Come one, come all... It's the 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 julia@ferndalepride.com www.ferndalesoho.com

Wednesday, May 23

Ferndale Pride Volunteer Meetings Update 7 p.m. All Ferndale Pride Volunteer Meetings have been moved to the Geri Kulick Center, 1201 Livernois, Ferndale, MI 48220 Any questions, contact the event chair, Julia Music at julia@ferndalepride.com One event on May 9 at 7:00pm One event on May 23 at 7:00pm Geri Kulick Community Center, 1201 Livernois, Ferndale. (248) 544-6767 <https://www.ferndalemi.gov/>

services/kulick-community-center www.ferndalepride.com

Otus Supply Featuring Kate Wright 8 p.m. Another fantastic Ferndale Pride event coming at you! Come listen to the music of Kate Wright in Otus Supply's 'The Parliament Room'. Check website for ticket pricing. Otus Supply, 345 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-291-6160 julia@ferndalepride.com www.otussupply.com www.ferndalepride.com

Thursday, May 24

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 7 p.m. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620 www.oaklandumc.org www.standwithtrans.org

Wednesday, May 30

Get Your People: The Role of White People in Ending Racism 6:30 p.m. 'Get Your People: The Role of White People in Ending Racism' is an interactive discussion and moderated panel on the role of white people in ending racism in metro Detroit and beyond. This is a Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 248-647-2380 bucmi.org.

Sunday, June 3

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee Street, Adrian. 313-909-5408 www.standwithtrans.org hilltopcounseling.org

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www.mccdetroit.org

Tuesday, June 5

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 7 p.m. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663 www.stmarysinthehills.org www.standwithtrans.org

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup! 7:30 p.m. Passionate, provocative, and charming, the iconic singer/songwriter, activist, poet, and auteur Ani DiFranco returns to the territory that brought her to the world's attention backed by a full band. Born a gifted songwriter, by age Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org www.a2sf.org smt.d.umich.edu/about/facilities/central_campus/power/index.htm a2sf.org/events/ani-difranco/

Thursday, June 7

Safetalk Training 5 p.m. Hosted by American Indian Health and Family Services and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, safeTALK is a half-day alertness training that prepares anyone 15 or older, regardless of prior experience or training, to become a suicide-alert helper. For One event on July 19 at 10:00am Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105

Friday, June 8

Marianne Williamson's National "Love America" Tour 7 p.m. Historic Detroit Unity Temple is honored to have been selected as the first Michigan appearance for internationally acclaimed author and lecturer, Marianne Williamson on her Love America book and speaking tour. Williamson will speak at Detroit Unity Temple, 17505 Second Ave., Detroit. 313-945-4848 peggriffin@sbcglobal.net www.detroitunity.com

America The Beautiful: Songs from the Great American Songbook, and More! 7:30 p.m. An evening of male

choral music paying tribute the vast array of music that is contained in the Great American Songbook. You'll enjoy a variety of American popular music from the last 100 years, with An event every day that begins at 7:30pm, repeating until June 9 First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, 510 West Ottawa Street, Lansing. lansingfirstpres.com www.lansingout.org

MUSIC & MORE

Mysterium May 17, 6 p.m. Following last year's sold-out inaugural event, Mysterium will feature DSO musicians performing in three unique settings for an exhilarating musical experience. Ticket includes three unique performances, hors d'oeuvres, signature drinks, and an afterglow. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4655&prod=4654>

Ann Arbor Guitar Trio CD Release Concert May 17, 7:30 p.m. The Ann Arbor Guitar Trio, a new ensemble founded on the idea that more guitar is better, will release their debut CD, "Tides," at the Kerrytown Concert House. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. anestmusic@gmail.com www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com/index.php/events/calendar/

Spring Fling Dance - Women Out And About May 19, 7 p.m. DJ Carol, BYOB, Private Dance Party at the Dance Scene. FREE Parking, Free Leis, and more! \$15 Advance, \$20 at the door. the dance scene, 25333 van dyke, centerline. 248-943-2411 womenoutandabout.net/event/spring-fling-dance-2/

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Editor's Pick

Ferndale Pride Hot Daddies Contest in Ferndale

SOHO Ferndale is hosting a Hot Daddies contest where contestants 35 years old and up are welcome to strut their stuff. The event will be held on Friday, May 18. SOHO Ferndale is located at 205 W. 9 Mile Road.

ferndalepride.com julia@ferndalepride.com www.ferndalesoho.com www.ferndalepride.com

Star Wars and the Power of Costume May 20, 10 a.m. Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume explores the challenges in dressing the Star Wars universe from the Galactic Senate and royalty to the Jedi, Sith and Droids™. Featuring more than 60 hand-crafted costumes from An event every week that begins at 10:00am on Sunday and Saturday, repeating until September 30An event every week that begins at 9:00am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, repeating until September 27An event every week that begins at 9:00am on Friday, repeating until September 28 Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900 <https://www.dia.org/starwarsattheDIA>

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ferndalepride.com julia@ferndalepride.com www.otussupply.com www.ferndalepride.com

Cinetopia Film Festival at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater May 31, 7 p.m. Created for the people of southeastern Michigan, the Cinetopia Film Festival features the best feature-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the world's best film festivals (e.g. Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, etc.). An event every week that begins at 7:00pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, repeating until June 10 Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 www.cinetopiasfestival.org

Om @ The Max June 3, 10:30 a.m. Practice yoga to live music by French composers. Certified yoga instructor and DSO Librarian Ethan Allen leads a group yoga session open to all skill levels—accompanied with music performed live by a DSO percussion ensemble. The Cube, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=5084&prod=5083> <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=5084&prod=5083>



www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=5084&prod=5083

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Brandi Carille - In Concert June 9, 7:30 p.m. Brandi M. Carille is a Grammy-nominated American folk rock and Americana singer-songwriter. For our upcoming 2018 spring and summer tour, each online ticket order will include a digital copy of our new album, By The Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 www.michtheater.org/show/brandi-carille

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup Continues! June 9, 8 p.m. It's all part of the saucy, vintage nouveau world of Postmodern Jukebox, a tongue-in-cheek musical project for all ages spearheaded by Scott Bradlee, a revered pianist and genius of song arrangement known for growing his Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org smt.d.umich.edu/about/facilities/central_campus/power/index.htm a2sf.org/events/scott-bradlee-postmodern-jukebox/

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup Continues! June 10, 1 p.m. ACROBUFFO'S AIR PLAY: Fabrics dance, balloons have a mind of their own, confetti turns into the night sky, and a gorgeous canopy becomes a river of silk hovering over the audience in this modern circus one event on June 10 at 4:00pm Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org

See next page



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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 23

info@a2sf.org smtd.umich.edu/about/facilities/central_campus/power/index.htm a2sf.org/events/acrobuffos-air-play-1

Sing Out Detroit Presents: Encore June 16, 7 p.m. Come Out and Support Sing Out Detroit Chorus as we celebrate 10 years of making music together. We will be performing some of our favorite songs and will be joined by chorus alumni. Join us Ferndale High School, 881 Pinecrest Drive, Ferndale. 248-943-2411 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sing-out-detroit-presents-encore-tickets-44325980200>

eVenti Verticali's Wanted June 19, 7:30 p.m. Aerial theater combines with video projections on a giant outdoor screen and concocts a mind-bending visual comedy extravaganza for all ages. Suspended in a world of animation, two Italian brothers hang from ropes and harnesses One event on June 19 at 9:30pm One event on June 20 at 7:30pm One event on June 20 at 9:30pm Top of the Park, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 734-994-5999 info@a2sf.org info@a2sf.org <https://a2sf.org/category/top-of-the-park/>

ART 'N' AROUND

Westside Art Hop May 19, 10 a.m. Westside Art Hop is an art walk in neighborhood homes, studios, porches and yards on Saturday May 19th, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Find cards and gifts from under \$5, up to fine art at

Star Wars and the Power of Costume May 20, 10 a.m. Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume explores the challenges in dressing the Star Wars universe from the Galactic Senate and royalty to the Jedi, Sith and Droids™. Featuring more

Editor's Pick

DSO Hosts Chamber Recital

Fans of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra can opt-in to a more intimate chamber orchestra recital that features Mozart's "Horn Quintet." The evening will showcase violin, viola, cello and horn music, and the community-supported performance will feature musicians Kimberly Kaloyanides Kennedy, James VanValkenburg, Caroline Coade, David LeDoux and David Everson. Adult tickets start at \$15. The show begins on Monday, May 21 at 7 p.m. More ticketing information can be found online at dso.org.



than 60 hand-crafted costumes from An event every week that begins at 10:00am on Sunday and Saturday, repeating until September 30 An event every week that begins at 9:00am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, repeating until September 27 An event every week that begins at 9:00am on Friday, repeating until September 28 Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900 <https://www.dia.org/starwarsattheDIA>

THEATER

A2CT Jr. Theatre Presents: Elephant and Piggie's We are in a Play! May 18, 7:30 p.m. An elephant named Gerald and a pig named Piggie are best, best, "bestus" (a word Gerald and Piggie made up that means "very best") friends, but Gerald worries that something could go wrong that would One event on May 19 at 1:00pm One event on May 19 at 3:30pm One event on May 20 at 1:00pm One event on May 20 at 3:30pm

Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538 smtd.umich.edu/about/facilities/north_campus/walgreen/arthurmiller/ www.a2ct.org/junior-theatre/elephant-and-piggie

Cinetopia Film Festival at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater May 31, 7 p.m. Created for the people of southeastern Michigan, the Cinetopia Film Festival features the best feature-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the world's best film festivals (e.g. Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, etc.). An event every week that begins at 7:00pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, repeating until June 10 Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 www.cinetopiafestival.org

All Childish Things: The Special Edition May 31, 7:30 p.m. In a galaxy far, far away (Cincinnati), the caper of the millennium is underway: the theft of millions of dollars of Star Wars merchandise and

memorabilia. But even the best laid plans can go awry... An event every week that begins at 8:00pm on Friday and Saturday, repeating until June 16 One event on June 7 at 7:30pm An event every week that begins at 2:00pm on Sunday, repeating until June 17 Milan High School, 200 Big Red Dr., Milan. 734-681-0112 info@roustabouttheatre.com info@roustabouttheatre.com roustabouttheatre.com roustabouttheatre.com

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► Rippon

Continued from p. 5

at doing is sleeping.

There you go: a 24-hour nap.

A recharge, yup, exactly.

Reese Witherspoon is one of your biggest fans. Which Reese movie do you most identify with?

“Legally Blonde.” It’s true. It’s the first Reese movie that I ever watched and how I always still think of her, which isn’t fair cause she’s done so much. But yeah, I adore her.

What is it about the character of Elle Woods you most identify with?

That she just thinks she can get into Harvard and it’s not gonna be a big deal, and she does. And I, in my life, am like, “It’s not a big deal, I can do it, and I can make it happen.”

You have a new man, named Jussi-Pekka Kajaala. He’s very good-looking.

I do. He’s super cute, but more than that, he’s super nice and funny and everything that everybody should be.

Before you met, what criteria did you have for a boyfriend?

So, I’ve known him for a little over half a year, and really wasn’t looking for anybody. I mean, I was on Tinder for just fun. You know how if you’ve ever been on Tinder you swipe left and right and it basically turns into this game?

Oh yeah, I have Tinder.

So you know the game.

It’s like the new Hot or Not.

It’s absolutely that. So we just started chatting and basically I was looking for some – my criteria for a good boyfriend would be somebody who has passion. Passion is super important to me because no matter what you do, if you have passion for it, then that’s kind of what life is all about – that you have passion for something. I think that it’s important to stay motivated, to always want more for yourself – yeah. I’m being serious. Usually when I get asked this question, I’m like, a job, goes to the gym – which is also important.

When you were on Tinder, how many people actually thought you were really Adam Rippon?

I think when I was on Tinder nobody really gave a shit that I was Adam Rippon. But I can tell you that everyone I’ve ever matched with who’s ghosted on me has messaged me since the Olympics. My favorite is, “Oh, it’s been a while. How ya doing?” And I’m like, “Bye.”

You give them more than they deserve, honestly.

Usually I don’t answer.

What’s a place you wish you could go where you wouldn’t be recognized?

I don’t mind being recognized at all. I don’t mind it. But if I could go somewhere right now, I would wanna go to Maui. Just a vacation. Get some sun. Doing “Dancing with the Stars,” it definitely changed my skin tone – due to, like, sprays, not sun.

Do you expect there will be a day when an openly gay figure skater can just be a figure skater?

Yeah. And I think more than that, I hope there’s a day that an openly gay Olympian will just be an Olympian. But I think that right now it’s important to share your story. It’s important for everybody to share your story, especially in a day and age when an athlete can go to the Olympics and you can be like, oh, let me know a little bit more about that athlete. You go on their social media page, you know what their likes are, you know what they’re doing, you know where they are, you know what their interests are; you can just so easily find out information about everybody that I think it’s important to show the world who you are, what you stand for, and what’s important to you.

For me, it’s not being gay that I share – I share my coming out because it was really liberating for me, and when I came out, when I was able to share that, that’s what I found so much power in. It wasn’t like, “Oh, I’m gay and I’m powerful” – which is, like, so true – but it was my coming out experience of when I started to really own who I was and that’s where I found a lot of power. I was always me, but I didn’t always own it. And when I owned it, that’s when I found that I was my strongest.

Have you had any particularly moving exchanges with young queer fans?

Yes. There have been many. I’ve run into a few young people who told me that they tried to kill themselves at one point, which is incredibly hard to hear, especially from really young kids. It’s incredibly bizarre to be thanked for just being who you are, and for someone to tell you that you really helped them. It’s incredibly humbling, but I can tell you that I was not expecting that kind of response after the Olympics.

Is there a responsibility or pressure on you to act or be a certain way because of that?

No more than the way that I’ve been acting.

Good. To end, which Golden Girl are you?

Probably Blanche. Isn’t everyone Blanche? And I’m a little – OK, I’m mostly Dorothy.

It’s the snark.

It is the snark.

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

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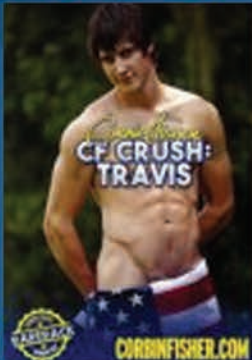
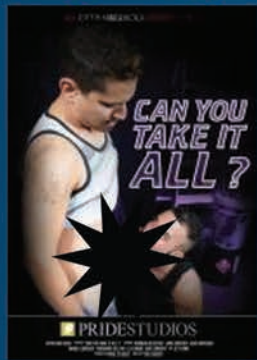
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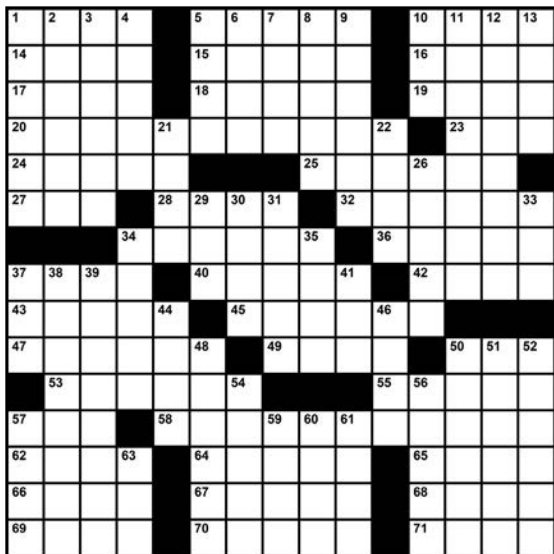
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25 Part of a rusty nail

27 "The Advocate," to detractors

28 Takes into custody

32 "The Handmaid's Tale" author Margaret

34 Lover with a long appendage

36 Goes too far with rough play

37 Baltic Sea tributary

40 More of the quote

42 Scott of "Beautiful Thing"

43 Works the shaft

45 Stirring up

47 More of the quote

49 U-shaped instrument

50 "Till There ___ You"

53 Symbol of discipline

55 Out partner

57 JFK info

58 End of the quote

62 Pride member

64 "Rose is a rose is a rose," e.g.

65 advocate.com, e.g.

66 Trouble spots for

teens

67 "All ___ is a room somewhere..."

68 Sooner city

69 Where to stick your tool

70 St. ___ fire

71 Personal-ad stats

Down

1 Tavern with "eagle" in the name, often

2 One that reproduces without sex or adoption

3 Collar attachment

4 Some gay humor on "SNL," e.g.

5 Arc on Bernstein's music score

6 Shoot off a flare, e.g.

7 "___ much obliged"

8 People from Navratilova's country

9 Nero's tutor

10 Fed. retirement agency

11 Like some gay porn

12 "I Cain't Say No" musical

13 Worker at the bottom

21 Start of a rhyme about a tiger

22 Kind of IRA

26 Sound from guitarist Townshend

29 Prepare to shoot off

30 Jethrene Bodine portrayed Max

31 One who comes slowly

33 Data transmission letters

34 El Greco's homeland

35 "If I ___ Had a Brain"

37 Fed. fiscal agency

38 Marlene of "Witness for the Prosecution"

39 Crown as queen

41 Mister

44 One in bondage

46 Kind of beer

48 Bert, to Ernie

50 Romeo's initial activity with Juliet

51 "___ Em! Uncle Henry!"

52 They're well-hung beneath jockeys

54 Talk like a Tennessee Williams character

56 Choice for Paul Revere

57 "Uh-oh!" to Shelley

59 A doctor makes you strip for it

60 Chianti, e.g.

61 Vital team

63 Composer Rorem

Solution at pridesource.com

You Can't Beat Margaret's Tale

Q Puzzle

Across

1 Comes and goes wherever

5 Like the Alps through which the von Trapps escaped

10 Visit Barneys, e.g.

14 Nuts

15 Punch bowl item

16 Drink from the land of the samurai

17 Hanna-Barbera bear

18 Like "Tales of the City"

19 Singer Woody's son

20 Start of a quote from "The Handmaid's Tale"

23 Advice columnist Savage

24 Take ___ on balls

instrument

50 "Till There ___ You"

53 Symbol of discipline

55 Out partner

57 JFK info

58 End of the quote

62 Pride member

64 "Rose is a rose is a rose," e.g.

65 advocate.com, e.g.

66 Trouble spots for



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Detroit LGBTQ Activist Cornelius Wilson to Receive Senior Citizen of the Year Award

BY BTL STAFF

In recognition of over two decades of service as an LGBTQ rights advocate, SAGE Metro Detroit has announced that board member Cornelius Wilson will receive Michigan's Aging and Adult Services Agency's (AASA) Senior Citizen of the Year Award.

During a special Older Michiganians Day ceremony at the State Capitol in Lansing on May 16, Wilson will receive the award with congratulatory recognition from Gov. Rick Snyder and a \$500 check from Consumer's Energy. Each year, AASA, under the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, grants the Senior Citizen of the Year Award to someone 60 years or older for outstanding volunteerism and contributions to their local community.

Wilson was nominated by SAGE Metro Detroit for the award because of his activism on behalf of LGBT older adults, community leadership and years of dedicated service in HIV/AIDS education and prevention.

"It is a distinct honor to be recognized by this award, and I share that recognition with the countless LGBT activists and allies who have laid the groundwork before me," said Wilson, who works as a housing case manager at the Detroit Health Department and H.A.P.I Housing



Program. "I always felt like the struggles I face as a black, same-gender-loving man would inevitably impact other black men and the African-American community as a whole. Our folks, all folks, needed to see and witness the impact of positive affirmation that extends from our LGBT and now Q community. I hope this award, along with the other people who have received it, will continue to inspire people my age to get involved and be living proof that activism is ageless."

In addition to his involvement in advocating for LGBT rights and social work in metro Detroit, Wilson plays a significant role in galvanizing community engagement through events. He chairs the annual Hotter Than July festival in Detroit, the second oldest Black LGBT pride event in the world, and serves as SAGE Metro Detroit's treasurer, programming chair, finance committee chair and chair of the annual LGBT Older Adult Summit held each June, now in its

eighth year.

"Cornelius has been an indispensable volunteer and cheerleader for SAGE Metro Detroit since our founding in 2015," said Angie Perone, director of SAGE Metro Detroit. "As programming chair, Cornelius works with diverse communities throughout Southeast Michigan to plan programs and events for SAGE Metro Detroit, including museum outings, discussion groups, town hall forums on policy issues and caregiving classes — among other programs."

She continued, "It is impossible to quantify the countless hours community leaders like Cornelius commit to our work. This award is a special opportunity for SAGE and other community members to say thank you, Cornelius, for all you do."

SAGE Metro Detroit was established in 2015 after five years as the LGBT Older Adult Coalition. They are dedicated to, "Building awareness and promoting change so that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults may age with dignity and authenticity."

SAGE Metro primarily serves Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties in southeast Michigan but have worked with LGBT communities, caregivers, service providers and allies throughout Michigan.

Holland's Out On The Lakeshore LGBTQ Center Celebrates First Year

BY BTL STAFF

Out On The Lakeshore will celebrate the one-year anniversary of its community center located at 451 Columbia Ave., with an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 31.

The OOTL Community Center opened last May to provide a place for LGBTQ residents and their allies to meet and feel safe. It has provided numerous educational and training programs as well as providing programs and outreach for youth.

Because of its expanding programs and services, it moved from the north end of the building at 451 Columbia Ave., to a larger space at the south end in February.

"Some of what's happening is we're becoming more a resource to the community than we originally thought we would be," noted the Rev. Jen Adams, an OOTL board member. "Just our existing has brought people to us that I didn't think would be connecting with us. It's grown in ways we didn't expect."

The center is open to the public from 5 to 7 p.m. every Tuesday and 3 to 6

p.m. every Thursday. Among some of the programs hosted by the center have been a focus group on homeless youth, area schools' Gay/Straight Alliance events, pop-up hours the second Monday of every month by Michigan Equality's Department of Victim Services and a Gender SAFE support group.

Refreshments will be served at the free Open House. For more information contact Jim Larkin at 616-610-9891, or go online to outonthelakeshore.org.

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NEW ADDRESS:
 6650 Elizabeth Lake Road
 Waterford, Michigan 48327

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www.dpmcc.net

Sunday Worship time is now 9:30 A.M.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ pridesource.com

AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at www.PrideSource.com. Here are just three of them:

AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact info@aidswalkdetroit.org or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-9217

<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street
Detroit, MI 48201
888-226-6366
248-545-1435

www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/
or follow them on Twitter @

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230
Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800
www.miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline
800-872-2437

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at www.pridesource.com/yellowpages. The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center
Spectrumcenter@umich.edu
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

gsc@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them.

Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @
JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit
or follow them on Twitter @
LGBTDetroit.
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

Affirmations

Ferndale
<http://goaffirmations.org>
www.facebook.com/Affirmations/
or follow them on Twitter @
GoAffirmations.
290 W. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org

Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
sagemetrodetroit.org
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtchamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

Ties Like Me

Professional networking events
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org

Suits And The City

Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>
ftmdetroit@gmail.com

FtM A2 Ypsi

ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI
info@transgendermichigan.org
www.transgendermichigan.org
800-842-2954

Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit
313-537-7000 Ext 107
info@tscopdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI
48203
info@ruthelliscenter.org
Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center
313-252-1950

Ozone House

102 N. Hamilton Street
Ypsilanti, MI
734-662-2265
734-662-2222

Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI
www.standwithtrans.org
248-739-9254



Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBTQ Yellow Pages

Find these resources online

- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
- Hotlines & Switchboards
- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
- National Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional Organizations
- Religious & Spiritual
- Senior Living
- Seniors
- Social/Community Organizations
- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Groups/Services
- Women's Health
- Youth Services

PRIDESOURCE Magazine The New Print Edition Coming June 1

Pride Source Magazine is currently in production. Non Profit basic listings are free. Just send your information by April 15 to janstevenson@pridesource.com. All advertising and content inquiries can also be made by calling 734-293-7200 ext. 101

Moonlight Boat Cruise

Tickets are now on sale for the
Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce



DATE & TIME
Sat, June 16, 2018
6:45 PM – 10:00 PM EDT

LOCATION
Stroh Co River Place
300 River Place Drive## 5000
Detroit, MI 48207

DJ Steve Parsons, light refreshments,
Cash Bar, a 50/50 raffle and glow necklaces
for attendees.

Tickets - \$35.00 visit
Eventbrite: MOONLIGHT Boat Cruise

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/moonlight-boat-cruise-tickets-33996277782>
call 3136733001 info@detroitlgbtchamber.com

Metro Detroit LGBTQ Bars

Adam's Apple

A friendly neighborhood bar open to everyone. Open 7 days a week. Voted the best karaoke bar for two years by Local 4 News in Detroit. Check out Facebook page for upcoming events.

18931 W Warren Ave., Detroit, MI 313-240-8482
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/adamsapple.mi>

aut Bar

Iconic LGBTQ gathering place in Ann Arbor since the early 1990s. Restaurant and bar, serving eclectic menu with a Mexican flair. Located in Braun Court which is also home to the Jim Toy LGBTQ Community Center and Common Language Bookstore. Courtyard open on warmer nights. Hosts many community event fundraisers, rallies and celebrations. Popular with men, women and trans.

315 Braun Court, Ann Arbor
autbar@gmail.com
734-994-3677
www.autbar.com

www.facebook.com/EscapeLounge.gaybar

Gigi's Cabaret

Gigi's cabaret is the longest running female impersonation revue in Michigan, in business over 30 years, and it's a longtime Detroit gay hot spot. Reservations can be made via Facebook or call 313-584-6525. Open Mon., Thur. & Fri. after 8 p.m. Sat & Sun After 7 p.m. (Closed Tue. & Wed.)

16920 W Warren Ave., Detroit
www.facebook.com/gigiscabaret

Hayloft Saloon

Sports & Video Bar is a male club offering Karaoke, pool, darts, six LCD screens and internet juke box. Open since 1980, The Hayloft is owned by Ron Harrington who also owns the gay bar, Side Traxx in Traverse City. This is a no-nonsense sports bar where men meet other men for fun, friendship and more.

8070 Greenfield Rd., Detroit
313-581-8913
<http://hayloftsaloon.com>

The Liberty Bar

Great little bar in the heart of Pontiac, Michigan. Food, drinks, in business over 60 years. They have a pub menu, with a trendy twist, and an extensive drink menu with a huge beer selection. Open for lunch too. Very friendly atmosphere.

85 North Saginaw St., Pontiac
248-758-0771
www.thelibertybar.com

Menjos Gay Entertainment Complex

Has been a gathering place for the gay community of Metro Detroit for decades. It's also a bit of a Madonna mecca since she used to be a regular when the Material Girl was also a local Michigan girl. The mostly male 20-to-30 something crowd comes for the dancing and entertainment. The Complex includes the Menjos Bar, the Eagle Leather bar and the Olympus Theater. Open Wednesday to Saturday.

928 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI
313-863-3934
www.newmenjoscomplex.com
www.facebook.com/menjoscomplex

Escape Lounge Nitnight Club

So you've partied all evening but you're not ready to call it a night. Escape Lounge is an all-male, after-hours, all-night eatery & bar. Opens at 10 p.m.

19404 Sherwood St., Detroit
313-892-1765

and the surrounding area. Multiple weekly & special events. The Pride night has been a staple in Ann Arbor's gay scene since 1984.

516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
734-994-5835
www.necto.com

Pronto!

Has served the LGBTQ community for decades, right in the heart of Royal Oak. Pronto's has teamed up with the Drag Queen Bingo hosted by Five 15 every weekend in the space right next door to Pronto!

608 S Washington Ave., Royal Oak, MI
248-544-7900
www.facebook.com/comprontovideoar

Queen's Bar Detroit

But don't be confused by the name. It's not about Queens as in gay men. Queens is named after the NYC borough – the owners have another Detroit bar named Bronx. Although not specifically an LGBTQ bar, Queen's Bar has an unpretentious vibe and clearly welcomes LGBTQ patrons with a super-friendly staff that is very open.

35 Grand River Ave., Detroit
313-285-8019
www.facebook.com/pg/queensbardetroit

Soho Ferndale

This classy spot features wine, jazz, martinis and a comfortable, casual environment. Located right in the heart of Ferndale's gay district, Soho has a weekly line-up of trivia, karaoke, dance parties, and sweet drink specials. Popular with both men and women.

205 W 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale
248-542-7646
www.ferndalesoho.com

Woodward Bar & Grill

In the heart of Midtown, it is the oldest gay bar in Detroit dating back to 1960. It's storied history is reflected in the pictures on the walls and in conversations you'll hear from loyal patrons. The Woodward is open for lunch and dinner with simple but excellent fare, especially their burgers. During the day it serves the many business people in the area, turning mostly LGBTQ after 5 p.m. It's popular with the Black LGBTQ community and is a welcoming environment for men, women, trans.

6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit
313-872-0166
www.facebook.com/Woodward-Bar-Grill-455392641237497



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Elizabeth Curran
Professor at EMU



Tomorrow Will Be Different:

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Sarah McBride
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(734) 994-3677
www.autbar.com

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- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-32

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RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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

Should I Take Mytesi if I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

Rx Only

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