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MAGAZINE

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Human Rights Campaign Announces
Major Restructure As LGBTQ+
Organization Faces New Political
Reality

INSIDE

Protecting The Rights
Of LGBTQ+ Families
In Trump's 2nd Term

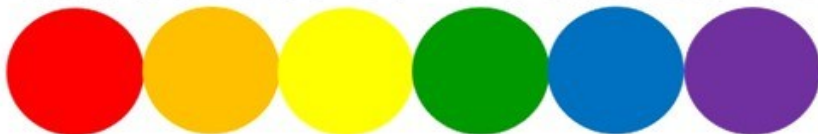
Kit Williamson
Urges Gays To
'Get Loud' About
Trans Attacks'

Google Calendar
Removes Pride
Month & Black
History Month

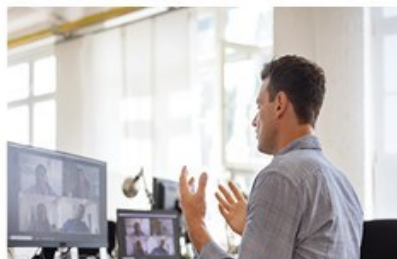
Liam Payne' Struggled
With His Sexuality
Before Death

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WHO WE ARE

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

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

Jax Gay Inc. also plans to launch our Jax Event Center & LGBTQ+ Art Gallery in Fall of 2025.

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OUR AUDIENCE

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

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**Human Rights Campaign Announces
Major Restructure As LGBTQ+
Organization Faces New Political Reality**
By Drew Williams



Trump Pentagon Chief Pete Hegseth Enacts Harshest Anti-Trans Military Policies Yet P08 | Adore Delano Shares Celebratory Update In Her Transition Process P10 | Hypersonic Drones That Soar At 5 Times The Speed Of Sound Planned By US Firms P12 | Liam Payne Reportedly 'Struggled With His Sexuality' Before Death P16 | Trump's Orders Prompt CDC To Erase HIV Resources P18 | Protecting The Rights Of LGBTQ+ Families In Trump's 2nd Term P20 | Human Rights Campaign Announces Major Restructure As LGBTQ+ Organization Faces New Political Reality P22 | Nuclear-Powered Japan: Govt Sets Sight On 30 Reactors By 2040 To Meet Energy Needs P26 | Google Calendar Removes Pride Month And Black History Month P30 | Non-Binary Star Of Netflix's 'Atypical' Changes Name P32 | Kit Williamson Urges Gays To 'Get Loud' About Trans Attacks P34 | Trinity Drag Race UK Star The Vivienne Died Of 'Unnatural Causes,' An Inquest Found P36 | 11 Teens Brutally Beat Men They Targeted Using A Gay Dating App P38 | Trump Taps Gay MAGA Loyalist Ric Grenell As Interim Head Of Kennedy Center P42

MEN, **STUCK** IN THE OFF POSITION?

WE CAN HELP WITH THE **P-SHOT**

GENTLEMEN, LETS FACE IT, ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION IS A TOUCHY SUBJECT.

We'd rather not talk about it, however, the National Institute of Health estimates that over 30 million American men currently suffer from the inability to perform and while it is more common with age, it does affect younger men.



While sexual dysfunction is common, it is not normal. Previously, it was widely assumed that E.D. was an inevitable consequence of aging. We now know that this is simply not true. And as we learn more about this condition, more treatment

Common Causes of E.D.

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options become available.

Traditionally, E.D. was treated with surgery, devices, medications and possibly hormone replacement therapy. All of which may work for a time but carry with them potentially damaging side effects or inconveniences, however, there are alternatives.

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News & Politics

Trump Pentagon Chief Pete Hegseth Enacts Harshest Anti-Trans Military Policies Yet

By Michael Byason



U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has enacted one of the most sweeping anti-LGBTQ+ military policies in recent history, ordering an immediate halt to gender-affirming medical care for transgender service members and banning new enlistments of individuals with a history of gender dysphoria. This move, a direct assault on the rights of transgender Americans in uniform, follows President Donald Trump's January 28 executive order dismantling the inclusive policies that had allowed transgender people to serve openly.

A February 7 memo from Hegseth to senior Pentagon officials and military leadership, obtained by ABC News, mandates the immediate cessation of all scheduled and planned gender-affirming medical procedures for service members and bars promotions for those with a history of gender dysphoria. "Effective immediately, all new accessions for individuals with a history of gender dysphoria are paused, and all unscheduled, scheduled, or planned medical procedures

associated with affirming or facilitating a gender transition for service members are paused," the memo declared.

Hegseth, a staunch opponent of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the military, echoed Trump's executive order, dehumanizing transgender service members by calling their identities "a falsehood" and claiming that gender diversity is "incompatible with active duty." ABC News reports that he accused inclusive policies of "split[ting] our troops along lines of identity" and warned that such measures "weaken our force and make us vulnerable. Such efforts must not be tolerated or accommodated."

On the first day of Trump's second term, hours after the January 20 inauguration, Trump issued an executive order essentially erasing transgender and nonbinary people from federal rules. The order states that the U.S. government only recognizes two genders, male and female and that those are based on one's sex at birth.

This latest attack aligns with Hegseth's long-documented hostility toward transgender

service members. In his 2024 book, *The War on Warriors: Behind the Betrayal of the Men Who Keep Us Free*, he explicitly wrote, "Transgender people should never be allowed to serve. It's that simple." The Nation reports that while he has stopped short of calling for the expulsion of gay and lesbian service members, he has voiced support for returning to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which forced them to hide their identities. He described the repeal of DADT as "the breach in the wire—the foothold—the Left needed to push much more extreme ideology through the gap."

The legal battle against this discriminatory policy has begun. Advocacy organizations, including Lambda Legal and the Human Rights Campaign, have filed lawsuits challenging the ban. A complaint filed in federal court in Washington state last week argues that Hegseth's directives violate the equal protection and due process guarantees of the Fifth Amendment and infringe upon the free speech rights of transgender service members. "By categorically excluding transgender people, the 2025

Military Ban and related federal policy and directives lack any legitimate or rational justification, let alone the compelling and exceedingly

persuasive ones required," the lawsuit asserts.

GLAD Law and the National Center for Lesbian Rights filed

a separate legal challenge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia last week on behalf of six active-duty transgender service members.

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OUT & HEALTH

Adore Delano Shares Celebratory Update In Her Transition Process

By Gabby Auchincloss



Adore Delano Just Shared An Exciting Life Update That Has Fans And Peers Alike Cheering Her On.

The Rupaul's Drag Race Fave Posted Two Pictures To Instagram On Thursday, One In Which She's Standing In Front Of The Beverly Hills Courthouse And The Other In Front Of The Santa Monica Courthouse.

"Gender & Name Paperwork Turned In!" She Wrote. "..... Now We Wait."

Delano Has Been Open About Her Journey With Transitioning Ever Since She First Came Out As Trans In 2023. Within The Year, Fans Had Followed Along As She Underwent Facial Feminization Surgery And Shared Post-Op Updates About How She Was Feeling.

"I Feel Beautiful. I Feel Like The Chemical Imbalance Or Whatever It Was In My Head Is Now Levelled," She Said At

One Point. "This Is A Feeling From Dysphoria To Euphoria. I'm Not Completely There... But I'm On The Stairway To Heaven Right Now."

Things Have Continued Looking Up For Delano, As She Hard Launched Her New Relationship With A Fellow Musician And Reality Competition Star, The Voice's Sasha Allen, In December.

Allen Voiced His Support For This Latest Update In Delano's Journey, Sharing Her Courthouse Post To His Instagram Stories And Writing "Very Proud Of Us Forever & Always" Alongside A Trans Flag-Themed Heart.

Various Rpdr Alumni Were Just As Eager To Share Their Own Words Of Support In Delano's Comment Section, Including Bianca Del Rio, Courtney Act, Morphine Love Dion, Kerri Colby, Amanda Tori Meating, Among Others.

Although California Has Taken A Strong Stance In Favor Of Lgbtq+ Rights At A State Level, Transgender Americans Have Reported Concerns And Delays In Trying To Update Or Renew Official Federal Documents Amidst The Current Administration's Declaration That There Are Only Two Sexes That Cannot Be Changed.

That Accounts For The Wariness That Was Also Clearly Present Among Some Of Delano's Commenters, Who Expressed Their Hope For A Positive Outcome Here. But It Also Demonstrated That Seeing Trans People Visibly And Joyfully Insist On Being Themselves Is More Important Than Ever.

"Seems Like Terrible Times To Be Going Through [The] Transition Process," One Person Noted, "So It's Inspiring To See."



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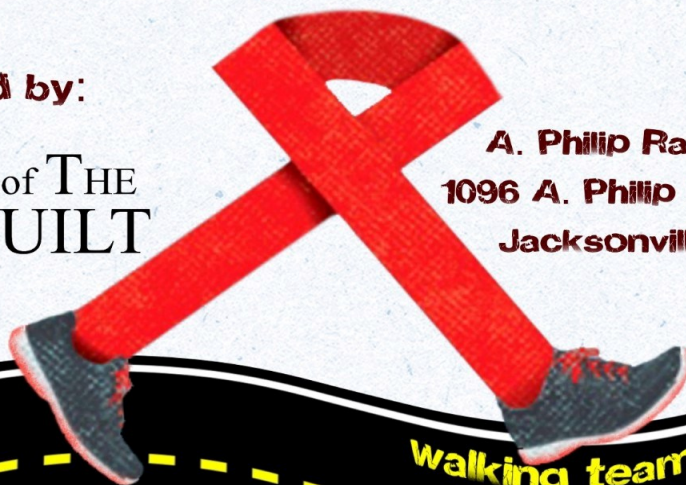
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Science & Technology

Hypersonic Drones That Soar At 5 Times The Speed Of Sound Planned By US Firms

By Amos Browning

Two firms based in the United States have joined forces to develop unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones that can fly at hypersonic speeds or five times the speed of sound.

Alabama-based Cummings Aerospace and ATRX have signed the agreement to collaborate on a project which aims to integrate high-speed turbo-rocket onto a proven air-frame with the goal of developing affordable UAS that can fly at supersonic and hypersonic speeds.

The collaboration has been announced with the goal to provide the US military and its allies an edge over its adversaries – like China, Russia, and others which are making rapid strides in the same domain.

They intend to present affordable UAS capabilities to the US forces which will allow the country to boost its stockpile of hypersonic drones.

Partnership To Make Hypersonic Drones And Space Plane Available To The US

Cummings Aerospace and ATRX intend to make a hypersonic unmanned space plane that can take off and land from any runway in the world.

For this project, Cummings Aerospace will bring forth its Hellhound UAS family. The Hellhound is a versatile unmanned aircraft with many variants. The company had recently tested the S3 version of the Hellhound for a test.

The company wanted to pitch the loitering munition for the US Army's preliminary Low Altitude Stalking and Striking Ordnance, or LASSO, program. In the tests, it had flown at over 350 miles per hour at half throttle while covering distances of 12.4 miles (20 kilometers) using 50 percent of its fuel.

On the other hand, ATRX will present its Air Turbo rocket (ATR) for the project. It is a high-speed, air-breathing propulsion system that is capable of flying at five times the speed of sound, as per the company.

ATRX says that it has completed multiple prototype tests of the ATR propulsion

system, as per a press release. Moreover, it says that the ATR has a propellant consumption rate of about 25 percent compared to a rocket of similar thrust.

Earlier this year, defense technology leader Kratos had secured a contract for up to \$1.45 billion with the Pentagon to develop a hypersonic technology testbed.

The United States is actively pursuing the development of hypersonic weapons in view of rising threats from Russia and China.

A report on the topic suggests that the U.S. hypersonic weapons will likely require greater accuracy – as they will carry conventional warheads.

Collaboration To Help Both Firms

The companies stated that they will “integrate the ATR engine into a Hellhound variant designed for high-speed flight and begin subsonic and supersonic flight testing.”

“The modern battlefield demands systems that are capable of flying faster and further into contested



airspace,” said Sheila Cummings, CEO of Cummings Aerospace. “This partnership with ATRX will allow us to develop ATR-powered UAS that can offer both of these characteristics in a single vehicle, at an affordable price.”

“Cummings Aerospace is the perfect partner, considering the impressive work they’ve already done for the U.S. DOD. We’re excited about this

partnership because it will significantly simplify flight testing of our ATR engines,” said ATRX CEO, Felix Bustos III.

Bustos also went on to state that being able to validate the performance of ATR using a UAS based on a “flight-proven airframe will de-risk and accelerate” its spaceplane development efforts.

“Spaceplanes are very much

needed with more than 50,000, mostly commercial, satellites that need to be launched into orbit in the next few years.”

It should be noted that in the long run, ATRX intends to build planes for space launch – which will build on the technology perfected in the first phase of supersonic and hypersonic UAS development.

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ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

Liam Payne Reportedly 'Struggled With His Sexuality' Before Death

By Shaun Bennett



Liam Payne, best known for competing on The X Factor and being a member of the OneDirection boy band, was reportedly "struggling with his sexuality" over the years. These new claims are coming to light a few months after the 31-year-old pop star fell from the third floor of a Buenos Aires hotel and died.

According to Rolling Stone, multiple sources claim that Payne "wrestled with his sexual identity, compounding his struggles and leading to risky behavior." The report notes that this struggle was "such a burden" that it led to Payne's reliance on "drinking and drug use."

One source told the publication that "Liam struggled with his sexuality. During his relationship with Maya [Henry],

he sexted men." Payne was in an on-again-off-again relationship with Henry, a writer who was also his ex-fiancée, from 2018 to 2022. The relationship reportedly ended after Payne "accidentally broadcast sexting conversations with strangers to their TV," which is how Henry allegedly learned of their existence.

Moreover, Rolling Stone reported that Payne's "final downward spiral" included hiring two sex workers for an orgy, as well as drug use with a waiter he met at a local restaurant.

Payne's dating history as a mainstream celebrity included a relationship with Danielle Peazer between 2010 and 2013 (via Page Six). He subsequently dated a

childhood friend, Sophia Smith, from 2013 through 2015.

Around 2016, Payne started dating fellow musician Cheryl Cole. This was six years after Cole met Payne for the first time as she (a judge) critiqued him (a contestant) on The X Factor. As reported by People, Payne and Cole welcomed a child together, Bear, in March 2017.

Following Payne's tragic death, Cole shared an Instagram post calling out the "exploitation" of his death, writing:

"What is troubling my spirit the most is that one day Bear will have access to the abhorrent reports and media exploitation we have seen in the past two days. It is breaking my heart further that I cannot protect him from that in his future."

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OUT & HEALTH

Trump's Orders Prompt CDC To Erase HIV Resources

By David Vandygriff

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is removing content related to HIV after Donald Trump issued executive orders targeting the transgender community.

The order prohibiting federal agencies from making any mention of "gender ideology" has given staffers little time to implement changes with its deadline of Friday afternoon, resulting in the agency taking down HIV-related pages regardless of if they mentioned gender or not.

Charles Ezell, the acting director of the U.S. office of personnel management titled "Defending Women," sent an email to CDC employees Tuesday, obtained by NBC News, that directly ordered them not to make any references to "gender ideology" and to only recognize two sexes, male and female,

against medical fact.

"The process is underway," an anonymous agency staffer told the outlet. "There's just so much gender content in HIV that we have to take everything down in order to meet the deadline."

Trump's so-called "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government" order defines sex as strictly male or female based on a person's assigned sex at birth. This is in opposition to all major medical associations in the United States, which maintain that sex is not binary and that transgender and nonbinary identities are real.

The Trump Administration last week removed references to LGBTQ+ identities and HIV-related resources from government sites such as



WhiteHouse.gov, the Department of State, and Department of Labor. The removed content included the White House's equity report, information on HIV prevention and treatment, and Pride Month acknowledgments. The Department of Labor's LGBTQ+ workers' rights page and the State Department's LGBTQ+ rights page were also taken down.

"President Trump claims to be a strong proponent of freedom of speech, yet he is clearly committed to censorship of any information containing or related to LGBTQ Americans and issues that we face," GLAAD president and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis said in a statement. "Sadly for him, our community is more visible than ever; and this pathetic attempt to diminish and remove us will again prove unsuccessful."

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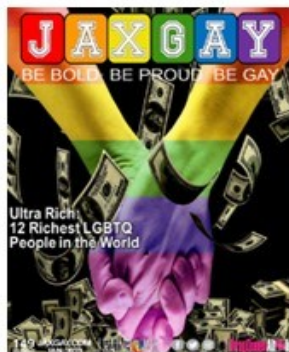
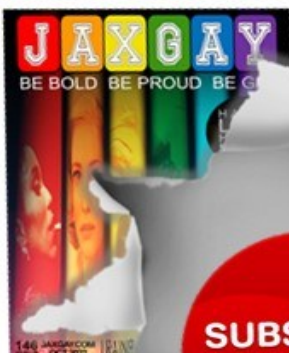
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Life and Style

Protecting The Rights Of LGBTQ+ Families In Trump's 2nd Term

By Janene Oleaga



In the wake of election day, my office phone and email exploded with concerned clients desperate for answers. "Is my name on the birth certificate enough?" "Do I need a parentage order?" "Do I need to adopt my own child?" "Should I move my embryos?" "Should I move my home?"

As a family formation attorney and reproductive rights advocate, most of my clients are LGBTQ+. Regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, my clients all have one shared characteristic: they have all had children through assisted reproduction, whether IVF, egg donation, sperm donation, embryo donation, surrogacy, or adoption. And now, they all share one other commonality: concern about their rights to their own bodies, genetic material, and families.

And their worries are not unfounded.

A record number of anti-LGBTQ bills were signed into law throughout the country in the past few years. LGBTQ individuals were attacked everywhere, from healthcare to education to parentage, by politicians emboldened by the

fame ascribed to the loudest members of the far right. With a national undercurrent steeped in this new brand of conservatism, it didn't matter that we had a Democrat in the White House. In the days that followed November 5th, it became clear that none of this would change anytime soon.

With this backdrop, my clients are now faced with deciding whether or not they continue to live in their home state or move to a blue state. On the one hand, they are forced to weigh their access to health care and their legal rights to their children against their desire to stay in their homes. My clients aren't asking me for legal advice alone – they are calling me and asking: "Is it safe for me, here?" Here in my state? Here in my country? Here in my home?

As a cis hetero woman in a blue state, I can be an ally for my trans clients in Texas. Still, I do not know with specificity the internal predicament of whether I should remain in my home or whether the political climate has rendered it so unsafe that I need to move zip codes and time zones. Though the fight for LGBTQ rights is intertwined with the struggle for

reproductive freedom, as both are battles over our bodily autonomy, I don't have to wear my abortion on the outside for the world to see. I get to choose how and when I share my story. It isn't the same for my clients.

Whether we're talking about LGBTQ+ or abortion rights, the GOP plan is the same: take away the bodily autonomy of everyone who isn't "us" and remove choice. Define who can and cannot have children, marry, and the right to reproductive liberty.

Police who do and do not have rights.

They use state lines to make these distinctions. Some states declare embryos have the same rights as people, provided those people aren't queer or women. Embryos are "extrauterine children," so says the Alabama Supreme Court. But of course, not extrauterine trans children who aren't people with rights at all. Embryos have the right to life, but a woman who needs an abortion due to a pregnancy complication is going to have to roll the dice and hope her pregnancy doesn't end her life. States like Idaho and

Mississippi and Texas have gone one step further and proposed or enacted legislation criminalizing anyone assisting a minor to access abortion in another state. The far-right knows they get to keep power if they deny us the ability to make decisions about our own bodies.

And we're left asking if it is safe to keep living in the place we call home.

In my home state of Maine, we've enacted confirmatory adoption legislation supportive of LGBTQ+ parents, protected access to abortion legislatively, and passed a statute for gender-affirming care. I promise the state will welcome them and their families with open arms. But I don't want to tell them that. I don't want to encourage people to leave their homes. Isn't my job to protect my clients? I am telling you what I said to my clients: "We are not going to panic; we are going to plan."

And plan we have been.

At the micro level, we have been protecting our legal parentage to our children born through assisted reproduction and taking advantage of the benefits of marriage if it suits us while we are still able. We are making dispositional decisions for our cryopreserved genetic material, whether that means transportation, discard,

or donation. We are planning how we will get the gender-affirming care we need if our state enacts restrictions and how we will access abortion care if we need it.

Because we are a community without borders, our planning does not stop with our individual bodies and families. We cannot stand for another second of allowing this "your body, my choice" rhetoric of denying and restriction to exist any longer. We advocate for legislation supporting our bodily autonomy and our chosen family at the state and federal levels. We are writing letters, organizing initiatives, and not leaving our homes. We are effectuating change right where we are.

So, if this second Trump presidency saddens and scares you, I invite you to let it inspire you into action. Your home state needs your voice, words, and actions: it requires you in all your power. The LGBTQ+ community and your allies throughout the country aren't going anywhere. Don't go anywhere.

Jax Gay Magazine wasn't inspired by a mass exodus of LGBTQ individuals from places where they felt unsafe. The very inception of this publication was inspired by the lack of protections for LGBTQ in Jacksonville for housing, public accommodations, and

employment. In this climate of oppression, we have the chance to inspire action. Jax Gay Magazine will continue to instigate and support what its title declares.

And it, too, isn't going anywhere.

In Solidarity,

Janene Oleaga

Janene Oleaga, Esq. (she/her) is a family formation attorney and reproductive rights advocate. In her private practice, Oleaga Law LLC, she assists LGBTQ+ individuals and anyone navigating infertility with family building through surrogacy, gamete donation, embryo donation, and adoption, including confirmatory adoption and step-parent adoption. Through her advocacy work, Janene has organized support for state and federal bills, proudly partnering with GLAD to pass a confirmatory adoption bill in Maine. Janene is on the board of the BIVF Foundation and AllPaths Family Building, two organizations committed to providing support and access to care. Janene is also a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine's Legal Professional Group, and a member of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys.



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Human Rights Campaign Announces Major Restructure As LGBTQ+ Organization Faces New Political Reality

By Drew Williams



The Human Rights Campaign is set to lay off approximately 20 percent of its workforce in a major restructuring effort in what the group's leadership said is to adapt to the evolving political and financial landscape.

According to a senior HRC official knowledgeable about the decision-making process, the layoffs, which will take effect on February 12, will impact about 50 employees. By the start of its next fiscal year on April 1, HRC expects to have around 180 staff members. Another senior official said that the decision reflects a need to “operate differently” in response to external political and legislative threats to the LGBTQ+ community and internal budget realities.

HRC Views Current Programming As Unsustainable

In recent years, HRC has experienced significant fundraising success, with revenues exceeding expectations, the group said.

In fiscal year 2023, a representative said, the organization budgeted to raise \$63 million but ultimately brought in \$85 million. Since 2017, the person added that HRC has exceeded its fundraising goals. However, the decision to reinvest those surpluses into expanded programming and operating costs has created a financial model that leadership now sees as unsustainable.

According to available financial reports and IRS form 990s, which The Advocate reviewed, HRC's total revenue in fiscal year 2024 was approximately \$75 million, a decrease from the previous year's \$85 million. The organization's total expenses for the year stood at nearly \$89 million, exceeding its revenue and contributing to a net asset decline of over \$12 million. As of March 31, 2024, the organization's net assets totaled \$45.7 million, down from \$58 million in 2023. HRC's combined revenue between its main organization and foundation remains over \$70 million, according to the

official, but leadership determined that current spending levels could not be maintained without restructuring.

The organization's board has directed its president Kelley Robinson, who has led the organization since 2022, to ensure a balanced budget in response to the shifting financial and political landscape. “The board has charged Kelly with ensuring a balanced budget in the face of a new environment that requires a reset as we ready ourselves for the challenges ahead,” an official explained.

They added, “To avoid layoffs, we explored a range of cost-saving measures, from attrition to aggressively pushing revenue and evaluating program expenses, but ultimately, both strategic and budget reasons” led us to this restructuring.

While the decision is not tied to one factor, HRC officials acknowledged the increasingly hostile political climate as one reason for the shift. “Given the threats ahead

of us, any LGBTQ organization or progressive organization that's not seriously evaluating their strategies and structures is missing the reality of the threats in front of us," one official said, citing the weaponization of state and federal governments against LGBTQ+ rights, as well as institutions making decisions out of fear that could impact HRC's work.

In an interview, Robinson acknowledged the gravity of letting employees go but emphasized that HRC's mission remains unwavering. "Our success has never been determined by the number of staff we have but by the impact that we make in the world," she said. "We need to stay laser-focused on how we can create change.

The Human Rights Campaign is set to lay off approximately 20 percent of its workforce in a major restructuring effort in what the group's leadership said is to adapt to the evolving political and financial landscape, Jax Gay Magazine has learned.

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“We’re Sharpening Our Focus...,” Says Kelly Robinson

The restructuring will allow HRC to focus on areas where it believes it can have the most significant impact: schools, workplaces, policies, and politics. “We’re sharpening our focus on where we can make the most impact,” Robinson said. “This is about ensuring that we are agile and strategic in this moment.”

Robinson dismissed concerns that the layoffs could weaken HRC’s influence.

“If it’s our opposition asking that question, I think they do that at their own peril,” she said. “The best thing about being a queer person is that we have a history and a legacy of

confronting impossible challenges and coming out the other side.”

Despite the growing conservative backlash against diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, Robinson said HRC is committed to continuing to engage corporations. Recently, companies like Walmart, McDonald’s, Tractor Supply Co., and others have announced they will no longer report corporate information about their workplace culture to HRC.

However, Robinson highlighted that HRC’s Corporate Equality Index saw participation from over 1,400 businesses last year. “We just had our Corporate Equality 100 awards in New York, where 600 corporate partners came together to celebrate getting a perfect score,” she said. “There’s still so much allyship and work to be done.”

HRC officials said schools and workplaces will be a primary area of emphasis, ensuring LGBTQ+ people have protections and resources in their daily lives. Policy and politics will also remain central, focusing on defending against harmful legislation while advancing state and federal protections. Additionally, HRC says it is committed to reshaping the national



conversation around LGBTQ+ issues by countering anti-LGBTQ+ disinformation and amplifying voices that represent the realities of the community.

“We’re not just responding to threats—we’re transforming them into opportunities for lasting impact,” a senior official said. “This reset is really about strengthening our ability to win on these critical fights and keep our focus where we have the ability to make the most impact.”

HRC has been a unionized workplace for over 25 years, with employees represented by the Service Employees International Union. The organization notified the union about the impending layoffs and will engage in discussions before finalizing the details.

“We’ve been a proud union shop, and we are providing this time for meaningful discussion with the union, which is a regular part of our process,” an official said.

HRC held an all-staff meeting Tuesday morning to notify employees of the change.

When asked about severance

and transition assistance for affected employees, Robinson acknowledged the difficulty of the decision.

"This is the hardest part," Robinson said. "We have some of the most dedicated and tenacious staff I've had the opportunity to work with."

She emphasized that HRC is working closely with its union to ensure that affected employees are treated with dignity and respect. "We are in active conversations with our union to make sure that we are honoring those discussions," she said.

Representatives for SEIU did not respond to Jax Gay Magazine's request for comment.

Despite the staffing reduction, HRC insists that its core mission remains unchanged. "We aren't going anywhere," a senior official said. "This is about responsible leadership and positioning ourselves to be in a place of strength for our people—not just today, but in the years ahead."

HRC also affirmed that its major events, such as the National Dinner and regional fundraising galas, will continue. "Convening community is critical toward building power and strength," the official said, adding that while there may be some shifts in programming, supporters should not expect a dimming of the lights.

What Comes Next For The Human Rights Campaign In This New Political Reality?

HRC leadership said the

organization also plans to rethink how it communicates about LGBTQ+ issues, particularly in the face of mounting disinformation.

"We need to make sure that the American people understand that trans people aren't a thought exercise—that we are in every zip code, every family, every race and region, and we are not going anywhere," the official said. "But we also need to be strategic about how we amplify these voices in a way that shifts the national conversation."

HRC is developing new storytelling initiatives to highlight the real-life impacts of anti-LGBTQ+ policies. The effort will include media training for advocates and elevating voices like Emily Shilling, a U.S. Navy commander who has spoken out against anti-trans military bans, and Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, who has provided moral clarity on LGBTQ+ rights—most notably when she confronted President Donald Trump about his anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-immigrant policies at the National Prayer Service following his January 20 inauguration.

As the LGBTQ+ community faces unprecedented political attacks, HRC says this restructuring is designed to



ensure the organization remains a powerful and effective advocate for years to come.

Robinson, who is pregnant and expecting in the spring, also addressed her upcoming maternity leave, assuring that she has a strong leadership team in place to maintain the organization's momentum.

"A movement is bigger than any single person," she said. "I am proud to have a great chief of staff, a great chief operating officer, and an incredible team here at the Human Rights Campaign that, even while I'm on maternity leave, will be helping to move things forward."

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Science & Technology

Nuclear-Powered Japan: Govt Sets Sight On 30 Reactors By 2040 To Meet Energy Needs

By Susie Chan



Despite facing a terrific nuclear disaster more than a decade back, Japan is now aiming to maximize its nuclear power. The country's government has prepared a strategic energy plan that's yet to be approved by the cabinet.

The document calls for a maximization of nuclear power. The plan is to operate 30 nuclear reactors fully by 2040. By then, the nuclear power is expected to account for about 20% of the country's total energy output.

The plan, drafted by Industry Ministry, also aims to reduce coal-fired power from the current 70% to 30-40%.

No Reduction In Nuclear Energy

Japan had adopted to phase out nuclear energy after the meltdown crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in 2011. However, the recent plan has dropped the reference to "reducing reliance" on nuclear energy that had appeared in the three previous plans. The new plan is expected to help to country to meet its net zero emission

goals.

Aileen Smith, executive director of the Kyoto-based group Green Action, stated that nuclear plants are not where the Japanese government should be investing its money.

Smith also revealed that many nuclear plants are old, and the technology they use is even older. The costs of retrofitting are high, so even operating existing plants is no longer commercially viable.

Ageing reactors – those at least 40 years old – make up 40% of those in operation around the world, but only 20% in Japan, according to a recent study by the Yomiuri Shimbun. In the US, by contrast, 64 of the country's 94 reactors – 68% of the total – will have been operating for at least 40 years by the end of the year, reported The Guardian.

Surge In The Need For More Electricity

To power its nuclear plants, Japan would have to import uranium from Australia or other countries. Japan is also expected to see a massive surge in the need for more electricity as the data centers

and power-hungry facilities essential for operating growth industries like cloud computing and AI are on the rise.

Hokkaido Electric said it could meet this growing demand by restarting its reactors, while Google-owner Alphabet has thrown its support behind nuclear power to help decarbonize its sprawling technological empire, according to a report.

Nuclear advocates often argue that because these power plants don't produce greenhouse gases during operation, they are essential in the fight against climate change. But these green credentials are challenged by those who point out that nuclear plants require huge volumes of water, produce toxic waste, and are vulnerable to natural and geopolitical disasters, reported ABC News.

For other countries, nuclear reactors could be a safe source for clean energy generation. Japan, which is vulnerable to powerful earthquakes and tsunami, had faced a Fukushima Daiichi crisis. Due to this, some argue that Japan

could focus on alternatives to nuclear energy.

"Earthquakes are the biggest danger, and they could strike old or new reactors. The more

reactors you have in operation, the greater the risk. It's as simple as that. Retrofitting would mean spending huge sums of money on all those old

reactors when the government could instead be putting its money into renewables," said Smith.

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Google Calendar Removes Pride Month And Black History Month

By John Griffin

Google's online calendar will no longer track Pride Month, Black History Month, or Women's History month shortly after the company also abandoned its diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

The changes, which were first reported last week by The Verge, also include National Native American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Jewish Heritage Month, and Holocaust Remembrance Day.

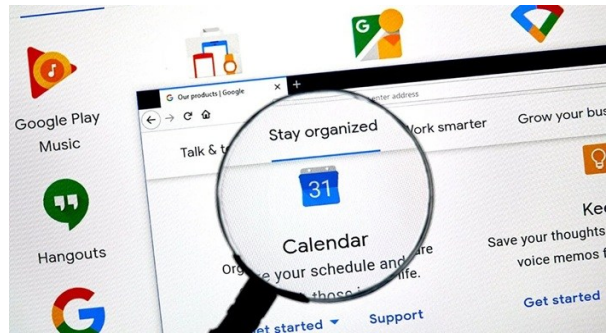
A Google spokesperson told The Advocate: "For over a decade we've worked with timeanddate.com to show public holidays and national observances in Google Calendar. Some years ago, the Calendar team started manually adding a broader set of cultural moments in a wide number of countries around the world. We got feedback that some other events and

countries were missing — and maintaining hundreds of moments manually and consistently globally wasn't scalable or sustainable."

"So in mid-2024 we returned to showing only public holidays and national observances from timeanddate.com globally, while allowing users to manually add other important moments," they continued.

Google announced two weeks ago that it would be purging its DEI initiatives, including its efforts to hire more employees from underrepresented backgrounds, as first reported by The Wall Street Journal. Google also changed its diversity website in week prior, NBC reported, including by renaming an executive's position from "Chief Diversity Officer" to "VP, People Operations."

Google Maps now also labels the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf



of America." The company said in a statement on Twitter/X that its names come from the Geographic Names Information System, which is under the United States Geological Survey, an office of the federal government, and that they updated it to comply with Donald Trump's executive order mandating the change.

"We've received a few questions about naming within Google Maps," the company wrote. "We have a longstanding practice of applying name changes when they have been updated in official government sources."

The gulf is still known as the Gulf of Mexico to users in Mexico, and to the rest of the world it is "Gulf of Mexico (Gulf of America)." Google Maps' popular competitor, Apple Maps, has yet to do the same.

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ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

Non-Binary Star Of Netflix's 'Atypical' Changes Name

By Adam Warrington



The actor who rose to fame as Casey Gardner on Netflix's *Atypical* and most recently starred as Maddy in *I Saw the TV Glow* is reintroducing themselves to the world. The non-binary star, who was formerly known as Brigitte Lundy-Paine, announced in a social media post last month that they have changed their name to Jack Haven, a name that in part pays tribute to their great-great uncle, composer and lyricist Haven Gillespie.

"I am changing my name, going by Jack Haven now," Haven wrote alongside a photo of themselves. The actor went on to explain that "Haven is after my great great uncle, Haven Gillespie who was a songwriter known for the xmas hit 'Santa Clause is Coming to Town' which he wrote on the subway in 15 minutes."

Haven went on to share that the "first name Jack has stuck" after they first began using the moniker "two years ago in a workshop led by @saman_arastoo... I said I was using it in safe spaces. Saman said use it in dangerous spaces. So I use it in the men's bathroom."

Haven has long been open about their gender identity. After first coming out as queer in 2018, the star came out as non-binary and announced they used they/them pronouns in 2019. Haven at the time wrote in a since-deleted Instagram post, per *Out Magazine*, "I'm non-binary, always felt a lil bit boy, lil bit girl, lil bit neither. Using they/them as of late n it feels right."

"Scary af to come out n been rly putting this off. But I feel I owe it to myself and to all of us who struggle w gender," they added.

Haven started their acting career in 2015 with small roles on *Irrational Man* and *One Bad Choice*, per their IMDb profile. After following that up with appearances in *Margot vs. Lily*, *Our Second First Date*, and *One Night Only: Lights Out*, they landed the role as Casey Gardner in Netflix's *Atypical*. The hit series, which centered around Casey' brother Sam, a teenager on the autism spectrum, ran for four seasons from 2017 until 2021. In the

series, Haven's character explored her sexuality before coming out as bisexual.

Haven most recently starred as Maddy in A24's hit psychological horror drama *I Saw the TV Glow*, which they described as an allegory for being trans.

"I think it's always been a trans story," they told CBR. "I think it's cool because the root of it is what it means to be trans and what it means to blow up your life and choose to transition or choose to not, and to be slowly dying, as what happens to Owen's character, Justice's character, but it's also like there's a real, true fantasy story in it as well. Like, I think in order to act in the film or to believe in the film, you have to live through the reality of the fantasy for them."

Haven's role in the film earned them widespread acclaim, including a Gotham Awards nomination for Outstanding Supporting Performance and an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Supporting Performance.



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Life and Style

Kit Williamson Urges Gays To 'Get Loud' About Trans Attacks

By Robert Hutchinson

Kit Williamson stressed that now is the time to "get loud" in the face of anti-LGBTQ+ political and cultural attacks.

The creator and star of *Unconventional*, a new Revry queer comedy that debuts today, took the stage at the show's L.A. premiere Monday to drive home the importance of visibility and pushing back against hate.

"We're in really uncertain, scary times, and I think that there's a tendency to get quiet, and now is not the time to get quiet. Now is the time to get loud and speak up in support of your friends and your family members," Williamson told the audience at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theater to applause.

Williamson — a gay multihyphenate known for creating another beloved queer found-family TV show, *EastSiders* — stressed how advocacy for the transgender

community is particularly essential right now. (In its first month in power, the Trump administration made erasing and demonizing trans people a key part of its policy, targeting them in schools, the military, prisons, and beyond.)

"This is a show about a queer, unconventional family. And queer people, we need to bond together as an unconventional family to stand up for each other, to stand up for our trans siblings in this time where they are under attack," he said.

"And make no mistake, they're not stopping with one of us. They're coming for all of us. So please, please have each other's back, love each other, and enjoy the show."

In *Unconventional*, Williamson portrays Noah Guillory, a Palm Springs-dwelling gay millennial juggling an open marriage, a PhD program, and becoming a sperm donor for his sister's wife — as well as

accompanying mental health and substance use issues.

As Williamson explained in a Q&A at the premiere, "*EastSiders* is in many ways a show about being a gay mess in your 20s, and this is a show about being a gay mess in your 30s — all the problems and challenges that you face that are specific to that time in your life, kind of coming into the next chapter of your life when all of the traditional or conventional roads that are laid out for you by society don't apply. So, as queer people, we're very used to charting our own course, and that's really the spirit of the show."

The cast includes James Bland (*Giants*), Aubrey Shea (*Nashville*), Briana Venskus (*Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*), Willam (RuPaul's *Drag Race*), Laith Ashley, Jenna Ushkowitz (*Glee*), Kathy Griffin, and Beau Bridges.



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Drag Race UK Star The Vivienne Died Of 'Unnatural Causes,' An Inquest Found

By Brenda Johnson



RuPaul's Drag Race UK winner The Vivienne was found dead in their bathroom of "unnatural cause of death," a coroner has said.

The beloved drag queen — known by loved ones as James Lee Williams — died on January 5, 2025 at the age of 32, near Chorlton-by-Backford, near Chester in England.

Police found there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding their death, the inquest opening at Cheshire Coroner's Court in Warrington heard, the BBC reports.

The post-mortem examination revealed an "unnatural cause of death," and further examination is necessary, coroner Victoria Davies said

and adjourned the inquest until June 30.

According to the inquest, The Vivienne's body was identified by their father Lee Williams.

"It is with immense sadness that we let you know our beloved James Lee Williams — The Vivienne, has passed this weekend," The Vivienne's manager, Simon Jones, wrote in a statement on Instagram on January 5.

"James was an incredibly loved, warm-hearted and amazing person," the statement continued. "Their family are heartbroken at the loss of their son, brother and uncle. They are so proud of the wonderful things James achieved in their life and

career. We will not be releasing any further details. We please ask that James's family are given the time and privacy they now need to process and grieve."

Last month, hundreds of people gathered at a vigil for The Vivienne, who won the first season of RuPaul's Drag Race UK in 2019 and came in third in Dancing on Ice in 2023.

The funeral was attended by fellow Drag Race UK stars Tia Kofi, Baga Chipz and Cheryl.

"As a family we are completely overwhelmed by the outpouring of love for James, The Vivienne," the family said in a statement read by The Vivienne's friend Bobby Musker, the BBC reports.

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News & Politics

Trump Taps Gay MAGA Loyalist Ric Grenell As Interim Head Of Kennedy Center

By Ray Lenoard



In yet another unprecedented move, President Donald Trump has appointed Richard Grenell, a gay longtime ally and right-wing operative, as the interim “executive director” of the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.’s prestigious performance art institution. The appointment follows Trump’s decision to fire several board members appointed by President Joe Biden and declare himself chairman of the institution.

Grenell has long been one of Trump’s most vocal defenders. After passing him over for secretary of state in favor of Marco Rubio, Trump instead created the role of “special envoy for special missions” for Grenell. The position, which lacked clear responsibilities, allowed him to remain in Trump’s orbit, with assignments ranging from diplomatic outreach in Venezuela to involving the administration in wildfire recovery efforts in California.

Announcing the Kennedy Center appointment on Truth Social, Trump said Grenell “shares my Vision for a GOLDEN AGE of American

Arts and Culture.” He also clarified that his goal is to reshape the institution’s programming, declaring, “NO MORE DRAG SHOWS, OR OTHER ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA — ONLY THE BEST.”

The Kennedy Center is a public-private partnership, and its board members traditionally serve six-year terms. The center often hosts Broadway shows, dance performances, and comedy programs. Trump’s decision to fire many of them, including high-profile figures like former White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, award-winning musician Jon Batiste, and billionaire philanthropist David Rubenstein, has raised eyebrows.

On Friday, White House personnel office director Sergio Gor sent messages to board members dismissing them.

“On behalf of President Donald Trump I’m writing to inform you your position on the board of the Kennedy Center is terminated effective immediately. Thank you for your service,” he wrote.

Jean-Pierre reflected on her

time on the board in a statement on Monday, expressing deep concern for the institution’s future.

“The Kennedy Center has been a place of tremendous joy for me and my family for many years,” Jean-Pierre wrote. “I love everything about this remarkable institution and will always hold many precious memories close to my heart. It was an honor to be appointed and to be on the board. I’ll be fine. But we all must continue the work to ensure that the arts and humanities remain a core fabric of our society and culture.”

Grenell’s tenure in public service has been riddled with controversy. As ambassador to Germany during Trump’s first term, his partisan rhetoric alienated European allies, and as acting director of national intelligence, he played a key role in declassifying documents to support Trump’s claims of a “deep state” conspiracy. He has been linked to a \$500 million hotel project involving Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner in Serbia. Grenell is also an election denier who was engaged in pushing Trump’s false claims that the

2020 election, which Trump lost, was stolen.

Grenell's influence over the Kennedy Center's programming and artistic direction remains unclear. The

institution does not have an official "executive director" position, leaving many wondering whether he is replacing current Kennedy Center President Deborah

Rutter or if Trump simply created a new title for his loyalist, the Washington Post reports. The White House and the Kennedy Center have yet to clarify.



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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Florida Theatre Is The Region's Most Popular Venue

By Brenda Davis

The Florida Theatre in Downtown Jacksonville is the No. 1 most-attended venue of any type in the Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia region, according to 2024 statistics released by Pollstar, a concert industry trade magazine.

The city-owned, historic venue's attendance surpassed the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, Daily's Place, the Moran Theater in the Jacksonville Performing Arts Center and concerts at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, even though each of those venues has significantly more seats.

The Florida Theatre, with 1,865 fixed seats, sold 183,157 tickets.

Daily's Place, with a seating capacity of 5,500, sold 103,750 tickets.

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, with a capacity of 4,789, sold 103,532 tickets.

The Moran Theatre in the Jacksonville Performing Arts Center, with 2,950 seats, sold 99,231 tickets.

With a total capacity of 15,000, VyStar Veterans Memorial

Arena sold 95,824 tickets.

The Florida Theatre is the No. 44 most-attended theater worldwide, and for theaters up to 2,000 seats, it is the No.5 most-attended theater nationwide, according to Pollstar.

"Ranking first in our market and 44th in the world for theaters despite having fewer seats to sell every night is a testament to the incredible support that the Florida Theatre receives from our community and the world-class talent that takes our stage every night. This ranking reflects our commitment to delivering quality entertainment for years to come," Florida Theatre Vice President of Programming Kevin Stone said in a Dec. 17 news release.

Top attendance and gross revenue at theaters up to 2,000 seats:

- The Smith Center/Reynolds Hall in Las Vegas, 235,038 tickets, \$19.45 million gross revenue.
- Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, New Jersey, 230,208 tickets, \$13.70 million.
- Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Meyers,



190,593 tickets, \$14.63 million.

- Moore Theatre in Seattle, 187,111 tickets, \$10.60 million.
- Florida Theatre, 183,157 tickets, \$8.47 million.

"What's significant about the Florida Theatre being on these charts is that it is locally managed by a nonprofit organization dedicated to this building and serving our community," Numa Saisselin, president of the Florida Theatre, said in the release.

"Jacksonville likes to go out and have a good time. We value being able to enjoy live performances in the company of our friends and neighbors, and our audience tries not to miss a good show."

According to Pollstar, the Top Tours of 2024 were led by Taylor Swift, who set an all-time income record, earning \$2.2 billion, and Coldplay, who set an all-time record for tickets sold, at 10.3 million tickets.





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