

AUGUST 2025 ISSUE 190

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MAGAZINE

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Jax Gay Magazine is published every first Friday of the month (12 issues/year).

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COVER STORY

The Rise Of Quiet Luxury For Men's Fall Fashion 2025

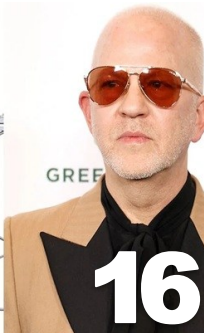
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News & Politics

Judge Reinstates Florida Official That Attacked Pulse Victims

By Gabe Tucker



A judge has reinstated a Florida elected official suspended for mocking victims of the Pulse shooting.

Attorney Anthony Sabatini posted on social media that Groveland City Councilwoman Judith Fike had been reinstated after peers suspended her over old social media posts. The case is not completely settled, but Fike will continue to sit on the City Council while she runs for reelection.

"My client Groveland City Councilmember Judy Fike has been REINSTATED to the Groveland City Council, effective immediately — after a preliminary hearing today at the Lake County Courthouse — HUGE WIN," Sabatini posted. "The case will continue, but the major form of relief has been granted."

Florida Circuit Judge Dan Morley in a court order wrote Fike would likely be politically

damaged by being suspended from her duties.

"There is a likelihood of irreparable harm in that Petitioner is prohibited from voting at council meetings while suspended," he wrote.

"As previously stated, the suspension is not set fourth [sic] in the City Charter of Ethics Policy therefore there is a substantial likelihood of success on the merits."

He also wrote that allowing Fike to vote on city issues did not present a disservice to the public.

Groveland City Council members suspended Fike this month because of resurfaced social media posts from before she was appointed to her position. Those included one many read as a mockery of the 2016 Pulse shooting that left 49 dead in a gay club in Orlando. Groveland is located about 30 miles from the club.

The offending post read, "Duh....why would the shooter target a gay club? My answer...Easier than marching them up steps to push off the roof..some sarcasm, some truth," according to the Orlando Sentinel.

At the meeting where she was suspended, Fike said the post was misconstrued. "It was meant as a support of the community," she said, as reported by Central Florida Public Media.

Fike claimed to be alluding to killings happening in the Middle East at the time, where ISIS leaders reportedly executed queer people in Syria by throwing them from rooftops. Pulse shooter Omar Mateen pledged allegiance to ISIS during a standoff with law enforcement where he was ultimately killed.

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Kaiser Permanente Ends Gender-Affirming Surgeries Under 19

By David Vandygriff



Kaiser Permanente will no longer provide gender-affirming surgeries to patients under the age of 19 after facing legal pressure from the Trump Administration.

"After significant deliberation and consultation with internal and external experts including our physicians, we've made the difficult decision to pause surgical treatment for patients under the age of 19 in our hospitals and surgical centers," the nonprofit said in a statement via Oregon Live Wednesday. "We recognize that this is an extremely challenging and stressful time for our patients seeking care, as well as for our clinicians whose mission is to care for them."

Kaiser will stop offering the surgeries as of August 29, but said that it will still offer other gender-affirming care, stating, "We will remain a voice and advocate for safe, high-quality, and evidence-based care for transgender patients."

Gender-affirming surgeries among minors are incredibly rare. There is no evidence of surgeries being performed on trans youth under the age of

12, according to a recent study in JAMA, and only 2.1 out of every 100,000 trans youth ages 15 to 17 received surgery — the vast majority being chest surgeries. Out of 151 breast reductions performed on American minors in 2019, 146 (97 percent) were performed on cisgender males.

Gender-affirming care for prepubescent youth primarily focuses on socially transitioning — changing their hair, clothing, or potentially going by a new name and pronouns. Only after many months being evaluated in talk therapy could a pubescent child demonstrating gender dysphoria be prescribed puberty blockers. When the patient is old enough, usually ages 16 to 17 per Planned Parenthood, they can then be prescribed hormones to replace those produced by their body.

Donald Trump signed an executive order attempting to ban gender-affirming care for people under 19 shortly after taking office. A federal judge blocked the order in February, finding that it is likely unconstitutional. While the U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld Tennessee's ban on gender-

affirming care for youth, the ruling does not interfere with states that have not criminalized the care.

Kaiser Permanente has facilities in California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington, several of which have enacted a shield law protecting youth who receive the care. The laws prohibit states that have banned the life-saving treatment from punishing those who travel to other states where it is legal by preventing the release of information or the arrest and extradition of someone based on another state's court orders.





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Science & Technology

Advanced Strike Missile That Can Deliver Pinpoint Accuracy At 300-Mile

By Gilbert Roberts



An advanced strike missile delivered pinpoint accuracy during a long-range test. Conducted by the Australian Army, the successful test involved live firing of a Precision Strike Missile (PrSM).

The missile, developed by Lockheed Martin, was fired from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). The next-generation missile can hit the target beyond 300 miles.

The live-test also marks the first operational PrSM firing by a military force outside the United States. The test, conducted at Mount Bunday Training Area in the Northern Territory, is expected to bolster Australia's attack capability.

Surface-to-surface weapon system

This new surface-to-surface weapon system can deliver enhanced capabilities to attack, neutralize, suppress, and destroy targets. The system uses missile-delivered indirect fires out to 300+ miles.

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unmatched performance.

The test firing was attended by the Minister for Defense Industry Pat Conroy and United States Secretary of the Army Daniel Driscoll at the Mount Bunday Training area in the Northern Territory.

"Today's PrSM firing is another example of the Albanese Government accelerating long-range strike capabilities for the ADF, alongside the firing of Standard Missile 6, the Tomahawk missile and the Naval Strike Missile last year," said Minister for Defense Industry, Pat Conroy.

"From delivering HIMARS ahead of schedule to delivering and testing PrSM ahead of schedule, the Albanese Government is modernizing the Australian Army at speed."

Weapon can offer long-range capability

The weapon can offer artillery units a new long-range capability supporting brigade, division, corps, Army, theater, Joint and Coalition forces.

The test conducted today was two years ahead of schedule and followed the delivery of the

first PrSM a year ahead of schedule, as well as the first HIMARS two months ahead of schedule. It comes after Australia and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding earlier this year for PrSM production, sustainment and follow-on development, according to a press release.

Twenty-five-fold increase

"This successful launch is a significant milestone in the Government's plan to deliver a twenty-five-fold increase Army's long-range strike capability," said Conroy.

Canberra revealed that negotiations are expected to commence later this year on options for future domestic manufacturing and maintenance of PrSM in Australia.

The successful PrSM launch by the Australian Army's HIMARS rocket launcher not only demonstrates rapid capability acquisition but also reflects a strategic shift in national defense posture. With long-range strike now operational, Australia has joined a select group of countries capable of

projecting precision land-based fires across extended distances, reinforcing its deterrence posture and regional security contributions, reported Army Recognition.

Future missile upgrades

Australia and the United States, as co-development

partners, will continue to develop PrSM to maintain its world leading military advantage. Future missile upgrades will expand this capability to include a greater range of over 1000 kilometres, improved sensors and novel warheads, as per the release.

The Australian Defense Ministry also revealed that successful test firing was a tangible demonstration of how Army is realising speed to capability and was also the first time Army has fired a PrSM from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

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Jack Schlossberg Slams Ryan Murphy For New Show Based On The Kennedys

By Michael Brown



Jack Schlossberg is expressing his disapproval of Ryan Murphy's most recently announced project, which centers on the death of his uncle, John F. Kennedy Jr., and Carolyn Bessette. When the project was first announced, Schlossberg called the new show "grotesque" and stated that the Kennedy family was neither consulted nor involved in the show.

In a post uploaded to Instagram on Wednesday, he responded to comments made by Murphy during an appearance on California Governor Gavin Newsom's podcast, where Murphy had minimized Schlossberg's memories of his late uncle, saying, "I thought it was an odd choice to be mad about your relative that you really don't

remember."

This angered Schlossberg, who took to Instagram, screenshot Murphy's comments, and put text over it that reads: "RYAN MURPHY: SAY IT TO MY FACE."

In the caption of the post, he expressed his fondness for his late uncle. "My earliest memories are of John calling me Jackolatern and 'the nudist,' picking me up from school, his Pontiac convertible. I remember being the ring bearer at his wedding and the day he died," the caption reads. "I remember Wyclef singing at his funeral. More memories are passed down from stories — like the time he locked himself out of a car in an intersection and asked the guy screaming at him if he could borrow a golf club to smash the window to

get the keys, and then did it."

He ends his caption, lambasting Murphy by writing, "You're making millions off John, making a public spectacle of it, but won't contribute any of your riches to the causes he championed, or the legacy of public service he represented."

Many of the comments came to Schlossberg's defense, sharing that Murphy's comments were "very weird." One person wrote, "Even if you had zero memories, he was your mother's brother. They were incredibly close. It's awful for them to profit off of him this way." Another commenter said, "A total stranger implying your connection to and defense of your uncle is strange! Totally wild."

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OUT & HEALTH

NFL Athlete Christian Wilkins Reportedly Fired After Kissing Teammate

By Gaberial Bennett

Christian Wilkins, a 29-year-old who has played for the NFL since 2019, was released by the Las Vegas Raiders on Thursday after kissing a fellow player on the head, as reported by ESPN's Adam Schefter. The teammate in question was offended by the kiss and filed a complaint with the Raiders' human resources department.

The report explains that the kiss happened inside a meeting room for the Raiders team and

was reportedly "playful," sources tell Schefter. Nonetheless, a subsequent investigation led to Wilkins' firing.

Sources who spoke to Schefter claimed that the kiss was likely not the only reason why Wilkins was cut. Wilkins was reportedly recovering from a Jones fracture since October 2024 — but the NFL star was only dropped by the Raiders following the kiss.



Who is Christian Wilkins?

Christian Wilkins was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and started his NFL career in 2019 playing for the Miami Dolphins. He stayed with the Dolphins until 2023.

For the 2024 season, Wilkins joined the Las Vegas Raiders in a four-year, \$110 million deal.



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Life and Style

This Canned Soup Makes Smash Burgers Extra Juicy

By Drew Williams

When you flatten a sufficiently fatty ball of meat into a patty on a piping hot grill, it sears the exterior and traps some of the moisture. This is why even simple smash burger recipes turn out juicy. However, if you're looking for an upgrade, consider incorporating a cheap ingredient: canned French onion soup.

The beef broth often used in French onion soup will compliment the meat's flavor, and the onions give the patty a little extra kick. Plus, the added moisture from the stock makes for an extra juicy smash burger. Methods vary, but usually incorporating French onion soup into your smash burger is a simple process that doesn't require much deviation from a standard recipe. A good rule of thumb is to use $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of French onion soup for every

pound of beef alongside any other seasonings you intend to use.

One big mistake everyone makes cooking smash burgers is to flatten the patties before putting them on the grill. Instead, roll the meat into balls and place them directly onto the grill before flattening them. Then, cook your patties for a few minutes per side.

Variations on the French onion smash burger

You can top your French onion smash burgers with standard condiments like ketchup, mustard, and tomato. However, there are ways to add a little something extra to your creation. You can double down on the onion flavor with sautéed or caramelized onions, for example.

Want to really commit to

replicating French onion soup in burger form? Add some sherry or brandy and a bit of minced thyme to your ground beef. Then, when it's time for cheese, try forgoing classics like cheddar and American and instead opt for the chef-approved cheese for French onion soup: gruyere. Creamy with slightly nutty undertones, this is a great companion for your burger's bold, beefy flavor.

There are plenty of other fun variations on the trend. If you're a huge fan of onion flavor, try swapping out a regular bun for an onion bun or bagel. Not a big fan of a burger that drips with each bite? Use French onion soup mix instead of a can. That way, you'll get all the extra flavor without the extra mess.



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COVER STORY

The Rise Of Quiet Luxury For Men's Fall Fashion 2025

By David Vandygriff



Fall 2025 men's fashion trends are defining the season with quiet luxury, relaxed tailoring, and rich fabrics. Influencers like Maddy Gustini are shaping what men will wear this fall, blending modern style with timeless elegance.

Quiet Luxury refers to a sophisticated, understated elegance in men's fashion, emphasizing high-quality materials, fine craftsmanship, and timeless design over flashy logos gentlemansgazette.com. In other words, Fall 2025's menswear trends aren't about ostentation; they're about confidence in fine tailoring, heritage materials, and subtle details that speak volumes.

A man in a rust-colored suit with relaxed tailoring, layered over a black shirt, exemplifies Fall 2025's quiet luxury vibe in menswear. This season's collections prove that looking modern and on-trend doesn't mean abandoning classic style. In fact, many Fall 2025 trends blend contemporary silhouettes with heritage elegance – offering a refined update that appeals to a bespoke wardrobe. From

23 www.JaxGayMag.com

Milan to New York, designers are presenting pieces that feel both of-the-moment and enduring, aligning perfectly with the AlbertGerald ethos of luxury, heritage, and minimalism.



Tailoring in Fall 2025 Men's Fashion Trends

One of the clearest Fall 2025 men's style trends is the return of tailoring as the star of the show. Suits, sports coats, and structured outerwear are all being reimaged for the modern gentleman. Rather than the ultra-skinny fits of past years, today's tailoring emphasizes comfort and confidence through refined cuts. Soft-structured suits with broader shoulders and easy drape are key this season, striking a balance between formality and ease. Designers like Giorgio Armani and Willy Chavarria, for example, sent '70s-inspired suits with wide lapels and generously cut proportions down the runway, pumping new life into classic silhouettes instyle.com. The result is tailoring that commands presence without feeling stiff – a modern heritage look.



Relaxed Silhouettes, Confident Presence

Fall 2025 Men's Fashion Trends for suits and jackets often feature relaxed silhouettes that convey quiet confidence. Think double-breasted jackets with a slightly oversized fit, or single-breasted suits with a soft, natural shoulder. Trousers are loosening up as well. Wide-leg and pleated trousers have made a notable comeback, offering comfort and a touch of drama to tailored looks. This silhouette shift moves away from the ultra-slim cuts of the 2010s toward a more timeless straight or fuller leg. Even classic menswear houses are embracing these changes; for instance, Zegna and Dries Van Noten showcased trousers with an excess of fabric for a laid-back but refined look instyle.com. The message is clear – a well-dressed man in Fall 2025 isn't constrained by tight fits. Instead, he stands out with

pants with a tapered or even cigarette cut are still in play, now styled in fresh ways. Notably, houses like Prada and Acne Studios made a case for the return of skinny or slim-fit trousers – often in the form of jet-black jeans or leather pants – as an alternative for men not interested in oversized styles instyle.com. These slimmer options, when custom-made in



relaxed tailoring that exudes ease and elegance.

That said, the shift to ease hasn't completely banished slim silhouettes. For those who prefer a sleeker profile, tailored

quality fabrics, can still align with a quiet luxury wardrobe (imagine a bespoke black denim by AlbertGerald, cut perfectly to your measurements AlbertGerald Custom Denim. The key is pairing them with impeccable tailoring elsewhere (like a soft cashmere blazer) to maintain that sophisticated balance.

The New Power Coat

To complement the season's suits, Fall 2025 is also bringing back the statement overcoat. In line with the relaxed silhouettes trend, overcoats and trench coats are appearing in slightly oversized, dramatic forms. From London to Paris, designers have been championing the long, sweeping coat – especially in luxe materials like wool-cashmere blends or buttery leather. The influence of classic films and icons is evident in what some are dubbing "The Matrix, Part 5" trend: black leather trench coats that make an unmistakable statement instyle.com. Saint Laurent, Lanvin, and Amiri all showcased modern takes on the black leather trench, often complete with bold wrap-around belts and sharp tailoring instyle.com. For a bespoke menswear client, investing in a custom-crafted overcoat (perhaps a dark chocolate brown calfskin or a charcoal wool with subtle heritage plaid lining) could be the ultimate fall power move. It's a piece that carries the gravitas of Fall 2025 style while remaining utterly timeless.



While neutrals dominate, strategic pops of color are also trending as accents. One standout is red. Rich, powerful reds – from deep burgundy to vibrant scarlet – are showing up as focal

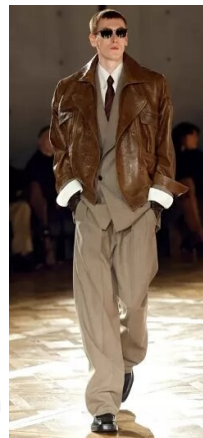
man, incorporating these accents could be as simple as commissioning a custom dress shirt in a pale blush hue or adding a burgundy silk lining to a bespoke jacket for that quiet flash of personality.

It's worth noting that the overall approach to color this season aligns with subtlety. Even the brighter notes like red or pink are often tonally grounded – for example, designers style a bold red coat over monochromatic neutrals to tone it down. This philosophy resonates with quiet luxury: use color deliberately, not loudly. As one industry observer put it, “If you know, you know” – a pop of color peeking out from an otherwise muted ensemble can be the ultimate insider style move.

Palette: Neutrals with Rich Accents

Every new season comes with a fresh color palette, and Fall 2025 men's style trends are no exception. In keeping with the quiet luxury theme, designers are gravitating toward earthy neutrals and deep, rich tones that feel both modern and classic. The reigning color of the season? Brown, in every imaginable shade. From warm tawny and camel to dark chocolate, brown has effectively become the “new black” for menswear this fall instyle.com. At the Fall/Winter shows, leather jackets, suits, and coats in delicious chocolate hues were ubiquitous – Saint Laurent, Prada, and Zegna all sent out ensembles in milk-chocolate tones that looked decadent yet understated instyle.com. This shift to brown and other earth tones (think olive greens, burnt sienna, rust, and charcoal gray) reflects a desire for grounded, versatile colors that complement the autumn mood and convey that stealth wealth vibe.

points in otherwise classic outfits. In fact, for Fall/Winter 2025, Prada, Hermès, and Armani all wove bold red pieces into their collections, offering men an eye-catching way to energize their wardrobes instyle.com. Imagine a conservative outfit (navy blazer, grey flannel trousers) punctuated by a ruby-red turtleneck or pocket square – it's a modern twist that remains elegant. Another surprise accent is pastel pink, a hue more often associated with spring. Pastel and dusty pinks appeared in fall collections from Dior Men to Louis Vuitton, applied to fuzzy overcoats and knitwear instyle.com. The pink trend challenges the traditionally dark fall palette, signaling that experimentation with color is welcomed, even in a refined wardrobe. For the AlbertGerald



Subtle Streetwear Influences

Even in a season focused on heritage and luxury, the impact of streetwear on men's fashion trends is undeniable – though it's showing up in refined, bespoke-appropriate ways. The Fall 2025 collections illustrate how urban casual elements can seamlessly blend with high

end tailoring. A prime example is the Louis Vuitton Fall/Winter 2025 show, headed by Pharrell Williams and Nigo, which fused classic tailoring with streetwear culture. Their collection featured earthy tone ensembles – tailored silhouettes paired with oversized coats and relaxed, almost streetwear-esque layers – all balanced to maintain high-fashion polish [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com). This demonstrates that baggier pants, puffer vests, or utilitarian pockets can coexist with fine suiting, so long as the execution is deliberate and upscale. For a modern bespoke client, it could be as straightforward as styling a custom-tailored suit with luxury sneakers instead of oxfords, or adding a hooded cashmere knit under a sport coat for an urban twist.

One specific trend crossing over from street style is the prevalence of long shorts and bermudas, even into fall. Once confined to summer, tailored Bermuda shorts are now a year-round statement when worn with the right accompaniments. Designers like Todd Snyder and Louis Gabriel Nouchi embraced Bermuda shorts for fall, extending hemlines to the knee and crafting them in autumnal materials like leather and shearling [instyle.com](https://www.instyle.com). These aren't casual beach shorts – they're voluminous, elevated shorts meant to be paired with a blazer, overcoat, or heavy knit. Picture a look with knee-length, camel suede Bermuda shorts, thick ribbed socks, polished boots, and a

tailored overcoat; it's streetwear sensibility meeting sartorial tradition. Admittedly, this look is for the more fashion-forward, but it's an intriguing option for weekends or less formal settings. Clients intrigued by this trend might consider having a pair of bespoke wool shorts made, to wear with layers and tall socks as a cutting-edge fall ensemble.

Another area of streetwear influence is in accessories and styling. The boundary between a briefcase and a luxury “man bag” has blurred – Fall 2025 encourages men to carry sleek tote bags or even small crossbody pouches as part of the outfit. As noted in an [InStyle](https://www.instyle.com) trend recap, many designers encouraged ditching the old wallet bulge and instead toting mini handbags or chain-strapped pouches as style statements [instyle.com](https://www.instyle.com). It's a nod to streetwear's love of functional flair, yet when rendered in premium leather or exotic skins, these accessories augment a gentleman's attire rather than clash with it. Even classic streetwear items like baseball caps or beanies are being reinterpreted in cashmere or wool, offering a casual touch that's still aligned with a suit or topcoat. The

guiding principle here is balance: incorporate one street-influenced piece at a time, and ensure the quality level matches the rest of your outfit. By doing so, you infuse a modern, youthful edge into a look without sacrificing the overall tone of luxury and



heritage.

Investing in Timeless Style

The Fall 2025 men's fashion trends, as predicted on platforms like Maddy's TikTok and confirmed by runway heavyweights, prove that style is moving in a refreshingly refined direction. The season is defined by quiet luxury – a focus on craftsmanship, rich materials, and confident simplicity. For our style-forward readers, the takeaway is to choose pieces that marry contemporary trends with timeless appeal. Instead of fleeting fast-fashion items, consider bespoke or made-to-measure garments that capture these trends in a way built to last. For instance, if oversized coats are in, an AlbertGerald m camelhair overcoat

custom camelhair overcoat Custom Outerwear will serve you not just this fall but for decades. If rich brown tones are the palette of the moment, a chocolate brown tailored suit or sport jacket can become a new staple, infinitely versatile in a gentleman's wardrobe.

Above all, Fall 2025's trends reinforce that true style is quiet confidence. It's the confidence of a perfect fit, a luxurious fabric, a cohesive look – none of which shout for attention, yet

all of which get noticed by those in the know. Embracing trends like relaxed tailoring, earthy colors, and subtle streetwear touches doesn't mean you're dressing "trendy"; it means you're evolving your personal uniform in step with the times, while staying true to a core of elegance. As Vogue's runway reports and GQ's editor picks have echoed, men's fashion is entering a era where classic and modern elements coalesce. This fall, whether you're stepping into a

boardroom in a softly structured suit or strolling city streets in a cashmere-blend bomber and tailored trousers, you'll be embodying a style that is both of the moment and forever in good taste [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com).

In essence, Fall 2025 men's style trends invites you to invest in quietly luxurious pieces that celebrate who you are – a man of style, substance, and timeless confidence.

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Science & Technology

Heat-Proof Material Found In 1724 Meteorite With Crystal-Glass Traits

By Mrigakshi Dixit



Scientists have predicted and experimentally confirmed the existence of a material with “hybrid crystal-glass thermal properties.”

Interestingly, this material – a specific form of silicon dioxide called tridymite — was initially found in meteorites and is also known to be present on Mars.

The team at The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science of Columbia University, US, stated that this material defies conventional rules of heat conduction.

Heat is a constant challenge in technology, from microchips to rockets. How materials conduct this heat is key to their performance and reliability.

This hybrid crystal-glass material maintains a “constant thermal conductivity” across a wide temperature range — a property poised to impact everything from electronic devices to steel manufacturing and aerospace.

Unified equation

Typically, crystals and glasses exhibit opposite heat

conduction behaviors.

Crystal conductivity generally decreases with rising temperature, while glass becomes a better heat conductor when heated.

This stark difference has long been a hurdle in optimizing materials for applications requiring precise thermal management.

Professor Michele Simoncelli’s research tackles a fundamental challenge in materials science: understanding how a material’s atomic structure governs its ability to conduct heat.

He’s tackling this challenge using machine learning to bypass computational limitations and accurately simulate atomic properties influencing heat transport.

In 2019, Simoncelli and his colleagues derived a single, unified equation that captures how heat moves through both crystals and glasses.

The press release explained that this equation “describes the intermediate behavior of defective or partially disordered materials, such as those used in thermoelectrics for

waste-heat recovery, perovskite solar cells, and thermal barrier coatings for heat shields.”

Using the newly derived equation, the researchers studied material made from silicon dioxide, a main component of sand.

The team specifically predicted that a form of silicon dioxide known as “tridymite,” found in meteorites, would behave as a hybrid crystal-glass material.

The unique prediction suggested that tridymite’s thermal conductivity would remain constant regardless of temperature.

This led them to experimentalists in France. Simoncelli’s team collaborated with experimental groups led by Etienne Balan, Daniele Fournier, and Massimiliano Marangolo from Sorbonne University in Paris.

To confirm their predictions, the researchers experimented with a silica tridymite sample from a meteorite that landed in Steinbach, Germany, in 1724

The results validated this hypothesis. This meteoric

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Tesla Signs \$16.5B Chip Contract With Samsung

By Jacob Mitchell



Samsung Electronics has entered into a \$16.5 billion contract for supplying semiconductors to Tesla, based on a regulatory filing by the South Korean firm and Tesla CEO Elon Musk's posts on X.

The memory chipmaker, which had not named the counterparty, mentioned in its filing that the effective start date of the contract was July 26, 2025 — receipt of orders — and its end date was Dec. 31, 2033.

However, Musk later confirmed in a reply to a post on social media platform X that Tesla was the counterparty.

He also posted: "Samsung's giant new Texas fab will be dedicated to making Tesla's next-generation AI6 chip. The strategic importance of this is hard to overstate. Samsung currently makes AI4. TSMC will make AI5, which just finished design, initially in Taiwan and then Arizona."

"Samsung agreed to allow Tesla to assist in maximizing manufacturing efficiency. This is a critical point, as I will walk the line personally to

accelerate the pace of progress," Musk said on X, and suggested that the deal with Samsung could likely be even larger than the announced \$16.5 billion.

Samsung earlier said that details of the deal, including the name of the counterparty, will not be disclosed until the end of 2033, citing a request from the second party "to protect trade secrets," according to a Google translation of the filing in Korean on Monday.

"Since the main contents of the contract have not been disclosed due to the need to maintain business confidentiality, investors are advised to invest carefully considering the possibility of changes or termination of the contract," the company said.

The company's shares rose over 6% in trading on Monday to reach their highest level since September 2024.

Tesla was a probable customer, Ray Wang, research director of semiconductors, supply chain and emerging technology at The Futurum Group, told CNBC before Musk's post. Bloomberg News had earlier reported that

Samsung's deal was with Tesla, citing a source.

Samsung's foundry service manufactures chips based on designs provided by other companies. It is the second largest provider of foundry services globally, behind Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company.

The company stated in April that it aimed to commence 2 nanometer mass production in its foundry business and secure major orders for the next-generation technology. In semiconductor technology, smaller nanometer sizes signify more compact transistor designs, which lead to greater processing power and efficiency.

Local South Korean media outlets have also reported that American chip firm Qualcomm could place an order for chips manufactured using Samsung's 2 nanometer technology.

Samsung, which is set to deliver earnings on Thursday, expects its second-quarter profit to more than halve. An analyst previously told CNBC that the disappointing forecast was due to weak orders for its foundry business and as the

company has struggled to capture AI demand for its memory business.

The company has fallen behind competitors SK Hynix and Micron in high-bandwidth memory chips — an advanced

type of memory used in AI chipsets.

SK Hynix, the leader in HBM, has become the main supplier of these chips to American AI behemoth Nvidia. While Samsung has reportedly been

working to get the latest version of its HBM chips certified by Nvidia, a report from a local outlet suggests these plans have been pushed back to at least September.

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Michelle Obama's Artist Cancels Smithsonian Show Over Anti-Trans

By Jeff Griffin



Amy Sherald, the portrait artist who gained critical acclaim for her painting of the former First Lady Michelle Obama, announced that she will be canceling her upcoming show at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

The New York Times reports that Sherald made the decision after being told that the museum was considering removing her painting of a transgender Statue of Liberty to avoid issues with the Trump administration.

Her show, "American Sublime," was scheduled to take place in September, and according to the Times, it would have been the first show by a Black contemporary artist at the National Portrait Gallery.

The revered artist sent a letter to the secretary of the Smithsonian, Lonnie G. Bunch III, stating, "I entered into this collaboration in good faith, believing that the institution shared a commitment to presenting work that reflects the full, complex truth of American life." She continued, "Unfortunately, it has become clear that the conditions no

longer support the integrity of the work as conceived."

The publication writes that she was informed of "internal concerns" about including the painting titled *Trans Forming Liberty*, and in a statement to the Times, she wrote, "These concerns led to discussions about removing the work from the exhibition. It's clear that institutional fear, shaped by a broader climate of political hostility toward trans lives, played a role."

Sherald told the Times that Bunch suggested that instead of having the painting, there should be a video of people discussing transgender lives, and this ultimately led her to cancel the show. "The video would have opened up for debate the value of trans visibility, and I was opposed to that being a part of the 'American Sublime' narrative," she said in her statement.

Her work is known for its political stance, which is why the former First Lady chose her, and she made this clear in her statement, explaining why she felt it was the

right decision to withdraw her show from the National Portrait Gallery.

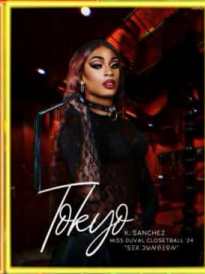
"I cannot in good conscience comply with a culture of censorship, especially when it targets vulnerable communities," Sherald wrote. "At a time when transgender people are being legislated against, silenced, and endangered across our nation," she added, "silence is not an option."

This is not the first time the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery has been criticized for queer erasure. A retrospective of the works of Felix González-Torres, which closed this month, came under fire for obfuscating the late artist's queer identity and connection to the AIDS crisis, particularly in the portrait of his partner Ross Laycock, "Untitled" (Portrait of Ross in L.A.).

"Amy Sherald: American Sublime" is currently on display at the Whitney in NYC through August 10.



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Life and Style

Classic Canned Soup Is The Key To Better Mac & Cheese

By Janet Davis



Boxed or homemade, stovetop or baked, in some form or other mac and cheese has many fans. If you're looking to upgrade this pasta dish, a different classic comfort food might help: cream of mushroom soup. Well-established as a casserole base, cream of mushroom soup can add a little extra richness and a hint of umami flavor. While it may be an ingredient you never thought to put in mac and cheese, tons of posts on TikTok indicate this canned food combination is having its moment.

If you're looking for a quick and easy way to make mac and cheese, canned soup keeps the process simple. Many recipes only call for only a single can of cream of mushroom soup plus a few cups of cheese, milk, and noodles. You just mix them,

cook everything together, salt it to taste, and enjoy. Or, top the dish with cheese and throw it in the oven for a quick baked mac and cheese.

How do you add cream of mushroom soup to mac and cheese?

While relying on canned food is often the economical choice, both in terms of cost and time, more culinarily adventurous folks can also enjoy this approach. If you have a go-to mac and cheese recipe, consider swapping out the milk for cream of mushroom soup to make a creamier, more flavorful version of it. However, substituting milk for canned soup is not an exact science. Be prepared to experiment a bit to get the ratios right.

Inspiration can also be found on Reddit, where a user requested tips on substituting cream of mushroom soup for

milk. One reply recommended thinning the canned liquid with a bit of water, and another advised using less butter because the canned soup would pack a lot of extra flavor. Plus, cream of mushroom soup can be high in sodium, so you may need to reduce the amount of salt you add while cooking.

This isn't the only possible milk substitute either. Similarly rich options like cream of chicken or cream of shrimp also work. If you're looking for something lighter, tomato soup adds extra flavor without making the dish too heavy. (One Reddit user said a friend used to make boxed mac and cheese with condensed tomato soup.) While it may take some practice, if you find a combination that works, maybe you'll end up with a viral recipe of your very own.



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Drag Race's Pixie Polite Was 'Hospitalized' After 'Homophobic' Attack

By Drew Williams

RuPaul's Drag Race UK season 4 star Pixie Polite revealed that she was targeted in a "homophobic" assault that involved "violence" — noting that she was specifically punched "in the back of her neck/head."

Pixie first shared the following statement via Instagram stories.

"Just got assaulted in Tesco at Colliers Wood

Punched in the back of the neck

Sick of this shit."

Pixie returned to social media some time later with an update to the situation. The post read:

"Hi all,

Lots of messages, texts and calls. All appreciated and seen but no brain space to respond properly so just popping a lil something here for now

Main point is I'm ok, police were surprisingly great.

An incident that evolved from general comments and mocking, into verbal homophobic abuse, then into violence.

When they catch the guy it will be prosecuted as there's CCTV, witnesses and I also got a picture of the guy.

Mentally fine, but heading to hospital with suspected concussion. But overall soooo fine."

After being able to recover herself, Pixie shared a new update — this time to her Instagram grid. The Drag Race UK star wrote:

"Majorly appreciate everyone's concern and blown away by the amount of messages I have received.

Feeling a little groggy today, and have taken the day off to rest and process what happened.

Overall I'm pretty much fine but I am feeling the same sense of righteous indignation I felt last night. So please enjoy this picture of me looking like a bad ass, while I daydream about justice today."

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News & Politics

Oklahoma Schools Chief To Roll Out Anti-'Woke' Test For Teachers

By Michael Brayson



Ryan Walters, the far-right, deeply anti-LGBTQ+ Oklahoma schools superintendent, says the state will give teachers moving in from liberal states a test to assure they won't teach so-called woke ideology.

Walters told the Oklahoma State Board of Education Thursday that the test will be available "in two weeks or so," *The Oklahoman* reports. The Oklahoma Department of Education, which he was elected to head, is developing the text with PragerU, a non-profit run by right-wing commentator Dennis Prager.

He didn't specify the exact content of the test or who'd be required to take it, but he said California and New York have standards for teachers that are "antithetical" to Oklahoma's. "Seven or eight other states" are planning to impose "dramatically crazy requirements on their teachers," he added.

"You're not going to come in here and teach that there's 27 genders. There's boys and girls. That's in our science standards," he told board members. "You're going to come in, and you're not going

to undermine American exceptionalism by teaching anti-American, anti-Semitic hate."

He had said earlier that the test would focus on knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, American exceptionalism, and differences between genders, according to Oklahoma City TV station KWTU. Also, he had issued a press release this month saying, "We're sending a clear message: Oklahoma's schools will not be a haven for woke agendas pushed in places like California and New York. If you want to teach here, you'd better know the Constitution, respect what makes America great and understand basic biology. We're raising a generation of patriots, not activists, and I'll fight tooth and nail to keep leftist propaganda out of our classrooms."

At the board meeting, he claimed California requires teachers to assert there is no difference between genders, *The Oklahoman* reports. California actually requires teachers to recognize all sexual orientations and gender identities, the harm of gender stereotypes, and what it means to be a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Parents, teachers, and faith leaders filed a lawsuit against the mandate last October. The Oklahoma Supreme Court has paused its enforcement, and Walters asked the court this week to lift the pause. "The Left has launched an all-out assault on Christianity in this country and will stop at nothing to destroy the Bible's significance in our country and the principles that shaped this country," he said in a press release. "Students cannot fully understand American History without understanding the Bible's role in it, despite the liberal hysteria we continue to see."

Also this week, he announced a partnership with American Virtual Academy, a conservative online K-12 school; parents who choose it instead of public schools can receive a tax credit. "Left-wing indoctrination in schools poses a serious threat to our students, and parents deserve more options for their kids," he said in a release. "We are proud to be one of the first states in the country to do this."

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Asheville, N.C.: Where Standing Out Means Fitting Right In

By Janet Stephenson



Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville, N.C. is open and ready to welcome GayTravelers to a community where individuality flourishes and diversity feels like home. As Asheville continues to move forward, your visit helps support local businesses and the vibrant spirit that makes this city stand out. Here, you're free to embrace your truest self, while fitting right in a city that thrives on creativity, connection, and resilience.

As you plan your adventure, explore this curated guide highlighting Asheville's colorful experiences and dynamic culture!

Where to Stay

Asheville's accommodations reflect the city's creative and inclusive spirit. Stay at The Radical, an artistic boutique hotel ranked No. 2 on USA Today's 10 Best New Hotels in the country, or enjoy the elegance of Blind Tiger, an eclectic inn recently honored with a Michelin Key. For a touch of Southern hospitality, consider Zelda Dearest, downtown Asheville's newest

boutique hotel, designed as a thoughtful ode to the classic architecture of the city. Seeking modern sophistication? Hotel Arras blends Asheville's historic charm with laid-back luxury.

Outdoor Adventures

Immerse yourself in Asheville's natural beauty with a hiking trip through the queer-owned Blue Ridge Hiking Company. This premier service offers excursions for LGBTQ+ hikers, from half-day treks to overnight adventures, all featuring spectacular mountain views. Take a scenic drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway, known for its panoramic vistas, or bike through Pisgah National Forest, where cascading waterfalls and serene landscapes await. Asheville's diverse wonders of nature invite visitors to embrace adventures where adrenaline meets serenity.

Wellness and Rejuvenation

Wellness in Asheville transcends traditional experiences, providing GayTravelers with various ways to recharge. Unwind at The Omni Grove Park Inn's world-renowned spa, perfect for

romantic getaways or family-friendly retreats. Join yoga and meditation sessions with breathtaking mountain views through Asheville Wellness Tours, led by LGBTQ+ practitioners. This May, the group will host six nights of its renowned "Blue Ghost Firefly Night Tour," a rare opportunity to witness the mesmerizing blueish-green glow of these elusive and mysterious insects. For more intimate moments, visit the queer-owned Urban Exhale Massage Spa or the tranquil Salt Cave Spa, where halotherapy promotes relaxation and well-being. Asheville's wellness options cater to all, ensuring every GayTraveler feels seen, respected, and nurtured.

Foodtopia

Asheville's food culture, affectionately dubbed "Foodtopia," is built on the collaboration of artists, chefs, farmers and foragers to create one-of-a-kind dining experiences rooted in Appalachian flavors. LGBTQ+ chefs bring their creative touch on local ingredients, offering a diverse and out-of-the-box culinary landscape.

Begin your food journey at the farmers market, where you can meet The Big Brunch's queer chef J Chong and pick up some raw handmade Cantonese dumplings — perfect for late-night indulgence! Savor the bold fusion of Filipino cuisine and Southern flavors at Neng Jr's, or enjoy the playful charm of Bad Manners café, known for its inventive coffee and pastries. For evening delights and late-night bites, visit Haywood Famous, a queer-owned, community-driven nighttime coffee shop serving classic Cuban options like cortaditos and coladas while fostering connections through art, music, and creative events.

Arts and Culture

Queer artists play crucial roles in shaping Asheville's multifaceted culture. Stroll through Downtown Asheville's lively streets, home to galleries showcasing contemporary paintings, handcrafted jewelry, and bold street art. Experience the city's famous glassblowing demonstrations at Lexington Glassworks downtown, the North Carolina Glass Center in Black Mountain, or the River Arts District, where you can watch molten glass transform into stunning creations and meet local artists in their studios. Explore LGBTQ+-

owned art spaces like Ross Pottery Studio, known for its beautifully crafted ceramics; Torched AVL, featuring unique glass creations; and On the Wing Gallery, which celebrates butterflies through sustainable conservation efforts. Asheville's queer culture extends beyond the arts, with drag brunches and other events adding to the city's colorful tapestry.

Nightlife

When the night falls, Asheville shows off its inclusive spirits even more. At the heart of the city's LGBTQ+ nightlife is O. Henry's, the state's oldest gay bar. Since 1976, this historic institution has welcomed locals and visitors alike with karaoke, themed nights, drag performances, and high-energy dance parties. Just a short walk away, the city's downtown area boasts a variety of queer-friendly spots, including the relaxed dive bar Shakey's, the energetic rock 'n' roll 27 Club, the legendary multi-level Scandals Nightclub. From laid-back drinks to full-on dance parties, Asheville's downtown has it all.

Still craving for more? Venture just about 10 minutes away by car to West Asheville, a bohemian enclave known as the city's cultural hub, attracting

creatives, musicians, and artists. Here, you'll find independent shops, craft breweries, coffeehouses, and a plethora of queer-friendly spaces. A standout destination is The Odd, a lively bar that goes beyond the usual nightlife with trivia, drag shows, comedy nights, and live music. Adding to its charm, the LGBTQ+-friendly bar also houses an oddities museum, featuring a distinctive collection of taxidermy, jarred specimens, and other unusual artifacts.

That's not enough for you? Don't miss out on Fleetwood's, Asheville's only "Vegas-style" wedding chapel. This truly one-of-a-kind venue offers a vintage clothing boutique, a place to tie the knot, and live rock 'n' roll entertainment — all in one stop. With DJ nights and live bands, Fleetwood's is a must-visit for those looking to celebrate in style.

Whether you're seeking adventure, creativity, wellness, or a place where your story matters, Asheville offers a space to connect deeply and celebrate freely. Start planning your trip to Asheville today and experience a city that welcomes all — not because it's trendy, but because it's simply who Asheville is.



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