

AUGUST 2024 ISSUE 170

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MAGAZINE

BE BOLD BE PROUD BE GAY



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**INSIDE**



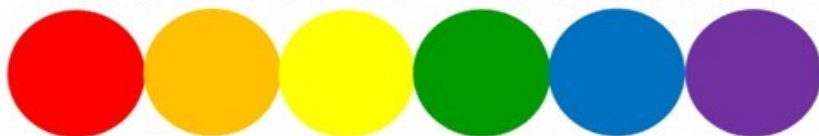
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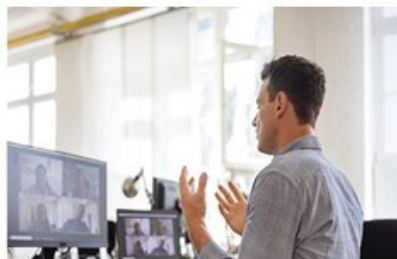
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Jax Gay Inc. is a Community Marketing and Events organization incorporating Jax Gay Magazine, Rainbow Events, and Drag Queen Aholic.

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](http://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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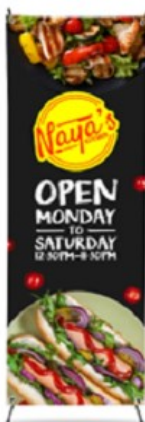
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# News & Politics

## HIV Sex Workers No Longer Required To Register As Violent Sex Offenders In TN

*By David Vandygriff*

The state of Tennessee agreed on Monday to scrub its sex offender registry of sex workers included on the list because they were living with HIV when arrested.

The ACLU, ACLU of Tennessee, and the Transgender Law Center joined OUTMemphis and four Jane Doe plaintiffs to file suit in the U.S. District Court in Memphis challenging Tennessee's aggravated prostitution law, which criminalized sex work while living with HIV.

The settlement announced on Monday sets specific time frames for removing the plaintiffs from the registry, identifying and removing from the list others convicted of aggravated prostitution, and establishing a procedure for notifying individuals on the list as well as a procedure for others to request their names be removed.

"We are pleased to share that today we entered into a partial settlement with the state of Tennessee on behalf of OUTMemphis and our individual plaintiffs," the groups working on the case said in a statement. "Through this

settlement, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations has agreed to promptly, fairly, and efficiently facilitate the process of removing people from the sex offender registry who were on it due to convictions for aggravated prostitution."

The law forced sex workers living with HIV to register as "violent sex offenders" for the remainder of their lives. It is estimated at least 80 individuals convicted of aggravated prostitution appear on the list and are eligible to have their names removed.

"People convicted of Aggravated Prostitution must spend years in prison and then register as violent sex offenders for the rest of their lives – meaning they cannot access the housing, employment, healthcare and community life that they need to get back on their feet," Molly Quinn, executive director of OUTMemphis, said in a statement at the time the lawsuit was filed in 2023. "This statute solely targets people because of their HIV status and keeps them in cycles of poverty, while posing absolutely zero benefit to public health and safety."



One sex worker who is a plaintiff to the suit said she was not advised she would have to register as a sex offender when she pled guilty in 2010.

"When I first pleaded guilty to my charges, I was not informed of any of the specifics about registration," Michelle Anderson wrote earlier this year. "I was not informed my registration would be for the rest of my life – despite the fact that I haven't hurt a living soul. Tennessee's law is a relic from a time before treatments such as antiretroviral therapy (ART) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which can reduce viral loads to undetectable levels, blocking the possibility of transmission of HIV. I had no idea such a law was even still on the books." The settlement does not address the legality of

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the aggravated prostitution law, but instead only provides relief to the claims of the plaintiffs in the case.

"Tennessee's discriminatory aggravated prostitution statute irrationally targets people living with HIV who engage in sex work, regardless of whether they take steps to ensure against HIV transmission," the groups said. "This settlement is one step towards remedying those harms by addressing the sex offender registration. However, as aggravated prostitution remains a felony, our legal team will continue to fight to overturn this statute and ensure that no one in Tennessee is criminalized based on their health status."

Under the terms of the settlement, within 60 days the state agrees to complete all required efforts to identify potentially eligible individuals convicted of aggravated prostitution who wrongly appear on the sex offender registry, contact the individuals, and notify the registering agency of the potential removal from the registry.

The state also agreed to pay all legal fees for the plaintiffs.

Removal from the registry is not guaranteed despite the ruling. Those convicted of other qualifying crimes will not be removed.

"I joined this lawsuit because this law has had such a detrimental impact on me and my life," Anderson added. "No one should be forced to endure what I have endured."

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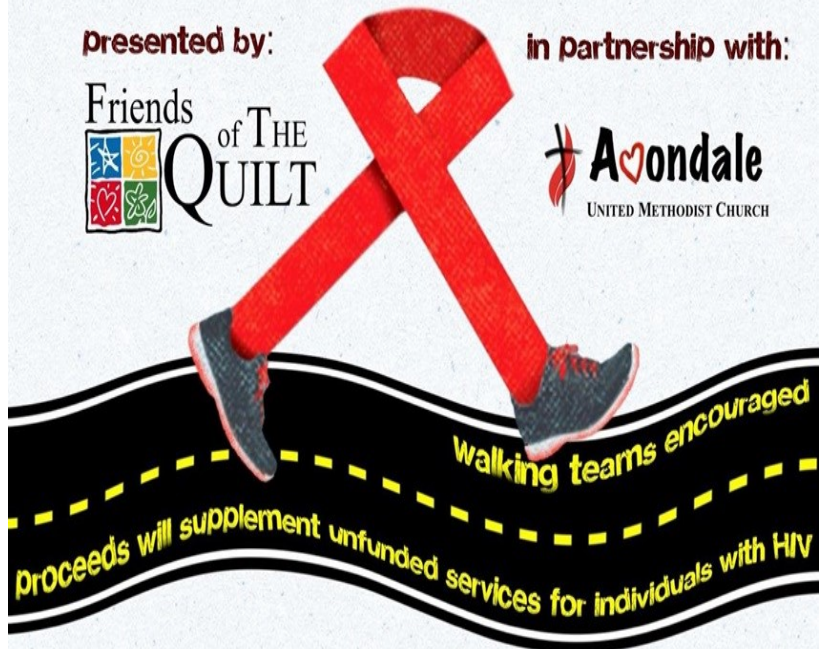
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# OUT & HEALTH

## 'Super-Gonorrhea' is Rare, But The STI Is Smart — Doctors Are Concerned

By Bernard Jefferson

It sounds more like a villain straight out of a comic book, but “super-gonorrhea” — better known as antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea — is real. Canada recently reported a rise in the persistent infection, including “a near-doubling of cases” showing that certain antibiotics were either less effective or not effective at all at killing *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the bacteria that causes gonorrhea.

Gonorrhea is the second-most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the U.S. There were nearly 650,000 cases of gonorrhea reported in 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — an 11% increase since 2018. And it’s not just affecting young people: Cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis in Americans ages 55 to 64 have more than doubled over the past decade.

That’s concerning given that almost half of U.S. gonorrhea infections in 2022 were resistant to at least one antibiotic, according to a May 2024 report on super-gonorrhea published in JAMA Network. As the author of the report put it: Gonorrhea

“continues to outsmart the drugs used to fight it.”

The Canadian report called antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea “a serious public health threat” and said the STI’s ability to withstand two antibiotics used to treat it, ceftriaxone and azithromycin, is a “global concern.” Cases have been reported in multiple countries beyond Canada, including the United Kingdom, France, China and Japan. The U.S. had its first cases of the superbug in 2023, in Massachusetts, with health authorities there saying it was resistant to five different antibiotics.

So where did antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea come from? How concerned should you be? And what can you do to protect yourself? Here’s what experts say.

### What Causes Antibiotic-Resistant Gonorrhea?

In a nutshell, it’s “misuse of antibiotics,” Dr. Hana El Sahly, professor of molecular virology and microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, he stated.

Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security, explains that bacteria have “dominated this planet for billions of years” and

over time have evolved so they can survive. “Antibiotics are often natural products produced by other microbes that they use against each other, so antibiotic resistance is a not surprising evolutionary adaptation,” he stated.

He adds that humans using antibiotics “injudiciously — for unnecessary conditions, for example — can accelerate this natural evolutionary process.”

Worth noting: Although some publications refer to it as super-gonorrhea, not everyone is a fan of the term. “‘Super’ gonorrhea is not a medical term and doesn’t actually add anything to explain the phenomenon of antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea,” says Adalja.

### Super-Gonorrhea Sounds Scary. How Concerned Should People In The U.S. Be?

Antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea is rare in the U.S., but El Sahly says it’s still important to take it seriously.

Dr. Matthew Hamill, an assistant professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine who specializes in STIs, agrees. “In the U.S so far we have been, relatively speaking, spared from some of the worst — our worst fears



haven't come true," he said. "We're not seeing a lot of multi-drug-resistant gonorrhea."

However, Hamill says that cases being reported globally "often can be the canary in the coal mine — it's something we have to be alert to and pay attention to." He points out that in other parts of the world, drug-resistant gonorrhea is more common. "People travel and people have sex when they travel," he says. "STIs get moved around the world very effectively. It's definitely something we need to be aware of and concerned about."

Adalja says that everyone should be concerned about acquiring drug-resistant forms of gonorrhea because it is more difficult and complicated to treat. He adds: "It is likely that rates of antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea will increase."

### **What Can You Do To Protect Yourself?**

There are no vaccines that prevent gonorrhea. Instead, experts recommend taking steps to reduce the risk of getting the STI. "If you don't

have gonorrhea, you can't get drug-resistant gonorrhea," says Hamill, "so use tried and trusted ways such as condoms to prevent acquiring gonorrhea in the first place. It's not very sexy talking about condoms these days, but they work."

Along with practicing safer sex, Hamill says patients should be aware of what the CDC's screening guidelines are on who should get tested regularly for STIs, including gonorrhea — especially given that many people with gonorrhea don't have symptoms. When they do show up in men, symptoms include a burning sensation when peeing; white, yellow or green discharge from the penis; and in some cases painful or swollen testicles, according to the CDC. Women can also experience a painful or burning sensation when peeing, increased vaginal discharge and bleeding between periods.

After possible exposure to the STI, both El Sahly and Hamill recommend talking to a health care provider about taking doxycycline prophylactically (doxy-PEP) — meaning, taking

the medication before having symptoms — which can reduce the risk of developing gonorrhea by up to 60% if taken within 72 hours of condomless sex. The prescription medication can also be obtained at sexual health clinics for free or at a low cost and is often covered by insurance.

On a public health level, El Sahly says that decreasing the misuse and overuse of antibiotics in general helps reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance, including gonorrhea. Experts add that investing in research to look into novel vaccines and treatments against gonorrhea are needed.

One promising area is molecular tests, which Hamill says look for genetic markers that can signal a gonorrhea infection is resistant to certain antibiotics so doctors can prescribe the best treatment to tackle it. "I think the future is really exciting to be able to use more modern tools to look for microbial resistance," he says, "but we're nowhere near where we need to be."

# ONE COMMUNITY





# Science & Technology

## Titanium Heart Powered By Rail Tech Implanted Successfully

By Allie Grisham

With the aim of boosting heart implantation technology, innovators in healthcare devised a metal-based device that looks and functions like a heart called Total Artificial Heart (TAH), which was developed by BiVACOR.

Being hailed a 'bridge-to-transplant solution' for patients suffering from severe biventricular heart failure or univentricular heart failure. This is a condition in which medical professionals advise against left ventricular assist device support.

Earlier yesterday [July 25, 2024], The Texas Heart Institute (THI) along with BiVACOR announced the first successful in-human implantation of the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart (TAH).

The first-in-human transplant of BiVACOR TAH took place at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in the Texas Medical Center as part of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Early Feasibility Study (EFS) on July 9, 2024.

### Composed Of Titanium-Based Biventricular Rotary

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### Blood Pump

The artificial heart is composed of a titanium-constructed biventricular rotary blood pump with a single moving part that utilizes a magnetically levitated rotor according to a statement by The Texas Heart Institute.

The rotor pumps the blood and replaces both ventricles of a failing heart.

According to New Atlas, the artificial heart uses the same technology as high-speed rail lines, and now has been implanted inside a human being.

The purpose of the device is not to replace the heart entirely but only until the patient is waiting for an actual heart transplant.

Daniel Timms, founder, and CTO of BiVACOR stated that the TAH utilized advanced maglev technology.

"The TAH brings us one step closer to providing a desperately needed option for people with end-stage heart failure who require support while waiting for a heart transplant," he said.

"I look forward to continuing the



next phase of our clinical trial."

### First Use Of Maglev Tech In Artificial Heart

While it's not the first-ever artificial heart transplant but this was the first time scientists used magnetic levitation (maglev) technology.

The maglev technology employs magnetic fields to suspend and rotate the rotor without physical contact. The approach reduces friction and mechanical wear, thereby improving the durability and reliability of mechanical devices.

In the BiVACOR TAH, maglev enables a single moving part—the rotor—to pump blood efficiently through the heart's chambers, offering a smoother, more biocompatible alternative to traditional mechanical pumps that rely on multiple moving components and mechanical valves.

This technology aims to minimize blood trauma and improve the overall performance of the artificial heart.

The study strives to assess the safety and performance of the

BiVACOR TAH in patients experiencing heart failure – one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide. It has impacted a minimum of 26 million people worldwide, and 6.2 million adults in the U.S.

Dr. Joseph Rogers, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Texas Heart Institute and

National Principal Investigator on the research stated:

We are proud to be at the forefront of this medical breakthrough, working alongside the dedicated teams at BiVACOR, Baylor College of Medicine, and Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center to transform the future of heart failure therapy

for this vulnerable population.”

According to the institute, the U.S. National Institutes of Health estimated that up to 100,000 patients could immediately benefit from mechanical circulatory support (MCS), and the European market is similarly sized.



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**ART AND ENTERTAINMENT**

## **Monster House' Returning to Netflix Ahead of Halloween Season**

*By Bruce Sappington*



We may be locked in the dog days of summer, but spooky seasons is coming early to Netflix. When the streamer on Wednesday released its full list of TV shows and movies arriving next month, it revealed a wave of spooky titles to come, including *Monster House*. Gil Kenan's 2006 directorial debut is set to be available for streaming on Netflix beginning Aug. 1.

Co-written by Dan Harmon, creator of *Community* and co-creator of *Rick and Morty*, along with his frequent writing partner Rob Schrab, *Monster House* centers around a sentient haunted house. When three neighborhood kids discover that the home is more alive than it may seem just before Halloween, they must find a way to destroy the structure before innocent trick-or-treaters meet ghastly ends.

The supernatural comedy-horror film's A-list voice cast features Steve Buscemi, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Kevin James, Nick Cannon, Jason Lee, Fred Willard, Jon Heder, Catherine O'Hara and Kathleen Turner. Mitchel

Musso, Sam Lerner, and Spencer Locke voice the 12-year-old protagonists Dustin James "D.J." Walters, Charles "Chowder" Peterson, and Jenny Bennett.

Hitting theaters on July 21, 2006, *Monster House* was not only a box office win, bringing in a box office haul of \$142 worldwide against a \$75 million budget, but also quickly rose to become a cult classic. The film holds a 75% critics score and 64% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes – where a critics consensus reads, "*Monster House* welcomes kids and adults alike into a household full of smart, monstrous fun." – and is regarded as having paved the way for other beloved animated horror films for kids, such as 2009's *Coraline* and 2012's *ParaNorman*. *Monster House* also received nominations for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature and the Golden Globe Award for Best

Animated Feature Film.

Despite the film's massive success and popularity, nearly two decades since its release, there has not been a *Monster House* sequel. Speaking to ComicBook.com in March 2024, Kenan said "never say never" to a possible sequel, adding, "there might be another *Monster House* story, I haven't had the idea in the years since. Also, it feels like that movie had such a complete story."

The film will be available to stream on Netflix beginning Aug. 1 alongside other family-friendly upcoming titles like *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat* and *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*. Netflix's August spooky lineup, meanwhile, includes horror films like 2022's *Pearl*, the second installment in *Ti West's X* trilogy, as well as six *Child's Play* films. Other titles, including *Everything Everywhere All At Once* and *Miami Vice*, will exit Netflix next month.



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# OUT & HEALTH

## Walmart & MISTR To Offer Free At-Home HIV Testing Kits

By Drew Williams

A new partnership between PrEP telemedicine startup MISTR and Walmart aims to make at-home HIV testing more affordable and accessible.

Starting July 25, MISTR will provide at-home HIV testing kits in seven Walmart stores in the greater Atlanta area as part of a pilot program. Store locations include Atlanta, Stockbridge, Morrow, Decatur, and Ellenwood. Customers living in these areas can walk into one of the pilot program stores and pick up a kit from the pharmacy free of charge, according to a MISTR press release. Users take the kit home, follow instructions, and register as a user with MISTR to receive their results, along with any relevant treatment resources.

The move is the latest in MISTR's efforts to expand its product line of sexual health telemedicine. In April of this year, the company rolled out access to Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (DoxPEP), which has been shown to reduce the likelihood of transmission of syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea by about 60 percent when taken

within 72 hours of exposure. More than 2.5 million cases of syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea were reported in 2022, with gay and bisexual men reporting exposure at higher rates.

"If someone's getting tested for HIV, then they're at risk for HIV and should be on PrEP," MISTR founder Tristan Schukraft told The Advocate. "A lot of people outside of the gay community are unaware of what PrEP is and how it can protect them. With each of these kits, there will be information on PrEP, and when [users] get results back, they'll be encouraged to get on it."

A report published last year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the Atlanta metro area had the third-highest HIV infection rate in the nation in 2021, and 52 percent of all new infections in the U.S. that year happened in the South. Fulton and DeKalb counties also had the first- and second-highest rate of new infections in the country, with about 50 cases per 100,000 people.

Of the roughly 36,000 new HIV infections in the U.S. that year, 71 percent were among gay,



bisexual, and other men who reported male-to-male sexual contact, 22 percent were among people who reported heterosexual contact, and the remaining 7 percent were among people who inject drugs, the report said. U.S. clinical trials for a twice-a-year HIV prevention injection of the antiretroviral drug lenacapavir began in June, according to the National Institutes of Health; lenacapavir has already been approved by the FDA for HIV treatment.

"I'm really proud of Walmart because they're taking this challenge on, and I'm excited about this because it's outside the box," Schukraft said. "A lot of people may not think of Walmart as very forward-thinking when it comes to HIV and whatnot, so I think it's great what they're doing, and we're really excited to partner."

Since launching in 2018 at Palm Springs Pride, MISTR's no-cost access to PrEP has attracted over 350,000 Patients.

"If we ran out of test kits on the first day, we'd be really happy," he said.



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# Life and Style

## Your Steak Is Begging For Blue Cheese

By James Bennett



A good steak elevates a meal to enticing elegance. There's nothing like the joy of slicing into tender, juicy meat and tasting its hearty goodness. This only gets better when combined with the thrill of adding something new to steak such as blue cheese. While salt, pepper, aromatics, and a butter are often enough to impart marvelous flavors, this additional ingredient is hardly redundant. You'll delight in the unique flavor balance it brings to your steak.

While blue cheese can generally be defined by its sharp, pungent scent, it's also much more nuanced. Some varieties carry sweet and creamy notes. Others lean more into the salty spectrum, and aged varieties tend to be earthy with a piquant bite.

When paired with steak, blue cheese's bold tanginess and layered flavors perfectly balance the fat's richness, enhancing the meat's robust, savory taste. Although beef and blue cheese are both quite rich, they don't overwhelm each other. Instead, blue cheese creates an exquisite depth that complements a well-seasoned steak.

### Different Ways To Add Blue Cheese To Steak

There are many types of blue cheese, each with its own unique features. Any blue cheese will work, so choosing the right one for your steak comes down to personal preference. Those who like it mild and creamy might appreciate the German blue cheese known as Cambozola. Roquefort has a stronger taste

and a complex, funky depth, while Gorgonzola packs a rustic, slightly sweet sharpness.

As for incorporating blue cheese, there are a few standout options. A blue cheese sauce is a foolproof choice. You only need simple additional ingredients such as heavy cream (or milk), stock, spices, and perhaps Worcestershire sauce to make it. You can sauté onions (with the help of our how-to guide) and add them as well. Serve the sauce on the side as a dip for our simple garlic butter steak bites, or pour it over the meat.

Another fun and flavorful approach is melting it into softened butter and letting it chill for an hour to make a blue cheese butter that can be

slathered on the meat. Or give your steak a blue cheese crust by mixing the cheese with breadcrumbs, olive oil, spices, and finely chopped herbs. Coating the tender meat with a crunchy, melty layer is a divine finishing touch.



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## Harris Is Pushing Joy

By Will Weissert



At the top of his first speech as her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz turned to Vice President Kamala Harris and declared, “Thank you for bringing back the joy.” The next day, Harris took the theme a step further, branding the Democratic ticket “joyful warriors.”

Contrast that with former President Donald Trump, who opened a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida a few days later by saying, “We have a lot of bad things coming up,” and predicting the U.S. could fall into an economic depression unseen since the dark days of 1929 or even another world war.

“I think that our country is, right now, in the most dangerous position it’s ever been in, from an economic standpoint, from a safety standpoint,” Trump said Thursday.

Democrats are playing up their sunnier outlook, promoting the idea that voters can be inspired to support someone and not just cast their ballot against the other side. The Trump campaign

argues their candidate is reflecting the dour mood of the country and dismisses the idea that a growing contrast in tone and upbeat attitude will decide the presidency.

Two-thirds of Americans reported feeling very or somewhat pessimistic about the state of politics, according to polling by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research from last month. Roughly 7 in 10 said things in the country are heading in the wrong direction.

Jason Miller, a senior adviser to the former president, said people don’t care about “vibe checks.”

“That’s not making gas or food or housing less expensive,” Miller said.



### Walz Promotes Positivity

Still, just how hard Harris is betting on the opposite

approach is evident in her decision to pick Walz, whose personal story includes being on the coaching staff of a high school football team that had gone winless just a few years earlier to clinching a state championship in 1999.

The Minnesota governor’s relentless positivity is meant to give supporters a jolt of new energy and keep the momentum that Harris has built after President Joe Biden — facing mounting pressure from within his own party and increasingly pessimistic views about his chances in November — stepped aside and endorsed his vice president.

Walz spent his first week as Harris’ running mate traveling to swing states with Harris and underscored the point during a rally in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, celebrating what he said was “the ability to talk about what can be good.”

“This idea of caring for our neighbor and kindness, and a hand up when somebody needs it. And just the sense that people go through things and to be able to be there when they need it, that’s who

we are,” he said. “It’s not about mocking. It’s not name-calling.”

Biden often ended his speeches saying he’d never been more optimistic. But he built his now-shuttered reelection bid around branding Trump an existential threat to democracy. The president offered dire predictions about the former president, suggesting he’d dismantle the nation’s founding principles should he retake the White House.

Harris’ campaign still relies on many of the same themes, decrying Trump as a threat to democracy, warning that he’ll impose draconian limits to abortion and voting and that he will follow Project 2025, a plan championed by top conservatives to remake large swaths of the federal government.

And despite Walz insisting that smiles were more powerful than insults, he and Harris have continued their share of denunciations, decrying Trump’s conviction in New York on 34 felony counts in a hush-money case and his being found liable for fraudulent business practices and sexual abuse in civil court.

Still, even before she named Walz her running mate, Harris was suggesting that she could help make politics fun again.

“We love our country. And I believe it is the highest form of patriotism to fight for the ideals of our country,” Harris declared in campaign speeches before picking Walz. She now tells crowds that she and her

running mate “both believe in lifting people up, not knocking them down.”

Paula Montagna, who went to see Harris and Walz at a rally outside Detroit last week, highlighted the shift in messaging since Harris took over from Biden.

“Kamala is so positive, and it’s nice to hear positive instead of negative,” Montagna said.



### **Trump Team Says Their Candidate Is Reflecting Reality**

Trump’s senior campaign advisers counter that the mood of the country right now is sour over the economy, the state of the U.S.-Mexico border and turmoil in the Middle East and beyond. They see their candidate as reflecting that reality rather than what they believe is a temporary exuberance igniting the Democratic base after months of discouragement over their ticket.

Trump has tried to harness that with his repeated predictions of stock market crashes and war. His campaign appearances have included a long list of other warnings that have veered into the apocalyptic, saying that if he’s not elected, “we’re not going to have a

country anymore,” that “the only thing standing between you and its obliteration is me,” and that under a Harris administration, “Social Security will buckle and collapse” and “the suburbs will be overrun with violent crime and savage foreign gangs.”

During his Republican National Convention speech last month, where his advisers said Trump would seem changed and more personal after surviving an attempted assassination, the former president did strike a different tone — at least to start.

He said early on that he had “a message of confidence, strength and hope” and sought to “launch a new era of safety, prosperity and freedom for citizens of every race, religion, color and creed.”

But by the end, Trump had returned to predictions of doom, twice warning, “Bad things are going to happen.”

Ohio Sen. JD Vance, Trump’s running mate, has drawn a sharp contrast with Walz. Vance has been cheered on the right for being an aggressive fighter on behalf of the former president, particularly when engaging with reporters.

“Right now, I am angry about what Kamala Harris has done to this country and done to the American southern border,” Vance said at a campaign stop in Michigan. “And I think most people in our country, they can be happy-go-lucky sometimes, they can enjoy things

sometimes, and they can turn on the news and recognize that what's going on in this country is a disgrace."

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, not himself known for a sunny disposition, offered much the same assessment Friday at a conservative conference in Atlanta hosted by radio host Erick Erickson.

"The country is obviously in a bad mood," McConnell said.

Trump supporters waiting to see him at a rally in Bozeman, Montana, said they felt the former president's campaign made them feel positive — even if his message often isn't.

"Just looking at the state of the country now, I don't think Kamala Harris' campaign is one of joy and hope. I think that's Trump's campaign," said Alex Lustig, a 23-year-old from Billings, Montana.

Fred Scarlett, a 63-year-old retiree from Condon, Montana, said that "everyone understands that we need to be here to support Trump because he has never let us down." shoot at him," Scarlett said, "and he still keeps firing back."

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# Science & Technology

## Sky Drift: Boeing's Pilotless Air Taxi Could Take Passenger Flight By 2030

*By Glenda Rutherford*



Once a fanciful concept limited to the popular animated world of *The Jetsons* in the 1960s, the age of flying cars is now looming over our current reality.

Where George Jetson once soared through a cartoonish metropolis, humans now stand on the brink of a reality where such futuristic transportation is no longer confined to the realm of imagination.

US-headquartered Boeing is at the forefront of bringing this imagination to reality, and it has ambitious plans to begin carrying passengers' later in the decade.'

Boeing hopes its subsidiary Wisk Aero's tech will help address traffic woes in the U.S. by 2030.

### Flying Taxi By 2030?

Brian Yutko, CEO of Wisk Aero, stated that the company anticipates its pilotless air taxi starting to carry passengers "later in the decade" as it collaborates with the U.S. regulator to obtain approvals.

"We are right now testing and producing the elements of this

aircraft that we will hope to fly around the end of this year," he said.

Yutko revealed information about the plans for the flying taxis at the Farnborough Airshow, which is happening in the U.K. from July 22 to 26.

Despite Yutko's grand claims, the flying taxi industry is encountering technological hurdles, including developing more powerful batteries to enable companies to make multiple trips on a single charge.

They also need to convince regulators and the public that the aircraft is safe, which is even more challenging when the aircraft is autonomous.

### Sixth-Generation eVTOL

Wisk is currently working with its sixth-generation aircraft, which promises to transport up to four passengers and additional luggage on each trip.

The most sophisticated air taxi in the world, Generation 6 combines one of the safest passenger transport systems in commercial aviation with industry-leading autonomous technology and software,

human oversight of every trip, and a generally streamlined design.

The eVTOL has a per-charge flying range of 90 miles (144 km) with reserves. As for performance, it is claimed to cruise at 120 knots (138 mph/222 kph) at 2,500 to 4,000 ft (762 – 1,220 m) above sea level.

With a 50-ft (15-m) wingspan, it has a 12-prop arrangement stretched out for takeoff, with the front row tilting for propulsion during horizontal flight.

The four-bladed rear props power down and lock during cruising to save drag, while the five-bladed transitional front props are larger than before and have five blades.

The wings and booms have also been raised above the passenger cabin for increased safety and reduced cabin noise.

According to Wisk, the eVTOL has been designed to fly autonomously using "logic-driven, procedural-based, decision-making software," a suite of onboard sensors, and obstacle-avoidance capabilities.



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## ABOUT US

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# BUSINESS & TRAVEL

## Edsea's Exhilarating & Once-In-A-Lifetime Caribbean Cruise

*By Janet Enis*

Ahoy!

Insomniac Events is inviting every raver from around the world to set sail on the highly acclaimed EDSea cruise this November.

As fans start gearing up for the incredible voyage, the festival's lineup has officially been announced and it's safe to say that a thrilling party is in store.

With headliners including Gryffin, SLANDER,

SUBTRONICS, Mau P, Dillon Francis, and so many more... every music lover will be dancing all weekend on the gorgeous Caribbean waters. Check out the full lineup [here](#).

EDSea features eight stages, plenty of interactive activities, incredible food options... and that's only on the ship. Tourists also get the chance to explore Bimini, Bahamas, which is a popular destination travelers have to see to believe.

If the words on this article aren't enticing enough, then check out the gorgeous trailer below that showcases all the highlights that are in store on EDSea.

The voyage takes place from November 2-6, so don't waste time in planning this exhilarating adventure. To learn more about this iconic experience, visit the official website [here](#).



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ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Gay Horror Film 'Ganymede' Gets A Digital Premiere

By Drew Harrington



At long last the Ganymede premiere is coming — and you can attend, too.

Kino, the streaming app that enables viewers to attend premieres and even interact with the filmmakers and stars of the film is hosting an exclusive digital premiere of the highly anticipated queer horror film. Adding to that exciting news is that the premiere is also a benefit for GLAAD!

The film, which has been garnering rave reviews out of the Chattanooga Film Festival, follows highschooler Lee Fletcher IV (Jordan Dowd), his small town's star wrestler who finds himself falling for his out and proud gay classmate Kyle (Pablo Castelblanco). But this is a horror film, not a rom-com, and Lee also being stalked by a mysterious and grotesque creature that creeps into his thoughts — as well as his

bedroom closet. He's also facing enormous pressure from his legacy-obsessed family to live up to their standards and beliefs.

While the film may be chilling, the premiere night is going to be anything but chill! It kicks off with a glamorous pre-show hosted by RuPaul's Drag Race fan-favorite queens Manila Luzon and Plane Jane and drag artist Glitteress. Then, after the showing, you'll want to stick around not just for the

Q&A but for a chance to win props and prizes, an exclusive interview with the film's cast and crew, and special appearances. Those lucky enough to attend in person also will enjoy specialty Serv Vodka cocktails and mocktails.

Well, we're sold. How do you attend? Tickets for the premiere can be purchased directly on the KINO website or in the KINO app. The live digital premiere will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. PT on August 1, 2024. For those unable to attend the digital premiere but still wish to watch the film, Ganymede will be available to stream on KINO until 6:00 a.m. PT on August 3, 2024.

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# Life and Style

## Busy Parents & Professionals Can Schedule Weekly 'Me Night'

By Brenda Davis



When you're in the business of raising humans, it can be hard to find time to make sure everyone has clean socks, much less find time for your hobbies or friends.

If you feel like you haven't had a second to yourself since before your kid was born, you're not alone. Motherly's 2024 State of Motherhood Report found that 61% of Gen Z & Millennial Moms report getting less than an hour to themselves without work or family obligations each day.

Eve Rodsky calls this trifecta the 3 Ps—partner, parent and professional. Juggling these three important roles can be challenging, so it's no surprise that many of us feel consumed by motherhood. While righting this problem is a larger societal & cultural issue, let me offer a simple strategy to help you reclaim some of your time & energy for yourself: a weekly Me Night.

As a dual career coach specializing in helping moms on the brink of burnout from juggling big careers and little kids, I can testify that this seemingly too-simple solution can be a game-changer. It's also a system my husband and I have used for over five years,

and it's one of the main reasons I'm still mildly sane despite juggling a toddler, a marriage and two businesses.

Think about it: What impact would it have if you knew that you'd have quiet time around the corner to do whatever self-care, hobbies or exercise you've been craving for weeks but never quite getting around to doing?

Here are tips for pulling off Me Nights in the real world.

### How To Pull Off A Weekly Me Night

#### Discuss and enlist support

If applicable, talk with your partner and get them on board. Remember, they benefit too because they'll also get me time. Plus, you'll stay slightly more sane—a win for all parties.

#### Set a specific time

Decide a weekly Me Night for every adult in your household. For example, mine is on Thursdays, and my husband's is on Tuesdays. If weeknights don't work, you can also divvy up the weekends. Whatever you choose, try to pick a specific, recurring day so you can plan activities in advance.

#### Schedule it

Schedule your Me Night(s) on your calendar. We have a rule in my house: We can reschedule our Me Nights, but we can't skip them.

#### Tackle the logistics

You should have permission to be unavailable & mentally detached from your home life on your Me Night—reachable for emergencies only, not “where are the diapers” texts. To prepare for your time away, run through all the logistics to ensure all parties can manage the home and kids while the other is away. (If you need more help with this step, check out the book *Fair Play*.)

#### Make a list of dos and don'ts

List 3-5 options you'd enjoy spending time on during your Me Night. This will help you avoid analysis paralysis. If you have no idea where to start, you might want to pick up Eve Rodsky's book *Unicorn Space* to rediscover what you need to fill your cup. Perhaps reading at a nice park or bar is your first Me Night! It's also helpful to list things you won't spend time on, no matter how tempting. Remember, this isn't date night, extra work night or errands night. It's your night to enjoy yourself, however that looks for you.

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## Heidi N Closet Teases Potential Return To RRDR All Stars

By Michael Brayson



The fan-favorite queen is spilling all the tea in a new Interview at DragCon.

She's blessed and highly favored!

Heidi N Closet is famously known for her memorable runs on RuPaul's Drag Race and the popular spin-off All Stars.

The queen hasn't shied away from talking about her controversial choice to quit the competition, but that doesn't necessarily mean she's done with Drag Race for good.

"I give it to you every time!

Well, not every time... we saw All Stars. It was a little much, [but] I think I might actually [return one day]. If the timing was right and I was asked, I think I would tiptoe back in there," said Closet.

During her appearance at RuPaul's DragCon, Closet teamed up with e.l.f. Cosmetics to meet all of her adoring fans and showcase how her makeup has evolved since her first time on Drag Race.

"I went from 'I hate hate hate your hair and makeup' to working with e.l.f... kinda iconic!

Everything's been amazing. Blessed and highly favored chose me! Let's be real."

Visibility at events like DragCon are also more crucial than ever with this year's election heats up and LGBTQ+ rights serves as a hot button issue.

"We have people who are actively fighting to take away our rights. We have fought as a community for years and years to take steps forward. It's always been about community and that community is what will allow us to keep pushing."



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# News & Politics

## Judge Rejects Moms For Liberty's Title IX Injunction Expansion Request

By David Vandygriff



A Trump-appointed federal judge rejected a request from activist groups including Moms for Liberty to expand his injunction blocking the Biden administration from implementing a new Title IX rule. The new rule bans discrimination based on gender identity in healthcare as part of the Affordable Healthcare Act. But the judge also refused to lessen the scope of his injunction at the request of the Biden administration.

On July 2, U.S. District Judge John Broomes granted an injunction from the plaintiffs blocking the new rule going into effect in four states and the schools attended by the children of Moms for Liberty, Young America's Foundation, and Female Athletes United, noting their case was likely to win on the merits. However, he denied their most recent request to further expand the reach of his ruling, saying he lacked the jurisdiction to modify his previous injunction.

While the ruling was welcome news to the administration and LGBTQ+ advocates, Broomes provided a mixed bag of rulings when he denied the administration's request to lessen the scope of his injunction. In a sharply worded section, he blamed the administration for creating the current difficulties of implementing a new rule while it is under judicial review.

"Suffice it to say that, to the extent Defendants are concerned about the difficulties in managing patchwork enforcement in compliance with the preliminary injunction, this is a problem of DoE's own making for the multiple reasons set forth in the court's prior order," Broome wrote in his ruling. "One might have expected that upending the operations of virtually every school in the nation by upsetting the decades-long understanding of important parts of Title IX, as the Final

Rule does, would result in some significant difficulties for enforcement while the Final Rule undergoes judicial review."

He also noted that Congress gave the department the authority to postpone the implementation date to allow for judicial review.

"Maybe DoE should use that authority," Broomes wrote.

Legal experts have noted that while a patchwork of lawsuits has blocked the new rule in 15 states, this is the first lawsuit that also impacts schools outside the four plaintiff states. The injunction also applies not just to schools in Kansas, Alaska, Utah, and Wyoming and those attended by members of the children of current members of Moms for Liberty, Young America's Foundation, and Female Athletes United, but also to the children of prospective and future members.



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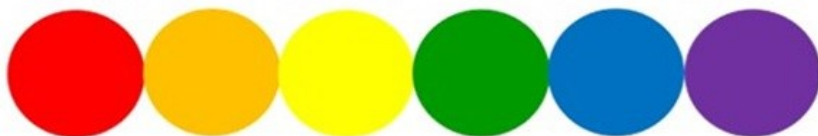
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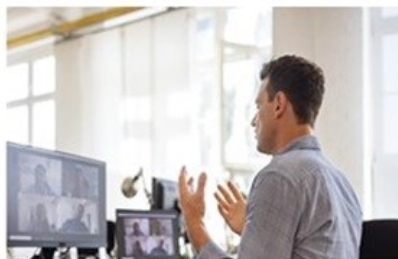
  
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# BUSINESS & TRAVEL

## DoubleTree Jax Riverfront To Become Hotel Bellamy

By Brandon Moore



The owner of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront on the Downtown Southbank said July 9 it plans a \$14.6 million renovation of the property and will rename it Hotel Bellamy.

Sotherly Hotels Inc. said in a news release that it refinanced the hotel at 1201 Riverplace Blvd. with Fifth Third Bank. It said the loan has an initial principal balance of about \$26.25 million, with an additional \$9.49 million for hotel improvements.

"We are pleased to announce the completed refinance as well as the relaunch plans for our Jacksonville asset. Given the current lending environment, we view the completion of the refinancing of the mortgage loan for this Hotel with Fifth Third Bank as a positive outcome for the Company," Dave Folsom, CEO of Sotherly, said in the release.

"The Hotel's direct riverfront location is perfectly suited to reposition the Hotel as the first full-service lifestyle concept in the downtown Jacksonville market. We believe our repositioning strategy, coupled with the strength of the Hilton

reservation system, will position the Hotel for success for years to come."

Sotherly said it has entered into a new 10-year franchise agreement with Hilton Worldwide to relicense the hotel as a soft-branded DoubleTree by Hilton under the name Hotel Bellamy.

According to hotel data site STR, a soft brand is an affiliation between an independent hotel and a hotel chain.

It says the Curio Collection by Hilton is an example of a soft brand. The Drayton Hotel Savannah is the closest such property to Jacksonville.

Renovation plans for Hotel Bellamy include a redesign of guest rooms, public spaces, building exterior, pool and sundeck, existing food and beverage offerings, and the addition of a riverfront dining concept.

Completion is estimated by January 2027.

Sotherly acquired the DoubleTree site in 2005 through MHI Jacksonville LLC for \$22 million. County records show the hotel, originally a Hilton, was built in 1967.

Sotherly Hotels Inc. says it is a real estate investment trust focused on the acquisition, renovation, upbranding and repositioning of upscale to upper-upscale full-service hotels in the Southern U.S.

It's portfolio comprises investments in 10 hotel properties with 2,786 rooms as well as interests in two condominium hotels and their associated rental programs.

The company owns hotels that operate under the Hilton Worldwide and Hyatt Hotels Corp. brands, as well as independent hotels. Sotherly Hotels Inc. was organized in 2004 and is headquartered in Williamsburg, Virginia.

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