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Palm Royale

Palm Royale's Ricky Martin & Kristen Wiig On Queer Safe Spaces & Their Platonic Love



INSIDE



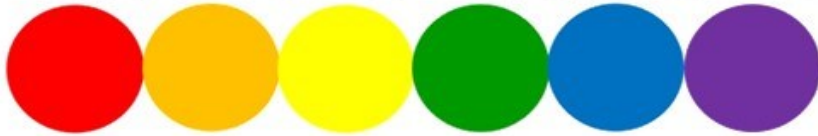
Dr. Levine
Everyone Needs
To **'Take Syphilis
Seriously'**

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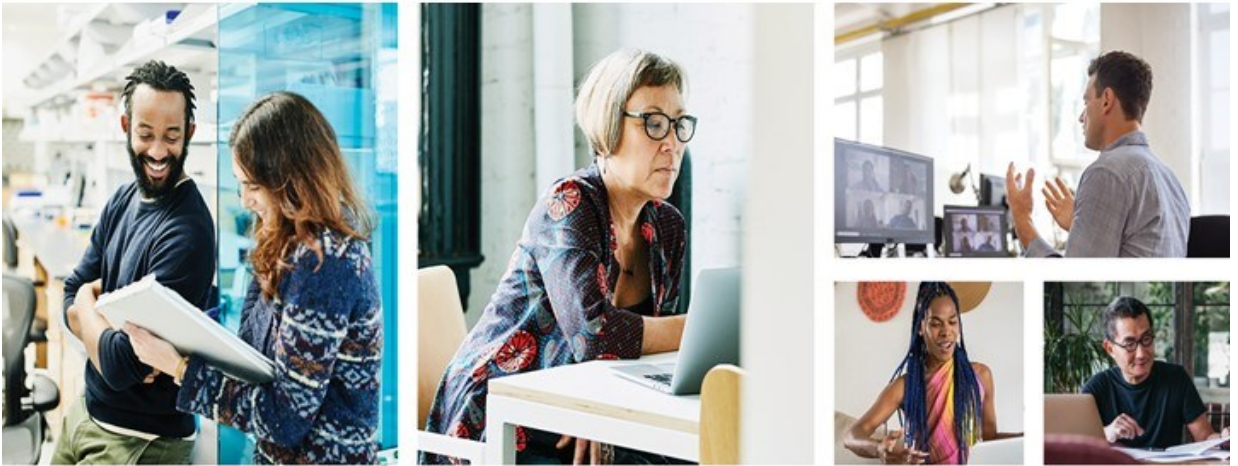
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WHO WE ARE

Jax Gay Inc. is a Community Marketing and Events organization incorporating Jax Gay Magazine, Rainbow Events, and Drag Queen Aholic.

Our mission as a 502(c)3 non-profit is to promote North Florida and especially in Jacksonville, as a welcoming LGBTQ+ destination through marketing and events. Jax Gay produces many events a year, including Jax Equality Festival in Jacksonville. Other events include the Rainbow Awards Show, White Party, Big Gay Picnic, Taste of Pride and Red Party. Visit www.JaxGayMag.com for more information.

Jax Gay Inc. also plans to launch our Jax Event Center & LGBTQ+ Art Gallery in Fall of 2023.

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Jax Gay Magazine is available in more than 150 locations from Pensacola to Jacksonville and reaches an audiences exceeding 300,000 monthly across our print, digital network. We offer comprehensive and cost-effective advertising programs on multiple platforms including:

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**Kim Petras Calls Anti-Trans Views
'Plague Of The Planet'**

By David Vandygriff



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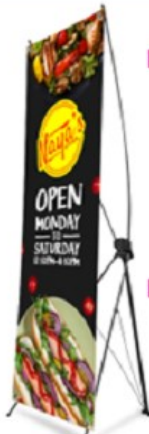
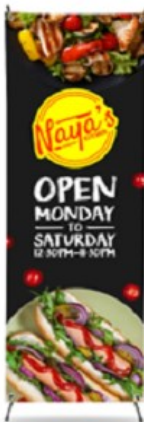
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News & Politics

Trump: 'Great Honor' To Go To Jail For Violating Gag Order

By David Vandygriff



Former U.S. President Donald Trump said it would be "my great honor" to go to jail for violating a gag order imposed by the judge who will hear his upcoming trial on charges stemming from a hush-money payment to a porn star.

"If this Partisan Hack wants to put me in the 'clink' for speaking the open and obvious TRUTH, I will gladly become a Modern Day Nelson Mandela - It will be my GREAT HONOR," Trump posted on Saturday on his Truth Social platform.

Trump was referring to Justice Juan Merchan, who will preside

over his trial in New York state court in Manhattan on criminal charges of covering up a \$130,000 payment before the 2016 election to porn star Stormy Daniels to buy her silence about an alleged sexual encounter.

The trial begins on April 15.

The Republican, who is challenging Democratic President Joe Biden in the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential election, has pleaded not guilty to 34 counts of falsifying business records and denies an encounter with Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford.

Merchan on April 1 expanded an existing gag order that had barred Trump from publicly commenting about witnesses and court staff to make clear it also applies to family members. He did so after Trump disparaged Merchan's daughter.

The looming hush-money trial is one of four criminal cases Trump is confronting ahead of the U.S. election. It could be the only one to reach trial before the election. He has pleaded not guilty to all and called them politically motivated.

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OUT & HEALTH

Aliyah's Interlude Comes Out As Pansexual & Says She 'Loves The Gays'
By Robert Stevens



You know she is that girl!

Aliyah's Interlude became an overnight success thanks to her catchy bop "IT GIRL" blowing up on TikTok and taking over the clubs late last year.

Since her first smash hit, the star is evolving in both music and fashion and has even merged her two passions with her latest single "Fashion Icon."

"It feels so great and amazing. I love that I get to venture into another genre of art besides fashion! Music has been a vibe.

I love 'Fashion Icon' because I'm a fashion girlie before anything. It's been a really great experience for sure," said Aliyah.

With her star on the rise, Aliyah has quickly won over the hearts of her passionate fanbase, which is mainly made up of hot girls and dedicated gays.

"I be at the gay clubs! When I tell you, the gays are always my number one support group... I love the gays! As somebody who's a part of the LGBTQ+ community themselves, that feels so

satisfying. For a very long time, I wasn't out and I wasn't doing all the things that I do now. To have the girls and the gays support me... I'm really happy about it."

For quite some time, Aliyah identified as bisexual, but now she's proudly coming out as pansexual!

"I give myself pansexual. At first, I was like 'I'm a bisexual queen,' but I feel like that doesn't encompass everything I do. I like pansexual for me! I know Pride is coming up, so I need to be outside for sure."

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Science & Technology

Northrop Grumman To Develop Railroad Concept For Moon

By Dennis Wilson



The US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has picked defense and aerospace technology group Northrop Grumman to deliver a railroad concept for the Moon.

This is part of the larger 10-year Lunar Architecture Capability study that the research agency unveiled last December and includes 14 other companies.

Over 50 years since its last Apollo mission, the US wants to send astronauts back to the Moon. The upcoming Artemis program, however, is aimed at more than just landing on the Moon. It intends to go further to Mars while setting up the Moon as an outpost.

Although NASA focuses on getting the components in place for a human landing on the Moon, DARPA is looking at activities that will follow later on.

The LunA-10 Project

According to a statement released along with the launch of the LunA-10 project last August, DARPA expects a

paradigm shift in the next decade for the lunar economy. The project wants to identify solutions that will allow multi-mission lunar systems.

For instance, unlike a power station that performs only one task on Earth, a lunar power station could double up as a communications and navigation hub while transmitting power wirelessly.

The study design intends to create new technology ideas that can be shared and scaled by working together. By December last year, DARPA had identified 14 companies that would participate in the project.

While this included big names such as SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, details of each company's responsibilities were not revealed.

Northrop Grumman is the first company to reveal its role in the project and will develop a railroad concept for the Moon.

Railroad on the Moon

Like the arrival of railroads in the 19th century, which led to increased economic activity in

the western parts of the US, the technology is expected to kickstart and sustain economic development on the lunar surface.

The intent behind the railroad system on the Moon is evident from Northrop Grumman's statement. "The envisioned lunar railroad network could transport humans, supplies, and resources for commercial ventures across the lunar surface – contributing to a space economy for the United States and international partners," a press release reads.

Currently, Northrop Grumman will only work on a limited area of the concept, such as defining the interfaces and resources to build a railroad network on the Moon. This will help identify the project's technological and logistical risks and arrive at a cost estimation, which would be essential before proceeding.

The defense contractor will also work on identifying the prototypes and analyze the design and architecture requirements if the project has to be fully operational

someday.

Since one will be working in a drastically different environment from the Earth, the project also includes exploring concepts for the construction, track placement, alignment, and operation of such a system while maintaining and repairing. The use of robotics in these applications will also be explored, the press release added.

“This investment in key developmental research keeps our technology at the forefront of next generation solution,” said Chris Adams, Vice President of strategic space systems at Northrop Grumman. “With our proven experience in the integration of complex systems and commercialized autonomous services, we will continue to create lasting change for a sustainable space ecosystem.”

The LunA-10 companies are expected to provide more details about their work at the upcoming Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium Spring Meeting next month and present their final write-ups by June this year.

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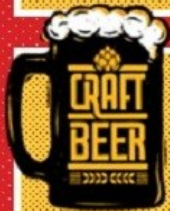
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ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

Russell Tovey's New, True-Life Gay Movie Has Finished Filming

By Brenda Davis



Your next gay movie obsession has officially wrapped.

Plainclothes, a '90s-set period piece inspired by true events and starring Russell Tovey and Tom Blyth, follows an undercover cop who finds himself falling for one of his targets, and it just got another step closer to being done.

Filming has officially wrapped on Plainclothes, which comes from writer/directed Carmen Emmi and follows "a working-class undercover officer" who "is tasked with entrapping and apprehending

gay men, only to find himself drawn to one of his targets."

According to the film's producers, Plainclothes "is a heartfelt story that deals with internal conflict, family, and the complexities of sexual identity in the face of societal and personal expectations."

The announcement came from Film Updates, who shared a picture of Emmi with his two stars, Tovey and Blyth on set.

When he hasn't been busy filming, Tovey has been having a great time teasing his fans

with sexy and funny t-shirts.

Back in February, Tovey, who co-hosts an art podcast called Talk Art with his friend Robert Diament, showed off his love for art with a cheeky shirt that read "Take me to an art museum and fuck me in the bathroom."

Later, in March, he shared an idea for a new piece of merch for the podcast, a t-shirt that simply reads "Russell Tovey's ears are my kink."

It's a message we couldn't agree with more strongly!

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OUT & HEALTH

Dr. Levine 'Take Syphilis Seriously'
By Glenda Rutherford



When Dr. Rachel Levine, a pediatrician who oversaw Pennsylvania's health system, was nominated and approved to be the Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the LGBTQ+ community and allies erupted in celebration and support. As a trans woman with significant influence over America's health care, Dr. Levine survived a GOP lawmaker onslaught of dissension on her nomination. Regardless, Dr. Levine prevailed, and the community gained another notch of pride with one of the foremost medical experts of our time taking a senior role at one of the most crucial times in our health system.

And the pride was well-founded in this amazing public servant who now also chairs the National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic (NSCSS) Federal Task Force. I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Levine at the White House last June for the president and Dr. Biden's Pride celebration. I found her very engaged, educated, and proactive on health issues impacting the LGBTQ+ community. Her focus on the growing sexual health realities of LGBTQ+ people

and other Americans, including trans health issues, mental health struggles, suicides, STIs, and HIV was impressive and heartening coming from a government official. Her passion and commitment to progress was evident, and all of America can truly take pride in an outstanding example of the best of our community representing all of us in government.

Now, nearly three years later, it's time for the LGBTQ+ community to transition from pride to support by listening and leading with action to Dr. Levine's recent blunt messages that sexually transmitted diseases, specifically syphilis, are rising to historic levels and it's up to each of us to stop spread. Data released in January from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and further reinforced by Dr. Levine's guidance, shows a sharp uptick in the number of syphilis cases, with a 17 percent rise over the previous year's number. With 2.5 million STD cases reported to the CDC in 2022, it's likely a huge undercount given lack of knowledge, contract tracing, testing, treatments, and stigmatization of STIs, especially among LGBTQ+ people.

According to an HHS release, "(Syphilis) cases in nearly every demographic group and region increased, as did disparities in the burden of disease among certain racial and ethnic populations." So now I appeal to the LGBTQ+ community to take collective action and lead by following Dr. Levine's good guidance. The best path forward to protect each other from spreading STIs starts with each one of us.

Collective action is not new to the LGBTQ+ community, evidenced when we faced other sexual disease threats, such as taking PrEP in record numbers to prevent HIV and getting inoculated in mass numbers to drive down the mpox outbreak of 2022. Incongruous to this great progress against HIV, many of us have collectively relaxed our use of condoms, dental dams, and the like, which have driven the rise in other STIs with growing mutations that can become resistant to antibiotics and other treatments.

Dr. Levine continually advises that we need to make testing a regular part of our self-care. If you are sexually active and getting tested every three months as part of your PrEP treatment, make sure your doctors are screening for all

STIs. In the meantime, if you ever fear you've been exposed, it is the time to cease sexual activity with others temporarily, get tested and, if positive, take prescribed treatment before resuming normal sexual activity. Most importantly, if you ever test positive for syphilis or other diseases, it's time to rise above the stigma and participate in contact tracing with recent sexual partners to help alert and encourage testing and treatment.

The LGBTQ+ community can help lead all other Americans on collective action to stop the spread of syphilis and other STIs. To show full pride in Dr. Levine's appointment at HHS is to respect her guidance to stay healthy, get tested regularly, take the treatments as prescribed, and participate in contact tracing to stop the spread. It's increasingly up to all of us, and as proven in the recent past, the LGBTQ+ community is expert in exerting collective action to protect each other far beyond any assistance of our government.

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The central graphic is a vertical poster for 'BOLD LOVE FEST'. It features a central white panel with text and a logo. The logo is a shield-shaped bar chart with 'BOLD LOVE FEST' written inside. The text lists performers: 'AVA MAX', 'ALY & AJ', 'G FLIP • VINCINT', and '& MORE FROM THE 904'. Below that, it says 'HOSTED BY MONET X CHANGE' and 'TRINITY THE TUCK'. The date and location are 'JUNE 15' and 'DAILY'S PLACE • JAX, FL', with the tagline 'A CELEBRATION OF LOVE & PRIDE IN THE BOLD CITY'. The poster is framed by a colorful border with various icons: a sun, a heart, an envelope, a leopard, a globe, palm trees, a crown, and a city skyline.

**LOVE LIVES
HERE**



Life and Style

What Drink Should You Serve With Lamb Chops

By Richard Bennett



Lamb is one of those incredible proteins that tastes like it would be much more complicated to prepare than it is. Gamey and grassy with a slightly sweet finish, any recipe that calls for lamb is sure to be teeming with flavor. But in the same way spicy food can make bad wine taste better, a well-chosen wine pairing can make a good lamb chop taste better still. There are plenty of reds that work to accentuate the natural earthy taste of lamb, but few do a better job than a southern Côtes du Rhône red.

Produced in the Rhône Valley in southeast France, the majority of Côtes du Rhône wines from the southern part of the region are red blends. While they can be made from 21 different grape varieties, three typically dominate: Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre. With these three at the forefront, southern Côtes du Rhône tend to be jammy,

spicy, and rich. The deep fruity notes and herbaceous qualities are given by the Grenache grapes, which mirror the flavors of the wild rosemary, thyme, and lavender that grow in abundance in the Rhône Valley. Lamb dishes — like this Rosemary-Grilled Lamb Chop recipe — often include these potent and aromatic herbs because they hold their own against the robust flavor of lamb. The same is true of their presence in Côtes du Rhône wine.

Gamey Meat Meets Gamey Wine

Although Grenache grapes dominate southern Côtes du Rhône, most also contain Syrah grapes, which are known for being acidic and peppery with hints of meat and smoke. That profile tends to work well with the smokiness of grilled lamb. A Côtes du Rhône made with a higher percentage of Syrah grapes can also be a

nice fit for lamb prepared with fuller-flavored spices like cumin. The Mourvèdre grapes, which take on a fruity and gamey flavor, are balanced out by the Grenache and Syrah. When paired with earthy lamb, however, their presence makes for a perfectly smoky bite at the back of the palette.

In sunny southern Côtes du Rhône, grapes tend to ripen more fully. As a result, the alcohol content of the wine is typically higher. This is another reason you should be serving Côtes du Rhône with your lamb. Because lamb chops have marbled fat that makes them rich in meaty flavor, a wine with more acidity and a higher alcohol content is softened by the woody flavors of a Simple Smoked Lamb Chops recipe. The next time you serve lamb in any form, pairing the dish with a southern Côtes du Rhône red wine will show that you have earned your culinary chops.



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Science & Technology

Microsoft Splits Teams From Office After Antitrust Scrutiny
By TJ Costello



Microsoft will stop packaging its Teams videoconferencing app with its Office software after the practice attracted antitrust scrutiny.

The tech giant said Monday that customers buying Office subscriptions starting this week won't get Teams bundled with the service. Microsoft will start selling the two products separately around the world, following a move last year to

separate the products in Europe.

That was after the European Union's executive commission, the 27-nation bloc's top competition enforcer, opened a formal investigation over concerns that bundling Teams with Office gives the company an unfair edge over competitors.

The investigation was triggered

by a complaint filed in 2020 by Slack Technologies, a maker of popular workplace messaging software.

Slack, owned by business software maker Salesforce, alleged that Microsoft was abusing its market dominance to eliminate competition — in violation of EU laws — by illegally combining Teams with its Office suite, which includes Word, Excel and Outlook.

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

JetBlue's New Checked Bag Fees Now Depend On The Day

By Brian Anderson

JetBlue is proving that not even your baggage is safe from dynamic pricing, with the airline rolling out fees that vary depending on the day of departure.

The price of a first checked bag now ranges from \$35 to \$50 under a recently revealed fee structure that depends on a number of factors, including dates JetBlue determines to be peak or off-peak.

JetBlue is giving flyers a \$10 discount if they add a checked bag during booking and at least 24 hours before check-in, with prices ranging from \$35 for off-peak dates and \$40 for peak dates.

Peak dates encompass about half of the year, including most of the busy summer travel season as well as dates before and after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in 2024. For next year, the dates range from mid-February (Valentine's Day and President's Day) and most of April for spring break and Easter. Full dates are listed on its website.

If a customer checks a bag within 24 hours of departure, the price jumps to \$45 for off-

peak dates and an industry high of \$50 for peak dates.

The first checked bag remains free on its transatlantic flights, except for customers flying on its cheapest fare (Blue Basic), which now costs between \$60 to \$70.

JetBlue said in a statement that the cost of "transporting bags has gone up significantly due to increased wages and higher fuel costs, and we remain unprofitable since Covid."

"While we don't like increasing fees, we are making these adjustments to help get our company back to profitability and cover the increased costs," the carrier said.

JetBlue flyers who have an airline-branded credit card, buy tickets in its premium Mint cabin or fares that include checked bags or have Mosaic status are largely exempt from the price increases.

US-based airlines started hiking baggage fees a few months ago, with American Airlines becoming the first carrier, increasing the price from \$30 to as much as \$40. Soon after, rivals United Airlines, Delta Air Lines and JetBlue hiked their fees. This will be JetBlue's second

increase since February.

JetBlue has also been mired in losses since the pandemic, reporting an adjusted loss of \$151 million in 2023, although that was an improvement from the \$260 million it lost in 2022. The airline tried to purchase Spirit Airlines, but a federal court blocked the merger. JetBlue agreed to pay Spirit \$69 million as part of its decision to end the deal.

In February, activist investor Carl Icahn bought a 10% stake in the company and announced plans to win two seats on its board of directors for his allies at the upcoming shareholders' meeting.

A few weeks ago, JetBlue announced a major reduction in flights at Los Angeles International Airport and exits from five cities as it attempts to shift flying to profitable routes.



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Palm Royale's Ricky Martin And Kristen Wiig On Queer Safe Spaces And Their Platonic Love

By Joe Roaten



Across town from Grasshopper cocktails and Pucci-inspired fashion at the upscale country club in the new Apple TV+ series *Palm Royale*, a group of outsiders finds friendship and common ground at a feminist bookstore. “Our Bodies, Our Shelves” is more than an apt pun for the late ’60s when the series is set.

“Our Bodies, Our Shelves” is the hub where feminists, hippies, and queer people find solace. And it’s where Kristen Wiig’s Maxine, a dreamer attempting to crack the upper echelon of Palm Beach society, befriends Laura Dern’s Linda, an anti-war and reproductive freedom activist. It’s also the space where Ricky Martin’s Robert — a Korean War veteran who bartends at the Palm Royale country club and has formed a special bond with Carol Burnett’s temporarily debilitated socialite Norma Dellacorte — finds contact information for gay men like him clandestinely written in the books on the shelves.

Though Maxine is married to Douglas Dellacorte, an airline pilot and an heir to Norma’s estate, and Robert engages in

a few trysts, the show’s central love story is the platonic friendship between Maxine and Robert as outsiders.

“The simplest connection they have is that they are hiding who they really are. They kind of know who the other one is and spend just exhausting hours trying to be something they’re not. ... Even when they’re bickering, there’s some relief and there’s some exhale,” Wiig tells *Jax Gay Magazine*. “The women in the club are obviously very unkind to Maxine. ... The word that keeps coming to my mind is safe. And I feel like Robert was Maxine’s safe place.”



“She doesn’t feel it anywhere else. She just feels completely exposed, completely insecure. She doesn’t know who she is. She doesn’t like who she is. And that I think they have [that] in common. It’s a beautiful love

story between the two of them.”

It’s no surprise that *Palm Royale* deftly juxtaposes humor and camp (Allison Janney’s Evelyn in *Caftans* delivering vicious one-liners is camp gold alone) with commentary around real issues of the era like queer people being forced into the closet, civil and women’s rights, and the anxiety of the Vietnam War. The series’ gay creator Abe Sylvia (George & Tammy) and the writers worked to build authentic spaces for all of their characters.

“Marginalized people have always had to seek out their own communities. So we wanted to create a real counterpoint to that country club. It’s like, okay, this is where these rarified women go to feel safe, and this is where feminists and gay men and people of color can go to feel safe and find love. And so to have those two worlds coexisting, and always sort of ping-pong off of each other was really important,” Sylvia says.

He adds that they worked diligently to subvert tropes about women in society and to “dimensionalize” them.



“We didn't want to have another show about rich women fighting with one another, we were all full up on that,” Silvia says. “And so that was sort of our guiding principle as we built out the world. Ricky's character is a big part of that as well. It's like, What, what was a gay man going through in 1969, where it was

illegal to be him? There are all kinds of Roberts in Palm Beach, gay men who find safety in the bosom of the older woman, the rich woman who's living alone, and they create these little friendships, and they feel safe.”

For Martin, an icon in music who paved the way for so many others when he came out, playing Robert was personal.

“Still, unfortunately, a lot of men and women out there, they can't be themselves, they can't, can't express themselves, they can be comfortable in their own skin. For me, one of the most

important things about this project [is] that I can speak on behalf of so many people. Even though it was in the 60s...” Martin says. “I was really looking forward to being Robert the guy that was in the military. And be [open] about the softness when he's surrounded by these very powerful women. For me, it was fantastic to be able to do that every day walking on set and refresh my memory exactly of where I know I don't want to be [closeted]. It was like going to therapy every day. It was beautiful.”

Palm Royale is streaming on Apple TV+ now.

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PFLAG Jacksonville traveled to Tallahassee twice in January and February to oppose anti-LGBTQ+ bills that were introduced during this legislative session, and we weren't alone. Public turnout to oppose these harmful bills was immense, with speaker after speaker voicing their pleas to stop the wave of legislative hate and let people live. Many of the bills we were opposing did not pass their committees and are no longer a threat, at least for this year. Equality Florida and their team of volunteers waged a massive lobbying effort and we cannot thank them enough for their continued dedication to equality for all.



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ABOUT US

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ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

Jinkx Monsoon Updates Fans On Her Chosen Name

By Brandon Rawlins



In this house, Monsoon season never ends.

Jinkx Monsoon, who starts her run as Audrey on *Little Shop of Horrors* on April 2 while gearing up to star in the new season of *Doctor Who* premiering May 10, has just shared a huge update in her gender journey — including her chosen name out of drag.

“Well, I released a perfume recently. Weird time to be releasing a perfume. [laughs] But I’m really, really happy with it and I hope it brings joy into people’s lives,” Jinkx told *Cosmopolitan*. “It’s called Hera, which is also the name I’ve chosen for myself in my personal identity.”

Jinkx shared this new interview and wrote in an X post: “Hera Hoffer is my chosen name. But make no mistake, I’ll always be billed as Jinkx Monsoon.”

Elsewhere in the interview, Jinkx also opened up about how she’s been navigating her trans experience out of drag. “I’m still kind of figuring it out. Because until very recently, my body has always been as delivered,” she explained. “When I’m onstage, I’m creating a character. And my mission statement as an artist is to teach everyone who loves theater that what’s between an actor’s legs shouldn’t matter in regard to how well they can play a role.”

Jinkx added that she’s identified as nonbinary for 10 years and has been identifying as trans feminine nonbinary for the last five years. “And within that self-identity, I put so many rules on myself,” she told the publication. “Sometime at the end of last year, I decided I was done. I lifted all those rules

and took a step forward. I booked my FFS [facial feminization surgery], I reached out about HRT [hormone replacement therapy], and every day, I just feel like I’m taking strides toward the person I always saw myself becoming. I’ve been explaining to my friends that I think I made a decision a long time ago that I was going to transition at some point in my life. I just didn’t know when.”

Hera Hoffer is a FIERCE name, and we couldn’t be happier for this incredible artist — who we’ve loved for so many years — taking such a huge step in her personal life. Jinkx’s long journey with her identity, which many of us first learned about in her 2015 documentary *Drag Becomes Him*, seems to be coming full circle now... and it’s truly beautiful to see it!

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Life and Style

'Hid My Mommy Belly' With Button Down Comfy Spring Layer

By Julia Webb



Spring brings so much fun to our lives — holidays like Easter and more daylight are just a couple of examples. However, it also brings plenty of unpredictable weather. From powerful storms to days that start chilly and end balmy, spring is arguably the hardest season to dress for. Layering is your friend for these unusual days, and Amazon shoppers have found a spring staple they say is ideal for tossing on or taking off as temps change: the Dokotoo Waffle Knit Shacket Jacket.

This shirt/jacket hybrid is lightweight enough to wear during warmer months but substantial enough as a layer on chillier days.

Why is this a good deal?

You can bring home this waffle knit shacket (somewhere between a shirt and a jacket, get it?) for just over \$31 right now with an on-page coupon — that's a discount of over 20%. It comes in 18 colors, ranging from neutrals like black and brown to more vibrant shades including pink and yellow, and they're all on sale.

Why do I need this?

If you're someone who never leaves home without a

cardigan or jean jacket in the spring, this is for you. The shacket is lightweight and can be tossed on over your favorite tee or tank for extra warmth and coverage. However, you can also button it up and wear it by itself. Pair it with shorts, jeans or leggings — come summertime, it even makes for a great swimsuit cover-up.

This design features an oversized fit and one chest pocket for added interest. The waffle knit texture helps it feel a little more special than your run-of-the-mill cotton button-up, but take note: Some reviewers say the lighter colors are a bit sheer. We love how the jacket borders on baggy, which means you can roll up the sleeves for a cute, casual look. The wrists have a bit of elastic, so when you push up the sleeves, they won't flop right back down. Pro tip: If you prefer a more fitted look, you may want to consider ordering a size down.

What reviewers are saying

Amazon shoppers have snapped up more than 100 of Dokotoo's Waffle Knit Shacket

Jackets in the last month, and more than 1,100 have given it five stars.

One pleased shopper said it was "exactly what I needed. This shirt/jacket is perfect for layering. You can dress it up or down, and it is lightweight enough to keep it on all day without getting too hot. Will be buying more colors!"

Another happy reviewer liked it so much that they bought three. They shared, "As a mom to a toddler and 7-month-old, I was looking for something that sort of hid my mommy belly but was still cool and comfortable for summer ... I didn't feel self-conscious (for once!) was comfy, cute and got a bunch of compliments ... I loved it and bought two more because this will definitely be a new comfy-cool-casual staple for me!"

A third five-star fan wrote, "The size and fit are perfect. Lightweight but keeps the cold air at the office from freezing me out. Versatile in the many ways it can be worn both dressed up and dressed down. Good buy!"



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RPDR's Morphine Wants To Prove That Miami Is A Drag Capital

By Josh Wilkerson

Morphine Love Dion had a great run on RuPaul's Drag Race season 16, but that journey came to an end in episode 13 when she had to lip sync for her life against Sapphira Cristal and was asked to sashay away from the competition.

Throughout the season, Morphine was the queen of confessionals, proved herself to be a lip sync assassin, and delivered one of the most stunning and polished mugs in Drag Race herstory. In her exit interview with Out, Morphine reflects on her trajectory on the show, the impact she's already had in the Miami drag scene, and her plans to turn the 305 into a bona fide "drag capital" that is well-recognized by fans from across the country and around the world.

JGM: I like to start zooming out a little bit and asking a big-picture question. How would you describe your overall Drag Race experience?

Morphine Love Dion: 11 out of 10. 11 out of 10. Both filming and while it's been airing, just amazing. An amazing experience, honestly.

Like you, I also live in Miami, and I have to say: when the cast of season 16 was revealed, your name was the only topic of conversation between the Miami Gays. 'Morphine is finally on Drag Race' was the only conversation to be had.

What's been your experience getting this reaction from your very own people, the 305 gays?

My god! It's like, not to be that girl, but I was always a little bit of a local celebrity here. So the fact that it's even on a bigger scale... it's just insane. I feel like when you're someone that is prominent in a local drag scene and you get a big win like that, you forget that you're actually representing an entire city.

All I wanted to do on Drag Race was to just represent my city in the best way, and I feel like I kind of did that. And now when I'm out on the streets. It's just like, 'Wow.' I feel like J-Lo coming back to my city, my hood [laughs]. So the love has just been immense and amazing. I'm a Miami girl ride or die, no matter what. Even if I move or go anywhere, Miami will always be home and my

city.

You brought up on the show that your family, here in Miami, still don't know that you do drag. Do you have any update on that?

They still don't know! I'm actually in the process of moving... which, funny enough, is really close to my family's house. But that's because Latinos, we love to stick together, right? We love to cram 700 people in one house. We love to do that, you know what I mean?

Oh, yes. I completely know what you mean [laughs].

So I'm moving into a cute little house. I think, little by little, it'll start to come out. But as of now, it's something that I'm not ready to do yet.

Are you moving up to Broward or are you staying in Dade county?

Hialeah! I think I even said on the show, 'From Hialeah to Hollywood.'

RuPaul's Drag Race season 16 airs every Friday on MTV.

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News & Politics

Biden Seeks Student Debt Relief For Millions

By Greg Connors

The Biden administration unveiled a new set of plans on Monday that would eliminate student debt for millions of Americans. The administration says that, if fully implemented, it would bring the number of borrowers who've seen some or all of their debt forgiven during the president's term to more than 30 million.

The new plan, aiming to supplant an earlier version that was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court in June, offers targeted relief to specific groups of borrowers, notably those who've carried debt for many years, and those struggling to make payments. And many borrowers, regardless of income, could see relief from high interest balances.

U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said the new proposals will fulfill a promise the president made while a candidate in 2020. The relief offered, he added, will mean "breathing room" for many borrowers. "It means freedom from feeling like your student loan bills compete with basic needs like grocery or health care."

The announcement spelled out efforts aimed at four groups of borrowers: those who owe more money than they did at the start of their repayment, borrowers who started paying more than 20 years ago, those already eligible for existing loan forgiveness or discharge programs but haven't yet applied, and borrowers facing economic hardship.

Addressing "Runaway Interest"

More than 25 million borrowers, the administration said, owe more in student loans now than they took out originally, due to what Cardona called "runaway interest." The first element of the new plan would allow any borrower, regardless of their income, to cancel up to \$20,000 in interest.

In addition, low and middle-income borrowers who are enrolled in an income-driven repayment plan would have all of their interest forgiven. This group of borrowers includes single borrowers earning \$120,000 or less a year, and married borrowers who make \$240,000.

If the plans go through as proposed, there would be no application necessary.

The administration estimates that this proposal would forgive some interest balances for 25 million borrowers, with 23 million receiving full forgiveness on their interest. Currently, about 43 million Americans have some form of student loan debt.

Automatic Discharge For Eligible Borrowers

Since Biden took office, several student loan programs have been revamped or re-negotiated to help ease borrowers' debt, though many still require borrowers to apply. (The programs can be dense, but NPR has previously reported on these programs and how to navigate them: including the SAVE program, public service loan forgiveness, and closed schools discharge.)

As the administration noted in its announcement, not every borrower who qualifies for these programs has applied, with more than 2 million eligible borrowers who have not done so.

Under the proposed plan, qualifying borrowers would no longer have to enroll to receive forgiveness. The Education Department plans to use data it already has to identify those



borrowers, and automatically credit their accounts.

Relief For Long-Time Borrowers And Those Experiencing Hardship

The new proposals would also help long-term borrowers. According to the Education Department, more than 2.5 million borrowers have carried student loan debt for more than two decades. Under the plan, borrowers carrying undergraduate debt would qualify for forgiveness if they started repayment on or before July 1, 2005. Borrowers with graduate school debt would qualify if they started repayment on or before the same date in 2000.

In keeping with the theme of these announcements, borrowers would not need to be enrolled in any plan to qualify. The relief would be automatic.

A separate component would

help those experiencing economic hardship. Some of this relief would be also happen automatically – for example, if a borrower is at a high risk of defaulting on their student loans. Other relief would require an application. The administration says borrowers who are struggling with medical debt or child care could apply for this program, if it is implemented.

A New Legal Foothold For Sweeping Debt Relief

The Biden administration has made multiple attempts at discharging student loan debt since taking office. Perhaps most notably in 2022: the president announced wide-spread relief of up to \$20,000 for qualifying borrowers. Millions of borrowers filled out the form to opt-in to the program, but the project was put on hold due to legal challenges. The Supreme

Court struck down that plan in June of 2023.

This new approach has been in the works for some time, as the Education Department has been undergoing what's called "negotiated rule-making" to develop a new avenue for debt relief since the original plan was overturned in June. They've been hearing from stakeholders, advocates, and critics in advance of this announcement.

It's expected the new proposals will take some time before eligible borrowers can begin to see their debt eliminated. The Education Department must gather public comment on the proposal before issuing a final version of its plan.

The plan will likely face legal challenges as well, though though the rulemaking process may put this effort on stronger legal ground than the first debt-relief plan.

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The collage features six JaxGay magazine covers arranged around a central graphic. The central graphic is a white paper cutout of a person's torso, with a red circular sticker that says "SUBSCRIBE TODAY!". The covers include:

- Top-left: "No Longer Olivia: Reintroducing Liv Lux Miyako-MagJerMa" (Issue 136, March 2012)
- Top-middle: "BE BOLD BE PROUD BE GAY" (Issue 144, November 2012)
- Top-right: "Femophobia In Gay Community" (Issue 145, December 2012)
- Bottom-left: "Ultra Rich: 12 Richest LGBTQ People in the World" (Issue 142, September 2012)
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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Rains Provide Rare Chance To Kayak In Death Valley

By Buck Joshlin

Because of excessive rainfall in California, a temporary lake is giving folks a rare chance to do some actual kayaking of all things in the driest place in the United States, the National Park Service said in a recent news release.

The aquatic adventure is taking place at Badwater Basin, which lies at the bottom of Death Valley National Park. It is the lowest elevation in North America at 282 feet below sea level.

Badwater Basin is normally a dry salt flat, the NPS said.

“You might think with no drain to the sea, that Death Valley would always have a lake,” said park ranger Abby Wines in the news release. “But this is an extremely rare event. Normally the amount of water flowing in is much less than the evaporation rate.”

Death Valley National Park averages about 2 inches of rain per year, the NPS said in the release. But the valley floor has gotten 4.9 inches in the past six months. The surrounding mountains have seen even more rain.

‘It’s a great time to come’

Most of the rain came in just two events: 2.2 inches during the remnants of Hurricane Hilary on Aug 20, 2023, and 1.5 inches during an atmospheric river Feb 4-7, the release said.

“The lake was deep enough to kayak for a few weeks after Hurricane Hilary, but unfortunately people couldn’t come enjoy it then,” said Wines. “Every road in the park was damaged by flash floods, and it took two months to open the first road into the park.

“Now most of the main roads are open, so it’s a great time to come visit!”

Some secondary and backcountry roads are closed, so be sure to check for the latest weather information before setting out. But adventurers can currently reach Badwater Basin via paved road.

Welcome to Lake Manly

Informally known as Lake Manly, the fleeting pool is about 6 miles long, 3 miles wide and just 1 foot deep. It might be deep enough to kayak only for a couple weeks, the NPS said.

“However, park rangers believe



the shallow lake will still create beautiful reflections through April,” the release said.

Park rangers ask that would-be visitors follow park rules and minimize their impact on the fragile desert environment.

“Parking lots may be full. If parking on a road shoulder, drivers should be cautious of soft shoulders and ensure they are fully out of the driving lane. Footprints in the lakeshore can last for years. People should walk on established pathways,” the release said.

All hotels and most campgrounds in the park are open, the NPS reports.

You’ll need to provide your own kayak. “Death Valley does not have any kayaks available for rent. If folks are planning on paddling in the park, they will need to bring their own gear. We also recommend bringing some water to wash the salt of your gear or person,” the park said on Monday.

If you’re hoping for a bonanza wildflower bloom from all that rain, you might be disappointed. And if the wonders of the Earth aren’t enough to lure you there, the park plans to hold its annual Death Valley Dark Sky Festival.

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