

JAXGAY

BE BOLD BE PROUD BE GAY



**What is 'queerbaiting'
and is it really
such a bad thing?**

148 JAXGAY.COM
ISSUE DEC 2022

RAINBOW EVENTS



FOLLOW US @JAXGAYMAGAZINE

DragQueenAholic



HAS IT BEEN A WHILE?

Get a FREE HIV AT-HOME TEST delivered to you



Brought to you by

THE PRIDE CENTER
AT EQUALITY PARK

Know Your Status In 4 Easy Steps

Scan Here To Order



Step 1: Order

Step 2: Collect

Step 3: Insert

Step 4: Read

*You must have a Florida address

2040 N. Dixie Highway • Wilton Manors • FL 33305
(954) 463-9005 • www.PrideCenterFlorida.org/Wellness

EAT THE RAINBOW

www.RainbowEvents.org

COMING SOON!

THE GRINCH IS ON THE LOOSE, BUT...

Christmas Isn't Canceled!



AS
The GRINCH

JUDAS

BRITTANY

DIVA

JORDYN

ALEXIS

QUEEN BEE

CHIQUI

RICO

LANA

FAMILY FUN WITH THE MARY'S CAST EVERY WEEKEND IN DECEMBER!

\$10 SEAT CHARGE
\$25 VIP MEET-AND-GREET
AFTER EACH SHOW WITH PICS VIP SEATING

RESERVE A SEAT IN ADVANCE AT
HAMBURGERMARYS.COM/JAX
OR CALL (904) 551-2048

PATIO OPEN! ENJOY MARY'S OUTSIDE!



MEET
SANTA!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OPEN TIL 2AM!

THURSDAY
12-22
7:30PM

FRIDAYS
12/9, 12/17, 12-23
7- 9:30PM

SATURDAYS
12/10, 12/17
5:30 - 8PM

SUNDAYS
12/11, 12/18
12:30PM

HOLIDAY DRINK SPECIALS!

\$15 ESPRESSO PEPPERMINTINI
\$6 PEPPERMINT PATTY SHOT



HAMBURGER MARY'S
Bar & Grill
JACKSONVILLE
FRESH FOOD. FRESH FEELS.

HAMBURGER MARY'S JAX

MAGIC MALE XXL

MALE REVUE



FRIDAY DEC 30, 2022 · 9:00PM
SATURDAY DEC 31, 2022 · 11:00PM

with special VIP meet and greet on the patio starting at 10.



HAMBURGER MARY'S JAX

VIP tickets include One Free Well Shot [Register On Eventbrite](#)

content

- 06** Atlanta Gay Bars Targeted By Terrorist Threats, Suspect Arrested
- 08** Catholic Hate Group Leader Says LGBTQ People Want To “Hijack” Christmas
- 12** Leaked Scream 6 Image Has Us Screaming
- 14** Military Dad & Trans Daughter Sue For Right Of Military Dependents To Get Gender-Affirming Surgery
- 16** What Happened To The First Generation Of Children From Out Gay & Lesbian Homes?
- 18** Holiday Events Across The First Coast
- 20** What Is 'Queerbaiting' - And Is It Really Such A Bad Thing?
- 24** Omar Apollo Wants You to Know He Isn't a Queerbaiter & Likes Sucking D
- 26** An Open Letter to the Queer Folks Dreading the Holidays
- 28** Drag Race Star Jinkx Monsoon To Make Broadway Debut In This Musical
- 32** Senate Passes Respect For Marriage Act
- 34** Gay Golden Years Top 5 Cities For Retirement & One You Might Not Have Thought Off

Publisher/Executive Editor

David Vandygriff
publisher@jaxgay.com

Editor In Chief

Dr. Harvey Carr
editor@jaxgay.com

Director of Advertising

Carlos Martinez
advertising@jaxgay.com

Creative Designer

Michael Swartz
info@jaxgay.com

JaxGay Inc
501c3 Non-Profit
P.O. Box 3734
Jacksonville, FL 32206
(904) 900.8027

www.JaxGay.com
Facebook/Twitter: **JaxGayMagazine**

National Advertising Sales

Rivendell Media
(908) 232-2021 Ext 200
monique@rivendellmedia.com

night life

Boot Rack: 4751 Lenox Blvd.
(904) 384-7090

Hamburger Mary's:
3333-1 Beach Blvd.
(904) 551-2048
www.HamburgerMarys.com/JAX

InCahoots: 711 Edison Ave.
(904) 353-6316
www.IncahootsNightclub.com

Park Place: 931 King St.
(904) 389-6616

Tulua Bistro: 8798 3rd St.
JAX Beach (904) 372-0915
www.TuluaBistro.com

04 www.jagay.com



SO, YOU WANT TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS BY BUILDING AN AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?



HALF PAGE ADS

~~-\$450 per month~~
\$225 per month

Local Advertisers - 6 Consecutive Months

www.JaxGay.com

FULL PAGE ADS

~~-\$650 per month~~
\$325 per month

Local Advertisers - 6 Consecutive Months

www.JaxGay.com



"I am more likely to purchase
from a company that
outreaches and advertises to
the LGBTQ community."



ADVERTISE WITH JAX GAY MAGAZINE!

Jax Gay Magazine is monthly publication featuring the best of Gay Jacksonville! Whether you're a Jacksonville local or you're visiting for your 1st or 50th time, we always feature our favorite spots along with the new and exciting things our city has to offer.

Your ad will be seen by thousands of locals and visitors every month. You will appear in the following formats.

PRINTED MAGAZINE

Our print publications provide a tangible aesthetic that our readers love to pick up. Our beautiful covers always make a statement. The printed guide is distributed at over 30 locations around Jacksonville.

NEWSLETTER & EMAIL BLAST

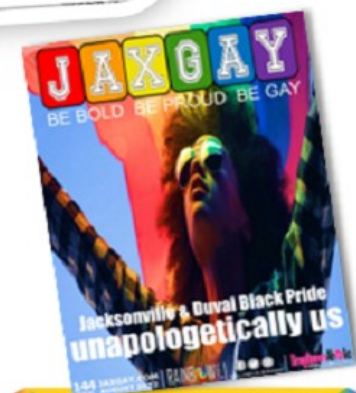
Each week our readers receive the Jax Gay Newsletter for Jacksonville. Advertisers can be featured in the email blast or can purchase a dedicated email blast.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Jax Gay Newsletter & Jax Gay Magazine maintain a strong social media presence with over 50,000 followers. Each week we publish the Jax Gay Guide to Jacksonville across our social media channels.

WEBSITE

Our website attracts visitors from around the world, reaching thousands of viewers every month.
www.JaxGay.com



SPECIAL OFFER 25% OFF

**BOOK NOW FOR PRIDE
EDITION SAVE 25%**

(904) 900-8027
Info@JaxGay.com



News & Politics

Atlanta Gay Bars Targeted by Terrorist Threats, Suspect Arrested

By Daniel Stringer

A man in Georgia was arrested for allegedly making terroristic threats on social media against at least two LGBTQ+ nightclubs.

Chase Staubs was taken into custody over Thanksgiving for making threats against two gay clubs in Atlanta, Heretic and Felix's. No motivation was provided for the alleged crimes by police, but police did say a pepper spray gun believed used in the threats was recovered at the suspect's home.

The Atlanta Police Department said in a statement that officers responded on Wednesday to a bar identified as Heretic, meeting with employees who

said they "observed threatening remarks made towards their establishment on social media." On Thursday police responded to Felix's, where employees and patrons told police they asked Staubs to leave the bar once he was identified.

"The person appeared to be the same individual involved in making bias terroristic threats" against the Heretic, police said.

Officers quickly notified detectives with the APD Homeland Security Unit. Following a brief investigation, officers conducted a "knock and talk" with Staubs at a home address in the city. Staubs was subsequently taken into custody, charged, and later

transported to Fulton County Jail. Police also retrieved a pepper spray gun they believe was used in the threatening videos.

Police revealed few details about Staubs and the case against him.

The arrest comes just days after the mass shooting at the Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colo. that left five dead and at least 18 injured. The alleged shooter, Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, was taken into custody after a fellow patron wrestled them to the ground and pistol-whipped them with their own gun. Aldrich claimed in court papers they identify as nonbinary.



JACKSONVILLE'S ONLY LGBTQ PUBLICATION



BE BOLD BE PROUD BE GAY!

www.JAXGAY.com

FOLLOW US:    #JAXGAYMAGAZINE

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER
REPORT HATE CRIMES



1-800-CALL-FBI **tips.fbi.gov**





OUT & HEALTH

Catholic Hate Group Leader Says LGBTQ People Want To "Hijack" Christmas

By Molly Andrews



Bill Donahue, president of anti-LGBTQ hate group Catholic League, accused LGBTQ people and allies of trying to "hijack" Christmas by advocating for inclusive representation.

Donahue's meltdown came about in response to public criticism of Fuller House actress Candace Cameron Bure, who recently stated that LGBTQ couples would not be featured in holiday movies on the Great American Family Channel, of which she is chief creative officer.

"I think that Great American Family will keep traditional marriage at the core," Bure said in a Wall Street Journal profile. Bure received backlash for her comments and then blamed the media for "seeking to divide us."

Donahue defended Bure in a press release, saying that she "wants Christmas movies to feature moms, pops and kids, and for this she is being blasted by homosexual activists and Christian bashers in Hollywood."

He then nonsensically said that "exclusion" is "what diversity is all about" because celebrating

something automatically means excluding other things.

"In February, we celebrate Black History Month, a time of celebration that excludes everyone who is not black."

"In March, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a time of celebration that excludes everyone who is not Irish. We just got finished celebrating Veteran's Day, excluding all non-Veterans."

And because Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus, he continued, it must exclude other religions, even though many LGBTQ people are Christian.

"Christmastime is also a special time of the year for families, for children, in particular. Now it is a fact of nature that homosexual acts are incapable of reproduction, and therefore homosexuals are denied the opportunity to naturally create a family."

He lambasted "gay activists" for not respecting traditional values and declared that "no one has the right to hijack the holiday to promote their own agenda."

Bure's comments came as Hallmark, where she starred in

over two dozen made-for-TV Christmas movies, is set to premiere its first holiday movie centered on a gay couple.

In recent years, the network had been criticized for the lack of diversity in its holiday programming. Given Bure's departure from the network just as it seemed to be embracing diversity, media outlets took note of what she had to say about Great American Family's focus on "traditional marriage."

Afterward, Bure accused the media of fanning "flames of conflict and hate" by reporting on her quote.

"I would like to address my comments on Great American Family's programming as reported in The Wall Street Journal," Bure wrote in a long Instagram post. "All of you who know me, know beyond question that I have great love and affection for all people. It absolutely breaks my heart that anyone would ever think I intentionally would want to offend and hurt anyone."

She went on to blame "the toxic climate in our culture right now" on the media "seeking to divide us," concluding that "we need Christmas more than ever."

AHF PHARMACY™

20 Years in Service



Not For Profit Healthcare

2 Shircliff Way, DePaul, Building, Ste 900
Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904) 389-9744 www.AHFJacksonville.com



Joshua
HICKS
FOR JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE, GROUP 2
www.VoteJoshuaHicks.com



Paid by Joshua Hicks, Democrat, for City Council District At-Large, Group 2



**THE PERFECT
HOLIDAY GIFT!**

BUY \$100 WORTH OF GIFT CARDS, RECEIVE A
\$20 BONUS TO USE IN 2023!

**CARMINE'S
PIE HOUSE**
J.D. MORGAN & R.T. DELOUSE CO.

PURCHASE AT THE RESTAURANT OR VISIT
OUR WEBSITE TO PURCHASE ONLINE!
CARMINESPIEHOUSE.COM

Each of Us :
LGBTQ+ Support Group
(Adults 18+ Only)

To meet and connect with others, learn life skills, grow in social confidence, and have a safe space to share life struggles and successes with like-minded people.



Join Us Every SUNDAY
4:30pm-5:30pm

@ Here Tomorrow Meeting Place
910 3rd Street, Neptune Beach, FL 32266

heretomorrow
A MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

(904) 372-9087
www.heretomorrow.org



J.D. MORGAN & R.T. DELOUISE CO.

2677 Forbes Ave Jacksonville, FL
(904) 387-1400 - CarminesPieHouse.com
Online Ordering Available



TUESDAY
BOGO 50% OFF
ON TAKE-OUT PIZZA



WEDNESDAY
\$9.99 MAMA'S MEATBALL
HALF POUND MEATBALL | SPAGHETTI | GARLIC BREAD



THURSDAY
BOGO CRAFT BEER
BUY ONE GET ONE 50% OFF ALL CRAFT BEERS



Leaked Scream 6 Image Has Us Screaming

By Chad Austin



The plot for Scream 6 is pretty vague: Four survivors of the Ghostface killings leave Woodsboro behind for a fresh start. This doesn't give us much to work with; however, we do know that Scream 6 will take place in New York City. So that evens the score with three films in Woodsboro and three taking place elsewhere. And, we do know two of those survivors must be Sam and Tara because, well, they are the new faces of this franchise.

It's no secret that a new Scream movie is on the way but a new leaked photo from the film has confirmed that a fan-favorite character will be returning!

The image appeared online during November 2022 and rapidly began circulating among franchise fans, though its origins are unclear.

In the photo, you can spot the four survivors of the last film, Sam, Tara, Mindy, and Chad. Long live the queers!

Front and center of the group Kirby Reed, played by Hayden Panettiere, who many thought died in Scream 4 but clearly, she survived. But for how long...?

The context of the photo is unclear, but we do know that film is set in New York City and the timeline is almost immediately after the previous film. It will be the first time Sidney, played by Never Campbell, does not appear in a Scream film, though it seems like she certainly will be mentioned.

The film will star returning cast members of 2022's Scream, including Melissa Barrera (Vida), Jenna Ortega (The Babysitter: Killer Queen),

Mason Gooding (Booksmart), Jasmin Savoy Brown (The Leftovers), and Samara Weaving (Ready or Not). They will be joined by franchise newcomers Delmot Mulroney, Henry Czerny, Jack Champion, Liana Liberato, Devyn Nekoda, and Josh Segarra.

Scream 6 will also see the directors of the 2022 film Scream return, with Radio Silence's Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett stepping back into the franchise after the success of the fifth film. The next installment will reportedly continue with "the four survivors of the Ghostface killings as they leave Woodsboro behind and start a fresh chapter."

The trailer drop is rumored to be imminent. We can't wait!

Scream 6 is set to premiere March 10, 2023.



Saturday
BRUNCH
& Sundays
BRUNCH
BRUNCH

11am to 3pm



1522 King Street Jacksonville



lolasburritojoint.com



OUT & HEALTH

Military Dad & Trans Daughter Sue For Right Of Military Dependents To Get Gender-Affirming Surgery

By Tiffany Bennett



A 21-year-old transgender college student is suing the DOD & Defense Secretary Austin for denying her gender-affirming surgery under her dad's military health insurance.

The plaintiff, identified as Jane Doe in court filings, lives in Maine as does her father and co-plaintiff, a retired Senior Master Sergeant in the Marine Corps & Air Force, identified as John Doe.

They are suing in the U.S. District Court in ME for a declaratory judgment that denial of gender-affirming surgery for military dependents is unconstitutional. They are also seeking an injunction.

"A victory in this case would ensure that all dependents who are transgender would have access to the critical medical care they need," said Ben Klein, an attorney with GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, is representing the father and daughter.

"We can safely say this is the first time the statute has been challenged. It would affect a huge number of people," Klein told the AP News.

The rule denying coverage is

based on a federal statute from 1976 that mandates the exclusion of surgical treatments for gender transition in the military's medical coverage for service members' dependents.

The DOD has provided gender-affirming therapy and surgeries for active-duty military personnel since 2016.

The suit describes DOD's current policy regarding dependents as "arbitrary and capricious" and lacking "any rational basis." The applicable section "purports to characterize such surgeries as cosmetic, not medically necessary, and akin to a 'face lift,' & yet Defendants acknowledge that those very surgeries are medically necessary and not cosmetic by authorizing them for active-duty service members."

According to the suit, the current rule is "solely based on the maintenance of antiquated stereotypes and fallacies about gender transition and transgender people."

The court filing details Jane Doe's struggles with gender dysphoria since age 11, when she understood her gender identity to be misaligned with her sex. "Jane struggled with

the mental and physical effects of dysphoria, including acute anxiety, racing thoughts, a rapid heartbeat and social isolation." She was officially diagnosed with gender dysphoria at 17, in 2018.

Jane underwent psychological counseling and started hormone replacement therapy, both deemed medically necessary treatments and covered under her father's military health benefits. She went on to socially transition and legally change her name and the gender designation on her birth certificate.

Since then, however, TRI-CARE, the military's health insurance administrator, has denied authorization or reimbursement for doctor-recommended procedures.

The father-daughter plaintiffs want the rule, 10 U.S.C. Section 1079(a)(11), which categorically excludes surgical treatments for gender dysphoria in military dependents, declared unconstitutional, and for the court to award damages and "any such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper."

Sex doesn't get old...

It gets better.



Foreplay:

- * Be clear in what you want sexually
- * Tell your partner about your fantasies
- * Talk about HIV Testing



Happy Ending

- * Worry-free
- * Reduce your risk for HIV and sexually transmitted infections



Enjoy the Ride:

- * Use water-based lubrication
- * Always wear a condom
- * Talk to your doctor about medicinal encouragement



Truth Hurts:

ADULTS AGE 50+ IN DUVAL COUNTY

- * 60 individuals were diagnosed with early Syphilis
- * 237 individuals were diagnosed with Gonorrhea
- * 125 individuals were diagnosed with Chlamydia
- * 65 individuals were diagnosed with HIV

Mood Killers

DON'T BELIEVE THE LIES:

- * Condoms cause erectile dysfunction
- * Since you can't get pregnant, you don't need condoms
- * STIs only affect young people
- * HIV/AIDS isn't an issue for older adults



Duval.FloridaHealth.gov // 904-253-1HIV (1448) // @FLHealthDuval



ASK US ABOUT PREP!!!

JASMYN
DAILY
TESTING

www.JASMYN.org

12-6:30PM

TUESDAY- FRIDAY



923 Peninsular Place

Free condoms and Lube provided!!!!



The **positively** QUIT Study

A research study to help people with certain health conditions quit smoking



Take a picture of this code or go to positivelyquit.com to see if you are eligible

Participants will receive up to \$370 over 14 months

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN:

- Entry screening
- Online group sessions
- Online assessments

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:

- You may quit smoking
- You may talk to others with similar experiences
- You may feel good helping others

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible if you:

- Smoke cigarettes
- Are 18 and older
- Have certain health conditions

QUESTIONS?

Contact Dr. Stephanie Marhefka and the research team at the University of South Florida

PositivelyQuit@usf.edu or 813-586-4144

Life and Style

What Happened To The First Generation Of Children From Out Gay & Lesbian Homes?

By Joe Gantz

When my son was in kindergarten, the children taught their classmates about their life outside the classroom. The kids learned a bit about each other's day-to-day lives, what they liked to do for fun, and all about their pets and family members. Toward the end of the year, the class read Todd Parr's *The Family Book*, a brightly-hued book that celebrates all different kinds of families through fun illustrations and humor. Taking inspiration from *The Family Book*, the kindergartners drew their own pages for a book with two captions that included "All families have _____" and "Some families have _____." The answers reflected their age: "Some families have dogs," "Some families have cats," "All families have love," and "All families have toys." And most importantly for my family: "Some families have two dads," and "Some families have two moms."

That kindergarten exercise probably could never have been imagined by the families interviewed in *A Secret I Can't Tell*. In the 40 years since this book was originally published, we have come a very, very

long way. Unlike the era in which marriage was not available to people like my husband and me, today, LGBTQ people in the United States (and in 29 countries) enjoy

equal marriage—and, according to a Family Equality Council survey, 63% of millennial LGBTQ people want to start a family, or grow theirs. Marriage isn't just a ceremony or a piece of paper, either. According to the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), there are 1,138 statutory provisions in which marital status is a factor in determining benefits, rights, and privileges.

The kids Joe Gantz interviewed between 1979–1983 were raised by same-sex couples who did not have the right to exist in the way they do today. These families were not supported by the law or their communities, and the children frequently expressed the view that no one their age would understand their family structure. That came with a grave cost: keeping their home life concealed.

Unfathomable to those young people is the kind of world my son is now growing up in. It's a world where he can see many families just like his, and it's a world in which young people feel much safer coming out and are doing so in record numbers. Each summer, Family Week in Provincetown,

Massachusetts, brings together hundreds of LGBTQ-parented families for a week of connection, activities, and fun. It's truly awe-inspiring to look across a beach of thousands of people, all from LGBTQ families. Today we have organizations supporting us, like those that run Family Week. Family Equality is the organization advocating for and connecting LGBTQ Parents, and COLAGE is dedicated to connecting children of LGBTQ people. These organizations help families find each other—even in isolated places with very few LGBTQ people. I treasure that my son gets to grow up knowing that a community of people supports him and that his family isn't something he needs to keep secret.

Chapter 1's Selena sums it up best in her 2022 update: "I think it is going to be really hard for anyone who is being raised in a gay family now to understand what it was like to frighteningly feared their families being split up. Some lesbian and gay parents were stripped of their parental rights because being in a same-sex relationship meant they were violating state sodomy laws or they were viewed as "deviants" by family court judges. With distance, we can see that these fears led to anguish, anger, poor behavior, dysfunction, and a lot of pain. The pressure to keep a secret likely exacerbated normal teenage angst and added stress to already stressful parenting situations. This pain was



caused by a society that forced these families to hide in fear. As you read these interviews, I encourage you to remember the prevailing societal force that shaped many of these moments.

By returning to his subjects in 2022, Joe shows their stories in true context. Time heals many wounds, and as we grow older, we remember the good times and gain perspective on the bad times. These families were full of love and wanted to be the best they could be for each other. Some of the kids are now parents, some are married, and some are divorced, creating new chapters in their lives no doubtedly marked—but not always limited by—the secrecy they were forced to maintain growing up. I delight in reading the stories of their own kids knowing LGBTQ kids and families, and how their grandparents were LGBTQ. In just one generation, their families are in a whole new world.

Our society is a much better one today now that families like ours can live freely and openly. The unfair pressure on parents and kids to keep a secret is devastating to witness, and I'm glad that for many families, this is in the past.

Sadly, we are at risk of returning to some of those days.

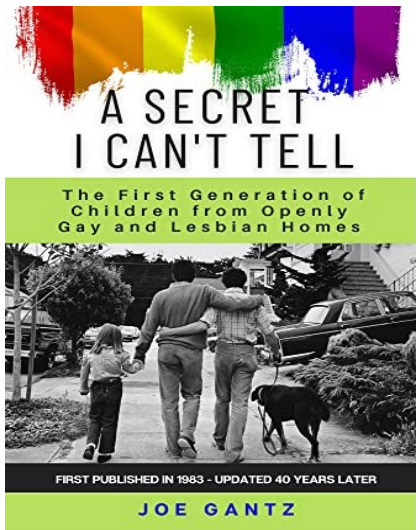
We live in a societal backlash that seeks to force our families back into the closet. Laws in multiple states (most infamously Florida's "Don't Say Gay or Trans" bill) are shutting down all discussion or mention of LGBTQ people and our families in schools. Todd Parr's *The Family Book* has become one of the most banned books in U.S. schools and libraries. Teachers and students are forcing themselves and the story of their families back into the closet, once again making their lives a secret they can't tell. And several justices on the Supreme Court have signaled their interest in overturning the Obergefell decision that made marriage equality the law of the land. And the Equality Act has yet to pass, meaning there is no federal law protecting equal marriage and the many family rights that come with it.

I recently met a young transgender girl in Texas, roughly the same age as many of the children in *A Secret I Can't Tell*. She kept her gender identity a secret from her classmates until someone found out and told everyone. Her family was forced to pull her out of school and has since moved to another state after Texas enacted a law criminalizing parents who provide gender affirming care to their children. It is unfair and unacceptable to put this burden on our children, and yet here we are again.

It's been 40 years since Joe Gantz interviewed these families. Even today, the love and laughs and struggles are something we can all relate to. The forced secrecy and pressure these kids and parents felt are foreign to most people today, and that's a testament to how far we really have come. I hope that we can all read these stories, the 1983 interviews and the 2022 updates, and see a fully rounded picture of how alike we all are and how unique their challenges were. I hope that these stories teach us what once was and could be again if we don't course correct.

These stories, rich and complex, are not just a view into another era. They are a time capsule. Let's act to ensure that they do not also contain an urgent warning for our future.

Get the Book: The Secret I Can't Tell: The First Generation of Children from Openly Gay and Lesbian Homes.





BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Holiday Events Across The First Coast

By David Vandygriff



From stunning light displays, to themed events and photo-ops with Santa, we think yule love these events a latke.

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Are you already in the holiday spirit?

Jax Gay Magazine has put together a list of holiday events that will delight even The Grinch himself.

Nov. 17 to Dec. 24 - Alhambra Theatre - White Christmas, When two WWII GI's discover the secret their General has been keeping from his family, they use their musical talents to help him out. Tickets can be purchased online.

Nov. 18 to Jan. 1: Nights of Pints - Four St. Augustine breweries — Dog Rose Brewing Co., Ancient City Brewing and Jack's BBQ & Brewery are hosting this event. Coinciding with the City of St. Augustine's Nights of Lights, the event was started as a way to give back to nonprofit organizations in the area while enjoying the festivities during the Nights of Lights. A portion of the proceeds will go to local nonprofits. Shirts are \$35, available at any of the four breweries & each shirt comes

18 www.jaxgay.com

with a punch card — good for one free pint at each of the breweries.

Nov. 19 - Jan. 31: The 29th annual Nights of Lights features more than 3 million lights on city buildings and businesses, continues through Jan. 31. nightsflight.com

Nov. 23 - Jan. 1 - Deck the Chairs - Celebrating 10 years, more than forty American Red Cross life guard chairs will be decorated in coastal-themed design and lights for Deck the Chairs in Jacksonville Beach.

Select days between Nov. 23 and Jan. 14 - Lighthouse Illuminations event - The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum will host its second annual Lighthouse Illuminations event. Visit the Museum during this winter season of Tides, Tidings, and Trees. Discover 21 uniquely decorated trees at this special after-hours event. Escape the crowds of downtown St. Augustine this winter season and experience Nights of Lights from the top of the St. Augustine Lighthouse.

Nov. 25 - Jan. 1 - Dazzling Nights - Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens will transform into a magical wonderland this

holiday season featuring a million dazzling lights, shining forests, magical displays and beautiful Sculptures

Now until after Christmas - Girvin Road Light Display - Bumper-to-bumper traffic in the Blackhawk Bluff neighborhood off of Girvin Road around the holidays is nothing new. For about the last couple of decades, the community in Jacksonville's East Arlington area boasts some of the best holiday lights displays in the state.

Nov. 25 to Dec. 31: Kayaking St Augustine is offering a Nights of Lights Sunset Kayak Tour with cool LED light kayaks! Kayak around our beautiful city while watching all the holiday festivities from the water.

Nov. 25 - Dec. 31 - Jax Illuminations Annual Drive-Thru Holiday Light Show - Load up the family and tune your car radio to our special radio station. Listen to your favorite holiday tunes as you drive through a million lights that dance, twinkle, and sparkle to the music. The drive thru spectacular features two mega trees, a 300 ft tunnel of lights, custom Christmas scenes and much more.

Nov. 25 - Dec. 31 - Blackhawk Bluff Christmas Lights Display

- One of the best lights displays in North Florida with the entire neighborhood decorated in lights. You can drive through the Christmas lights display on Sunday thru Thurs 6 to 10 p.m. and Fri and Saturday 6 to 11 p.m.



Nov. 26 - Jacksonville Light Boat Parade + 904 Pop Up Small Business Saturday

- Vessels of all shapes and sizes adorn their hulls with festive decorations as they float along the north and south banks of the St. Johns River during the Light Boat Parade starting at 6 p.m. Jacksonville's Largest Small Business Saturday, 904 Pop Up, will also be back from 4 to 9 p.m. at Riverfront Plaza Downtown Jacksonville.

Dec. 2 - German Christmas Market at Buchner's Bierhalle

- A Christmas market, also known as Weihnachtsmarkt, is a street market associated with the celebration of Christmas during the four weeks of Advent. These markets originated in Germany, but are now held in many other countries. We'll have the biergarten fire rolling, lights and tree up. and live music!

Dec. 3 - Christmas in the Cathedral District - During the event the First United

Methodist Church will host a special holiday light show sponsored by the Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment of the Arts. The lights will be set to move with holiday music and a live wind ensemble as well.

Dec. 3. - Christmas In Avondale - A free community Christmas Celebration.

Celebrate Christmas in the historic Avondale neighborhood with a fun family event offering lots of holiday activities and cheer for kids and adults.

Dec. 3 - Mandarin Museum - Winter Celebration

- Mandarin Museum & Historical Society (MMHS) is very excited to announce the return of this annual community event, on December 3. This year marks the 21st year that MMHS has hosted "Winter Celebration" in Walter Jones Historical Park

Dec. 3 to 4 - Jacksonville Holiday Market for Makers

- Come discover new makers and make memories with your friends at the Market for Makers at The Glass Factory.



Dec. 6 to 11 - Elf The Musical - Elf The Musical takes the stage at the Jacksonville Center for Performing Arts. It's

the hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy's enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Dec. 8 - Lightner Museum Holiday Market

- Shop for holiday gifts from a curated selection of over 30 artisans and small businesses in the Historic Alcazar swimming pool.



Dec. 11 - Luminaria - One of the premier holiday events in Jacksonville and a legacy for the Riverside Avondale neighborhood. This year is the 38th annual event and a showcase of community pride and dedication to our neighborhood. Kits and more are now available for sale at www.riversideavondale.org! Purchase today and get hassle-free door delivery or pickup after Thanksgiving.

What Is 'Queerbaiting' - And Is It Really Such A Bad Thing?

By Drew Jefferson

Is queerbaiting a problem?

David Bowie. Catwoman. Call Me By Your Name. Sherlock and John Watson. Harry Styles. Rita Ora and Ariana Grande. Gay-for-pay adult actors on OnlyFans.

What do all these have in common? Critics say they're all responsible for "queerbaiting".

A few years ago, I wrote a column about gaybaiting. "Gaybaiting is the notion that somebody would put themselves out there in order to receive attention from the same sex, but only for the validation – not because they want anything sexual or romantic to follow. Put simply, it's for the 'likes'," I wrote. In 2018, with influencer culture peaking on Instagram, this seemed like an accurate description of the sexually-ambiguous social media stars who consciously targeted the gay community for its thirst for them.

"If you're a good-looking straight guy with six-pack abs and good hair, the quickest way you'll get your Instagram followers up is to target gay men. A shot in a pair of underwear here, a thirsty beach shot there... you'll

confuse your audience and keep them lusting after you, which does only good things for your self-esteem."

As society's relationship with gender has developed, so too has the phenomenon of gaybaiting. In 2022, it can more accurately be described as queerbaiting. Wikipedia calls this "a marketing technique for fiction and entertainment in which creators hint at, but then do not actually depict, same-sex romance or other LGBT representation". Arguably, this is gaybaiting in its simplest form, not so much queerbaiting.

Queerbaiting, I would argue, does not need to depict same-sex romance or represent any kind of same-sex attraction. Playing with gender stereotypes – like a straight man wearing a dress on the cover of *Vogue* – has no allusions to same-sex relationships, but LGBTQ commentators still argue that it's "queerbaiting". It's putting a morsel of rainbow-coloured food on a hook for the queers to chomp, in order to sell your

If a celebrity or other



personality is disingenuous enough to queerbait simply to make money, that we can all agree is deceitful, and harmful to queer rights overall. Here, I'm specifically thinking of the incredibly-attractive straight guys and girls on Twitter, OnlyFans, et al. who post explicit and sexual photos and videos of themselves for a target audience of their own sex. This is very common business tactic in our influencer-driven world, and has only increased during the pandemic as people seek to make money from home.

Yet as someone from inside the queer community, I have no problem with many of the acts that define queerbaiting, when not done for marketing purposes.

For the same reason I don't take umbrage with straight actors playing gay roles, or Katy Perry singing about the one time she kissed a girl (and liked it). All of this is public representation of diversity that helps your straight, white, average Joe on his or her journey away from bigotry.

More problematic, I see, is the

premature labelling of something as queerbaiting and subsequent cancel culture calls to shut it down.

In a Rolling Stone article, the author quotes a tweet which sums up the difficulties in crying "queerbait!" in uninformed online discourse. "The conversation around queerbaiting has reached a confusing place — on the one hand, we say don't worry [about] labels," they wrote. "and on the other hand, if an artist presents even remotely 'queer' we interrogate them [about] their sexuality?"

We (and by we, I mean netizens; the citizens of the internet who have appointed themselves as cultural police) don't just "interrogate" them. We actually bully them. Rip them to shreds online, read them for filth, tell them to go back to targeting heterosexual audiences and leave more space in mainstream media for

"authentic" queerness.

However, do you know what the Q in LGBTQ stands for? Queer, yes, but also, "questioning". Trying to figure yourself out. A person could be questioning their sexuality and/or gender for their entire lives without ever "coming out". Who is to say that the celebrities and other public people aren't "questioning" when they do things quickly labelled as queerbaiting?

Isn't playing around with sexuality and gender, and not being so rigid about it, a good thing? Who are the netizens to say someone is fake and inauthentic when they could be experimenting and seeing what works for them?

Additionally, increased and varied representations of queerness signal to young queer people that they are normal. Harry Styles might not be queer himself, but if a queer

teenager feels more comfortable in their personal gender-bending using him as a style icon, is Styles doing a disservice to them?

Or, if a young girl hears Rita Ora and Ariana Grande singing, "Sometimes I just wanna kiss girls, girls, girls", and it gives them the confidence to, well, kiss a girl for the first time ... is that a betrayal on the part of those singers?

Not really. This, I see, is the "queering" of mainstream media. A communal effort to break down ideals of heterosexuality. Society is making leaps and bounds in this area, and if a "straight" guy wants to wear nail polish and a cute frock or a "straight" girl wants to kiss another girl, I'd like to see the default assumption about them as "questioning" and not simply "con artists".

CHRIST CHURCH OF PEACE

Welcoming. Inclusive. Affirming.

Rev. Kenneth L. Walsh

SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 a.m.

1240 South McDuff Ave Jacksonville, FL 32205

(904) 387-2020

www.ChristChurchOfPeace.org



REDDIAMOND PROMOTIONS | HOUSE OF ROSE RECORDINGS

11TH
DEC
4PM-10PM

FOOD TO BE SERVED

LUNAR HOUSE

DR. STRANGELOVE | STEPHEN ORSONIC | M-80 | R.E.D.

SHANTYTOWN PUB

22 W 6TH ST
JACKSONVILLE FL 32206

FACEBOOK@REDDIAMONDPROMOTIONS
WWW.RED-OFFICIAL.COM

WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL

WELLNESS | MUSIC | CULTURE

ST. JOHNS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

FRIDAY DEC 16 SATURDAY DEC 17 SUNDAY DEC 18

MUSIC LINEUP

BABA CAIMAN HONEY HOUNDS JIMMY BEATS BAND
RINSE & REPEAT NOAH J FUTURE JOY MIGUEL ALVAREZ KGB
LEWIS ID DJPM O.D.D.I.T.Y.
WANDERING SPIRAL RED MANTI THE WILLOW SISTERS

GARAGE SESSIONS

MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

TICKETS: FLORIDASOLSTICEFESTIVALS.COM

#16M17BY04PMSILL

REDDIAMOND PROMOTIONS | HOUSE OF ROSE RECORDINGS

DEC 31ST
8PM-2AM

\$5
COVER

FOOD TO BE SERVED

BACK
2
THE BASICS
30

NEW YEAR EVE

BOBBY THIERBECKER

BE EAZY

KGB

R.E.D.

SHANTYTOWN PUB

22 W 6TH ST
JACKSONVILLE FL 32206

** TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE **

FACEBOOK@REDDIAMONDPROMOTIONS | WWW.RED-OFFICIAL.COM

DIAMOND DECADENCE

PERSONAL CATERING SERVICES

Filling every occasion
with great food and
service.



DIAMOND DECADENCE



- ✓ WEDDINGS
- ✓ FUNERALS
- ✓ UNVEILINGS
- ✓ FAMILY GATHERING
- ✓ CORPORATE FUNCTIONS
- ✓ HOME DINNER

WE CAN PROVIDE
-A VENUE
-DJ
-PROMOTION
-DECORATION

IF NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL FEE

CALL US NOW:
631-918-0200

DIAMONDDIVA2369@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK@DIAMONDDECADENCE

JAX BLACK CAR™ LIMOUSINE

904-372-8084

Trusted World Class Chauffeured Transportation

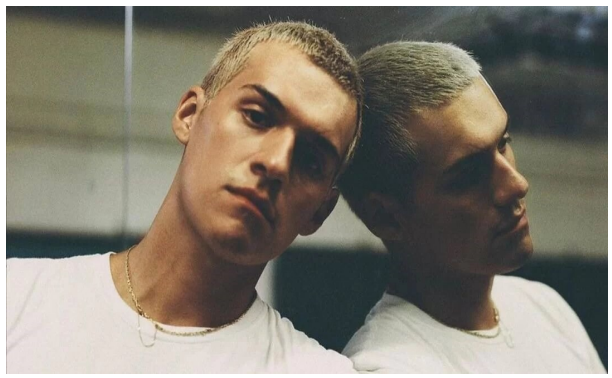
Welcome Home to Jacksonville.
Call us anytime, we are at your service.

Relocation Tours • Airport Shuttle • Corporate Travel • Special Events



jaxblackcar.com

Jacksonville • Ponte Vedra Beach • Nocatee • Amelia Island • St. Augustine



Omar Apollo Wants You to Know He Isn't A Queerbaiter & Likes Sucking D

By Brenda Williams

In case you missed it, gay R&B crooner Omar Apollo wants you to know that he likes sucking dick. (Celebs, they're just like us!)

Taking to Twitter on Monday, the "Evergreen" singer and recent Grammy nominee responded to a fan who questioned whether or not he was "queerbaiting," i.e. pretending to be queer for attention/clout.

"Is Omar Apollo another queerbaiting singer?" Twitter user @purposeflaming asked. "Like those type 'I don't label myself, let me wear cropped and paint my nails and I say I find another guy hot' cuz I like his song but I don't like supporting straight men doing queerbating."

Well to set the record straight, Apollo had a very simple, succinct reply: "no i b sucking dick fr."

And in case you were curious about HOW he likes to suck dick, he added "from the back" in a thread reply.

On a more serious note, this is far from the first time Apollo

has talked about his sexuality and how he identifies.

A 2023 Grammy nominee for Best New Artist, Apollo joins the ranks of Nick Jonas and Harry Styles, who have been similarly accused of "queerbaiting," or pandering to fans by leaning into the belief that they identify as LGBTQ in real life.

Unlike those stars, however, Apollo has never been coy about his sexuality. His debut album, "Ivory," released in April, features tracks with explicit references to men, performed in both English and Spanish.

The song "Pretty Boy," for instance, features the line: "Pretty boy, pretty like the ocean and the sky at night, and I fell in you right after we made love on a starry night."

During an April 2022 interview with NPR, he even went on the record to say that he's, in fact, gay. In fact, he calls himself "very gay" and that he's "totally about" that.

"I don't really care. I feel like in the beginning, I was trying to be mysterious and stuff, but now I'm just like — I'm very

gay, so I'm just like, whatever," he told the outlet." It's funny, every time I'm doing an interview, they're like, 'You don't like to...' I'm like, 'Damn, do I really come off like that?' But no, I'm totally about it. Maybe I was trying to keep the mystique, you understand? But I don't even care anymore."

So just in case Apollo ever comes across another "fan" who wants to question the validity of his sexuality and whether or not he's another one of those "queerbaiters," we now know for certain what he's into — and he couldn't be more relatable!

TOY DRIVE

For children with incarcerated parents

MAY WE ALL ENJOY A MERRY CHRISTMAS

DONATIONS OF NEW TOYS AND GIFT CARDS

Gratefully accepted November 1st- December 1st

TheLotusFlowerProject.org

THE LOTUS FLOWER PROJECT

venmo

QR codes for Venmo and The Lotus Flower Project.

Discover your inner elf.
DECEMBER 6-11



The Broadway Musical



BROADWAY of JACKSONVILLE
presented by FSCJ | ARTIST SERIES

300 Water Street., Jacksonville, FL 32202 (904) 633-6110
www.JacksonvilleCenterForThePerformingArts.com



Life and Style

An Open Letter to the Queer
Folks Dreading the Holidays

By Phillip Henry



It's that time of year when we're all expected to spread cheer & celebrate. Every commercial & TV show will tell you, the holidays are for families. That's true, but for LGBTQ+ people, this season can be deeply stressful because our chosen family & friends are the ones who understand us.

First, coming out felt like my biggest obstacle, but the work didn't end there. Afterward, a whole new set of challenges manifests, as it's not easy being the family's token queer. Sometimes when you come out, the family dynamic changes. It can feel like your queerness takes up all the space in the room, so much so that people we love & grew up with seem to have forgotten who we were before they knew we were queer or trans—and now that's all we'll ever be. Because of this my common instinct is to brace myself.

I remember the anxiety & fear I felt bringing a boyfriend home to meet my family for the first time. I lost sleep & stressed about how we'd be setting new normal for the trajectory of our relationships. For straight family members, a visit like this may indeed be an exciting

thing and they may genuinely want to make you feel welcome. But as they extend their olive branches it can also feel like you're the main attraction at a holiday festival that isn't bringing you much joy.

There's no shame in that. In our ever-evolving relationships with those we love, it's OK to digest and process things, such as how to gradually move the needle further in our family social settings. Navigating the new dynamics of encountering our straight and cis family members — even extended ones — requires time and effort, and doesn't happen overnight, especially if we sense that some of those people might not approve of our orientation or gender identity. It can feel like starting over, and not everyone excels at starting over. That's OK.

It's important to remember that any anxiety, stress, nervousness, or pain we might feel is not only valid but also a representation of some of our strengths as queer people. By existing openly as ourselves in these situations, we are creating change, even if it feels like we're not. We are exposing people to life experiences unlike their own and, we hope, helping to normalize those

experiences. Not everyone can say that about themselves. It's one of the perks that can make queerness feel much more like a gift than a curse. And all of that discomfort is something others have been leaning into for decades — it's a reflection of the change we've sparked in the world, which is no small thing.

That change & power is due to our chosen families. The people with whom we found understanding and solace. They've given us the courage to stand strong in these moments. The language to express how we feel without shame, but with pride. Be thankful for them. Whenever you feel uncertain or afraid over the holidays, lean on them as you have in the past. That's what they're there for and it's exactly where they want to be. Chosen families don't view you as albatross, but as foundation or a part of their life that brings them joy. Perhaps you're both going through the same thing. Maybe they don't have a family to go home to and it reminds you that you're not doing so bad. No matter what, we'll always have each other. That's the magic of queerness and it's not just during the holidays, it exists also year round.

ENGEL & VÖLKERS[®] CYNDY TOMASSETTI

CyndyTomassetti.EVRealEstate.com



WHITE GLOVE CONCIERGE REALTOR SERVICE THAT IS MOM APPROVED.
LUXURY SERVICE IS MY STANDARD, NOT A PRICE!

954.980.1450

FREE
HIV
TESTING

MONDAY-FRIDAY
12PM-6PM

Free Condoms, Lube, PrEP Linkage



929 Peninsular Place
Jacksonville, FL 32204
904-389-3857



INTRODUCE YOUR BUSINESS
to a new and growing economic area...
Florida's LGBTQ Community!

Reserve your
advertising space for
2022 Jax Gay Issues.

JACKSONVILLE'S
NEWEST & ONLY
GAY PUBLICATION

MONTHLY ISSUES
IN PRINT + ONLINE

PRICES STARTING AT
\$40 PER MONTH

BE BOLD. BE PROUD. BE GAY!



WWW.JAXGAY.COM

FOR ADVERTISING RATES & INFORMATION

904.900.8027 or info@JaxGay.com
GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH US!



Drag Race Star Jinkx Monsoon To Make Broadway Debut In This Musical

By Taylor Griffin

Jinkx Monsoon, is an American drag performer, actor, comedian and singer best known for winning the fifth season of RuPaul's Drag Race and the seventh season of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars, becoming the first person to win two seasons of the show across its iterations. Their first studio album, *The Inevitable Album*, was released in 2014, followed by their second studio album, *The Ginger Snapped*, in 2018. Jinkx currently appears in the *WOW Presents Plus* original, *Sketchy Queens*, a series they created alongside Liam Krug.

Fresh off of her win of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 7, Jinkx Monsoon is gearing up for her Broadway debut!

Monsoon is set to join New York City's Ambassador Theatre's production of *Chicago* as Matron Mama Morton, the role Queen Latifah got an Oscar nomination for in 2002 in the movie-musical of the same name. According to EW, Monsoon will be the first drag artist to portray Mama Morton in the Broadway production.

Raise your hand if you

cannot wait to hear Monsoon sing, "When You're Good to Mama"! *raises hand*

Chicago is the longest-running musical revival in Broadway history and Monsoon is thrilled to join the show.

"I cannot stress enough that this has been a lifelong dream of mine," the nonbinary artist explained. "To be making my Broadway debut, as my favorite role, in one of my favorite shows — that lifelong dream is coming true and then some. The first number I performed in drag was 'All That Jazz,' so this feels almost too serendipitous. But, I never question my blessings, I just thank Hecate for them."

Monsoon celebrated the news on social media, even sharing a meme of her mimicking Kamala Harris celebrating the VP win with "we did it Joe" and tagging the Chicago production.

We can't wait to see what Monsoon does with the role! If you want to catch Drag Race royalty in next year's production of *Chicago*, Monsoon's run begins January 16, 2023 and will run for eight weeks.

In the meantime, we'll just have to rewatch her All Stars 7 snatch game...

This Snatch Game is TWICE as nice! 🗲️ #AllStars7 is now streaming on Paramount+. #VH1 #DragRace #AllStars7Paramount+ is here! Stream all your favorite shows ...

Does Jinkx Monsoon have a kid? No.

Are Jinkx Monsoon and Ivy Winters friends? Yes! They ever starred in a recreation of *Death Becomes Her* together.

Who is Jinkx married to? Michael Abbott.

RAINBOW EVENTS

www.RAINBOWEVENTS.org

TULUA BISTRO | K-WADE PRODUCTIONS

SAT
DEC
3RD

SEATING @ 1:30
SHOW @ 2

HOSTED BY
KARRISA T WADE

DONT FORGET TO
DONATE YOUR
NON-PERISHABLES
TO THE
HELP FIGHT HUNGER
FOOD DRIVE

CHRISTMAS AND DRAG

TULUA BISTRO *Party*

798 3RD ST
JACKSONVILLE BEACH FL 32250

TICKETS ON SALE AT EVENTBRITE

*** INCLUDES SHOW AND CHEFS CHOICE BREAKFAST BOARD ***

*** DOES NOT INCLUDE MIMOSAS ***

FOR MORE INFO: TULUABISTRO.COM | 904-372-0915

FACEBOOK@KARRISSATWADE | INSTAGRAM @FLQUEENOFCOMEDY

HYPERION BREWING COMPANY | K-WADE PRODUCTIONS

SAT
DEC
10TH

\$5 COVER
OR
\$10 TO pLAY

DONT FORGET TO
DONATE YOUR
NON-PERISHABLES
TO THE
HELP FIGHT HUNGER
FOOD DRIVE

STOCKING STUFFERS NAUGHTY BINGO

HYPERION BREWING COMPANY

1740 MAIN ST N

JACKSONVILLE FL 32206

WWW.HYPERIONBREWING.COM | 904-518-5131

FACEBOOK@KARRISSATWADE | INSTAGRAM @FLQUEENOFCOMEDY

HYPERION BREWING COMPANY | K-WADE PRODUCTIONS

SATURDAY
16
DECEMBER

\$10 COVER

DONT FORGET TO
DONATE YOUR
NON-PERISHABLES
TO THE
HELP FIGHT HUNGER
FOOD DRIVE

CHRISTMAS NAUGHTY IS BREWING BINGO

HYPERION BREWING COMPANY

1740 MAIN ST N

JACKSONVILLE FL 32206

HYPERION

WWW.HYPERIONBREWING.COM | 904-518-5131

FACEBOOK@KARRISSATWADE | INSTAGRAM @FLQUEENOFCOMEDY

SUNDAYS
OF THE
MONTH

DEC
4TH &
18TH

8PM
TO
10:30PM
\$10 CARDS

DONT FORGET TO
DONATE
YOUR
NON-PERISHABLES
TO THE
HELP FIGHT HUNGER
FOOD DRIVE

NAUGHTY

BINGO

ANN O'MALLEYS

23 ORANGE STREET
ST AUGUSTINE FL 32084

Ann O'Malley's
DELI & PUB

LIGHT TOURS | GAMES | DJ | REFRESHMENTS



www.GoTukin.com



www.GardenClubJax.com

Luminaria Festival

Saturday December 11th

Go Tuk'n Tour Times 5:45 – 6:45 pm 7:15 – 8:15 pm 8:45 – 9:45 pm

Garden Club Jax 1005 Riverside Avenue Jacksonville, FL 32204 (904) 355-4224

We've Got Your Back

HIVcare.org

AHF HEALTHCARE CENTER
2 SHIRCLIFF WAY STE 900
(904) 381-9651
JACKSONVILLE



AHF

PHARMACY



THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

BUY \$100 WORTH OF GIFT CARDS, RECEIVE A \$20 BONUS TO USE IN 2023!



PURCHASE AT THE RESTAURANT OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO PURCHASE ONLINE!

LOLASBURRITOJOINT.COM

HURRY - THIS PROMOTION IS ONLY AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH 12/24!

JASON WOODS

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A man in a long dark coat stands in the center of a red-lit tunnel, illuminated by a spotlight from above. He is looking down at something in his hands. The tunnel walls are textured and the floor is cobblestone.

#GETSCROOGED

December 20th – 7:00 P.M.

JACKSONVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

300 Water Street., Jacksonville, FL 32202 (904) 633-6110
www.JacksonvilleCenterForThePerformingArts.com



News & Politics

Senate Passes Respect for Marriage Act

By Chuck Massengill



The U.S. Senate voted 61-36 Tuesday to pass the Respect for Marriage Act, which will write marriage equality into federal law, maintaining it even if the Supreme Court overturns its 2015 ruling that established equal marriage rights nationwide.

The bill has already been passed by the House of Representatives, but the Senate added an amendment to it aimed at protecting religious freedom, so the new version needs to be voted on by the House before it can go to President Joe Biden for his expected signature.

"Today, after many rounds of bipartisan talks and after many doubts that we could even reach this point, we are taking the momentous step forward for greater justice for LGBTQ Americans," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said before the vote.

He said the first person he would call after the vote would be his daughter Alison, who is in a same-sex marriage.

"What a great day," he added after the vote finished.

Right before the vote, Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin,

the first out member of the body, offered a note of thanks: "I want to thank the advocates who have been fighting for marriage equality for decades and I want to recognize the millions of same-sex and interracial couples who have truly made this moment possible by living their true selves and changing the hearts and minds of people around this country."

The push for the Respect for Marriage Act came after Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that the Obergefell v. Hodges decision, in which the Supreme Court ruled for marriage equality in 2015, should be overturned. He did so in his concurring opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the June ruling in which the court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, revoking the nationwide guarantee of abortion rights. There is no case currently making its way through the courts challenging *Obergefell*, but Thomas and other conservatives have made clear they would welcome one.

The Respect for Marriage Act would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, which has not been enforceable since the Supreme Court found it unconstitutional in *Windsor v.*

U.S. in 2013 but remains on the books. It denied federal recognition to same-sex marriages and allowed states to deny recognition to such marriages from other states.

It would also enshrine marriage equality in federal law and assure that any marriage valid in the couple's home state would be considered valid by the U.S. government, no matter the race or gender of the spouses.

And it would provide other legal safeguards by barring anyone acting under a state law from denying full faith and credit to a marriage based on the sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin of the spouses. The U.S. attorney general would have the power to enforce this, and anyone harmed by such a denial would have a right to sue.

The amendment, OK'd, was introduced by a bipartisan group of senators to allay concerns that the act would interfere with religious liberty. The amendment confirms that no nonprofit religious organization would have to provide goods, services, or facilities for wedding ceremonies or receptions, and it clarifies that the federal

government would not have to recognize polygamous marriages. A coalition of faith groups has endorsed the amendment.

The Senate rejected more restrictive amendments introduced by Republican Sens. Mike Lee of Utah, James Lankford of Oklahoma, and Marco Rubio of Florida, all aimed at protecting opponents of marriage equality from legal action over discrimination.

Civil rights groups immediately praised the vote but noted that the fight for LGBTQ+ equality is not over.

"When we read Justice Clarence Thomas' concurring opinion in the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we knew it was intended to be a rallying cry for anti-equality forces demanding that marriage equality be on the chopping block next," said a statement from LGBTQ Victory Fund President and CEO Annise Parker. "We also understood that with a Supreme Court bent on choosing politics over

precedent, enshrining LGBTQ freedoms into federal law once and for all was essential.

"Representation is power. Despite lacking equitable representation, our LGBTQ congressional delegation consistently punches above their weight. We aren't always the loudest, we aren't always the most visible, but we have the grit and thick skins to fight the hardest."

Parker lauded the efforts of the two out members of the Senate, Baldwin and Kyrsten Sinema.

"Senator Baldwin is a true political juggernaut and has solidified her place as one of the greatest LGBTQ leaders of all time," Parker said. "The personal conversations she had behind closed doors with reluctant colleagues certainly changed hearts and minds and led to today's result.

"This landmark piece of legislation protects the marriages of millions of LGBTQ Americans who have not slept well for months, wondering if our marriages would be

dissolved by an activist court. While the Respect for Marriage Act is undoubtedly one of the most important pro-LGBTQ laws ever passed, it does not require states to grant marriages to LGBTQ couples. Until then, our fight is not over."

"For the last seven years, LGBTQ families across the country have been able to build their lives around their right to marriage equality," James Esseks, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBTQ & HIV Rights Project, said in a press release. "The Respect for Marriage Act will go a long way to ensure an increasingly radical Supreme Court does not threaten this right, but LGBTQ rights are already under attack nationwide. Transgender people especially have had their safety, dignity, and health care threatened by lawmakers across the country, including by members of this Congress. While we welcome the historic vote on this measure, members of Congress must also fight like trans lives depend on their efforts because trans lives do."

Chauffeured Transportation for corporate, social and special events.

904-372-8084

Call or Visit JaxBlackCar.com to book your ride.



www.jaxguy.com 34



BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Gay Golden Years Top 5 Cities For Retirement & One You Might Not Have Thought Off

By David Vandygriff



Planning where to enjoy your golden years prompts a lot of questions. Do you need a lot of social interaction? Do you enjoy cultural events like museum exhibitions and concerts? Do you like to drive or prefer to walk around town? Do you want to kick up your feet and lounge by the pool, or hit the gym and go for a run?

And how important is being among people with shared queer history and experience?

These five iconic gay cities tick the boxes, and feature large well-integrated LGBTQ populations, by number and/or percentage, in the United States.

They also provide an abundance of quality care and services for aging populations, in communities ranked the most affirming in the country.

Whether you're a couch potato or disco napper, the world is at your doorstep in these five world-class cities, plus one you may not have thought of.

1. San Francisco

Age is just a number in this destination city, where

residents from Mark Twain to Harvey Milk have enriched the City's reputation for freedom of thought. The percentage of the LGBTQ population clocks in at 6.2%, the highest in the country. The gay mecca enjoys a perfect score of 100 from the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Quality Index, ranking efforts like city services supporting older members of the community, pro-equality legislation and policy, and even gay cops. San Francisco is home to some of the most cutting-edge medical services in the world and prizes the arts, entertainment, its parks, and even winning sports franchises with large queer followings and Pride nights. Ditch your car; you can walk or take public transportation anywhere among its dazzling 49 square miles.



2. New York

In New York, everything is at

your doorstep, coming or going. You can hole up at home and have the city delivered, from a therapist's visit or a massage to every kind of take-out and getting your kitchen stocked. Or step out into the cultural capital of the world, and enjoy a practically endless list of museums, theatre, music, and restaurants, where generations mingle at MoMA and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. According to UCLA's Williams Institute, the New York metro area boasted over 700,000 LGBTQ residents in 2021, equal to nearly the entire population of San Francisco. Like San Francisco, New York is a walking city, and everywhere is accessible by public transportation, from Midtown Manhattan to Coney Island. Healthcare is minutes away wherever you are, and available from professionals who know you well, while community services and volunteer opportunities abound. The country's largest gay metropolis earns a score of 100 on HRC's Municipal Quality Index. It's the capitol of the World & NEVER sleeps.



3. Miami Beach

The original retirement capital of Florida is also an LGBTQ mecca — one of a constellation in South Florida, from Wilton Manors to Key West — and accounts for 5.5% of the population. Now an intersectional Latin-American melting pot as well, Miami Beach has one of the country's highest concentrations of older community members, who come for the sun, and walkable proximity to shopping, dining, and cultural events along Ocean Drive and the Lincoln Road Mall. Just across Biscayne Bay, the City of Miami offers major art, music, and sports venues. With a perfect score on the HRC Municipal Quality Index, this home to both world-class hotels and single-occupancy retirement communities is a welcoming place for visitors and residents alike.

4. New Orleans

Like the Big Apple, the Big Easy enjoys a high percentage of the population (5.1%), and a sense of inclusiveness fostered by generations of cultural crosscurrents, most pronounced in the historic French Quarter. While earning an equally impressive HRC Municipal Quality Index score of 100, the cost of living in New Orleans is more modest than

her east and west coast counterparts. Home healthcare averages \$36,608 annually, according to Senior Advice, very low by national standards, and health services for older adults are plentiful. In addition to Mari Gras, community events include Southern Decadence, a Gay Easter Parade, the three-day Halloween New Orleans, plus jazz, and some of the finest dining in the country.

5. Palm Springs

This desert oasis and long-time Hollywood getaway is one of the gayest cities in America, with about half of residents 55+ identifying as LGBTQ. Palm Springs and its neighbors in the Coachella Valley offer year-round blue skies, temperate winters, and scorching summers with temps topping 120 degrees. Healthcare serving a large retired population is some of the best in the country, from the Eisenhower Medical Center to the Betty Ford Clinic. If you love golf, a poolside lifestyle, and desert rambles with gay neighbors plus chosen family, this is the spot for you. With light traffic and no freeways necessary, driving is a breeze; or grab a golf cart for a trip to the clubhouse. With over a million LGBTQ visitors every year, a vibrant social life can be found in the city's resort and boutique hotels, world-class restaurants, and bars. For the annual Coachella Music Festival, rent out a room in your mid-century Modern ranch house to pay for a three-day pass, and then some. Palm Springs scores a perfect 100

on the HRC Municipal Quality Index.



6. Asheville, NC

This artsy mid-sized city of 94,000 is located in Western North Carolina where the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers meet in the Appalachian Mountains. It's also one of the most progressive and gay-friendly towns in the southeast. According to the last U.S. census, the Asheville area has 83% more LGBTQ-identified people than the typical American city or town, while in 2021, the city council unanimously passed one of the country's most sweeping anti-discrimination ordinances, protecting residents based on sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and several other classes. The downtown area boasts more than 30 art galleries, and the remarkable Gilded Age-era Biltmore Mansion and Museum attracts visitors from around the world. Asheville punches above its weight with healthcare as home to North Carolina's Mission Health System and the region's central provider of veterans' healthcare services, while the city's mountain elevation makes for comfortably mild summers & temperate winters.

11th Annual

ZOOLIGHTS

Presented by

**COMMUNITY
FIRST**
Credit Union

DECEMBER 9 - 11 • 15 - 18 • 22 - 24
6 PM - 9 PM

JACKSONVILLE



AND GARDENS

370 Zoo Parkway Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904) 757-4463 www.JacksonvilleZoo.org