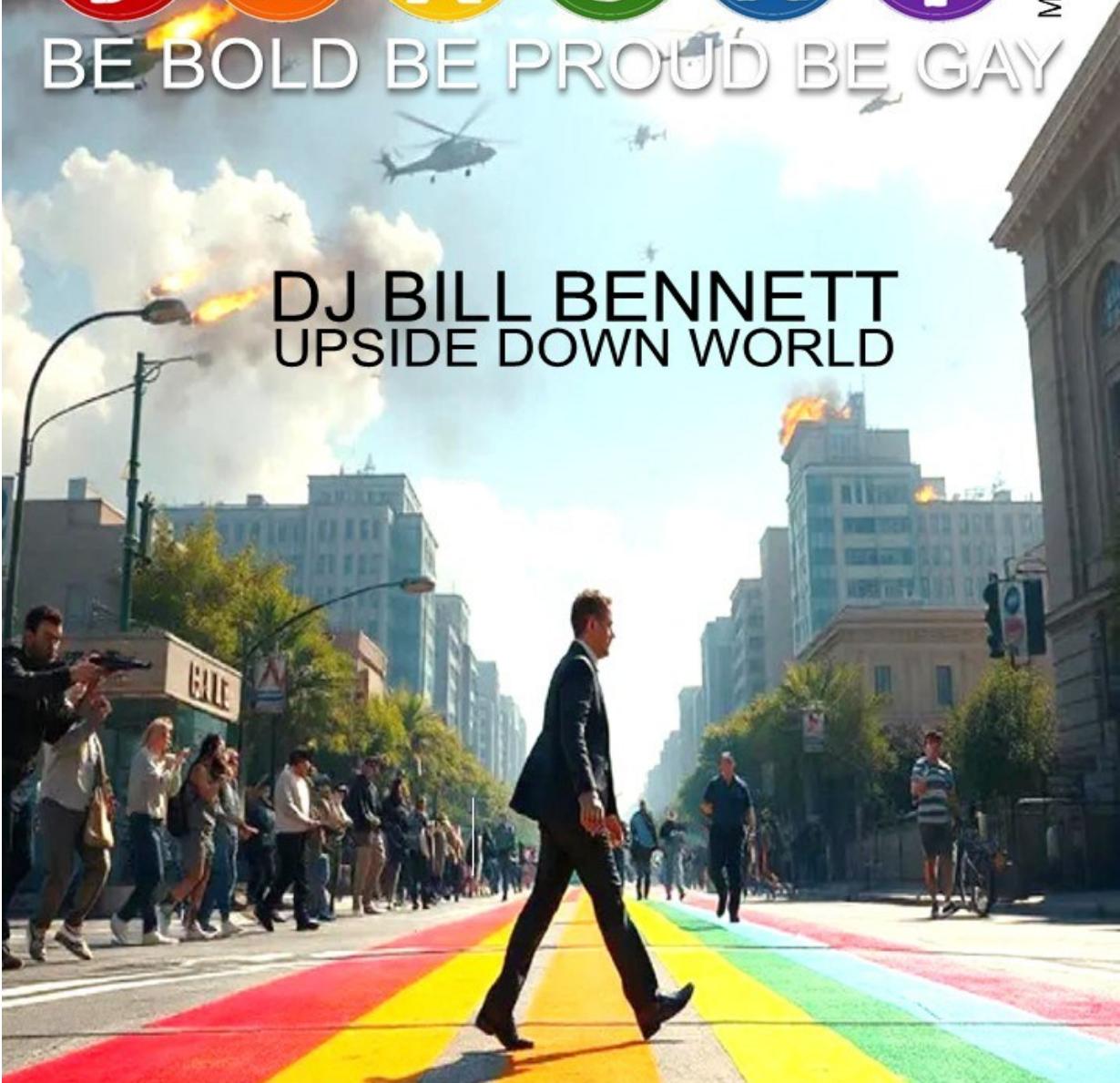


JAXGAY

MAGAZINE

BE BOLD BE PROUD BE GAY

DJ BILL BENNETT UPSIDE DOWN WORLD



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Ilya Rozanov Is
Now A Queer
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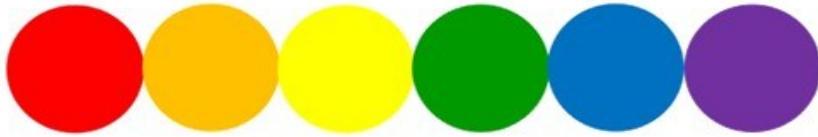
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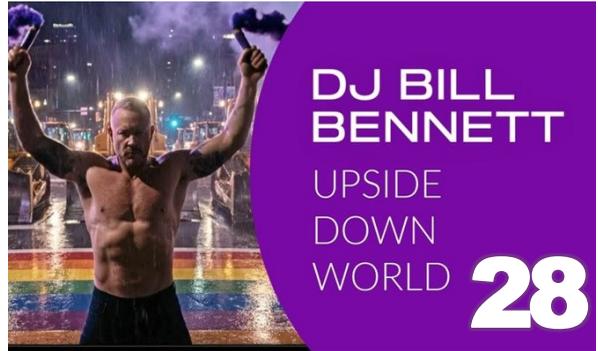
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By David Vandygriff



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News & Politics

Trump Bans Abortions Through Dept Of Veterans

By Dave Jones



The Trump administration has banned U.S. military veterans from receiving abortions through the federal government's health care system by ordering the Department of Veterans Affairs to reinstate a near-total ban.

The Department of Justice issued guidance to the VA two weeks ago instructing the agency to stop nearly all abortions and abortion counseling through its facilities, allowing the care only in life-threatening cases. VA Press Secretary Pete Kasperowicz has since confirmed to Military Times that the department is following the policy.

"The Department of Justice's opinion states that VA is not legally authorized to provide abortions, and VA is complying with it immediately," Kasperowicz said. "The DOJ's opinion is consistent with VA's proposed rule, which continues

to work its way through the regulatory process."

The Trump administration first put forth the policy in August, which eliminated the Biden administration's 2022 rule guaranteeing access to abortion through the VA. It prevents abortions even in cases of rape, incest, or when the health of the pregnant patient is at risk, only allowing them if "a physician certifies that the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term."

The initial filing accused the Biden administration of allowing access to abortion "without regard to State law." However, the Trump administration's rule applies to those even in states where abortion is protected by state law.

The Trump administration similarly ended gender-affirming care for transgender veterans earlier this year. The

VA announced in March that it would stop providing the lifesaving treatments, citing Trump's January executive order defining sex and gender as strictly male or female and unchanging, despite the scientific and medical consensus that sex is a spectrum.

The VA soon after rolled back dignity protections for trans vets, which allowed them to use single-sex facilities that align with their gender identity. It also imposed strict regulations on what providers are allowed to do for their patients, including preventing them from issuing referrals to private practitioners.

"Trump's far-right administration is waging a war against access to safe abortion," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer wrote in a post online. "This is a BETRAYAL of our brave American veterans."

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OUT & HEALTH



Transgender Youth Who Receive Hormone Therapy Are Less Suicidal: Study *By Ryan Williams*

There's simply no denying that gender-affirming care is life-saving.

Transgender youth who are able to access hormone replacement therapy are less likely to be suicidal, according to a report recently published in *The Journal of Pediatrics*. Researchers surveyed 432 patients ages 12 to 20 over 679 days, finding that "suicidality significantly declined from pretreatment to post-treatment" across all sexes, ages, and treatment durations.

"HT was associated with clinically meaningful reductions in suicidality over time, extending prior findings with a larger sample and longer follow-up," the report concludes.

"These study findings provide clinical evidence supporting the mental health benefits of timely access to HT in this population."

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT), which falls under gender-affirming care, involves a patient taking either feminizing (estrogen) or masculinizing (testosterone) hormones for the purpose of altering their appearance to better reflect their gender

identity, typically in the form of an injection.

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

The American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, the World Medical Association, and the World Health Organization all agree that gender-affirming care is evidence-based and medically necessary not just for adults but minors as well.

A separate December report from The Trevor Project found that trans and nonbinary youth (ages 13 to 24) whose

pronouns are respected were 31 percent less likely to attempt suicide in the past year than those whose pronouns are not respected. Nearly one-fourth (23 percent) of those who said none of the people they know use their correct name and pronouns also said they have attempted suicide in the past year, compared to just 10 percent of those who said almost everyone in their life respects them.

If you or someone you know needs mental health resources and support, please call, text, or chat with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline or visit 988lifeline.org for 24/7 access to free and confidential services. Trans Lifeline, designed for transgender or gender-nonconforming people, can be reached at (877) 565-8860. The lifeline also provides resources to help with other crises, such as domestic violence situations. The Trevor Project Lifeline, for LGBTQ+ youth (ages 24 and younger), can be reached at (866) 488-7386. Users can also access chat services at TheTrevorProject.org/Help or text START to 678678.



Science & Technology

Waterproof Self-Flying Camera Delivers Hands-Free 4K Filming For Water Sports

By Brad Sappington



Zero Zero Robotics is expanding aerial filming into water environments with the launch of HOVERAir AQUA, a fully waterproof self-flying camera designed specifically for watersports and water-based recreation.

The company is showcasing AQUA as part of its lineup alongside the HOVERAir X1, PRO, and PROMAX, positioning the new device as an extension of its hands-free filming platform beyond land-based use.

HOVERAir AQUA is designed to take off from and land directly on water, eliminating one of the biggest limitations of conventional drones.

The company says the device is fully waterproof and buoyant, allowing it to operate confidently in wet and unpredictable environments.

Built for athletes, creators, and outdoor users, AQUA combines automated flight with high-speed tracking, enabling users to capture footage without manually controlling the camera.

Built For Water Action

AQUA features an IP67-rated waterproof design and is capable of floating on water. It uses AI-powered tracking to keep users in frame while filming hands-free in third-person view.

The self-flying camera is equipped with a 4K camera capable of recording at up to 100 frames per second. It uses a 1/1.28-inch CMOS sensor and a hydrophobic lens designed to handle water spray and splashes during operation.

Zero Zero Robotics says AQUA can reach speeds of up to 55 km/h and withstand level-7 wind conditions, making it suitable for fast-moving watersports such as wakesurfing, kayaking, and sailing. The drone offers up to 23 minutes of flight time per charge.

The system supports more than 10 smart flight modes, including Snorkel Mode and Mount Mode, expanding how users can capture footage on and around water.

The company also offers a Lighthouse accessory, a wearable controller that

enables takeoff, landing, mode switching, and recall using VirtualTether.

AQUA includes a built-in 1.6-inch AMOLED display that allows users to preview footage and play back videos instantly without connecting to a smartphone.

Hands-Free Filming Expands

Weighing under 249 grams, AQUA avoids FAA registration requirements in the United States and is C0 certified in the European Union, making it easier to deploy across regions.

The product has been named a CES Innovation Awards 2026 Honoree, recognizing its approach to water-based videography and hands-free capture.

“AQUA represents a natural extension of HOVERAir’s mission to empower users to capture their greatest life moments hands-free and without boundaries—whether on land or water,” says MQ Wang, founder and CEO of Zero Zero Robotics.

The company says AQUA

builds on the same automated tracking experience used in its land-based drones while expanding operations into rivers, lakes, and open water.

With more than \$2 million raised through crowdfunding,

Zero Zero Robotics says AQUA has drawn strong interest from watersport enthusiasts looking for a more durable and flexible aerial filming tool.

Zero Zero Robotics was founded in 2014 by Stanford

PhDs MQ Wang and Tony Zhang and focuses on intelligent devices built on embedded AI, machine vision, and high-precision control systems.

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Golden Globes: Stars Wear 'Be Good' Pins For Renee Good

By Drew Davis



Wondering about the "Be Good" pins worn by some stars at the Golden Globes? They were a tribute to Renee Good, the Minneapolis queer woman killed by an ICE agent last week.

Wanda Sykes, Mark Ruffalo, Natasha Lyonne, and Jean Smart were among those who wore the pin Sunday at the Hollywood awards ceremony — and some spoke out about their sartorial activism on the red carpet.

Sykes told *Variety*, "Of course this is for the mother who was murdered by an ICE agent, and it's really sad. We need to be out there and shut this rogue government down, because it's just awful what they're doing to people."

It wasn't her only political message of the evening. During the ceremony, Sykes, as a presenter, accepted an award for absent nominee and anti-trans comedian Ricky Gervais — and thanked the transgender community on his behalf.

When Smart took the stage for winning an award for her *Hacks* role, she could be seen wearing the pin and referenced political remarks made prior on the red carpet. She had told *Entertainment Tonight*, "Everything is a little bit overshadowed with everything that's going on in our country. I feel like we're kind of at a turning point in our country, and I hope people can keep their heads, because I think that's actually going to be the

hardest thing, to keep our heads. But that's going to take a lot of courage and a lot of restraint, but I think that's important."

The pins are part of a larger #BEGOOD campaign organization by the ACLU. In a press release, the nonprofit said the campaign is "reminding us what it means to be good to one another in the face of such horror — to be a good citizen, neighbor, friend, ally, and human. Everyday, everywhere, regular people are being good: keeping kids safe when they walk to school, filming fathers who are being disappeared from their workplaces, donating to fundraisers to support organizations who are keeping us safe."

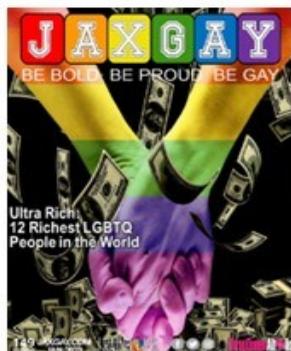
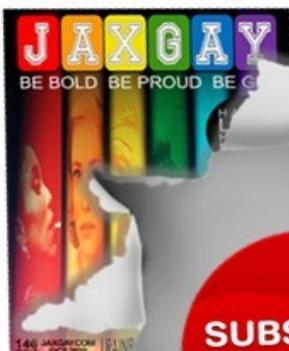
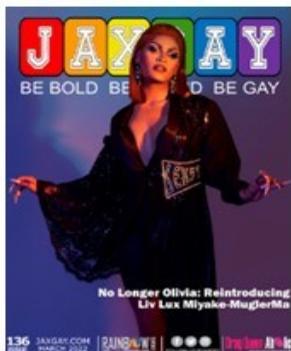
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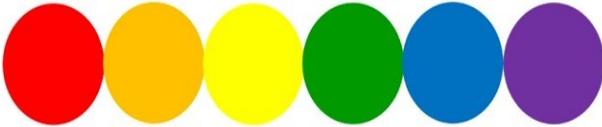
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OUT & HEALTH

Amber Glenn To Be First Out Queer Woman On The U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team

By Janet Massengill



Amber Glenn is setting the figure skating world on fire!

The pansexual American figure skater just made history at the 2026 U.S. Women's Figure Skating Championships when she not only beat out her competition but also secured a record-breaking score that may land her on the U.S. Olympic team.

Glenn was visibly overwhelmed by emotion after her history-making win led to a standing ovation on Jan. 7. The two-time defending champion teared up when her 83.05 point score was announced after she managed to pull off a flawless opening triple axel.

"I knew that I came here to do my job," Glenn said, according

to AP News, "and I was happy to see that scores were up, scores were good, and I was able to keep them going up. I felt a responsibility to keep it going better and better and better."

Glenn has been on an epic run. She won the same competition the previous year, becoming the first openly queer woman to win, and took home her first career Grand Prix Finale title at the end of 2024, recording the highest-ever score for an American woman in the short program.

It has been 20 years since an American woman has won an Olympic figure skating medal, but this 26-year-old LGBTQ+ athlete has the opportunity to change that at the Milano

Games next month.

Glenn is poised to score a spot on her first Olympic team, which would make her the oldest U.S. Olympic women's singles skater in nearly a century, and the first openly queer woman to make the U.S. figure skating team.

Glenn came out in 2019 in an interview with the Dallas Voice after she watched American ice dancer Karina Manta announce she is bisexual.

"I did not expect it to blow up in the way that it did," she said. "But I'm grateful because they got my message out there. I was able to represent a lot of people that are in skating, especially queer women."

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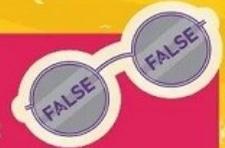
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Life and Style

192-Proof Polish Vodka Is The Strongest Alcohol In The World

By Barbara Griffin



The sharp flavor of a vodka or tequila can make it hard to imagine anything harsher or stronger. Stateside, you might have heard of Everclear, which is 95% alcohol – but despite this incredibly high proof, no liquor is stronger than a vodka that hails from Poland. Called Spirytus Rektyfikowany, this type of Polish vodka holds the record as the world's strongest alcohol, clocking in at a shocking 192-proof, or 96% alcohol by volume (ABV).

Vodka has deep roots in Eastern Europe, and Poland has been producing high-proof spirits since the 1400s, when vodka was often made at home. Poland also claims to be the birthplace of vodka. Over time, production became more refined, and this allowed for better distillation practices. Spirytus emerged out of this tradition, and while it doesn't appear to have an official invention date, it likely came about with Polish distilleries like Polmos in the 19th century.

Spirytus is not just a "strong"

spirit; it's nearly pure ethanol. Often sold in a plain-looking bottle, this isn't something you toss into a casual cocktail or sip on its own. In Poland, it is often infused with fruits, herbs, or spices to make homemade liqueurs known as nalewki. During the pandemic, it was used to make hand sanitizer! Internationally, it's mostly known for its unmatched strength.

How This Polish Vodka Is Made And Why It's So Strong

What makes Spirytus Rektyfikowany so strong? It all comes down to how it's made. Unlike standard vodkas, which are typically distilled a few times, Spirytus undergoes a process called rectification. This means it's distilled repeatedly to remove impurities and concentrate the alcohol to its maximum. The result is a spirit that's almost pure ethanol, with barely any water or flavor compounds left behind.

Despite popular belief, one of the secrets of vodka is that it

isn't always made from potatoes. The base ingredients vary, but grains like maize, wheat, or rye are typical, and some brands use beet molasses. These ingredients are turned into mash and fermented — the same process as regular vodkas. Each distillation strips away more impurities and residual flavors, leaving behind a clean, neutral alcohol. The goal with this repeated process is purity.

Its high proof gives Spirytus its record-breaking title and global notoriety. At 192-proof, it's dangerously flammable, and bottles come with a warning label. It's also potentially toxic if misused — that's why it's not one of the alcohols recommended for sipping straight. Want to try Spirytus for yourself? If purchasing the Polmos brand, expect to spend between \$20 and \$50, depending on the size of the bottle you get.

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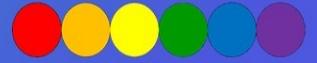


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COVER STORY

DJ Bill Bennett 'Upside Down World'

By David Vandygriff



DJ BILL BENNETT

UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

As a struggling full-time college student Bill was seeking a job where he could work only on the weekends and still pay the bills. In 1999 he was hired as the Saturday night resident at the largest gay club to open in Detroit, Cobalt. His passion of dance music showed and the lines started wrapping around the building every Saturday night.

Fans from Toronto, Toledo, Columbus, Indianapolis and even Chicago would drive to Detroit for Bill's unique sounds. This was something that had never happened before. Detroit had never been known for a night life.

Cobalt became known nationally for it's music, this immediately catapulted Bill to a national level. This Captured attention of the promoters from the infamous IML which has hired Bill for three consecutive years.

Bill is one of the fastest rising DJs hitting the circuit. His residency is now at SBNY (aka Splash) in NYC and he is finally getting the chance to play top events and clubs around the globe.

Bill's newest song released the month called 'Upside Down World.' The overall message is one for school shootings and removal of rainbow crosswalks throughout Florida. The references to the Pulse Nightclub shooting is one that could move anyone with a heart. June 12, 2026 will mark the 10 year anniversary. You will want to see the video for yourself at www.Facebook.com/coachbillbennett

Bill is a Remixer, Producer, Vocal Artist. You can find my finished work on all online music platforms under " DJ Bill Bennett" Here you will find my catalog of demos. All songs written and owned by DJ Bill Bennett LLC.

As message from Bill:

Yo fam, quick heads up—I've got my guy Brian running my DMs and emails this week while I unplug. Was gonna ghost for a bit, but after some heavy thinking last night, I figured you deserve the truth. After my latest video calling out Governor DeSantis, I got hit with two death threats. Cops are handling it, but real

talk—I've never experienced hate on this level.

Real talk—if you're not ready for some heavy truth, you might wanna tap out now. This is your warning. Don't say I didn't give you a heads up.

I was living just five blocks from Pulse the night it all went down. Back then, I ran a popping gym with over 250 clients—lots of them from the LGBTQ+ fam. The media left out the real story and sugarcoated the horror, because the truth? It's next-level disturbing. eriously, last warning—what comes next is wild.

Those of us caught up in that night had to wait three brutal days to find out who was inside. Some of my clients were forensic leads, so I got the story straight from the source. I also used to work in the trauma center down the street, so I knew a bunch of the people on the frontlines.

That's why I'm straight-up furious about them removing the Pulse Nightclub crosswalk.

For real—this is your final warning...

When the detectives finally got inside, they found the AC and power were both off. August in Orlando, metal building—just brutal heat. The place was pitch black except for beams of sunlight cutting through bullet holes. There were stacks of bodies, some too damaged to ID by dental records. Cell phones kept ringing everywhere, but no one could answer. That scene broke a lot of people—some never went back to the job. And this was kept from the families.

One of my clients made it out alive. His story still messes with me. He and two friends were in a bathroom stall partying when they heard gunshots—at first, they thought it was just loud music. Then the lights cut out and it hit them. Imagine: you're having fun, then suddenly chaos erupts. People panicked, exits chained, the bathroom flooded with bodies. They squeezed about six guys into that stall, all clinging to each other, terrified. Then someone banged on the door, begging to get in, but there was no space. Gunshots rang out—he got hit. The power was out, but streetlights cast an eerie glow. They saw the shooter walk up, reach over, and open fire. Everyone in that stall died except my client.

He took bullets from his shoulder to his hip—miraculously, nothing vital got hit.

In trauma, it's all about triage: black wristbands mean no chance, red means surgery ASAP, green means you're stable. People in chairs, on stretchers, in the halls—total chaos.

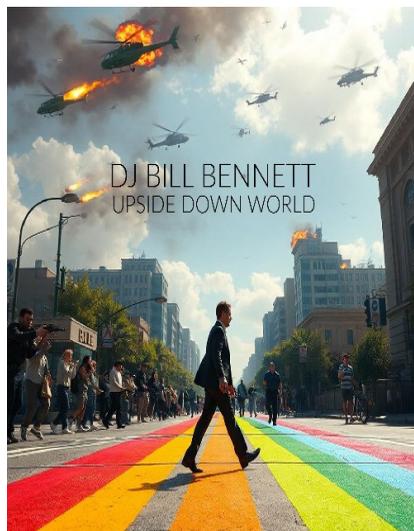
Some of my friends who worked triage that night walked away from nursing for good. Handing someone a black wristband, telling them it'd be okay while knowing the truth—it broke them.

And honestly, that's just scratching the surface of what really went down.

The city spent years arguing over a proper memorial. Politics got messy, and to this day, the old club just sits there, fenced off, with loved ones leaving photos on the gate.

The rainbow crosswalk was more than paint—it was a vibe, a tribute to the lives we lost and the wild unity that swept the city in the weeks after.

I've never seen anything like it—it was pure Utopia. Everyone helped each other, looked out for one another. That vibe only hits during big celebrations or tragedies. Of course, it faded, and life went



back to normal.

When I heard the rainbow sidewalk was getting removed, I snapped. I even wrote two songs about it: "Rainbow Sidewalks" (you can stream it) and "Upside Down World."

They're trying to erase our memories of what happened, but I'm not letting that slide. If you vibe with the video, share it. Hit up your DJ and get them to spin the track. Let's make this the anthem for everyone we lost and refuse to let them be forgotten.

Much love, y'all. Brian's got the DMs and emails, I'll catch you next week.

Bill

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Science & Technology

Samsung Unveils Smallest-Ever 200-Megapixel Image Sensor For Smartphones

By Glenda Rutherford



Samsung Semiconductor opened CES 2026 with a major imaging milestone, unveiling the ISOCELL HP5, the smallest 200-megapixel image sensor ever built for mobile devices.

The launch highlights how sensor miniaturization continues to reshape smartphone camera capabilities without forcing larger camera modules.

Roughly half the size of a penny, the ISOCELL HP5 packs 200 million pixels into an extremely compact footprint.

Each pixel measures just 0.5 micrometers, making it about one-hundredth the width of a human hair. Samsung designed the sensor to push physical limits while maintaining strong light absorption and signal accuracy.

Smaller Sensor Footprint

The 0.5-micrometer pixel size allows the ISOCELL HP5 to fit into a 1/1.56-inch optical format. Smartphone makers typically reserve this format for 50-megapixel sensors.

By keeping the same optical

size, manufacturers can upgrade to 200 megapixels without redesigning camera modules.

This approach simplifies adoption for premium smartphone brands. It also enables slimmer camera bumps while still delivering higher resolution.

Samsung positions the HP5 as a drop-in upgrade rather than a disruptive hardware change.

Beyond still photography, the sensor supports 8K video recording at 30 frames per second.

This capability allows users to capture ultra-high-resolution video while preserving fine detail. Samsung says the sensor targets users who want professional-grade imaging from mobile devices.

Advanced Pixel Engineering

Shrinking pixels creates major sensitivity challenges. Samsung addressed these issues early in development by redesigning the sensor structure.

Engineers used a Deep Trench Isolation Center Cut design to improve pixel separation and

reduce signal interference.

The company also introduced High Sensitivity DTI, or High-S, to improve light reflection inside each pixel.

Titanium dioxide materials and high-refractive-index lenses further enhance light absorption.

Together, these changes help maintain Full Well Capacity despite the tiny pixel size.

Samsung says these structural improvements allow the HP5 to overcome traditional low-light limitations.

The goal was to deliver consistent image quality rather than trade resolution for brightness.

High dynamic range remains a core focus of the ISOCELL HP5. The sensor supports 13-bit output, allowing richer color representation and smoother tonal transitions.

This depth enables more accurate color reproduction across complex scenes.

The HP5 also uses a 1:8 conversion gain structure to widen dynamic range. This design helps the sensor

capture bright highlights and deep shadows in the same frame.

The sensor can record long and short exposures simultaneously, improving sharpness when subjects move.

Samsung highlighted the HP5's industry recognition at CES. The company earned seven CES Innovation Awards this year, with the ISOCELL HP5 recognized in the Imaging category.

Samsung positions the sensor as a key step toward

next-generation mobile photography.

With the ISOCELL HP5, Samsung reinforces its strategy of advancing camera performance through semiconductor innovation rather than larger hardware alone.

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Alphabet Hits \$4 Trillion Market Capitalization

By Kathy Joshlin



Google parent company Alphabet has become the fourth member of the \$4 trillion club.

Alphabet shares popped 1% Monday, after Apple said it would use Google's Gemini for the foundation of its artificial intelligence models and the next generation of Siri.

The stock closed at \$331.86, putting Alphabet's market cap just over \$4 trillion.

The search company joins Nvidia, Microsoft and Apple as the few companies that have crossed the \$4 trillion mark.

Both Nvidia and Microsoft topped the \$4 trillion milestone for the first time in July, while Apple crossed the threshold for the first time in October. Since then, however, Apple and Microsoft have dropped well below the \$4 trillion line.

Alphabet's entry into the elite club comes after the company ended 2025 as one of the top performers on Wall Street. Its shares jumped 65% in 2025, Alphabet's sharpest rally since 2009, when the stock doubled coming out of the financial crisis.

The search company has been on the rise after putting together the pieces for its AI comeback and overcoming key regulatory hurdles last year. In November, the company unveiled Ironwood, the seventh generation of its tensor processing units, a custom AI chip that has emerged as a potential alternative to Nvidia's offerings. Then in December, Google introduced Gemini 3 to rave reviews.

Despite OpenAI's ChatGPT and Sora services capturing an increasing amount of consumer engagement and concerns swirling around the future of online advertising in a world of AI chatbots and agents, Alphabet has managed to ward off fears that its most innovative days are in the past.

In a Jan. 8 note, analyst Deepak Mathivanan upgraded Alphabet's stock.

"We believe the technological advantages of the Gemini assistant app — powered by Google's 'grounding' assets — vs. ChatGPT (powered by Bing and partner integrations) are underappreciated," Mathivanan wrote. Google "arguably, has the strongest footprint across

several layers in the AI tech stack, and the company's decade-long investments have enabled deep competitive moats."

Citi analysts named Google a top internet pick for its 2026 outlook in a recent note. Analysts said 70% of Google Cloud customers use its AI products, adding "Google has the chip, the infrastructure capacity, and the model amid growing demand."



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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Windjammer Landing Saint Lucia: An LGBTQ+-Welcoming Luxury Resort

By Joey Amato



Perched across 65 acres of lush hillside on Saint Lucia's northwestern coast, Windjammer Landing is one of the island's most enduring and beloved luxury resorts. Framed by tropical greenery and overlooking the calm, crescent-shaped shores of Labrelotte Bay, this Mediterranean-style retreat blends private villa living with full-service resort amenities, all delivered with the warmth and ease of authentic Caribbean hospitality.

Windjammer Landing's setting is as cinematic as it is serene. Whitewashed villas cascade down the hillside toward the water, offering sweeping bay views from nearly every vantage point. Guests can choose from 220 thoughtfully designed accommodations, ranging from expansive waterfront villas with private pools to beachfront suites just steps from the sand, as well as charming hillside villas that feel secluded while remaining connected to the heart of the resort. Whether traveling as a couple, family, or group of friends, the layout allows for privacy without sacrificing

convenience.

At the center of the experience is the resort's impressive collection of amenities. Six swimming pools are scattered throughout the property, each with its own atmosphere, from lively social hubs to quieter, adults-oriented escapes. Seven signature restaurants and bars showcase a range of culinary styles, from Caribbean-inspired dishes highlighting local ingredients to international favorites served with ocean views. The Serene Spa offers a tranquil retreat for massage and wellness treatments, while the fitness center and extensive water sports program provide ample opportunities to stay active on land and sea.

Beyond its physical beauty, Windjammer Landing stands out for its long-standing commitment to inclusion and community engagement. Saint Lucia reached an important milestone this past year when a court ruling overturned previous restrictions on LGBTQ+ rights, signaling a meaningful step forward for equality and dignity on the island. Windjammer Landing has long been aligned with these values, consistently

supporting the LGBTQ+ community both locally and globally.

That commitment was especially visible in 2024, when the resort proudly sponsored Saint Lucia Pride. One of the most powerful moments of the celebration was the return of RuPaul's Drag Race winner and Saint Lucian native Monét X Change, who performed a joyful and emotional homecoming drag show. The event marked a significant moment of visibility and celebration for the local LGBTQ+ community and reinforced Windjammer Landing's belief that hospitality should be rooted in respect, representation, and action.

Expanding its vision of luxury even further, Windjammer Landing introduced La Belle Hélène by Windjammer Landing earlier this year, a remarkable addition that elevates the brand's footprint across the island. Located in the UNESCO-protected Soufrière region between the iconic Gros and Petit Pitons, this ultra-exclusive ten-bedroom estate offers a completely different, yet complementary, Saint Lucian

experience. With this launch, Windjammer Landing became the only resort brand on the island to offer luxury villa access spanning from the northwest coast to the dramatic southwestern landscape.

La Belle Hélène is designed for travelers seeking privacy, scale, and bespoke experiences. The estate features a striking 14-foot-deep lagoon-style pool, expansive indoor-outdoor living spaces, and a private chef's kitchen ideal for curated dining experiences. Recreational amenities include pickleball and basketball courts, while a private jetty allows seamless access for boats and yachts arriving by sea. Surrounded by rainforest and mountain views, the estate feels worlds away while still benefiting from the service standards and hospitality ethos Windjammer Landing is known for.

Together, Windjammer Landing and La Belle Hélène represent a new benchmark for inclusive luxury in the Caribbean. From relaxed beachfront days and vibrant dining to meaningful community engagement and ultra-private estate living, the resort offers experiences that resonate with today's travelers seeking both indulgence and authenticity. For LGBTQ+ travelers in particular, Windjammer Landing stands as a welcoming, affirming destination where luxury, culture, and belonging naturally coexist in one of the Caribbean's most breathtaking settings.



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Life and Style

The White Countertop Era Is Over – What's Next
By Donald Willington



In recent years, white countertops have ruled the interior design scene, bringing a bright clean look to modern kitchens. However, the tides are changing in more ways than one. As we step further and further into a technology-driven society, it seems that folks have begun craving the comforts of the natural world. That can be seen in the rise of shinyin-roku (therapeutic forest bathing), an increased interest in growing food (here are some hacks for growing your own windowsill veggies and herbs), and even ways folks are decorating their homes.

Gone are the sterile days of millennial gray and the long-beloved-but-predictable quartz countertop, and back — like a force of nature — are the deep jewel tones and earthy textures of the late '70s. In 2026, we'll be seeing countertops with warmer tones and realistic veining — even if it's not actual marble. Darker shades of soapstone or colorful picks like Calcutta marble are also on the

table. Wood countertops and butcher block will definitely be in the mix, as well as an eclectic design technique that may combine several natural materials. In the same breath, the ultra glossy look is being replaced with a more lived-in vibe via the use of honing or leathering techniques which make the stone either smooth and matte or textured.

It's An Natural Or Bust For 2026, Y'all

You can already see shades of these changes in the chic kitchens of famous folks like Zendaya, with her Brooklyn apartment sporting slate-colored marble countertops and natural wood cabinetry, or Kate Winslet who's kitchen island is made from timber, for an old country feel. Full color cabinets and the wood paneled walls of the '70s are also making a comeback, bringing that indoor-outdoor feeling in with full force. Cameron Diaz brought a new meaning to kitchen greenery with emerald green cabinets

and a solid brass black splash. They key is to combine the natural elements and earthy colors with modern shapes and details.

While you may not be able or willing to shell out for real marble countertops, there are a few good reasons folks are moving swiftly away from laminate countertops made to mimic these trendy natural materials. No matter how good of a dupe they are, they simply won't hold up against heat and knife work like the real thing. They chip, scratch, and deteriorate at a much faster rate. For this reason, they do little to add any value to your home. If you want to bring a more rustic feeling into your kitchen without the marble price tag, you might consider butcher block. It's an affordable (yet highly durable) material that costs between \$30-\$40 per square foot compared to granite's \$70 per square foot.

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DD Fuego Announces New Interview Show With RuPaul's Drag Race Queens

By Tim Miller

DD Fuego is about to take over!

Although she was eliminated first on the current season of RuPaul's Drag Race, the New York City queen is ready to expand her empire by dabbling into fashion, philanthropy, and media.

"It totally is a win to be cast on Drag Race. I'm so proud of my time on the show. The preparation that I made on the show was the package of an All Star. I can't wait to share it with the world, whether it made it to the main stage or not," Fuego tells Jax Gay Magazine.

Fuego has already announced her own shoe line as part of a collaboration with Betsey Johnson and the Elton John AIDS Foundation, but she's

gearing up for her own exciting venture as she's about to premiere her very own talk show.

"I am a working diva in New York City! I'm on Drag Race, I have a shoe collab, and I get to give back. It's time to bring people into the world of DD Fuego... and that also includes an interview show! You're getting the exclusive."

The talented queen is now hosting her own YouTube series, Deep Dives: Early Outs, where she's going to be interviewing other RuPaul's Drag Race stars who were sadly eliminated too soon in the competition. The show officially premieres today!

"My first guest is last year's Porkchop Lucky Starzzz. She's

giving the crown to DD Fuego and the conversation we had... you will not want to miss. The future is bright for anyone on the show. We are incredible performers no matter what our placement is. Fans should give us the shot we deserve."

Although her time on Drag Race has come to an end, Fuego is already teasing a potential return to the werkroom in the future.

"Baby, being a Porkchop is a crown in itself that I do not intend on letting slip! Even though I'm not on All Stars, let's say yet, I'm still making my mark in the world of drag. I am becoming the star of my dreams!"

RuPaul's Drag Race airs Friday nights on MTV.

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News & Politics

Federal Immigration Agents Shoot Two More People, This Time In Oregon

By Adam Thomas



In a startling escalation of federal enforcement that underscores a growing national crisis, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents shot two people in Portland, Oregon, on Thursday afternoon, ABC News reports.

The circumstances of the shootings near East Burnside Street and 141st Avenue remain unclear, and officials have not released the conditions or identities of those wounded. The episode marks the latest flashpoint in a widening pattern of lethal force by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and related federal agencies on American soil.

The incident comes one day after Jonathan Ross, an ICE agent in Minneapolis, fatally shot Renee Nicole Good, a 37-year-old U.S. citizen, poet, and mother of three, during an aggressive immigration operation that left her wife devastated. The incident has roiled the city. Good's killing, captured on video and widely circulated online, triggered protests, political condemnation, and urgent demands for federal

accountability.

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson condemned the Oregon shooting, warning that "constitutional protections erode and bloodshed mounts" when federal authorities treat cities as "training ground[s] for militarized agents." Wilson said he has ordered ICE to suspend all operations in Portland until a full investigation is completed and vowed to use "every legal and legislative tool available" to protect residents' civil and human rights.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek issued a statement saying, "We are all shaken and outraged by another terrible, unnecessary violent event instigated by the reckless agenda of the Trump administration, this time in our own state, in our largest city, coming just one day after the tragedy in Minnesota. While details remain limited, one thing is clear: when a president endorses tearing families apart, and attempts to govern through fear and hate rather than shared values, he fosters an environment of lawlessness and recklessness." She agreed with Wilson that there must be a full investigation, which is now being opened by the Oregon Department of Justice,

Attorney General Dan Rayfield announced.

Federal officials, however, have sought to frame both incidents as acts of self-defense. In a statement to CNN, Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin said a U.S. Border Patrol agent "fired a defensive shot" at 2:19 p.m. PT during what she described as a "targeted vehicle stop." McLaughlin alleged the driver was believed to be tied to the Tren de Aragua gang and that the passenger was a Venezuelan migrant "affiliated with the transnational Tren de Aragua prostitution ring." She claimed the driver "weaponized his vehicle" and attempted to run over agents before fleeing the scene — language she also used Wednesday in public claims about Good, assertions contradicted by video and witness accounts.

President Donald Trump, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, and Vice President JD Vance have falsely claimed that the agent who shot Good was being attacked and that she posed a terrorist threat. Video footage and witness accounts directly contradict those assertions.

The Portland shootings have already drawn reaction from the far right. MAGA darling Kyle Rittenhouse, who in 2020 shot and killed two people during protests in Kenosha,

Wisconsin, was later charged and acquitted, and has since become a right-wing media figure, wrote on X, "BREAKING NEWS: Two people just shot by ICE in Portland, Oregon...

Looks like Portland, OR is jumping on the FAFO train kicked off on Portland Avenue in Minneapolis."

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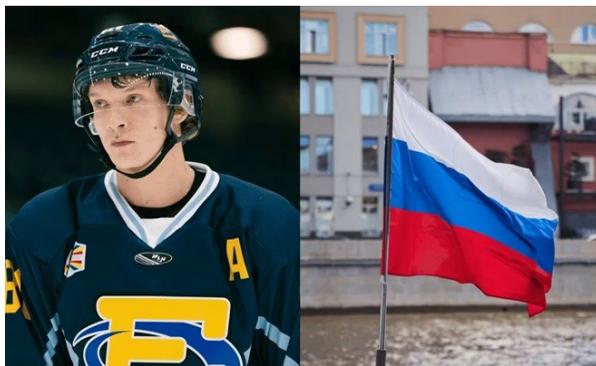
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'Heated Rivalry's' Ilya Rozanov Is Now A Queer Icon In Russia

By Brenda Camp



Crave/HBO Max's hit gay hockey romance *Heated Rivalry* shows the love story between Canadian player Shane Hollander and Russian player Ilya Rozanov (played by Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie, respectively), but how do actual queer Russians feel about the show?

Gay Russian journalist Mikhail Zygar writes about *Heated Rivalry* and its impact on queer Russians in a new *Vanity Fair* piece. In it, he asserts that he knows "quite a few people like" Ilya, and "I might even say that I have been him."

"Like the character, I was born toward the end of the Soviet Union, a time when homosexuality was still a criminal offense. My father was a military officer," Zygar writes. "I grew up in a society where coming out never seemed possible; it was always clear that being gay in Russia would mean being an outcast, being cursed, having no chance whatsoever."

Russia adopted its first law against LGBTQ+ "propaganda" in 2013, shortly before the Sochi Olympics; the country

banned "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" among minors.

In 2022, the law became stricter, banning "propaganda," which could be loosely interpreted as any form of LGBTQ+ representation, to adults as well. The following year, the Russian Ministry of Justice labeled the "international public LGBT movement" as an extremist element and called for the state to "ban its activity in Russia."

These laws have had big impacts on Russian celebrities and pro athletes, preventing them not only from coming out but from supporting queer rights at all.

In 2023, several Russian NHL players refused to wear Pride-themed warm-up jerseys due to the law. Several American players also refused to wear the jerseys for political reasons. The Chicago Blackhawks, which had several Russian players, decided the organization as a whole would

forgo wearing the jerseys out of concerns for the safety of its Russian players.

While *Heated Rivalry* isn't available on any official Russian streaming platform, Russian fans are reportedly loving the series. Kinopoisk, the Russian equivalent of Rotten Tomatoes, shows *Heated Rivalry* at a rating of 8.6, surpassing other shows like *Game of Thrones* and *Breaking Bad*, which both have an 8.3 rating.

"I know that thousands of gay men in Russia watched *Heated Rivalry* — on pirate sites, of course, because they have no legal way to watch the series. The Russian authorities would undoubtedly ban the show as LGBTQ+ propaganda, but most Western platforms don't function in Russia either," Zygar says. "As a result, Russian queer people have to break every possible law simply to live in the same world as members of their own community."



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