

MiVoterGuide.com

Download Your Personalized
Ballot & Vote Nov. 6

VOTE for Pro-Equality Candidates

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE



DRIVE: Annual Auto Issue

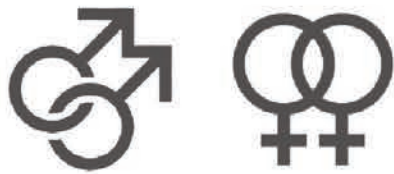
Love & Understanding

A CONVERSATION WITH CHER

WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM

OCTOBER 18, 2018 | VOL. 2642 | FREE

WE SUPPORT EQUALITY WITH PRIDE.



THE FIRST - EVER CADILLAC XT4... HAS ARRIVED.



SELLING YOU A NEW VEHICLE IS ONE THING,
CREATING CUSTOMERS FOR LIFE? THAT'S OUR THING.



CADILLAC OF NOVI

LOCATION
41350 Grand River Ave
@ Meadowbrook Rd
and Grand River Ave.

SALES
248.876.9408
Mon and Thurs 9am-9pm
Tues, Wed. & Fri 9am - 6pm
Sat 10am-3pm

SERVICE
866.613.0087
Mon and Thurs 7:30am-7pm
Tues, Wed. & Fri 7:30am - 6pm
Sat 9am-3pm

Cadillacofnovi.com

Join The Conversation @ Pridesource.com



COVER

24 A Conversation with Cher

NEWS

- 4 Flashing Back to the Past: 1999
- 6 Dana Nessel Joined by Dr. Abdul El-Sayed at Dearborn Town Hall
- 8 Council Hopeful Bill Ostash Talks Rebirth of Saginaw's Downtown
- 10 Michigan's Progressive Voter Guide: What Voters Need to Know for Nov. 6

OPINION

- 12 Parting Glances
- 12 Viewpoint: Breast Cancer Awareness
- 13 Creep of the Week

LIFE

- 24 A Conversation with Cher
- 28 Comedian Fortune Feimster to Perform in Royal Oak Oct. 18-20
- 30 Happenings
- 33 Puzzle and Crossword

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- 34 DHS Public Charge Proposal Could Affect LGBTQ Community
- 34 BTL's Charles Alexander Recognized by Hannan Center
- 34 Michigan Honors Hirers of Qualified Disabled Community



AUTO ISSUE

AUTO

- 16 Ford Employee Talks Transitioning in the Workplace
- 18 Meet GM Worker Steven Del Gaizo
- 20 U of M Dearborn Lecturer Earns Support from Ford Fund
- 22 FIAT Brand Moves Beyond Pride Month, Celebrates LGBTQ Community Year-Round

ELECTIONS 2018



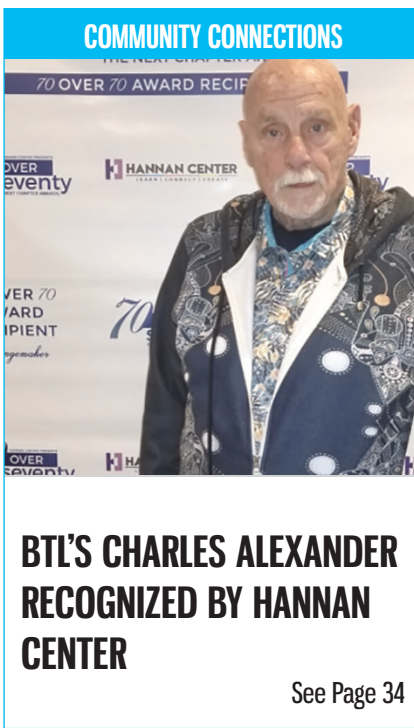
- 6 Dana Nessel Joined by Dr. Abdul El-Sayed at Dearborn Town Hall
- 8 Council Hopeful Bill Ostash Talks Rebirth of Saginaw's Downtown
- 10 Michigan's Progressive Voter Guide: What Voters Need to Know for Nov. 6



ENTERTAINMENT

COMEDIAN FORTUNE FEIMSTER TO PERFORM IN ROYAL OAK OCT. 18-20

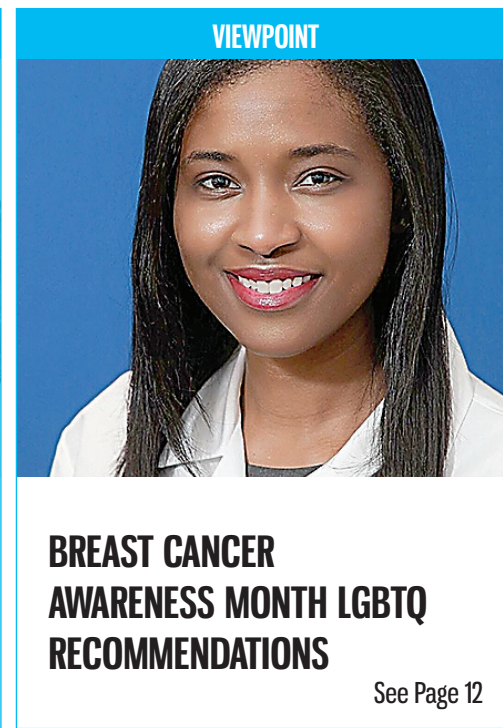
See Page 28



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BTL'S CHARLES ALEXANDER RECOGNIZED BY HANNAN CENTER

See Page 34



VIEWPOINT

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH LGBTQ RECOMMENDATIONS

See Page 12

VOL. 2642 • OCTOBER 18, 2018
ISSUE 1083

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

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



EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Feature News Editor

Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 108
kate@pridesource.com

Editorial Assistant

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Emell Derra Adolphus, Michelle Brown, Todd A. Heywood, Ellen Knoppow, Jason Michael, Drew Howard, Jonathan Thurston

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown, Mikey Rox, D'Anne Witkowski, Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Alexander Godin, Andrew Cohen

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 104
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

ONLINE AT



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

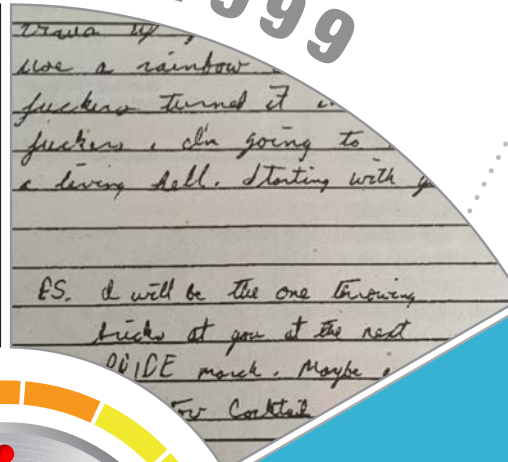
Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for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

Copyright 2018 Pride Source Media Group

THE '90S - 1999

January - Gender Identity Recognized:

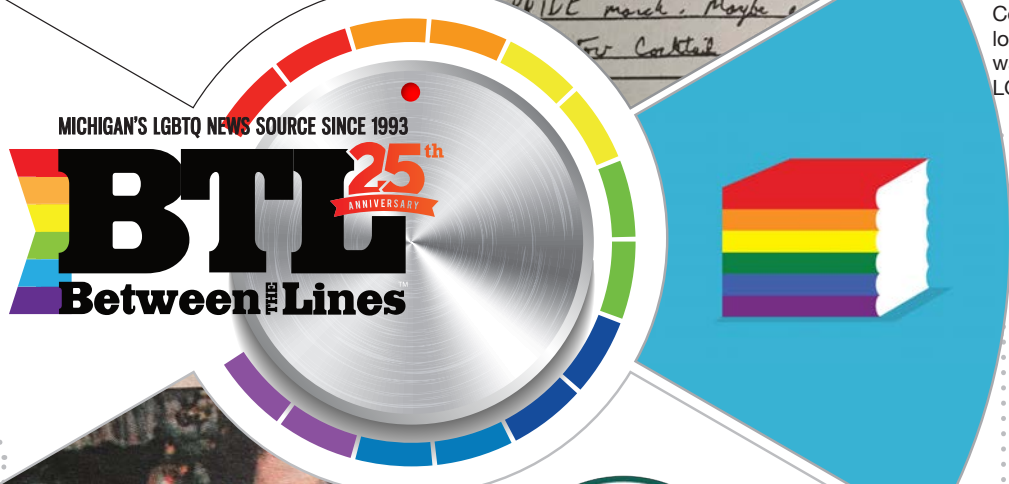
The Open Justice Commission of the State Bar of Michigan voted on Jan. 26 to change the name of the "Sexual Orientation Committee" to the "Sexual Orientation Committee and Gender Identity Committee." This represents the first time that any state bar organization in the U.S. has officially recognized the interests of the transgender community in an "open justice contest."



February - Staff of BTL Threatened:

Members of the staff of Between The Lines received a vicious death threat, mailed to them in an official Michigan House of Representatives envelope Feb. 17. The letter, filled with anti-gay obscenities, also ranted against hate crimes legislation which sought to amend Michigan's Ethnic Intimidation Act. The letter seemed to have been prompted by an editorial cartoon that was critical of the Family Research Council, a radical conservative lobbying group that has been waging an aggressive anti-LGBT battle.

FLASHING BACK TO THE PAST:



July - Bookstore Closes:

After 18 years in business, Pandora's Books, an LGBT bookstore in Kalamazoo, announced it will close. According to owner, River Artz, the danger facing bookstores specializing in LGBT material is the brutal competition from huge chains and the internet.

October - Lesbian Couple Wins Custody Fight:

On Oct. 25, lesbian couple Kelley McKay and her partner Debra Woodford of Muskegon won legal custody of McKay's three biological children. McKay's two daughters and her son were the object of a year and a half battle with McKay's former husband in the Muskegon County Circuit court.



September - LGBT Studies:

Dr. Rick Robinson, political consultant/activist, Detroit City Council senior staffer, Triangle Board of Advisors member, and adjunct professor at Wayne State University offered a new course at WSU about how and why LGBT communities exist. It covered both historic and contemporary communities, along with cross-cultural examples.

RELIGION IN THE LGBT COMMUNITY

1994: On Oct. 27, about 175 people gathered at Barth Hall for Affirmation's third Town Hall Meeting, entitled "People of Faith Against Homophobia." A panel of five religious leaders spoke about building bridges among people of faith, lesbians, gay men and bisexual people to oppose discrimination and affirm respect and human dignity. Speakers included Rita Valade, a Catholic nun of the Religious Sisters of Mercury; Rabbi Dick Weiss, MSW; Rt. Rev. R. Stewart Wood, Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan; and Rev.

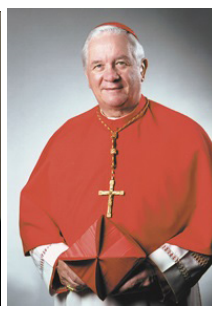
Renee McCoy of Full Truth Fellowship Church of Christ.

1996: Rev. Richard Rhem, pastor of Christ Community Church in Spring Lake (a small town south of Muskegon), was under review for his pro-gay views. He said that homosexuality is "not a defect, just a difference," and that to prohibit its expression is discriminatory. The Reformed Church in America executive committee said that Rhem's support for same-sex relationships "is quite divergent" from RCA teachings and Rhem was at risk of having his RCA credentials revoked.

1997: In a groundbreaking pastoral letter released Sept. 30, the U.S. Catholic bishops advised parents of gay children to put love and support for their sons and daughters before church doctrine that condemns homosexual activity. The document, titled

"Always Our Children," approved by the Administrative Board of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, resulted from a 1993 letter to the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin from Detroit Catholic Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton and 14 other bishops.

1998: Thomas Brown, a 27-year-old who recently graduated from divinity school, was ordained as a priest at the Episcopal Church of Christ the King in Kalamazoo. Brown told the Kalamazoo Gazette that people in his hometown parish have been less openly critical of him as a gay man as time had passed. "I was touched by how welcoming many people were," he said. "I think that's tribute to the



Episcopal Church in Western Michigan and Bishop Edward Lee for helping us maintain that type of unity."

1999: Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, issued an Archdiocesan order preventing the Catholic social justice group Pax

Christi Michigan from holding its annual state conference in any Catholic facility. The site for the event, entitled, "Voices of Hope: Lesbians and Gays in the Church," was moved from St. Patrick's Church to Central United Methodist Church.



Every voice matters

In 1975, AT&T made a commitment to the LGBT community to foster an inclusive workplace. Today we continue to keep that promise because we believe that when everyone works together to make a difference, innovation shines through.



*"At AT&T,
inclusion is at
the heart of
innovation."*

David Lewis
*President of
AT&T Michigan*



© 2018 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T, the Globe logo and other marks are trademarks and service marks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.

MOBILIZING
YOUR
WORLD™





Just enter your zip code and see who supports equality. Please take this guide when you vote Nov. 6

MiVoterGuide.com
Between THE Lines™



Vote Nov. 6

Vote for Candidates Who Will Represent the LGBTQ Community

If the LGBTQ community doesn't come out to vote on Nov. 6, they forfeit the opportunity to impact change.

To help you vote for candidates who will represent you and fight for the things you care about most, Between The Lines has put together the 2018 Progressive Voter Guide. A project of Between The Lines since 1996, the guide offers a comprehensive list of key endorsements for candidates who will fight for progressive values like equality for the LGBTQ community, women and people of color, and will stand up for unions, be good stewards of the environment and more. Plus, the guide identifies candidates who are actively anti-LGBT, anti-choice and anti-union, or would otherwise seek to trample the rights of Americans if elected.

The guide also offers voters an opportunity to support the candidates who share our values by donating to their campaigns or volunteering to get out the vote. The 2018 Progressive Voter Guide will make voting for the right candidates easy. The online Guide mivoterguide.com will be updated now through Election Day, and it's easy to find the candidates in your area. All you have to do is enter your zip code.

Dana Nessel Joined by Dr. Abdul El-Sayed at Dearborn Town Hall

BY DREW HOWARD

Candidate for Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel fielded questions on what she'll do to fight hate crimes, tackle the opioid epidemic and safeguard abortion rights during a town hall in Dearborn on Friday.

Hosted inside the Henry Ford Centennial Library Auditorium, Nessel was joined by State Rep. Abdullah Hammoud (D-Dearborn) and former candidate for Governor Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, both of whom vouched for her candidacy.

"Dana is somebody who could be practicing law right now — she could be making a killing at law practice," El-Sayed said. "Instead of deciding to go and practice law, she decided to spend the last year and a half to be our lawyer. And I would say we the people need a pretty damn good lawyer right now."

Nessel is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School. In addition to being the president of the Fair Michigan Foundation - which features a first-of-its-kind, anti-hate crime task force - Nessel serves as an assistant prosecutor, a civil rights attorney and a defender of indigent defendants.

The town hall Q&A portion kicked off with a question about what Nessel will do to protect minority communities if elected.

"We have 28 organizations in this state that have been labeled as hate groups," Nessel said. "I'd like to have a hate crime division at the office of Michigan Attorney General that specifically investigates all types of hate crimes that are committed against minority populations."

Nessel said she would also look out for legislation that discriminates against minorities. She mentioned a package of bills passed in 2015 that allowed state-funded adoption agencies to discriminate against non-Christians as one example.

"This allowed these agencies the opportunity to say that if you're a same-sex couple, Muslim, Jewish or even atheist, then we can deny you the ability to foster a child," she said. "Even though the state is paying that agency to provide that child and assist that child in finding a loving, nurturing home forever."

"These are the kinds of things the AG can intervene and say, 'I'm not going to defend those policies,'" she continued. "Those are flagrantly unconstitutional."

In response to a question asking what she'd

do to stop the opioid epidemic, Nessel said she "absolutely intends" to focus on pharmaceutical companies.

"Too many law-abiding citizens have taken their medication as prescribed only to form addictive behaviors," Nessel said. "Something



the pharmaceutical companies should be held responsible for."

"At some point these people need their supply, but their pills get cut off, and they turn to heroin to replace it," Nessel said. "And all of a sudden you see a person's life completely alter course. These drugs companies, they understood how addictive these drugs were. And they understood how lethal these drugs were. And they marketed them anyways. They flat-out lied."

Nessel also spoke on Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the future implications it could have on *Roe v. Wade*.

"Quite frankly, *Roe* could be overturned in a matter of a couple years," she said. "It's not something that's in this sort of a 'Handmaid's Tale' future."

She pointed out that there are still laws in effect today that criminalize a woman's ability to make a decision over her own body. If elected, Nessel said she will fight to protect such rights.

"If Bill Schuette used his prosecutorial discretion to decide not to enforce basic environmental laws, or basic consumer protection laws, then I sure as hell don't have to be in a situation where I'm prosecuting women who make the difficult decision to terminate a pregnancy," she said. "You can be sure I'm not going to be prosecuting those cases."

To learn more about Nessel's views on such issues as marijuana legalization, the environment, labor unions and more, visit dana2018.com. To vote for equality candidates check out www.MiVoterGuide.com for your personalized ballot.

UPGRADE YOUR LIFESTYLE



Downtown view from Residence 18A

The **Fort Shelby Residences** exist within an elite league of hotel residences located in the city of Detroit. It was brought to market to suit the high performing professional lifestyle, where free time is the most valuable resource of all. Living at the **Fort Shelby Residences** will lift your spirits and energize your senses by optimizing conveniences and providing easy access to culture and entertainment.

Everything you need is on site, including a sparkling, spacious 24-hour workout facility, an intimate dining spot and lively bar, a café, shuttle bus, valet and secure private parking. Everything you aspire to is just a few steps away, including shopping, dining, sports, the Riverfront, nightlife, museums, and maybe even your place of work.

The **Fort Shelby** is about a sense of community in the company of world travelers and your neighbors. Enjoy the conviviality of the elegantly furnished gathering areas, where you might meet and greet your colleagues and friends, or spend the day working on your laptop. These stylish backdrops are for you to enjoy as part of your extended living area, making the residence itself a personal refuge with breathtaking views. The interplay and juxtaposition of the public and private spaces at the **Fort Shelby** are part of its allure we invite you to discover.

Buyers may select and reserve their specific residences now.

The **Fort Shelby Residences** offer inspiring **lifestyle upgrades** such as expanding your connection to the community, enhancing your free time by saving you a commute, and putting entertainment options at your fingertips.

LOCATION

525 West Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226

www.FortShelby.com | 313.658.6400

Fort Shelby
Residences



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

The Loft Warehouse

Circuit Court Judge Candidate to Voters: 'Flip Over the Ballot'

BY DREW HOWARD

Jake Cunningham, openly gay candidate for Circuit Court Judge in Oakland County, has an important message for those voting this November: "Flip over the ballot."

"A lot of people don't realize there are judicial candidates," Cunningham told BTL. "I find that people have the most interaction with the government through the judicial branch, more than any other branch. And people don't know who their judges are, or that we vote for judges - we're on the backside of the ballot."

"As far as being a gay candidate, there aren't many openly gay judges."

A graduate of the Western Michigan University Law School, Cunningham has spent the past three-and-a-half years serving as a judicial staff attorney under Oakland County Circuit Judge Mary Ellen Brennan. The position has allowed him to get his feet wet in all three dockets of the circuit court, he said, which includes the Civil/Criminal Division, Business Court, and the Family Division.

This November, Cunningham will face off against his opponent Dan Christ to fill one of two open judicial seats in Oakland County Circuit Court Family Division. Christ is a staunch conservative endorsed by the right-wing group Michigan Right To Life.

Cunningham describes the potential move to Circuit Court Family Division as ideal, considering he currently works in the same division.

"I work with anything involving children - divorce, custody, child support, juvenile abuse, termination of parental rights, juvenile delinquency, etc.," he said. "As the staff attorney I help the judge make all the decisions. Anything that will be coming across her desk is in my hands as well to get the decision recommended to

See **Flip the Ballot**, continued on p. 14

Council Hopeful Bill Ostash Talks Rebirth of Saginaw's Downtown Ostash Could Become the First Openly Gay Member of the Saginaw City Council



BY DREW HOWARD

Saginaw City Council hopeful Bill Ostash likens the city's blueprint to a donut. At its core, Ostash said Saginaw is lacking in terms of its development. Building up the city's urban core is essential to creating a strong, vibrant community, he believes, and a top priority for him if elected to the Saginaw City Council this November.

As a chair on the city's Historic District Commission, Ostash has worked for years to strengthen Saginaw's downtown area through the rehabilitation of old buildings, businesses and homes. He says that Saginaw, like Detroit and Flint, is "on the verge" in terms of development, and firmly believes in the untapped potential in structures that others would have demolished.

In a 2014 study published by 24/7 Wall St., Saginaw tied with Ohio's Youngstown as the 10th fastest-shrinking community in the nation.

"What I'm bringing is my experience being on the Historic District Commission for the last 12 years, including my time as a chair," he said. "That gave me the knowledge of how preservation works, how the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is involved, and how other cities are trying to save structures."

A lifelong resident of the Great Lakes Bay Region, Ostash attended Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University where he earned his BS in Computer Science with a minor in Management. Ostash has served as the lead of Programming Tech at Dow Chemical Employees' Credit Union since 2012.

Outside the computer science field, Ostash has built a reputation for himself around

Saginaw's historic preservation efforts. Perhaps his most notable project is the Wolfarth home, an 1893 Queen Anne Victorian home built by a Saginaw family who ran the largest steam bakery in Michigan.

Ostash currently lives in the 3,711 square-foot home with his partner Kevin Rooker, who purchased it back in 1992. The couple's renovation efforts - roof repairs, landscaping, restored gas fixtures, new garage, paint job, etc. - kicked into high gear when Ostash moved in with Kevin in 2012.

"After restoring the house, we debunked the myth that it would take a million dollars to renovate," Ostash said. "The house gives you an idea of what can be done for hundreds of thousands of dollars less."

Ostash worked behind the scenes in 2016 to help save the Charles Lee Mansion, a 144-year-old lumber baron mansion located at the edge of Saginaw's downtown. Many in the community simply call it the "cat lady house," as its former owner was known for walking a 3-foot-tall pet leopard named Chii-Chu around the neighborhood.

"I was able to make connections and brainstorm ideas based on my experience with preservation and entities I have collaborated with," Ostash said about the effort. "The Lee Mansion is the last lumber mill home in the city where the mills stood in the backyard area on the Saginaw River."

There's a number of other projects he hopes to take on, including efforts to restore America's largest neon sign in Saginaw and find someone to repurpose the historic Mason Building (the oldest building in Downtown Saginaw).

At the moment, Ostash is in the process of

working with a developer to repurpose a 1920s apartment building in the Cathedral District. "It still has much of the original architecture and ornate material making up its charm," he said. "The plan submitted to the city is to repurpose, renovate and turn it into a 10-unit condo building with gathering areas and a rooftop deck for entertaining."

He hopes to introduce a program to help renovate/redevelop structures in Saginaw if elected to city council. "I'd like to put together a program, like in Grand Rapids, where you look for buildings that are in need of repair. You find a way to fund the project. Once the project is done there is an agreement to repay the source that funded the project."

Ostash speaks fondly of Saginaw's downtown area. What attracts him most to the area is its diverse urban community, where the establishments are "very open and LGBT friendly." In all the places he visits, he said bartenders greet you with a hug, not a handshake.

"In old town, no one really seems to care," he said.

He adds that many outsiders have the wrong perception of the area. "Saginaw has had a bad reputation, but it's better," he said. "Crime is down, but people say they'd never go to the city because they feel it's dangerous. When you follow up, it's not what people think it is. We are in a time where this is more development in our city than it has seen in the last 50 years."

Redeveloping the area into a space people can feel safe walking down the street is another top priority for Ostash. He said it's important now more than ever to make sure police and fire in the city continue to be funded.

"Governor Snyder said he'd make sure troubled cities have police protection when he campaigned," Ostash said. "Saginaw, Pontiac, Detroit and Flint were cities he focused on. When Whitmer and Abdul ran in the primary for governor this year I told them we need to keep this program."

"Saginaw has recovered a lot, but not enough financially the point this program could be pulled."

Ostash confirms that he would be the first openly gay member to ever serve on the Saginaw City Council if elected, though it's not his intention for running. "I think I've got a very progressive-thinking mind. That's what happening now with the candidates here, there's more opportunity for the city."

"I've never experience such a passion to bring the city back ... I'm just a variable making it happen."

Follow Bill Ostash online at [facebook.com/OstashForSaginawCityCouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/OstashForSaginawCityCouncil/).



I Stay Ready. I Take

PrEP

PrEP is a pill that can prevent HIV if taken every day. Women are protected after 21 days; men after 7 days.

Who takes PrEP?
Anyone that wants to protect themselves from HIV.

To see if PrEP is right for you, visit
Detroit's STD & HIV Clinic at 50 E. Canfield, Detroit, MI 48201 or call 313-577-9100.



RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

Dedicated to make our community brighter
One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455



Zoom Special
\$249
One-hour Teeth Whitening

*Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 5/29/15

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

Care Credit



**1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,
Berkley, MI 48072**
www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on
facebook

CALL FOR VENDORS: AFFIRMATIONS' ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET



Sell your items inside the Center on
Friday, November 30th and Saturday, December 1st
for just **\$50!**

Please email Ian Unger at iunger@goaffirmations.org or
call (248) 398-7105 to secure your table today.

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



ANNOUNCING

Gian Clair

MEDICAL SPA

AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN

Love
without
discomfort

Laugh
without fear of
embarrassment

Live
reclaim your
body with vaginal
rejuvenation



FemTouch™

**Now offering Vaginal
rejuvenation treatments.**

Fast, efficient and safe vaginal laser
procedure for women's health.
Call to day and schedule your treatment.

586-247-8609



Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG

Left: Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC

Marcie S. Mullins, MSN, CNM

Angela V. Viviano, MSN, FNP-BC

Right: Tanya M. Vaughn, DNP, CNM, FNP-BC

Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC

Corinne Sakyi, MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC

(Not pictured: Hina Javaid, MD)

partridgecreekobgyn.com

19991 Hall Road, Suite 105
Macomb, MI 48044





Use MiVoterGuide.com

Michigan's Progressive Voter Guide

What Voters Need to Know for Nov. 6

BY BTL STAFF

When searching for guidance about candidates who support progressive values, families, fairness, education, healthier children and a healthier planet, look no further than Michigan's 2018 Progressive Voter Guide. The guide aggregates endorsements from 10 state and national organizations dedicated to LGBTQ issues, women's rights, labor and the environment.

All in one place, voters can see which candidates have the support of the progressive organizations on their own personalized statewide and local ballot. The guide also provides right wing, conservative endorsements so voters can see which candidates, if elected, would likely work against progressive values in Michigan.

"This voting guide will be a crucial resource for Michigan voters this election cycle. As we face ongoing attacks at the federal level and the threat of anti-LGBTQ extremist Bill Schuette in the governor's office, knowing where candidates stand on issues that are important to us - like LGBTQ equality - has never been more important," said Amritha Venkataraman, Michigan state manager with the Human Rights Campaign.

She continued, "All politics is local — who's sitting in the governor's mansion is just as important as who's sitting in the county clerk's office. We need pro-equality champions at every level who will move equality forward and make Michigan a welcoming and inclusive place for all."

The Progressive Voter Guide is part of a statewide initiative to increase progressive voter interest and help mobilize these same voters to head to the polls on Nov. 6. Pride Source Media Group has combined the endorsements of Michigan's leading progressive organizations with research about candidates and ballot measures to give you the information you've been searching for to be an informed voter.

Ruth Lednicer, director of media and communications with Planned Parenthood of Michigan, said that the organization is 'pleased' to be part of the voter guide.

"Writer and poet Audre Lorde said 'there is no such thing as a single-issue struggle, because we do not live single-issue lives.' That sentiment is aptly reflected in this voter guide, which gives voters the information on where candidates stand on many of the key issues affecting our lives today," Lednicer said.

She added that the guide helps voters "cut through the noise and gives you one place to see where the candidates stand on these issues, and which candidates will stand with you."

"By creating a guide that includes the endorsements of key organizations across the state, Pride Source gives voters a way to choose those candidates who will work to support fairness and equality for all," Lednicer said.

This year's guide goes much deeper into local races than ever before with endorsements and information into judgeships and races on both the county and city levels. The guide also shows candidates supported by far-right groups who

are working against progressive values such as the Coalition for Family Values and Right to Life.

"I recall when the BTL voter guide was limited to LGBT issues and was only available in print. The guide has been improved every election cycle, and the current edition which is online and super simple to use now covers all of the candidates and groups that any progressive voter cares about and on both sides of our issues," said Mark LaChey, chair of the LGBTQ & Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party.

He added that the guide stands to aid not only in informing voters, but in providing them confidence in the candidates they choose.

"Anecdotally, it seems that many people are hesitant to vote at all if they don't know the candidates," LaChey said. "The easy access to this information not only encourages those folks to go to the polls but to vote for pro-equality candidates. A win/win for our community."

MiVoterGuide.com Partners

The Progressive Voters Guide is a Pride Source Media Group project which includes the following partners and their endorsements:

- LGBTQ & Allies Caucus of the MI Dem Party
- Equality Michigan
- UAW Civil & Human Rights Committee
- Planned Parenthood of Michigan
- Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter
- ACLU of Michigan
- Human Rights Campaign
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters
- Michigan AFL-CIO
- Michigan Now
- Progressive Women's Alliance of West MI
- Lansing Area Human Rights Coalition — PAC

How to use the guide:

- Visit mivoterguide.com and enter your zip code for a list of progressive candidates in your area.

- For a personalized ballot, enter your email address to get this information sent to you the night before Election Day. The guide will be continually updated as new endorsements become available.

- Most importantly, use the information provided to inform you when you get out and vote in the upcoming Nov. 6 general election.

Please share the Progressive Voter Guide to help others get educated on the candidates and issues as well. View the Progressive Voter Guide at mivoterguide.com.

Statewide Ballot Measures, BTL Says Vote 'YES' on All 3

Voters Not Politicians

A proposed constitutional amendment to establish a commission of citizens with exclusive authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. congress, every 10 years.

Promote the Vote

A proposed constitutional amendment to provide certain voting rights to make voting easier and more accessible in Michigan.

Marijuana Legalization

Legalize recreational use of marijuana

Move Michigan Forward • Vote Nov. 6

BTL Strongly Endorses These Statewide Candidates



Gretchen Whitmer
Governor



Garlin Gilchrist
Lt. Governor



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senate



Dana Nessel
Attorney General



Jocelyn Benson
Secretary of State

State Board of Education
Judy Pritchett
Tiffany Tilley

WSU Governors
Dr. Anil Kumar
Bryan Barnhill

MSU Trustees
Brianna Scott
Kelly Tebay

UofM Regents
Paul Brown
Jordan Acker

Vote YES Proposal 1
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Vote YES Proposal 2
VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS

Vote YES Proposal 3
PROMOTE THE VOTE

Remember - Flip the Ballot Over
NONPARTISAN SECTION JUDICIAL

Michigan Supreme Court
Sam Bagenstos
Megan Cavanagh

www.MiVoterGuide.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR YOUR PERSONALIZED BALLOT!
JUST ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE AND FIND OUT WHO SUPPORTS EQUALITY,
WOMEN'S RIGHTS, LABOR, THE ENVIRONMENT



CAPSTONE
VISION

**Don't Let Glasses Get
In The Way Of A
Beautiful Day.**

**Call Today For
Your Free
LASIK Screening**



**Freedom from Glasses and Contact
Lenses for ages 20-100+**

SERVICES

LASIK
PRK
Dry Eye Solutions
Refractive Lens Exchange
Refractive Cataract Surgery
Comprehensive eye exams

Financing Options Available

Leslie Emmert-Buck, MD, PhD
Capstone Vision PLLC
3100 Cross Creek Pkwy, Suite 130
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
248-710-0063
Go to www.mycapstonevision.com
Call Today!

SEASON END SALE!

Just Arrived Fresh
MUMS!
#8 pot Reg. \$9.99
NOW \$6.99
Buy 3 or more,
just \$5.99 each!



**FALL DECOR
KIT**
Reg. \$32.96 **\$26.99**

- Corn stalk
- Pumpkin
- #1.5 Mum
- Straw bale



**PERENNIALS
AND VINES**
75% OFF
*Excludes
mums & pansies*



50-75% OFF
**ALL POTTED
TREES & SHRUBS**
**50-75%
OFF**
**SELECT
B&B TREES**



Huge selection of
**PUMPKINS &
HEIRLOOMS**
Wide variety, including white!



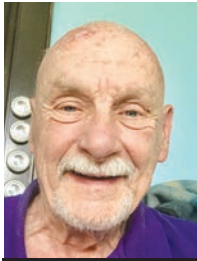
**PLYMOUTH
NURSERY**
HOME & GARDEN SHOWPLACE

734-453-5500

www.plymouthnursery.net
Mon -Thurs 9am-6pm
Fri 9am-7pm • Sat 9-6 • Sun 10-5
Offers Expire 10/24/18



9900 Ann Arbor Rd W
7 Miles West of I-275
1 1/2 Miles South of M-14
Corner of Gotfredson Rd.



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Drag Time for Jesus

GATORADE, Ariz.: I'm a skeptic concerning things LGBTQ supernatural; but on a wonder-working past weekend I spent reporting for BTL on the Drag Queens for Jesus Convention held here was, well, miraculous. Awe-inspiring. Pence-poking. GOP-provoking.

It was also ecumenical, as the three-day drama-queen pageant coincided with pretty-face Vice President Mike Pence speaking in Washington, D.C., to a gathering of anti-gay Family Research Council's 2018 Values Voter Summit. Topic: right to religious rejection of everybody but us.

With 100 drag queens, two-dozen Pence look-alike parking attendants, a DQ4J Passion Play non-Equity cast of Jesus, Mary, Pontius Pilate, John the Baptist, Salome, 'Madonna', Judy Garland, Mae West, Pope Joan Rivers, assorted flagellants and semi-naked line-dance slaves, gathered, Gatorade (pop. 832) was transformed into Vatican City meets Mel Gibson's S/M – sandals and mascara – Hollywood West at High Noon.

And hoped for, my friendly Rainbow Airline flight attendant Chance Ankleman's posing early at poolside our last day, and, after giving me his trademark wink, flexing his biceps, triceps, abs and glutes, suggests I join him for lunch at the town's No Spic, No Spam (show you green card) Cafe.

"Two years ago I bought one of your hypnotic pictures," begins Chance, looking me reasonably straight in the eye, "And discovered your hidden 'for a good time call the artist' message and phone number. I called several times, but never got an answer.

"Frankly, I was disappointed. Do I get some sort of in-hand discount?"

(I must say Chance looks splendid in rainbow-colored Speedo with hidden uplift testicular support, and much more physically articulate than I do in my Passion Play, sequin-stitched, sag-crotch, WWJD-embroidered loin cloth.)

"I'm sorry, Chance, but I quickly grew out of my blue period. Now that I've gone exclusively sexting, my subliminal art messages have changed.

"An artist has to keep pace with his audience. Tell you what, Chance. I'll pop you for lunch."

It's reassuring to find proven once more – thousands of miles from home – and in a small hamlet like Gatorade – that the profession of choice among goodlooking gay men is waiter.

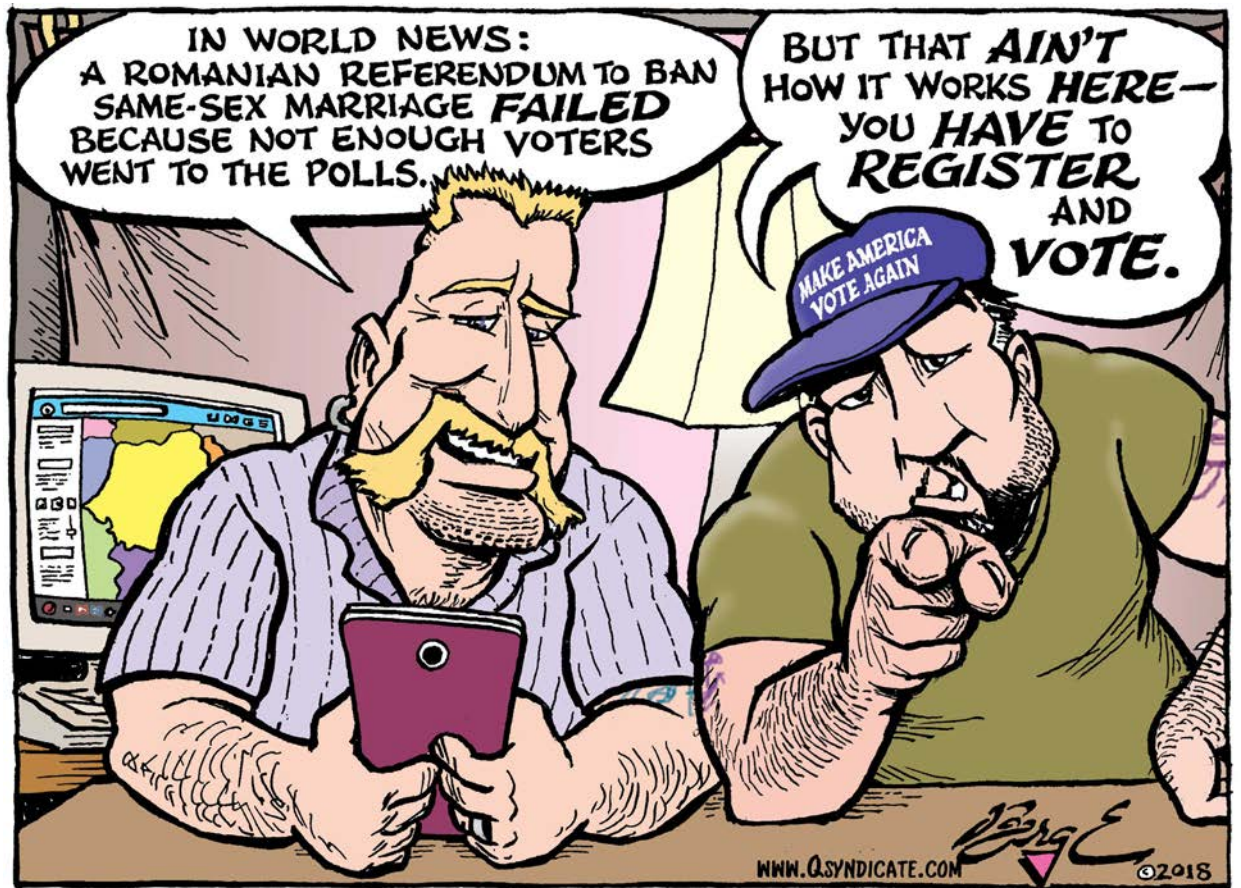
"Goodness, what abs," ours greets us. "Goodness had nothing to do with it," replies Chance, off on another bout of insider winking.

Over our meal of tacos, chili, tortillas, we earful big-time gossip making the Gatorade rounds.

"You may be out-of-towners," says Hunkers Jones, our waiter, "but three weeks ago, Rev. Dowler P. Sparks had lotsa explaining to do. He was caught by a Greyhound bus attendant baptizing a migrant worker in a stall in the unisex loo.

"Things quieted down a bit 'til the AFA got involved. But Rev. Sparks says he's got a right to baptize anybody he wants, anywhere he wants, as the spirit leads.

See **Parting Glances**, continued on next page



Viewpoint



Breast Cancer Awareness Month LGBTQ Recommendations

BY LATONYA RIDDLE-JONES

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, making it an important time of year to raise awareness for the need of screening and early detection, advocacy, support and ongoing research. Unfortunately, the reality is that breast cancer doesn't care what month it is and doesn't just go away until October. It's vital that any person with breast or chest tissue, meaning everyone, understands that they may be at risk of developing breast cancer.

Women have an increased risk, not because of sexual orientation, but because of exposure to estrogen. LGBTQ-identifying women have higher rates of cancer due to other risk factors within the community, or late detection of cancer. Some of these risk factors include tobacco use, alcohol consumption, being overweight (especially after menopause), lack of insurance and lack of access to culturally competent healthcare. Those with first-degree family members with cancer are at higher risk — mothers, sisters, daughters, but let's not forget that our fathers, brothers and sons can get breast cancer, too.

Knowing the family health history of our aunts, uncles and grandparents is an important factor in predicting the

likelihood of getting cancer, too. The biggest risk factors are exposure to estrogen and older age.

Many LGBTQ patients have experienced discrimination leading up to healthcare appointments, or felt uncomfortable during a healthcare visit in the past. As a physician striving to provide open and inclusive healthcare to all, it is important to make *every individual* aware about their risks for all forms of cancers, but in a way that is easy to understand, in a safe, comfortable and inclusive environment.

The American Cancer Society recommends the following guidelines for breast cancer early detection for women at average risk:

- Women ages 40 to 44 have the choice to start annual breast cancer screening with mammograms if they wish to do so.
- Women ages 45 to 54 should get mammograms every year.
- Women ages 55 and older should switch to mammograms every 2 years, or can continue yearly screening, usually until age 75 (or life expectancy > 10 years).
- All women should be familiar with the known benefits,

Continued on next page

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 2

limitations and potential harms linked to breast cancer screening.

- Women should also be familiar with how their breasts normally look, and feel and report any changes to a health care provider right away. Many partners will notice changes before the patient.

- Some women at high risk for breast cancer — because of their family history, a genetic tendency or certain other factors — should be screened with MRIs along with mammograms. Talk with a health care provider about your breast cancer risk and the best screening plan for you.

There are many different societies with varying recommendations, so it is best to have a conversation with your health care provider.

It is important to note, too, that the screening recommendations for transgender women vary because there is no consensus on the recommendations for cisgender women. After a comprehensive review of all published recommendations, the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of California San Francisco came up with some general recommendations. Here is a summary of those recommendations:

- Trans women on hormones may have an increased risk of breast/chest cancer after five years of taking hormone replacement. Trans-women whose hormone levels are not monitored and regulated by a medical provider may be at particularly high risk.

- Trans women should get their first mammogram at age 50 or after 5 to 10 years of hormone replacement therapy (whichever comes first), and then every 2 years through age 74. However, this should be discussed with their provider, with consideration to the length of

hormone replacement therapy and the patient's family history.

- Trans men ages 50 to 74 years, who have not undergone breast/chest reduction or bilateral mastectomy, should get a mammogram every 2 years. After mastectomy, they should continue to pay attention to tissue in that area to look for signs of abnormal tissue, because of the possibility of some tissue remaining after surgery.

Even if you have had top surgery, some breast tissue may remain. There is still some risk for developing cancer. We know that when the body receives too much testosterone that it cannot use, it turns that testosterone into estrogen. This means that trans men on hormones need to be monitored by their medical provider to ensure their testosterone levels are appropriate.

Screening for breast/chest cancer from your healthcare provider can reduce your risk. See your health care provider if you notice any changes to that tissue or the tissue under your arms, including, but not limited to: change in color, texture (dimpling/"orange peel," sensation of your skin, lumps or bumps, swelling, warmth, sudden nipple discharge (especially if bloody, black or green in color).

Making healthy lifestyle choices by exercising, limiting alcohol intake and seeing a health care provider for regular check-ups is a great start to a healthier life.

Dr. Latonya Riddle-Jones is the Medical Director at Corktown Health Center, a full-service medical home for the LGBTQ community. Breast and cervical cancer screening is available by appointment, including those who are uninsured. Please visit corktownhealth.org for more information or to become a patient.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

"Immigration should mind its own business," he says. 'Baptism's a matter of separation of church and State. I paid my 75 cents to use that damned stall.'

DQ4] THE CLIMAX: "I'm on stage at the Los Alamos Boobs Optional Memorial Theater. The auditorium's packed. Not a vacant seat. The mayor's here. Rev. Sparks, front-row center, with what appears to be a recently baptized migrant worker. (Unfortunately, still wet behind his ears.)

"The gilded curtain rises. The overture to 'Jesus Christ Superstar' blares into high-kick tempo, and 100 Drag Queens for Jesus take center stage, blowing kisses everywhere, making signs of the cross, genuflecting — one by one joining a gigantic line dance of sheer mind-blowing jubilation. (You

know how drag queens can mind blow. Or jubilate.)

Miracle of miracles, the audience rises and applauds wildly. One or two begin to speak in tongues. (Or, maybe Spanish.) Suddenly, out of nowhere a banner waves, "Have a blessed day. Get in drag for Jesus. and attend church for a heavenly, good time!" Everybody hugs.

I look adoringly at Chance. He winks lovingly at me. I wink back at him. He winks back at me.

Life is good, even if it's occasionally a drag with Trump and pretty-face VP Pence in the Out House, er, White House. WWJD, Mary?

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

Creep Of The Week

Transphobia

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Being in middle school is tough. Your body is going through often mortifying changes: acne, body hair, growth spurts. Your hormones are raging. Kids are often relentlessly cruel to each other. You aren't old enough to drive. Your parents are hopelessly lame.

Not to mention the active shooter drills you have to go through on a routine basis because the U.S. can't get its shit together when it comes to guns. It's revolting that protecting children from being slaughtered in math class is a partisan issue in this country and that Republicans are on the side of the guns. But that's where we are.

Also a partisan issue in this country is how, or whether, to protect transgender students. (Spoiler alert: Republicans are not on the side of the students. Again.) You might remember that the Obama administration issued guidelines to schools that said, essentially, "Hey, transgender students are human beings so treat them accordingly."

In many schools this wasn't a big deal. And by big deal, I mean it wasn't much of an adjustment. It was, however, a big deal for trans students. I mean, man, if the President of the United States had advocated for the protection of LGBTQ students when I was in high school that would have meant the world to me. It would have made a lot of LGBTQ kids feel less alone and also feel a little safer.

However, the guidance led to a bit of scrambling in some more conservative places in the country where treating trans kids as human was a very foreign concept. Much hand-wringing was done over where trans kids should pee or change for gym.

And then came the Trump administration. And the guidelines for protecting trans students were scrapped. Trans kids went from a president who cared about them to one who was actively hostile.

And so the issue of where trans kids should pee or change was left up to individual schools to figure out however they wanted. And some schools are doing a really bad job.

Case in point: what happened at a Stafford County middle school in Virginia on Sept. 28.

On that day the school had an active shooter drill during which the teachers are charged with making sure students are sheltered in a designated area depending on where they are in the

building. One of the places of safety at this middle school was the locker room. The boys went into the boys' locker room and the girls went into the girls' locker room.

Except for one girl in particular who wasn't allowed in either locker room because she is transgender. According to multiple reports, the teachers didn't know what to do with her and, after much debate, had the girl sit outside in the hallway, completely exposed to the attack that her other classmates were practicing how to survive.

Now, of course, it was only just a drill. It's not like she was exposed to any real danger, right? Well, yes, technically. But the very point of a drill is to practice what you will do in the event of a real threat. And what was communicated to this young girl was, essentially, "You're on your own."

Now, you don't need guidance from the federal government to tell you that there is no such thing as expendable children. But when guidance that acknowledges that trans students exist and affirms their right to be protected is issued only to be taken away, that is a pretty strong signal to trans students and the people who are supposed to teach, protect and learn with them that they are worthless.

GLSEN, an organization that works for safe and inclusive schools for LGBTQ students, just released its 2017 National School Climate Survey, which shows that "victimization of LGBTQ youth is not decreasing at rates previously seen — and has, in fact, gotten worse for transgender and gender nonconforming youth."

And it won't get better until we have elected officials in power who see LGBTQ youth as human beings. One of the best things you can do for LGBTQ people is to vote. Make a plan to vote on Nov. 6. Spend some time researching the candidates. Since hostility to LGBTQ people is part of the Republican platform, voting for Democrats is pretty much a no brainer, but knowing who you're voting for when it comes to judges and other non-partisan offices is also important. A good resource is vote411.org.

If you're thinking of sitting this election out, I urge you to think of that girl sitting alone in the hallway, imaginary bullets flying. Vote like her life depends on it. Because it does.

VOTE
NOV. 6

Use the
BTL Voter Guide

MiVoterGuide.com

► Flip the Ballot

Continued from p. 14

her and ready.”

If elected, Cunningham says the new position would be closer to a promotion from his current job than anything. While his experience spans all three circuit dockets, he considers the Family Division to be his current specialty.

“It feels like a natural progression,” he said. “Judges have taught me knowing it’s my passion and goal to be a judge. Brennan has been really gracious in letting me know her process, what’s going on in her mind, and what she’s looking for. I’ve been taught by the best, so I’m ready to go.”

Cunningham has been organizing campaign events to meet with potential voters. He says he’s currently endorsed by all six of the Oakland County Family Division judges, as well as more than half of the rest of the bench.

One of Cunningham’s first public meet-and-greets took place during Ferndale Pride on Saturday, June 2. As an openly gay candidate running for public office, Cunningham says the opportunity to represent his community on the campaign trail is a rare one.

“As far as being a gay candidate, there aren’t many openly gay judges,” he said. “I first came out when I was 16, and have had no qualms about it since. I’m very proud of who I am and



what I’ve been able to accomplish. I am who I am, and I can’t help that.”

He adds that while he’s proud of who he is, his orientation alone should have no bearing on his position whatsoever. “Good judges don’t see whether someone is straight or gay, black or white, or male or female. Good judges just see the set of facts and apply the law as we have it.”

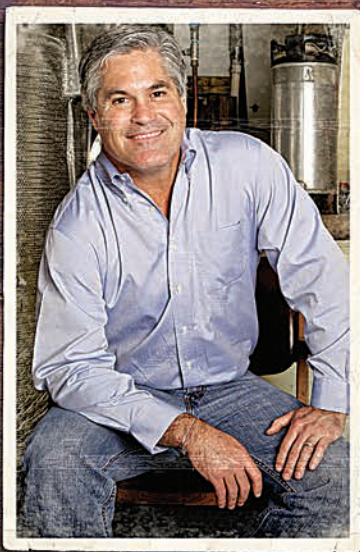
At the end of the day, Cunningham says voters should consider not only his professional qualifications but also his character in the courtroom. “In my courtroom I’ll treat people how I want to be treated. In the family court that’s a really important place to come from.”

At the end of the day, Cunningham says voters should consider not only his professional qualifications but also his character in the courtroom. “In my courtroom I’ll treat people how I want to be treated. In the family court that’s a really important place to come from.”

He continues: “In family court there are people that are in the middle of a really tough and emotional time in life. They need to just have their voice heard in court... I’m going to be cognizant of that - that’s where I’m starting from.”

For more information on candidate Cunningham, please visit the Facebook page “Jake Cunningham For Oakland County Circuit Court.” This interview is an updated reprint from July 28 in BTL issue 26.30

★ AMERICA'S ★
ORIGINAL CRAFT VODKA



Hi. I'm TITO BEVERIDGE.
My Handcrafted American Vodka
beats the giant imports
EVERY DAY!



TITO'S IS CERTIFIED
GLUTEN-FREE

★ TitosVodka.com ★
Handcrafted to be savored responsibly.

DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY FIFTH GENERATION, INC. 40% ALC/VOL ©2014 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA



Trump Names Openly Gay Judicial Nominee — Bringing Total to 2

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

President Trump has nominated to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals an openly gay federal prosecutor tasked with enforcing organized crime and drug laws, doubling the number of his out judicial nominees.

The White House announced Trump's nomination of Patrick Bumtaty to the Ninth Circuit last week as part of a group of 18 nominees for judgeships as well as appointments as U.S. attorneys and U.S. marshals. Log Cabin Republicans confirmed to the Washington Blade on Monday Bumtaty is openly gay.

Should the U.S. Senate confirm Bumtaty, he'd be the second openly gay person appointed to a federal appeals court and one of the highest-ranking judges in the United States.

Gregory Angelo, president of Log Cabin Republicans, said Trump's appointment of Bumtaty to the Ninth Circuit was significant.

"Patrick would make an excellent addition to the court — the historic nature of his nomination as an openly gay man adds an additional layer of prestige to what by all counts is an exceptional career in law," Angelo said.

Obama appointed the first and currently the openly gay federal appeals judge, U.S. Circuit Judge Todd Hughes. Hughes serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and is currently the highest ranking openly gay federal judge.

According to his White House bio, Bumtaty is an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California and works for the Organized Crime & Drug Enforcement Task Forces Section. Bumtaty is detailed to the Office of the Attorney General, where he serves as counselor to U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions on criminal issues such as the national opioid strategy and transnational organized crime.

Among the groups in which Bumtaty has membership, according to his bio, is the San Diego-based Tom Homann LGBT Law Association, which seeks to advance LGBT issues in California. Bumtaty is also a member of the National Filipino American Lawyers Association, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association.

Other positions in which Bumtaty has served at the U.S. Justice Department include the Office of the Deputy Attorney General; the Office of the Associate Attorney General, where he oversaw civil enforcement programs; and the Office of Legal Policy.

Bumtaty clerked for U.S. Circuit Judge Timothy Tymkovich, a George W. Bush appointee who sits on the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and U.S. District Judge Sandra Townes, another Bush appointee on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District

of New York. Bumtaty graduated with honors from Yale University and obtained his law degree from Harvard Law School.

According to BuzzFeed News, the selection of Bumtaty and other judicial nominees is a



job at Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Kamala Harris (D-Calif.). For months, the White House has been negotiating with the Democratic senators for an agreement on nominees for open seats on the Ninth Circuit, which compromises California. In the end, there was no agreement and Trump named judicial nominees not included among the consensus choices proposed by Feinstein and Harris.

It's the second time Trump has named an openly gay person for the federal bench. The first was Mary Rowland, whom Trump nominated for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Rowland's nomination remains pending before the Senate.

Trump's nomination of Bumtaty stands in contrast to his other 140 judicial nominees, many of whom have anti-LGBT records. The more extreme anti-LGBT nominees litigated against marriage equality, in favor of California's Proposition 8 and worked to facilitate anti-LGBT laws.

Trump has a long way to go to beat Obama's record in appointing openly LGBT judicial nominees. Obama nominated a total of 11 openly gay judicial nominees, according to an archived page on the White House website.

(But Trump has now beat President Bill Clinton in naming out judicial nominees. Clinton named only one, U.S. District Judge Deborah Batts, who in 1994 became the first sitting openly gay federal judge. Batts currently serves with senior status on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.)

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

IF YOU WERE TO DIE
TODAY, WHO WOULD BE
IN CHARGE OF YOUR
FUNERAL
TOMORROW?

The LGBTQ+ Community faces many unique challenges, and end-of-life services are no different.

Although your partner may be aware of your wishes, they may not be legally entitled to advocate for you.

By filling out a **Funeral Representative Declaration Form**, LGBTQ+ individuals can ensure their final wishes are met.

It's *your* life. Call us to take this simple, yet crucial step towards peace-of-mind today:

734-783-2646

MichiganMemorial™

Funeral Home • Park • Crematory

www.MiMemorial.com

Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.; Michigan Memorial Park, Inc.; Michigan Memorial Park Crematory Company, Inc. These companies are separately owned and operated. Daniel P. Dwyer, President / Owner of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

THE AUTO GUIDE



Since making the public transition to female at Ford in 2016, Lynn Keiser has nothing but positive things to say about the company. She is seen here marching in LGBT Pride parade.

Ford Employee Talks Transitioning in the Workplace

BY DREW HOWARD

Lynn Keiser's transition from male to female in her job at Ford Motor Company could've been a nightmare. After grappling with gender confusion and its toll on her mental health for close to two decades, she was unsure what life as a trans woman in the professional workplace would resemble.

Since making the public transition to female at Ford in 2016, Keiser has nothing but positive things to say about the company. She credits the smooth transition in part to Ford's HR and management team who were willing to go the extra mile to make her feel comfortable.

"I think the transition has helped my career in a number of ways — I was happy right away," Keiser said. "I've never talked so much in my life since transitioning. I have an internal peace and confidence."

From the perspective of her fellow coworkers, it took merely a day for Keiser to

shed her male clothing and present as female in the office, but the road to self-acceptance wasn't as black and white as it appeared.

"In 1995 I met my husband-to-be," she said. "I came off as a gay man even though I was a little confused. I tried to live as a gay man in the '90s in New Jersey."

It took another 15 years before she fully understood who she was meant to be. The revelation came in 2010 when Keiser was watching a movie and caught herself thinking how she wanted to look like the beautiful actress who appeared on screen.

"I explored a little bit," she said. "I tried wearing women's jewelry, then eventually women's clothing. I joined a trans support group, and came to the realization that I'm a trans woman."

However, coming out to herself and to a professional employer were two different stories. Keiser first attempted to transition in the workplace at a start-up in California, but could sense hesitation from her manager.

"I approached my employer about the transition, and they knew they'd have to accommodate me according to California laws," Keiser said. "But I could see they were uncomfortable. It was a small family business, and I left."

That's when she discovered Ford.

"After another year or so of letting things settle down I broached the subject of transitioning," she said. "I found a job at Ford listed online and applied there. While looking at Ford I was thinking about whether I could transition, and I found they scored a perfect 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index. That was very encouraging."

It took close to six months after Keiser started her role at Ford to confront management about transitioning. In the early months, she said she would find herself crying in her car or crying herself to sleep out of desperation to transition.

"I was nervous of how it would affect my career, but I had to do it," she said. "I had severe anxiety, and I was becoming dysfunctional

personally."

The first person she told at Ford was her supervisor. "His initial response was, 'This isn't the first time I've dealt with this,'" Keiser said. "He didn't bat an eye. He said, 'I hired you for your ability. I don't care how you look.'"

Ford's HR manager was equally supportive, even if he wasn't sure how exactly to move forward with Keiser's request. Keiser said the two of them investigated the matter together, talking with people who dealt with transitioning on the job as well as members of Ford GLOBE, a resource group for LGBTQ employees.

After announcing the transition to her fellow coworkers at an all-staff meeting, Keiser and her manager chose Feb. 29, 2016 as the first day she would officially present as Lynn in the office.

"I was extremely nervous, and wasn't sure how people would react," Keiser said. "It's one thing to hear something verbally, but to see someone looking different, I knew it would

See **Transitioning**, continued on p. 20

Best Service. Best Selection. Best Price.
Get the best! Move Up to Varsity.

**The LARGEST selection of
Ford vehicles in Michigan.**

**Ford A/Z Plan is available for
same-sex domestic partners &
immediate family members!**



2018 Ford F-150



2018 Ford Fusion

**Ask about
our U of M
Employee
Discount!**

*Check out our
newly remodeled
showroom.*



2018 Ford Escape



Brian Johnston

Sales Associate

734-332-1803

bjohnston@varsityford.com

**VARSLITY
FORD**

Easy Access Off I-94

3480 Jackson Road • Ann Arbor, MI 48103

[f](#) [t](#) [V](#) [i](#) [o](#) [i](#) [a](#) [r](#) [s](#) [i](#) [t](#) [y](#) [f](#) [o](#) [r](#) [d](#) [c](#) [o](#) [m](#) • (800) 954-0312

OPEN SATURDAYS!

Monday	9AM - 9PM
Tuesday	9AM - 6PM
Wednesday	9AM - 6PM
Thursday	9AM - 9PM
Friday	9AM - 6PM
Saturday	9AM - 5PM

Proud member of the Ann Arbor community since 1981!

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Work and identity are often strongly intertwined. For Steven Del Gaizo, he gets to be his authentic self while working on what he loves. In his current position at General Motors, he focuses on developing new autonomous technology that has the potential to enable GM's vision of a world with zero crashes, zero emissions and zero congestion. Del Gaizo is a design release engineer who specifically works on sensing technology for self-driving vehicles.

"We are leading the way for autonomous technology and I'm grateful to be a part of it," said Del Gaizo, who is openly gay. "Knowing that my work is contributing to a better future is a satisfying career opportunity. On a day-to-day basis, I work with various teams inside and outside the company to develop this technology."

The car, known as the Cruise AV (Autonomous Vehicle) was built from the start to operate safely on its own, with no driver. GM engineered safety into the vehicle in every single step of design, development, manufacturing, testing and validation.

"With its advanced sensor systems, the Cruise AV has the capability to see the environment around it, in 360 degrees, day and night. It is designed to identify pedestrians in a crosswalk, or an object darting suddenly into its path and to respond accordingly," said GM's 2018 Self-Driving Safety report. "It can maneuver through construction cones, yield to emergency vehicles and react to avoid collisions."

Del Gaizo spoke with BTL about his work on the autonomous vehicle, what he enjoys most about his job and what it's like to be out in workplace.

How long have you worked for the company?

I've been with General Motors full time for almost six years now. I started working with GM as an intern during undergrad and graduate school. I had various positions within the design studio, vehicle integration, thermal analysis and aerodynamics teams.

I've been in this self-driving vehicle role for six months now. Before this new role, I worked on optimizing aerodynamics for electric and autonomous vehicles. For me, it's important that I have a passion for my job, which is why I'm excited to be working in the autonomous division.

Are there specific parts of the autonomous vehicle that you work on?

Right now I have been focused sensing technology for self-driving vehicles, specifically lidar. It is an interesting field and every day I learn something new. As a team,

Meet GM Worker Steven Del Gaizo



Del Gaizo spoke with BTL about his work on the autonomous vehicle, what he enjoys most about his job and what it's like to be out in workplace.

GM is ensuring that all our autonomous technology is designed with safety at the center.

What do you enjoy most about working with cars at GM?

One of my favorite things as an aerodynamic engineer was working with the design studio. As an engineer it's easy to get caught up on small changes sometimes, but when you walk into the design studio, everything is about looks and emotion which helps put things into perspective.

Now, in the autonomous role, I love the innovation and problem solving challenges. Over the years I've been able to get over 10 different patents for new inventions I've made. It's exciting and rewarding work.

Tell me something interesting or unique about the work you do?

One of the greatest moments in my career so far was my work as an aerodynamic engineer. I remember walking into the design studio one day and seeing my computer-generated aerodynamic images being used as inspiration for future vehicles. Seeing my work directly impact designs of the future is a great feeling and very rewarding. That same feeling and emotion will come for autonomous when I take my first driverless ride, knowing that I played a part in enabling it.

Have you always been out at work?

Yes, I came out right around the time I first moved to Michigan. For me, it was essential



that I be able to be out and my whole self at work. Being out at work was not immediate, it was a process as I grew more comfortable with myself. Now, I feel like I finally found my way, I've gotten over my personal fears and I am able to mention my life and sexuality without a second thought at work.

What is it like to be your authentic self while working at GM?

I have had nothing but positive experiences. I don't have to make up stories on the spot about what I did on the weekend, I can mention my boyfriend and my life outside of work freely. It's little things that you do to cover that you don't realize become so exhausting over time and take a toll. I'm thankful that I can be my authentic self at work and I encourage everyone to do the same as long as you feel safe doing so.

Considering people are discriminated against and have been fired from their job because they identify as LGBTQ, what would you say to a future GM employee who identifies as LGBTQ about the environment there, and why they should feel comfortable being open at work?

I actually got this question a lot recently as I was recruiting for GM at an LGBTQ conference, Out for Undergrad. GM has gone a long way at protecting and establishing policies for LGBTQ employees. We have had a non-discrimination policy in place and before marriage equality, (and) GM recognized same-sex partnerships and offered benefits for them as well.

While I was an intern at GM, an employee transitioned in the workplace. We had an HR meeting to educate employees about transsexuality and brought in an employee to talk about her transition in the work place. As a gay, closeted man at this time, this helped me see firsthand how GM supports LGBTQ employees.

Eventually, this co-worker and I became good friends and she was the first person I came out to at work. This is why I think it is important to be your authentic self, you never know who else is closeted and needs support or help coming out.

Describe your role with GM Plus?

I joined our LGBTQA employee resource group, GM PLUS three years ago. This last year I joined the board as the education and training chair. I lead a mentor group specifically for LGBTQA employees. Along with that, I coordinate and schedule workshops to educate employees on how to be inclusive with our partnership with PFLAG.

This year we had our first out executive town hall where leadership who identifies as LGBTQ hosted an open forum and talked about their experiences within GM. Right now we are really trying to engage and reach out to our allies because allies are vital for creating inclusive environments and championing LGBTQ issues.

We also do recruiting and represent GM at a number of LGBTQ-themed conferences around the country throughout the year. Along with that, we are focused on helping our community here in Detroit as well. Cadillac was a sponsor at Ruth Ellis's annual fundraising event, VOICES, and we work with them throughout the year and have GM employees volunteering at their center.

Learn more about General Motors' approach to safely putting self-driving cars on the roads in 2019 online at gaybe.am/4r.



Go Further

FAIRLANE 

Randy Woods

New & Used Car Sales
www.Saveatfairlane.com
 313-216-1072
 14585 Michigan Ave., Dearborn



Dream it
DRIVE IT

Whether you are looking for a new vehicle to take on your dream road trip, or you want to upgrade your morning commute, we can help.

Apply for your low-rate auto loan today!
msufcu.org
 517-333-2424


 Federally insured
 by NCUA


MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Building Dreams Together



On the go? No appointment needed.

Stop in for an oil change, tire rotation or other minor maintenance services – no need to schedule ahead of time! Our dedicated team of factory trained technicians will get you and your Subaru back on your way. Fast.

- ▶ Oil Change
- ▶ Tire Rotation
- ▶ Engine Air Filter Replacement
- ▶ Cabin Air Filter Replacement
- ▶ Wiper Blade Replacement
- ▶ Tire Pressure Adjustment
- ▶ Tire Tread Depth/Condition Check
- ▶ Fluid Top-Offs
- ▶ Light Bulb Replacement
- ▶ Battery Health Test

SUBARU EXPRESS SERVICE

2018 SUBARU
WRX
 PREMIUM
 JUO 12



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

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

EVERYDAY!

EXCELLENT SERVICE • OUTSTANDING SELECTION • FANTASTIC PRICES....

U of M Dearborn Lecturer Earns Support from Ford Fund

Dr. Truman Hudson, Jr., LEO Lecturer of Multiculturalism in the Department of Education at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, is a 2018 Ford Fund Community Corps award recipient. The Ford Fund Community Corps award will support Hudson's research on a community and school-centered research project entitled Blank Canvas.



Dr. Truman Hudson

Throughout the fall term, doctoral and graduate students in Hudson's EDA 515 – Communities and Schools: Building and Sustaining Partnerships course will work with partners from LGBT Detroit, a local public high school and Ford GLOBE Group to co-design a leadership development supplementary educational curriculum.

LGBT Detroit is a Detroit based non-profit organization whose mission is to "increase the awareness of and support

to Detroit's dynamic LGBT culture." Ford GLOBE Group is an employee resource group at Ford Motor Company whose mission is "to foster an inclusive and supportive atmosphere for LGBT persons within Ford."

The aim of the Blank Canvas curriculum is to build new leaders in the fields

of science, engineering, technology, arts and mathematics (STEAM), specifically in metropolitan Detroit's African American LGBT community.

In addition to co-designing the Blank Canvas curriculum, the students will collaborate with LGBT Detroit and the Ford GLOBE Group to document and curate professional, academic and social experiences of STEAM professionals in the African American LGBT community.

► Transitioning at Work

Continued from p. 16

be kind of disconcerting."

"It was a little stressful at first — I felt awkward," she continued. "I got strange looks, sheepish smiles ... I call it 'The Look.' I get it in new places, at conferences and professional events. I can see people looking and trying to figure out how to react."

But walking through her fear was ultimately worth it, Keiser said, as she's witnessed her co-workers become more comfortable with time. To get over the confused looks and smiles, Keiser said she makes an even greater effort to get to know her coworkers.

"People can get used to almost anything," she said.

And, if anything, Keiser believes the transition has improved her career and professional relationships. Her unique situation makes her stand out in a crowd, making it easier for her to network at professional events. And her newfound confidence certainly doesn't hurt, either.

"I like myself better, and a happy person attracts people," she said.

Keiser is using her experience to help other transgender employees navigate the workplace. Since coming out, she said she's received several inquiries from other Ford employees looking to do the same.

Keiser has several pieces of advice for transgender employees who might not be fully out yet. The first is perhaps the most important: prioritize safety above all.

"It's not safe to transition and make it widely known in some locations," she said. "Don't transition if you're going into extreme hardship or are in physical danger of being abused."

Secondly, Keiser encourages trans individuals to focus on career goals.

"Lots of trans people are without the

chance to be educated," she said. "If you do get educated it's hard to get a job, and even harder if you don't have the education or some experience. Concentrate on your career and education, and make the arrangements to build a career."

However, despite the potential struggle and many of the tragic stories seen in the news or on TV, Keiser wants her community to understand that there are still many companies that will go out of their way to support trans employees. In a 2016 article in the Advocate, she wrote



Lynn Keiser

this advice:

"Don't believe the horror stories. We all see the drama-filled stories on television, but we have to remember those shows aren't 'real' reality," Keiser said. "It won't always be roses, but there are great companies that want great employees working for them, and having the support of your employer while transitioning can be an amazing experience."

SPOOKTACULAR SAVINGS

2018 Honda Civic

LX CVT 4DR Hatchback

Spooktacular Savings
Lease for only \$170 per month

2018 Honda Accord

LX CVT 4DR

Spooktacular Savings
Lease for only \$201 per month

Call Eric Hay, Sales Manager

Ferndale Honda
248-548-6300 x204 hay@ferndalehonda.com
21350 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, MI 48220

Payment plus tax, \$2999.00 down plus tax, title, license, registration and doc. 36mo lease with 12k miles. with approved tier 1 credit thru A.H.F.C. Must take delivery from dealer stock All incentives to dealer sale ends 10.31.2018

Crown Pharmacy

Specializing in providing world class HIV pharmaceutical care

866-575-3784 (toll free)
www.crownpharmacy.com

24401 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI 48239
313-532-DRUG (3784) 313-532-3718 (fax)
crownpharmacy1@aol.com
OWNER: Val Randall
HOURS: M-F 10 am - 6 pm Weds 10am-5pm
Closed Weekends and Holidays

Low Cost Pet Prescriptions

Jeep
CELEBRATION EVENT

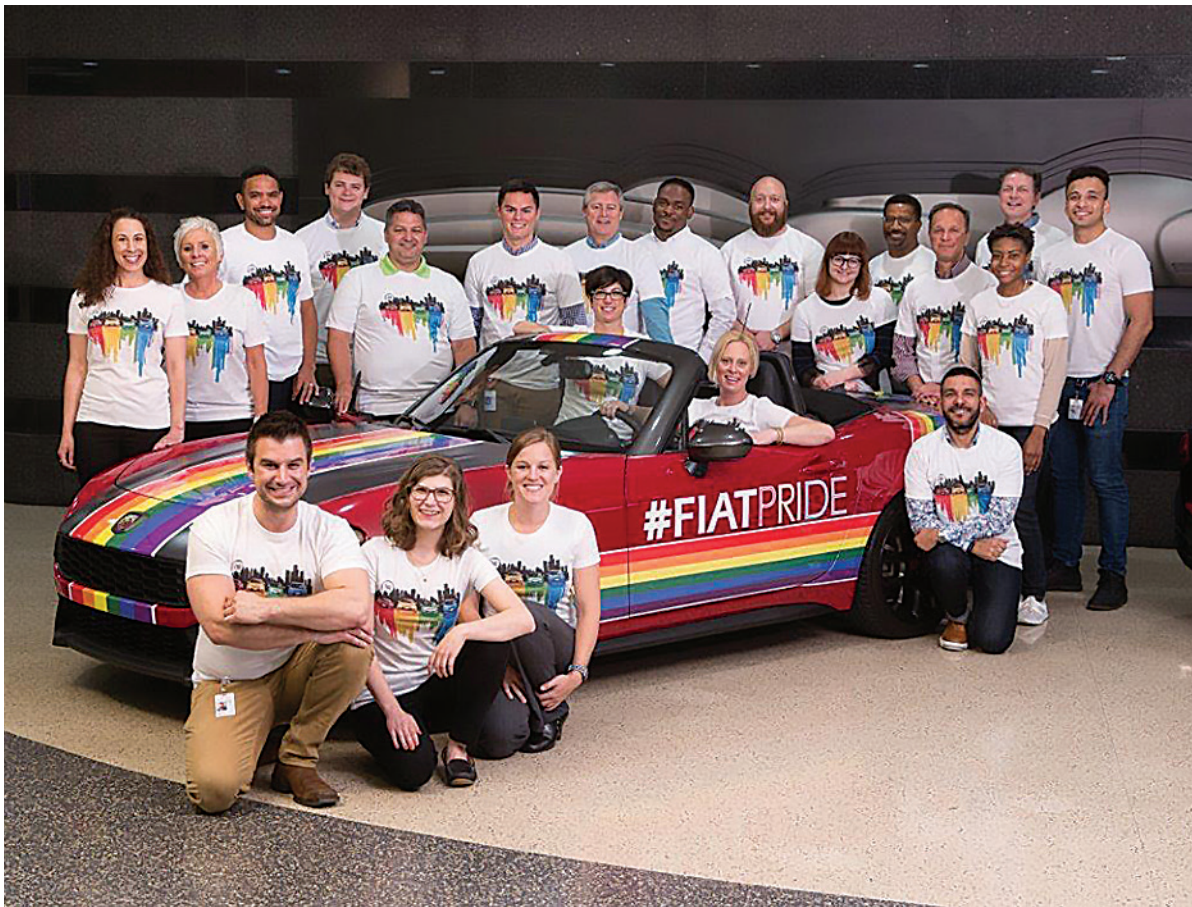
Snethkamp
CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • RAM

CHRYSLER PACIFICA
INCREDIBLE
SALES EVENT



**At Snethkamp
We Share Your Pride.** CALL 313-868-3300
Ask for Alex Chernov or Mike Carter

Proud Sponsor of the 2018 Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo
achernov@snethkampcj.com www.billsnethkamp.net 16400 Woodward Ave. Highland Park, MI 48203



Members and allies of GALA, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at FCA US, check out the specially-wrapped 2018 Fiat 124 Spider that served as the grand marshal vehicle in the Motor City Pride parade in downtown Detroit on June 10.

FIAT Brand Moves Beyond Pride Month, Celebrates LGBTQ Community Year-Round

BY BTL STAFF

The LGBTQ community is not only concerned about how they are being treated in their general lives, but in their places of work, too. And more and more companies are embracing the LGBTQ community beyond Pride Month in June.

While FCA US LLC and the FIAT brand has been a longtime supporter and a lead sponsor of the Motor City Pride parade, representatives from the LGBTQ-friendly automotive company said it will continue to showcase its continued support for the LGBTQ community in more notable ways throughout the year.

FCA US recently earned acknowledgement of its diversity leadership when the editors of DiversityInc magazine named FCA US in the magazine's 2018 list of "Noteworthy Companies for Diversity" and in its list of "Top Companies for Veterans."

**THE
AUTO
GUIDE**

The all New Subaru Ascent has arrive at the dealership. Come test drive one today!

Love is now bigger than ever.

Presenting the all-new 3-row Subaru Ascent.



The 2019 Subaru Ascent. The biggest Subaru SUV ever with room for up to 8 passengers. Choice of second-row captain's chairs or bench seating. Standard EyeSight® Driver Assist Technology,⁵ and standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive + up to 27 mpg.



525 North Howard St., Lansing, MI 48912
Sales (866) 752-9939
www.lansingsubaru.com

-- TAKE \$10 OFF ANY OIL CHANGE --

TWO LOCATIONS

FRANKLIN AUTO SERVICE
32725 Franklin Rd.,
South of 14 Mile Rd.
(248) 626-2080

DARRELL'S FIRESTONE
23534 Farmington Rd.
in Downtown Farmington
(248) 477-9090

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED



TIRES

BELTS/HOSES

BATTERIES

ALIGNMENT

STEERING/SHOCKS

BRAKES

MAINTENANCE & FLUIDS

MUFFLERS

TUNE-UPS

CHECK ENGINE LIGHTS



**TOWING THE
SAFE WAY!**



WWW.DARRELLSFIRESTONE.COM
WWW.FRANKLIN-AUTOREPAIR.COM

AIR CONDITIONING • HEATING • BELTS/HOSES
SHOCKS/STRUTS • MAJOR ENGINE REPAIR • TIRES
EXHAUST SYSTEMS • STEERING • TRANSMISSIONS • ALIGNMENTS



Shop The Rainbow

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

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





The Pride flag will fly outside FCA US, a North American automaker based in Auburn Hills, from National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11 through Spirit Day on Oct. 19.

FCA US was also recognized as a leader among U.S. employers for providing domestic partner benefits to its employees in 2000 and has achieved a perfect score of 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index 11 times since the benchmark was established.

The company's LGBTQ employee resource group, GALA (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance), hosts various LGBTQ-related events for employees throughout the year. GALA is one of seven employee resource groups at FCA US, representing a range of affinity communities: African-American, Hispanic, Asian, LGBTQ, veterans, Native Americans and women. More than 1,000 employees are members or allies of these groups.

"The members and allies of GALA are so proud of the company's commitment to creating and sustaining a supportive and inclusive work culture in which the values embedded in Pride are celebrated beyond the month of June," said Kelly Hanlon, Chair of GALA, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at FCA US.

This month, for National Coming Out Day on Thursday, Oct. 11, FCA US began flying the rainbow flag outside their headquarters in Auburn Hills. It will fly

through Spirit Day on Friday, Oct. 19.

Learn more about diversity and inclusion at FCA US online at careers.fcagroup.com/about-us/diversity-inclusion/. Follow FCA US on Facebook at gaybe.am/To, Instagram at gaybe.am/84 and Twitter at gaybe.am/6g

Save the Date

Thursday, Oct. 18
5 to 8 p.m.

MERGE Business Networking Event
Sponsored by Deloitte
Rosie O' Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale

Featuring a discussion about estate planning, family and employment law with Mary Deon and Amanda Shelton from Shelton & Deon Law Group.

Please RSVP on the Detroit LGBT Regional Chamber of Commerce's website at detroitlgbtchamber.com




Your car matters. It's why I'm here.

Joan M Warner Ins Agcy Inc
Joan Warner, Agent
joan@warneragency.com
Bus: 248-474-8020 Toll Free:

I see more than just a car. I see what your car really means to you and I'm here to give it the protection it deserves.
LET'S TALK TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas



TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC



JOHN TSAKOS, DC
MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

INTEGRATE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT VIA NATURE AND CHIROPRACTIC MASSAGE AND NUTRITION

GROSSE POINTE OFFICE PLAZA
1-94 SERVICE DRIVE AT ALLARD EXIT

OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
313-885-9496
WWW.TRIANGLECLINIC.COM



Divine Peace
Metropolitan Community Church

Divine Peace MCC has moved.
We are now sharing a building with Bethel UCC.



NEW ADDRESS:
6650 Elizabeth Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48327

Phone: 248.332.1186
www.dpmcc.net

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



Linda Lom Team
AT TRILLIUM

Linda Helps People Make Good Decisions.

Come find out why Linda Lombardini was voted Washtenaw County's Favorite Realtor.

Thrice.

734-302-3600
www.LindaLom.com

323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor
Linda@LindaLom.com




S&L
SCHMIDT & LONG PLLC

Lisa Schmidt & Benjamin Long

Because No Case is Typical, When It's Yours.

Shop The Rainbow



BTL
Between the Lines



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

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

VOTE NOV. 6

MiVoterGuide.com



Family Law
Divorce Law
Estate Planning
Real Estate
LGBT Issues
Business Law

www.SchmidtLong.com 248-764-8584



Photo: Machado Cicala

Love & Understanding

A CONVERSATION WITH CHER

Icon Talks 'Hope' Gleaned From the LGBTQ Community, 'Breadcrumbs' of Her Legacy and That Time She Jumped Out of a Bathroom Window

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Cher is so low-key about being Cher that calling her is like calling your mom. “Hi,” she purrs with signature simplicity when I phone her presidential suite in late August. We are speaking matter-of-factly about gay things, political things, Twitter things (“I’m finished with the emojis that we have”). About going to Walgreens and trying to remember why she went to Walgreens. This seems so very ... normal?

Certainly, Cher is the most multi of multi-hyphenates – fiery human rights activist, Auto-Tune pioneer, a unicorn, the Phoenix – but no, not at all normal. Not from down here, where we’ve basked in the long-reigning diva’s treasure trove of film and music and bedazzled Bob Mackie costumes, and admired her ability to get down, do a five-minute plank (seriously), and somehow get back up again. That motion is the time-tested motion of Cher’s enduring six-decade career. It’s where grit meets guts meets glitter.

Our Oz, our Wonderland; a safe, shimmering space providing escapist refuge since the 1960s, a span which has seen Sonny (Bono, her late ex-husband) and Cher, anthemic rock and gay dance, inventions and reinventions – Cher’s mere existence brought us closer to those within our own community, and closer to ourselves.

She has three Golden Globes, a Best Actress Oscar (for “Moonstruck”), a Grammy (for “Believe”) and an Emmy (for “Cher: The Farewell Tour”), and in December, she’ll be the recipient of the prestigious Kennedy Center

Honor for her indelible contributions to culture. But Cher’s superheroine, Hollywood-royalty sheen isn’t without genuine normal-person realness. Unlike “Believe,” there is nothing artificially manufactured about Cher’s non-sense, everywoman, Walgreens-shopper persona. Because even when her sequins glisten like a galaxy of stars on a lit Vegas stage, when she’s floating high above you in majestic-goddess fashion, and when she’s still wearing a variation of her “If I Could Turn Back Time” music video one-piece at her current age of

INFO

Cher

'Here We Go Again' tour
7:30 p.m. Feb. 12
Little Caesars Arena
2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit
olympiaentertainment.com

72, Cher does the least pop icon thing a pop icon can do: remind you she's still living in your world.

In July, she did her gay-icon due diligence by helicoptering onto the set of "Mamma Mia 2! Here We Go Again" to play the role she'd been playing in front of the world, most discernibly to generations of baby-gays and grown-up gays: maternal pillar. When I met Cher in 2016 on Halloween at a fundraiser stop for Hillary Clinton in the suburbs of Michigan, I was struck by her Cher-ness, the glitzy legend momentarily eclipsed by her warm, inviting humanness.

Armed with a cannon of glittery ABBA bops, Cher has come to our rescue once again with an ode to the Swedish disco-pop supergroup titled – what else? – "Dancing Queen," her 26th album and first since 2013's "Closer to the Truth." In December, "The Cher Show," the musical about her life, which she is co-producing, officially opens on Broadway. And next year, because she just can't help herself, she will embark on a tour appropriately titled "Here We Go Again."

The night we spoke, Cher was laid-back, reflective and full of hearty chuckles as she talked about that Walgreens detour, kissing "Silkwood" co-star Meryl Streep, the wedding dress she'd wear to Trump's impeachment party, the "breadcrumbs" of her legacy, Twitter, the devil, jumping out of a window – and not only her long-standing influence on the LGBTQ community, but our influence on her.

Cher, I have a story you probably haven't thought about in some time: It's 2016, you're at a Walgreens in Flint, Michigan, on Halloween. You were there campaigning for Hillary and some Walgreens shopper told you they loved your Cher costume.

Yes! Oh my god! Wasn't that, like, the weirdest experience at the Walgreens?!

You tell me. I wasn't there!

Haha! I needed to go into the Walgreens for something. Or: I had a moment to breathe ... I don't know. I went into Walgreens and I was looking for something, and then the girls who were helping me realized it was me, and then there was a whole kind of hubbub thing and all these little trick-or-treaters came in as I was leaving. So they were all outside and I piled them into the limousine and we were hanging out in there. I mean, I was supposed to be going to a whole bunch of fundraisers – I ended up making them, of course – and I was busy playing with the kids.

Are you frequently mistaken for a Cher impersonator? Because, I mean, how often would the real Cher be at a Walgreens?

Right? And in Flint! Well, probably not often. Ha! But you know, the minute I start talking, they pretty much know it's me.

You're hard on yourself when it comes to your music. Are you happy with "Dancing Queen"?

I think I did a good job. Now whether people are gonna like it...

Less studio drama than that time you stormed out on producer Mark Taylor after recording "Believe"?

Well ... yes. Haha! But I have to tell you something: These songs are not easy. You'd think, "Oh, they're pop-y and Björn (Ulvaeus) and Benny (Andersson) and the girls start to get into them," and they're not. No more Mr. Nice Guy! They're rough songs. And they're much more intricate than I thought, but I had a great time. Some of them are easier, and some of them have some rough spots.

You could've easily found enough inspiration in the world's current plight for another album like your 2000 indie album "Not Commercial," which was dark.

But we don't need that right now! We need ABBA right now! If anything, we need to *not* be brought down because everything is so terrible. I was just talking to this one boy who came in and he was asking me what did I really think and I said, "Babe, I think the picture's bleak. I think everyone's gotta vote."

Thankfully, "Dancing Queen" is a slice of gay heaven in hell.

Well, look, I wasn't doing it for that, but I'm happy if it can make people happier than they were before they heard it.

When were you first aware that the LGBTQ community identified you as a gay icon?

I don't think I was when I was with Sonny. I think it happened on "The Sonny and Cher Show" (which ran from 1976-1977), somehow. I don't know – I don't know how that happens. I mean, how *does* it happen? I have no idea! It's just like, we made a pact and we're a group and that's it.

But you were seeing more of the LGBTQ community come out at some point? There was a switch?

Yeah, there was a change, there was definitely a change. And I think it was when I was not with Sonny anymore, and then somehow it all started to click. But I always had gay friends. I actually almost got arrested at a party with my best friend at school. He was gay but he couldn't let anybody know, and he wanted me to go with him to a party and the party got raided. And we jumped out the bathroom window! It was *high*. We had to go over the bathtub into the window and jump out.

See **Cher**, continued on p. 26

A RISING STAR DEBUTS HER BRAND NEW SHOW EXCLUSIVELY WITH CABARET 313



You Don't Know Me

Jillian LOUIS

Performance sponsored by Nancy & James Grosfeld and Charlene Handleman

October 27, 2018
The Players Club Playhouse

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

CABARET
313

And you got away?

Yep.

Do you recall the moment that galvanized you to stand up as an ally for the LGBTQ community?

I really don't know if there was a moment. I'm not sure there was a moment; I'm not sure what it was. I just feel that, probably, there was a moment where guys thought I was just one of you. It's like, there's a moment where you're either part of the group and you're absorbed into the group and people love you as part of the group, or they don't even know you're alive, you know? Gay men are very loyal.

Look, I have a friend (makeup artist) Kevyn Aucoin – he's dead now – but he told me when he was young, he was growing up in some place in Louisiana and said how horrible it was to have to hide and be frightened, and he said he loved listening to Cher records. I think that's a dead giveaway! Haha! If you want to hide being gay, do not buy Cher records!

And I had another friend who had a Cher poster on his wall. I don't remember where he came from – some small town too – and his dad ripped it off the wall and he bought another one, put it inside his closet and said it was a way to really be who he was in spite of who his dad wanted him to be.

When in your life have you felt like the LGBTQ community was on your side when the rest of the world maybe was not?

Always. I remember when I was doing (the play) "Come Back to the Five and Dime" (in 1976) and we had standing room only before we got reviewed, and after we got reviewed nobody came except the community – the community, and little grey-haired old women who came to matinees. We managed to stay open until we could build back up the following. Also, the gay community, they just don't leave you, they stay with you; that's one thing that always keeps you going.

What does that loyalty mean to you?

There's been sometimes where I was just, you know, heartbroken about things, but it always gives you hope when there are people who think that you're cute and worthwhile and



an artist. It's a great thing to have in your back pocket.

Your mother once told you when you were a child: "You won't be the prettiest, you won't be the most talented, you won't be the smartest, but you are special." What kind of mark did that leave on you?

It just left some sort of indelible, interior tattoo. Because I have gone through so much shit in my life. I can't tell you how many times people have written, "She'll be gone by next year." I remember I got really pissed off at somebody and I went, "I'll be here and you'll be gone." I don't think I believed it at the time, but I was just angry.

So what you're saying is what I've longed to hear: You're immortal.

Well, no, I'm not saying that. Ha! I'm just saying I can be really pissy.

At the "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" premiere in July, you and Meryl Streep kissed on the lips. Was that meant to be the "Silkwood" reunion the internet wanted it to be?

Haha! No! We were just thinking it

was stupid! It was so dumb! Meryl came behind me and I didn't know it, and then we turned to each other, she looked up at me and she said, "You weren't this tall yesterday!" And we laughed. And we just kissed! I had on my 10-inch heels, and you can see how tall I am next to her and we just thought it was funny. I said, "Kiss me!" And we just kissed!

I have to tell you something: She is funny. She is wicked funny! And I don't know that she gets to show that side all that often, but she's wicked funny and she just will do anything for a lark. She's got a really great serious side, but she's got this really hysterical side too.

How do you hope your role as the mother of a trans son, Chaz Bono, has influenced other parents of LGBTQ kids?

This is what I think, and this is what I would hope: I would hope that, look, I didn't go through it that easily. Both times. When I found out Chaz was gay, I didn't go through it that easily; when I found out Chaz was (transitioning) ... except

we talked about it a lot, actually. But then Chaz didn't mention it anymore, so I kind of forgot. And what I think is, there's such a fear of losing the child you love, and what will replace that child.

I think it's about the fear, mostly. I felt, who will this new person be? Because I know who the person is now, but who will the new person be and how will it work and will I have lost somebody? And then I thought of something else: I thought, my god, if I woke up tomorrow and I was a man, I would be gouging my eyes out. And so I know that if that's what you feel then that must be so painful that it doesn't make any difference what anyone else feels or what anyone else thinks. Chaz is so happy now and we get along better than ever.

You're known to speak your mind. When's the last time your mouth got you into trouble?

I think it was my fingers that got me into trouble last time. I had to delete a couple of things that I tweeted, which now what I do is: If I'm gonna just go off on a rant, I

do it first, I look at it, I delete it, but I take a picture of it first and then I have it. Then I decide if I really wanna put it on my Twitter or if I really wanna tweet it – or if I got it out of my system. I said something that I thought was really funny but obviously the people on Trump's side didn't feel it was funny and I got so much shit that I didn't expect.

There seems to be a fair amount of homophobes who you end up calling out.

Yeah. I mean, I don't know what they are. There's just so much phobia of everybody. You've gotta be the same color, you've gotta like the same things, you've gotta be the same religion. It's like if you're not one of them, you're an enemy.

You're known for your emojis – do you have a go-to?

Well, I have a few of them. I have a cake when I'm really happy, I have a ghost when I'm really happy, and when I'm really, *really* happy I put them together. I wish I had something that was more than the guy who's got the blue head that is screaming. I wish I had somebody with a scream and his head was coming off the top of his body. I really wish there were better emojis. I'm finished with the emojis that we have.

Am I hearing right: You're done with emojis?

Yeah, stick a fork in 'em! I just want there to be more. I like the emoji that's the red-faced one with all the little signs over his mouth, which I always imagine is "fuck." That's what I put instead of the letters because they just get so angry. But also, I use the guy with the zipper across his mouth because I can't say that. I have little fans, so I have to stop using that.

You could send out the shit emoji and you know what, Cher, the gays would go wild.

Oh, I've done that before! I put a bull and that together for when I think, "Oh, this is such bullshit."

What will you be wearing to Trump's impeachment party?

Well, I think that we're all a little bit too premature for that, because I don't think that's gonna happen. But in my dreams I will be wearing something – oh, I think I'll wear a wedding dress! Haha! I think I'll

See Cher, continued on p. 29

Detroit Repertory Theatre
62nd Season Black Tie Celebration
6:30 P.M. Saturday
November 17, 2018

Join the Celebration

All Tickets \$75
• Be a Citizen Sponsor \$300 •
Get 2 BT Tickets (Optional)
Tickets-Sponsorships-Contributions
Phone (313•868•1347)



Keynote Speaker

Donnell R. White
Chemical Bank Chief Diversity Officer
and Director of Strategic Partnerships



Michael Joseph
Master of Ceremonies

Included:

Champagne, Hor's d'oeuvres, Cash Bar,
BEST ACTORS AWARDS
 and Midwest Premiere performance of
EVIDENCE OF THINGS UNSEEN
 by Katie Forgette

ADD'L SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME



A COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED ORCHESTRA

COMING SOON TO ORCHESTRA HALL

CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE



Sean O'Loughlin, *conductor*

FRI., NOV. 2 AT 10:45 A.M. & 8 P.M.
SAT., NOV. 3 AT 8 P.M.
SUN., NOV. 4 AT 3 P.M.

Orchestra Hall will once again be the setting for aerial acrobats, gravity-defying feats, contortionists, strong men, jugglers, and more, choreographed to live music performed by the DSO.

TITLE SPONSOR:
PNC BANK

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM:
GREEKTOWN CASINO HOTEL

PRESENTED BY:
MASCO

CLASSICAL SERIES

THE FIREBIRD

SPONSORED BY



GABEL

Fabien Gabel, *conductor*
 Hunter Eberly, *trumpet*

THU., OCT. 18 AT 7:30 P.M.
FRI., OCT. 19 AT 10:45 A.M.
SAT., OCT. 20 AT 8 P.M.

TCHAIKOVSKY *The Tempest*
 TOMASI *Concerto for Trumpet*
 STRAVINSKY *Song of the Nightingale*
 STRAVINSKY *The Firebird Suite (1919)*

CLASSICAL SERIES

GRIEG PIANO CONCERTO

Santtu-Matias Rouvali, *conductor* • Víkingur Ólafsson, *piano*

THU., OCT. 25 AT 7:30 P.M.
SAT., OCT. 27 AT 8 P.M.

SIBELIUS *Lemminkäinen's Return*
 GRIEG *Concerto for Piano*
 SIBELIUS *Symphony No. 5*

SPONSORED BY



OLAFSSON

PARADISE JAZZ SERIES

DIANNE REEVES & CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE DUO AND TIA FULLER – DIAMOND CUT

FRI., OCT. 26 AT 8 P.M.*

NEA Jazz Master and vocalist Dianne Reeves and Grammy Award-winning bassist Christian McBride join forces on the Orchestra Hall stage for the very first time in a rare duo performance.



MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

CLASSICAL TICKETS START AT **\$15**

ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW! **dso.org**
313.576.5111

GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE CALL 313.576.5130

ORCHESTRA HALL • MAX M. & MARJORIE S. FISHER MUSIC CENTER
 3711 WOODWARD AVE. • MIDTOWN DETROIT

PROGRAMS, PRICES, AND ARTISTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. * THE DSO DOES NOT APPEAR ON THIS PROGRAM

Comedian Fortune Feimster to Perform in Royal Oak Oct. 18-20

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Even if it's the first time you're listening to Fortune Feimster's comedy, chances are it's going to feel like a chance meeting with a great friend; immediately comfortable. The kind of natural slide into conversation where both people pick up exactly where they left off, immediately going straight to the best stories — and the North Carolina native has plenty.

"I think people are immediately like, 'She's one of us,'" Feimster said. "It allows me to just sort of talk to people on a real level."

But don't let her relaxed personality fool you, Feimster is a creative powerhouse. Not only is she an accomplished comedian, initially making a name for herself on NBC's "Last Comic Standing" almost a decade ago, the openly gay comic has been a performer and a writer on "Chelsea Lately," starred in shows like "The Mindy Project," "Champions" and has a recurring role on "Life In Pieces" as Dougie. Then there's her film career. She's been in movies like "Office Christmas Party" and "Father of the Year." Recently, Feimster sold feature films to Amblin Entertainment like "Bad Cop, Bad Cop," along with two TV pilots.

"I think there are certainly people who think of you as just an actor or a standup and when they hear my accent and see my laid-backness they think that's all I do," she said. "They almost seem surprised when I'm like, 'Oh yeah, I've sold two movies to Steven Spielberg's company.'"

Lucky for Michigan fans, however, Feimster is taking a short break from acting and writing while in the middle of a U.S. tour, and she's bringing a taste of her comedy to Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak from Oct. 18 to 20. Before her three-date stint, Feimster made time in her touring schedule to chat with BTL about what drives her creativity, what it's like to be a comic in politically divisive time and her thoughts on being a role model for other creators in the LGBTQ community,

Have you ever performed in Detroit before?

I've done one show here and there. My fiancé is actually from Detroit, and I did a couple of shows in the past. We kind of combined that with visiting her family, but I'm excited to be there for a whole three-day run.

We're excited for you to stop by, but just letting you know the weather just took a turn for the worse. For me right now it's 45 degrees and raining.

Dang. I don't want to brag but I was just walking my dogs in 80-degree weather here in LA (laughs).

We're highly jealous of that here in the Midwest. Speaking of different regions, do you find that you tailor different jokes depending on where you're touring in the U.S.?



I mean, I usually keep it pretty similar. I don't have to change up a lot. A lot of the things that I talk about are pretty universal, or they're just particular stories to me. The only thing I really change up is if it involves a restaurant and that particular restaurant is not popular there, I'll just sort of switch it out to a restaurant that that area knows a little better.

Like how most people here wouldn't know about Bojangles' or something like that.

Exactly, yeah (laughs). I'll talk about my love of Bojangles' outside of the south and people will be like, "What? What are you talking about?"

What inspires your humor? Do you draw from personal stories primarily, or is it something broader like politics? In another interview you mentioned you decided to stop doing your impression of Sarah Huckabee Sanders on "Chelsea."

I definitely don't talk about politics very much. Not on stage. Just because everybody is so divided right now. ... Normally my audience is fairly liberal but there are shows that I appear on that appeal to a broader audience. I never want to make anyone feel isolated or that they're somehow the butt of my jokes and opinions, so I keep it personal and to myself and to my own stories.

You wrote a tweet once telling others not to lose empathy even for the people they disagree with, could you elaborate on what you meant?

People get so upset about what's going on in

the world which I totally get and understand, but to paint one side as one thing and one entity and just to be against that, it doesn't help things. It doesn't help bring people together, it doesn't help change minds, it doesn't help bridge gaps when you say, "I am against you. I don't like you and I refuse to listen to your thoughts." You're setting yourself up to have zero dialogue and to have a harder time, where people can never find middle ground. I mean, there are people who I love and respect who have very different opinions than me ... but I don't write them off.

Do you think your openness toward other viewpoints comes from being gay in small town and then moving to a big city like LA? You mentioned you were somewhat isolated from the LGBTQ community growing up.

Yeah. I think it was the same for my family. They knew some gay people but not anyone really close to them so they didn't know what to expect, and I didn't know what to expect. We didn't have examples like, 'Oh, uncle so-and-so' (laughs). It was just something that had not hit as close to home for us.

How did your parents deal with you coming out? Your mom is the president of your town's PFLAG chapter now, but was it always like that?

I was living in Los Angeles (and) I think it helped in my process because my family, and my parents in particular, was like, "You know, she's her own person. She is who she is and we love her no matter what." So, I think the timing of it worked out well. You know, it was a hard thing for my mom to hear that I was

moving to Los Angeles, like, "I can't believe you're going to move 3,000 miles away." Once I did that, you know, she was just kind of, "She's her own person." So, coming out was not a big deal at that point. They just wanted me to be happy. I think for my mom, she didn't want life to be any harder for me than it had to be.

When did you first realize you were funny? Were you always drawn to comedy?

The older I got and the more comfortable I got in my own skin, the more my humor and personality developed. ... Once I got to college, that's when it all really started to come together. I just felt like a more complete person and I gained a lot of strength and confidence in college through professors and friends and they encouraged my creativity and the comedy part of myself and I think it really started to blossom then.

When did you first feel bold enough to do stand-up?

I didn't start stand-up until I was 27, so it was a little while. I did theater in college, and I started to dabble in being on stage and it was terrifying at first. I just was so scared and I didn't have the cool yet as an actor to be more at peace. I started taking improv classes at the Groundlings when I was 25. That really helped get rid of all my stage fright because I finally could feel comfortable. ... It was just like, 'Alright, you conquered one thing, let's try to conquer another.' I did a stand-up show I think in 2007 and it just fit like a glove. It just felt so right and it felt like what I

► Fortune

Continued from p. 28

was supposed to be doing. If they smell fear, you're a goner (laughs). Half of comedy is just being comfortable and being OK on stage.

Has your humor changed since you've moved to LA?

I don't know. It's hard to say because I've lived in LA for the last 15 years. I don't know what would have been my perspective had I stayed in North Carolina. It definitely opened my eyes up to different things that I didn't know about. It's funny, even though I lived in LA for 15 years, I still draw on a lot of experiences from growing up and things that I experienced when I was younger, and I sort of tie it in to my experience now living in LA.

As someone who has been successful and is publicly out, do you ever feel like a role model to other LGBTQ people who might want to pursue a similar career?

I don't think I purposefully think of it, but I think I've always been naturally a responsible person and I've always tried to be a good person and, you know, my family really instilled a lot of qualities in me that are important to me to this day about being a good person. ... It's a bonus when someone

tells me that by me being me and by being comfortable with who I am, living my life the way I do, that it somehow inspired them or that it influenced them in some way positively. I'm so happy to hear that.

You always seem to be involved in many projects. What draws you to write and perform?

I don't want to just be a stand-up or just be an actor, I want to have my hands in a lot of different things. And I also want to be able to tell stories from a southerner's perspective, from a lesbian's perspective, from a woman's perspective – I want to take all the things that make me who I am and put that back into the world so that other people can see themselves represented in those things.

What new projects are you working on now?

The two movies that I sold to Amblin (Entertainment) are both being developed and, hopefully, if one or either of them go I would be in those projects. ... In the meantime, because development takes such a long time and it's so much behind the scenes, I'm back on tour and I'm doing a lot of guest stars. I'm back on "Life In Pieces" and I'm popping up on some different TV shows that will be coming out in the next year.

To get tickets to Feimster's upcoming Royal Oak shows visit comedycastle.com. For more information about her, visit her site at fortuneheimster.com.

Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Company

A Letter to My Nephew

ONE NIGHT ONLY! Saturday, October 27 at 7:30 PM
at the Detroit Opera House

MICHIGAN
OPERA
THEATRE

Considered one of the
most powerful influences
in the dance-theatre world!

TICKETS:
MichiganOpera.org
or 313.237.7464



2018 - 2019 Dance Season Sponsor



Presented in partnership with
University Musical Society

Mature subject matter, discretion advised.

► Cher

Continued from p. 26

just wear a white wedding dress. And a veil.

To symbolize?

Just purity and excitement and something new. A new phase!

And we'll all go on a honeymoon after.

Yes, we'll go on one big honeymoon forever afterwards. I don't see that happening because I think that there are too many really smart people, in the devilish kind of way. All those people who are advising him, they're really smart. But they're really from the dark side. I don't mean the actual devil in reality – not that I think that there is a devil in reality – but just a real dark side of gutting the entire government and gutting everything that was meant to preserve our safety and the water and the air and the land and schools and healthcare and all of it.

When it comes to our current pop landscape – Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, et cetera – who do you think does or doesn't have the staying power that you've demonstrated throughout your entire career?

Gosh, I don't know. It's really hard to know

until there's more time under their belts, do you know what I mean? There's got to be a little bit more time under their belts to know that. I think they've all done a pretty good job so far, but I think you've gotta have ... like, I'm 54 years into this business, so I think we have to wait a minute.

I've been thinking a lot about how we interpret an artist's legacy after Aretha passed, and every time an icon passes on. Do you think about yours and what you hope that will be?

You know, I don't really think about it. The only provision I've made is: I want all my friends and family to go to Paris and have a big party. I'm gonna fly everybody to Paris and have a big party. But no, I don't think about it too much because it's like, thinking about it can't do me any good. It is what it is, and to think about it, what will that get me? Kind of nothing. Also, what's really great is there's music left behind and there's film left behind, you know? I'm gonna leave a trail. I'll leave breadcrumbs.


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).

Midwest Premiere
Nov 1 to Dec 23, 2018

Detroit REPERTORY THEATRE

EVIDENCE OF THINGS UNSEEN

by **Katie Forgette**
Directed By **Lynch Travis**




Free
Attended
Parking

A sister story about differing responses to grief, revenge, sorrow, solace, faith and feeding ducks told with humor and insight.

ADMISSION. ALL SEATS, ALL PERFORMANCES
ADVANCE \$17 - GEN'L ADM. \$20

Box office & Information 313-868-1347
DetroitRepTheatre.com




**FAITH, LGBTQ INCLUSION & HUMAN RIGHTS
AN INTERFAITH CONFERENCE**
Friday, October 19, 2018 | 9AM – 4PM
A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THREATS TO LGBT RIGHTS.

Sign up at inclusivejustice.org **\$10**

DIVINELY QUEER Launch Party
October 19th, 7-8:30pm
Connection Cafe

Come celebrate the debut of *DIVINELY QUEER: My Journey to Spirituality through Sexuality*, a memoir by Jennifer Miracle-Best. There will be a reading from the book, Q&A, and time for book signing. Proceeds from each book purchased at this event will benefit MCCD.



MCC. Detroit
Include. Inspire. Influence

205 N. Main St.
Clawson, MI 48017
www.mccdetroit.org
(248) 399-7741

Fleetwood Mac in Detroit Oct. 30

On Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 8 p.m. Fleetwood Mac will be coming to Detroit's Little Caesars Arena. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees have made music since 1967 and have sold over 100 million records worldwide. More information about the upcoming performance can be found online at ticketmaster.com.



Happenings

Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

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

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

CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

OUTINGS

Friday, October 19

MCCDetroit – Inclusive Justice 9
a.m. Faith, LGBTQ inclusion and human rights, An Interfaith Conference. A press conference on threats to LGBT Rights. Sign up at inclusivejustice.org MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

Voices of Freedom 6 p.m. Celebrate 35 years of welcoming those 'yearning to breathe free' with us! Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 866-782-9622. freedomhousedetroit.org/index.php/voices.

MCCDetroit – Divinely Queer Launch Party 7 p.m. Come celebrate the debut of "Divinely Queer: My Journey to Spirituality through Sexuality," a memoir by Jennifer Miracle-Best. There will be a reading from the book, Q&A, and time for book signing. Proceeds MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

Saturday, October 20

Affirmations Fall Fling 2018 – Save The Date! 7 p.m. Join us in support of Affirmations for an evening filled with live entertainment, hors-d'oeuvres, drinks, desserts, a raffle & silent auction with fantastic prizes for you to win. The event is 21+ and Costume Optional, Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105

Sunday, October 21

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. Free. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-

4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Tuesday, October 23

Strand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 6:30 p.m. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, ymaj1968@gmail.com or 734-780-4092. Trans Youth Support Group Facilitator – Joy Cavanaugh, LPC. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. standwithtrans.org.

Wednesday, October 24

MCC Detroit – GenderSpark Monthly Program 7 p.m. Founded by a group of trans-identified folks and their loved ones. You don't have to choose between your identity and your spirituality. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

Thursday, October 25

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 7 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this free group. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. oaklandumc.org. standwithtrans.org.

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting 7 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. lawrencemoeb@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

Saturday, October 27

MCCDetroit – Halloween Spooktacular! 8 p.m. Join us for a spooktacular time at this year's Halloween Party at the Montage Grill in Clawson! Admission price

includes a taco bar, unlimited soda, music and prizes for best costume! MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

MUSIC & MORE

Half Truths – A Book Discussion

Facilitated by Michael Hart October 18, 7 p.m. Join us for a rich discussion of Rev. Adam Hamilton's examination of simple phrases that capture some element of Biblical Truth, yet miss the point in important ways. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

The Firebird October 18, 7:30 p.m. Experience Stravinsky's "The Firebird" under the dynamic Fabian Gabel and more. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

Masterworks 01: Pines of Rome with Lansing Symphony Orchestra October 18, 7:30 p.m. Guest Artist: Melissa White. Experience a musical journey of exotic places, cultures, and eras culminating in a glorious musical canvas Great Cobb Hall, 750 E. W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

In Search of Satisfaction – Public Talk by Demo Rinpoche October 20, 11 a.m. Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 248-647-2380. bloomfield@jewelheart.org. bloomfield@jewelheart.org. bucmi.org.

Christopher Titus October 20, 7 p.m. Christopher Titus' new show takes a ride through his personal life. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. 4th St., Royal Oak. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com.

Affirmations Fall Fling 2018 – Save

The Date! October 20, 7 p.m. Join us in support of Affirmations for an evening filled with live entertainment, hors-d'oeuvres, drinks, desserts, a raffle & silent auction with fantastic prizes for you to win. The event is 21+ and Costume Optional, Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

Momix Opus Cactus at Cobb Great Hall October 21, 6:30 p.m. If Salvador Dali and Leonardo da Vinci joined forces and were commissioned by National Geographic, you'd get Opus Cactus. Great Cobb Hall, 750 E. West Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com

The Intersectionality of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Substance Use/Substance Use Disorders October 23, 7:30 p.m. David J.H. Garvin, LMSW; and Barbara Niess May, MPA, MSW, will discuss the relationship between domestic violence/sexual assault and substance use. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

Symphony Band – College of Music October 23, 7:30 p.m. David Thornton, conductor, Dooley – Mavericks, Puckett – Avelynn's Lullaby, Persichetti – Symphony No. 6, Sousa – Hail to the Spirit of Liberty Great Cobb Hall, 750 East West Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

Obesity and Your Gut Microbiome October 24, 6:30 p.m. Discuss the symbiotic relationship between the effects of diet on the microbiome and impact on weight gain. Pre-registration required. Groves High School Little Theater, 20500 West 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. pbnsj.org.

Dianne Reeves and Christian McBride Duo October 26, 8 p.m. Dianne Reeves

Editor's Pick

World Teacher Day 5K - Detroit

In celebration of World Teacher's Day, now through Oct. 31 the virtual race will allow those interested in furthering the careers of America's educators can "register" for the 5k and donate to Virtual Run Events. For more information head to gaybe.am/t8.



is one of the pre-eminent jazz vocalist in the world today. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

Spartan Spectacular – College of Music October 28, 3 p.m. An annual tradition for the Green and White faithful since 1971, Spartan Spectacular offers an exciting musical experience for the entire family. Great Cobb Hall, 750 East West Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

All Souls/Day of the Dead gathering October 28, 6 p.m. An interfaith gathering to remember and honor those who have passed. Bring a dish to pass if you like. Bring a photo or memento. Open Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 3257 Lohr Road, Ann Arbor, 734-546-0243.

Personal Medicine: Becoming Active Agents in Our Own Recovery October 30, 7:30 p.m. Personal Medicine consists of things we do, not things we take, that increase our sense of wellness. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

Czech Philharmonic at Cobb Great Hall October 30, 7:30 p.m. Led by renowned conductor Semyon Bychkov, the orchestra will perform a full evening of Dvořák. Great Cobb Hall, 750 East West Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

Cirque de la Symphonie November 2, 10:45 a.m. Orchestra Hall will once again be the setting for aerial acrobats, gravity-defying feats, contortionists, strong men, jugglers and more. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

Michigan Depression Glass Society Show and Sale November 3, 10 a.m. Enjoy one of the nation's best all-American made glass shows with makers such as Fostoria, Heisey, Fenton, Cambridge, Imperial and more. Dearborn Ford Community & Performing Arts, 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. 313-943-2350. dearbornfordcenter.com. michigandepressionglass.com.

Steve Martin and Martin Short at Cobb Great Hall November 4, 7 p.m. It's all fun and games till the banjos come out." –Martin Short. "The good thing about traveling with Marty is that he can fit in the

overhead compartment." –Steve Martin. Great Cobb Hall, 750 East West Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

Laura Love in Concert November 8, 7 p.m. Laura Love, award winning "folk-funk" artist/activist/author. A former member of Venus Envy. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. office@uufflint.org. uufflint.org.

Emanuel Ax Plays Beethoven November 9, 10:30 a.m. Emanuel Ax performs Beethoven's youthful "First Piano Concerto," and more. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

Ann Arbor's Storytellers Guild Presents 'Storyfest!' November 9, 7:30 p.m. Premier storytelling event for adults 14 and older. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. 734-662-4419. annarborstorytelling.org.

Well-Intentioned White People by Rachel Lynett November 9, 8 p.m. Well-Intentioned White People explores how "good intentions" can sometimes be just as problematic. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599. info@matrixtheatre.org. matrixtheatre.org.

ART 'N' AROUND

THE STONE WITCH by Shem Bitterman Michigan Premiere October 19, 8 p.m. Peter Chandler, a starving artist with his own literary aspirations, is hired to help "The Great Man" finish his overdue book, an unlikely friendship ensues, secrets are revealed, and the lines of reality begin to blur. Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. 734-635-8450. A2TheatreNOVA@gmail.com.

MCC Detroit – Open Art Studio at The Art Experience, Inc. October 27, 12:30 p.m. Spend some time to explore your creative side! The studio is open with people to assist as needed. The Art Experience, 175 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. 248-706-3304. theartexperience.org. mccdetroit.org.

Michigan Depression Glass Society Show and Sale November 3, 10 a.m. Enjoy one of the nation's best all-American

made glass shows with makers such as Fostoria, Heisey, Fenton and more. Dearborn Ford Community & Performing Arts, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 313-943-2350. dearbornfordcenter.com. michigandepressionglass.com.

Saline Antiques Market November 11, 9 a.m. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 734-761-2796. salinemarket@gmail.com. foodgatherers.org. salineantiquesmarket.com/

THEATER

Theatre and Dance at Wayne Presents: Xtigone In present day Chicago, a woman mourns the death of her brothers, mowed down by a rival gang. Studio Theatre at the Hilberry, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. theatreanddanceatwayne.com. theatreanddanceatwayne.com.

Wittenberg Hamlet, a student at Germany's University of Wittenberg, is caught amid an escalating debate between Martin Luther and Doctor Faustus. The Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. tasiopeg@udmercy.edu. TheTheatreCo.com.

Stagecrafters Presents Fool for Love In a rundown motel on the edge of the Mojave Desert, former lovers May and Eddie square off to make sense of their intensely volatile relationship. Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org.

Not In My House at Planet Ant 9 p.m. This collaboration between Kristi Faulkner Dance and the Ruth Ellis Center radically shifts the narrative about LGBTQ+ identity. Planet Ant, 2320 Caniff St, Hamtramck. 313-365-4255. Kristi@KristiFaulknerDance.com. planetant.com.

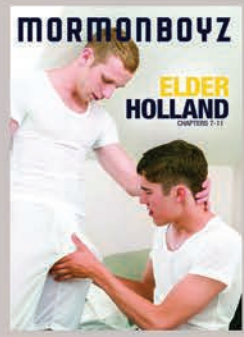
CHICAGO Returns to the Fisher Theatre! October 16, 8 p.m. CHICAGO has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz; one show-stopping song after another; and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com/shows/chicago.

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY

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



**UPTOWN SWEETEST
DAY SALE
20% OFF**

ALL REGULAR PRICED NOVELTIES,
TOYS & LOTIONS
OCTOBER 17 - 21, 2018

UPTOWN SALE
\$10 OFF ANY \$50 PURCHASE
\$20 OFF ANY \$100 PURCHASE
REGULAR PRICED MERCHANDISE ONLY!
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 4, 2018



Rush - Jungle Juice - Maximum Impact -
Swiss Navy - Amsterdam - ID Glide - COLT -
Butterfly Kiss Pink - The Womanizer

**UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO**

2 LOCATIONS

WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

Find us on
facebook

follow us on
twitter

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

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

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



Healthy Sexual Care

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

Your well-being is our priority. Our medical team is experienced, compassionate and sensitive to our diverse lifestyles. Also, our providers are board certified and accredited as HIV specialists by AAHIVM.

We maintain an extensive network of specialists to refer to as appropriate. We celebrate and embrace diversity and are non-discriminatory.

Quality health care, experience counts

- ◆ Preventative health services & primary care for your whole family
- ◆ State-of-the-art facility: lab, x-ray, pharmacy on site
- ◆ Most insurances accepted
- ◆ Designated a "Patient-Centered Medical Home" by Blue Cross Blue Shield, a high standard of excellence

Physician led – Patient Centered!

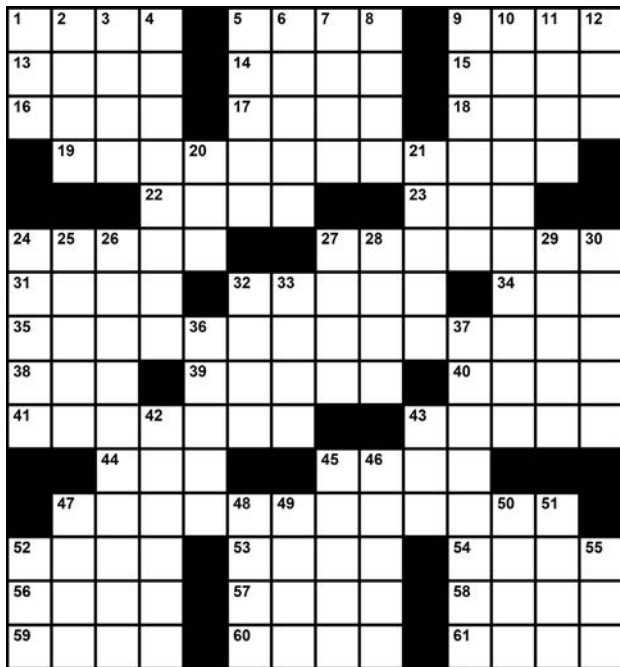
PAUL BENSON, D.O. is a Board Certified Family Medicine physician and Medical Director of the Be Well Medical Center.

Dr. Paul Benson's

**Be
Well**
Medical
Center



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



Ms. Borden

QPuzzle

Across

- 1 Loads
 5 Like a fairy tale brother?
 9 Revealing a small opening
 13 Iago, notably
 14 Pink shade
 15 Dis and dat, in Queens

- 16 Really a fan of
 17 Web surfer
 18 Happy sounds in bed
 19 She plays Ms. Borden in the 2018 movie "Lizzie"
 22 "Modern Family" adoptee
 23 It goes with a cock
 24 Push forward

- 27 Many have come out of them
 31 ___ a soul
 32 Be active in B&D
 34 Film noir classic
 35 She plays Ms. Borden's lover in "Lizzie"
 38 It spreads its limbs
 39 Fit to be tied
 40 Spirited stallion
 41 Repeat
 43 Like a mosquito bite
 44 Folksinger Williams
 45 Go almost to orgasm and stop
 47 Comment on Ms. Borden's bad reputation?
 52 "Like a Virgin," for one
 53 It may be junk
 54 Score in "Bend It Like Beckham"
 56 "Rule, Britannia" composer Thomas
 57 Nick was his master
 58 Passe preposition
 59 Margaret who studied people
 60 Part of GPS (abbr.)
 61 Untouchable head

Down

- 1 Disney prince
 2 "Mod Squad" character
 3 Scout's promise to be "morally straight"
 4 They go clang, clang, clang
 5 Oliver wanted more of it
 6 Portia de ___
 7 "That makes sense"
 8 Griffin of game shows
 9 "Love conquers all," and more
 10 Crossdressing saint, to the French
 11 Pale gray
 12 Lawyers' thing
 20 Tin Man's request
 21 Optimistic words
 24 Covered with 51-Down
 25 A woman named Thomas
 26 Temperamental diva, e.g.
 27 "Camelot"'s "___ Moi"
 28 Musical prop in "Hamlet"
 29 Temple text
 30 Just watched
 32 She plays Lena's wife on "The Fosters"
 33 Aerosmith's "Love ___ Elevator"
 36 Diana's accessory
 37 Shower rod?
 42 Sized up
 43 Parting words, old style
 45 Cuts "Leaves of Grass"?
 46 Self-contradictory bra size?
 47 Time of "Camelot"
 48 Big e-tailing season, for short
 49 Cole Porter's "You'd Be So ___ to Love"
 50 Skye of "Say Anything"
 51 Skin designs, briefly
 52 Pianist at Rick's Caf  Americain
 55 The "L" of L.A.

LIVING WITH HIV? WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

(248) 266-5545 | MetroCareNetwork.org | (877) 931-3248



MetroCare Coordination Network, offering FREE comprehensive services to those living with HIV/AIDS



DHS Public Charge Proposal Could Affect LGBTQ Community

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

On Wednesday, Oct. 10, the Department of Homeland Security published a new regulatory proposal that will make it much more difficult for immigrants with documented status residing in the U.S. to remain in the country if they are using or likely to use programs like Medicaid Part D, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Section 8 housing vouchers and other forms of public assistance.

Families could be denied green cards or permanent residency in the U.S. based on an immigration officer's guess that they might receive public benefits someday. People will be forced to make choices between accessing vital programs and keeping their family together.

The Williams Institute estimates there are 637,000 LGBTQ-identified individuals among the adult authorized immigrant population, and an estimated 24,700 non-citizens who are part of a same-sex couple with a U.S. citizen.

Over 600 organizations including CenterLink, a Florida-based LGBTQ nonprofit, have already opposed this rule.

"This radical change prioritizes wealth over families, and opens the door to racial, and religious and health-based discrimination," said a CenterLink press release. "These programs are designed and proven to improve participants' health, well-being, and economic security. When our most vulnerable populations succeed, the entire community benefits. And, our immigration laws already contain provisions limiting those who are likely to be dependent on federal aid. This proposed change is unnecessary and cruel."

Written comments and related material to this proposed rule, including the proposed information collections, must be received to the online docket via regulations.gov on or before Dec. 10, 2018. These material may also be mailed to Samantha Deshommes, Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20529-2140. To ensure proper handling, please reference DHS Docket No. USCIS-2010-0012 in your correspondence. Mail must be postmarked by the comment submission deadline.

BTL's Charles Alexander Recognized by Hannan Center

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Longtime Between The Lines columnist and contributor Charles Alexander was recently recognized by the Hannan Center as one of their 70 over Seventy: The Next Chapter Awards honorees. Alexander was presented with the award at a brunch banquet Saturday in the Dearborn Ballroom of the Dearborn Inn.

"It's certainly an honor for me," Alexander said to Between The Lines following the awards presentation. "As an out gay artist and columnist for BTL I'm proud of being chosen for inclusion. And while I am indeed way beyond the 70 age bracket, mentally I feel younger by about 30 or 35 years – and I know many, main rainbow seniors who share the experience."

Alexander, a highly-respected Detroit artist who graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1956, has been creating and sharing his art since reconnecting with it while in rehab for alcoholism some 36 years ago.

"I'm alive today because I stopped drinking in 1982," said Alexander. "I keep mental sharp by making art on a daily basis and by writing and researching my Parting Glances columns for BTL. Also, I exercise daily with weights and by walking everywhere as much as possible. For spirituality, I attend Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, a source of strength, support and friendship during my sober life."

A board member of the Scarab Club and



former longtime curator of the Affirmations' Pittmann-Puckett Gallery, Alexander is a prolific artist. Alexander frequently donates his art to causes he finds worthwhile and has, to date, raised over \$60,000 for human rights, LGBTQ and AIDS concerns.

In addition to recognizing members of Detroit's artistic community, the Hannan Center's 70 over Seventy also celebrated what they called changemakers, community leaders, entrepreneurs, lifelong learning individuals and unsung heroes.

"This year's 70 over Seventy winners have had their portion of ups and downs, but each one has viewed his or her life as a novel where they are the authors and every day is a new page and chapter to be written," said Vincent Tilford, the Hannan Center's executive director. "They continue to achieve and accomplish much in spite of obstacles. Their perseverance is a testimony to the world that older people have more to give, and that hard work, inspiration and aspiration are ageless."

The Hannan Center was created by Luella Hannan after her husband William bequeathed his estate to charitable causes in 1925. Today the Hannan Center develops and provides programs and services that meet the changing needs of Metropolitan Detroit areas seniors. This was the second year for the Center's 70 over Seventy program and the Next Chapter Awards.

Judy Lewis Also Recognized

Also recognized from the LGBT community was Judy Lewis. Recognized as a changemaker, Lewis helped to create the LGBT Older Adult Coalition in 2010, which later became SAGE Metro Detroit. Presently, Lewis a part-time trainer and educator for SAGE.

"It was a fabulous party," Lewis said of the awards banquet. "And isn't it wonderful that they're now acknowledging LGBT endeavors!"

To find more information about Hannan Center go online to hannan.org.

Michigan Honors Hirers of Qualified Disabled Community

BY BTL STAFF

Last week the 2018 Michigan Rehabilitation Services Champions Award ceremony recognized champions of disability employment. Gov. Rick Snyder proclaimed October to be Investing in Abilities Month in an effort to encourage employers to hire qualified people with disabilities while focusing on their abilities and increasing the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of Michigan workers with disabilities.

Those honored are Michiganders with disabilities who have utilized Michigan's vocational rehabilitation programs to obtain work, and employers and other partners who are committed to employing and empowering people with disabilities. A former Michigan Career and Technical Institute student from Allegan County who works as a welder and an Adrian man who earned a cyber security degree were among the honorees. The Michigan Rehabilitation Services within the Michigan Department of Health and Human

Services and the governor-appointed Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services are hosted the 10th annual event.

Customers (including youth) who are motivated and committed to finding and keeping jobs:

- Keegan Linton, Plainwell, who is a welder at Schupan & Sons in Kalamazoo. Linton studied machine technology at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute, an MRS school in Barry County for adults with disabilities to explore job training in specialized fields.

- David Mayne, Adrian, a single father of four who became disabled in 2013 and later attended Jackson College, receiving associate degrees in cyber security and general studies and a networking specialist certificate.

Business partners from large businesses that are working in innovative ways with MRS and its customers:

- Walgreens – Southfield and Flint.
- S. Forest Service Ottawa National Forest – Ironwood.

Business partners from small businesses that are working in innovative ways with MRS and its customers:

- Right Brain Brewery – Traverse City.
- Morley – Saginaw.

Community partners who have demonstrated a strong commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities to take charge of their futures:

- Lakestate Industries – Escanaba.
- Sickle Cell Disease Association – Detroit.

Statewide Community Partners who have demonstrated a strong commitment to empower individuals with disabilities to take charge of their futures:

- Joe Quick – Michigan Works!, Lansing.

To find more information about MRS or the Michigan Career and Technical Institute, visit michigan.gov/MRS or michigan.gov/MCTI.



Tuesday, Nov. 6
MiVoterGuide.com

Help Make Michigan Progressive Again
Enter Your Zip Code & Get Your Personal Ballot

**Know which candidates support Labor, the Environment,
Women's Rights, LGBTQ Rights and Voting Rights**

A Project of Pride Source Media Group publishers of Between The Lines



Every great adventure starts with a great deal.



TELEGRAPH



Get your lease with Reece!

Reece, Sales Representative
Reece@telegraphchrysler.com
Photo & Direct Line: 313-983-7761



2016 Jeep
Patriot High Altitude
\$16,600 stock # 9234



2016 Jeep
Wrangler Unlimited Sahara
\$30,300 stock # 8D007A



2016 Jeep
Renegade Latitude
\$17,500 stock # 8D188A



Heather Spurling
Used Sales Representative
hspurling@telegraphchrysler.com
Direct Line 734-991-4028



(734) 947-2300 // www.telegraphchryslerdodgejeepram.com // 12000 Telegraph Road // Taylor, MI 48180