

AUGUST 2026 ISSUE 204

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JAXGAY

MAGAZINE

BE BOLD BE PROUD BE GAY



UNSPOKEN
TREASURE SOCIETY
WHERE THE TRANS COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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(Natalia Dupree):
*Building Hope Through
Unspoken Treasure Society*

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New Kickball Season



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

Our mission 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 Mag. also plans to launch our Jax Event Center & LGBTQ+ Art Gallery in Fall of 2027.

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COVER STORY

**Regina Livingston (Natalia Dupree):
Building Hope Through
Unspoken Treasure Society**

By David Vandygriff



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News & Politics

Court Weighs Sanctions After Trans Prisoner Order Violated

By Dianne Mitch



A federal judge is weighing whether to sanction the Trump administration after officials moved transgender women in federal custody into segregated housing, despite a court order that barred their transfer from women's prison facilities.

During a recent hearing, attorneys representing the incarcerated women argued that the administration violated U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth's May injunction by relocating the inmates into separate housing units within women's prisons. According to the Associated Press, Lamberth is now considering what steps to take to enforce his order.

When questioned by the judge, Justice Department attorneys maintained that the administration had complied with the court's ruling. Government attorney Jared Littman argued that the injunction prohibited transferring transgender women to men's prisons but did not require that they remain in the general population of women's facilities.

"Based on the words of your order, there was no violation,"

Littman told the court.

Attorneys representing the transgender inmates strongly disagreed, arguing that placing the women in segregated housing undermines both the intent and protections established by the court's order.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of several transgender women identified under the pseudonym "Jane Doe," has been certified as a class-action case. Judge Lamberth previously ruled that transgender people constitute a protected legal class for purposes of the litigation, allowing the case to move forward on behalf of similarly situated federal inmates. As a result, the court's eventual decision could have significant implications for the treatment of transgender prisoners throughout the federal prison system.

The dispute stems from a Trump administration policy directing the Federal Bureau of Prisons to house incarcerated transgender individuals according to their sex assigned at birth. LGBTQ+ advocates and civil rights organizations argue that the policy conflicts with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), a

bipartisan law unanimously passed by Congress in 2003 to reduce sexual violence and improve safety in correctional facilities, including for transgender people who face heightened risks of abuse.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs told the court that confinement in segregated housing has caused significant emotional harm, worsening depression and gender dysphoria diagnoses among the women.

"This is a backdoor attempt to implement the executive order," attorney Alexander Shalom argued before the court. "The conditions are not in any way comparable to a women's facility."

Judge Lamberth has not yet ruled on whether the administration's actions constitute a violation of his injunction or whether sanctions will be imposed.



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OUT & HEALTH

Can A Single Infusion Of Immune Cells Suppress HIV For Years?

By Jacob Massengill



A new treatment regimen helping patients with blood cancer could be effective in suppressing HIV.

Researchers from the University of California, San Francisco told The New York Times that two individuals in a trial saw HIV presence lower to undetectable levels following an experimental infusion of engineered immune cells. Detailed data on findings will soon be presented in full to the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy in Boston.

While the one-infusion treatment may not become widely available for years, the study shows a “proof of concept” that could alter treatment of infections dramatically.

“It is inspiration and a potential road map to get to where we need to go,” Dr. Steve Deeks, who led the trial, told the newspaper. The treatment involves taking a patient’s own immune cells and

engineering them to recognize HIV. In the trial, a single infusion of the engineered immune cells was then administered in patients. Participants in trials stopped taking antiretroviral drugs to treat HIV after receiving the infusion but remained at undetectable levels.

Similar cellular therapy has been used successfully to treat a variety of blood cancers for about a decade.

Advances in HIV treatment over the last four decades have changed how people live with HIV significantly. Once widely considered a death sentence, treatments now allow people to live long and productive lives while managing the medical condition, whether with daily pills or once-a-month shots.

This new experimental treatment, though, offers promise, as some individuals remained at undetectable levels two years after a single infusion. It provides hope for

scientists to eventually find a “functional cure” for HIV, though far more work remains to be done.

Dr. James Riley, an immunologist at the University of Pennsylvania, told the Times that the modification of immune cells to address HIV will likely derive from cancer research, just as the new experimental treatments are based on successful techniques for treating leukemia.

“Cancer will always probably be the pioneer in this stuff, because of the incredible unmet medical need.”

The new work follows research announced earlier this year by the Center for Cancer and Immunity Research at Children’s National Hospital, showing promise in HIV-specific T cell therapy reducing hidden reservoirs of HIV in six adult patients.



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Science & Technology

‘Super-Spreader’ Bioinvasion Threat Posed By Ships Stranded In Hormuz

By Bobbi Jenkins



The U.S.-Israel war with Iran is currently ongoing with no clear end in sight. Adding to the numerous difficulties it poses, biologists have now issued a warning that it may also lead to a super-spreading biodiversity threat to the world.

The war has led to over 1,500 commercial vessels getting stuck in the Persian or Arabian Gulf, and more in the Gulf of Oman since the Strait of Hormuz is closed for shipping.

This means the large ships have been anchored in the water for months now. This opens the door for marine microbes, algae, and invertebrates to colonize and grow on the vessels' submerged surfaces rapidly.

Marine biologists warn that this event can create significant environmental risks. A new study published by them warns that the ships stuck in the Middle East will facilitate the "extensive spread of economically and ecologically damaging invasive species as they re-enter the global shipping network."

Environmental risk

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associated with the stranded ships

The article warns that the long period of mass lay-up of ships has led to a condition that is suited for a large-scale, marine bioinvasion "super-spreader" event, which can take place when shipping and normal trade resumes.

They state that the combination of extensive biofouling growth and species accumulation, combined with the number and global reach of the vessels, has led to an "immense international biosecurity threat."

They have also urged stakeholders to prepare for the backlog of ship biofouling management requirements and to implement appropriate actions to abate this extraordinary biosecurity threat.

The authors noted that vessels stuck in this area carried biofouling organisms from different parts of the world and are now acquiring the same from the Gulf region. This intermingling will most likely result in the release of non-indigenous species in the Gulf region. Further, they will be carried by ships to other parts

of the world when normalcy in maritime trade resumes.

The typical residence time of cargo vessels in most ports is two days, and biofouling on static surfaces typically begins after 10 days. When ships are idle for more than 10 days, biofouling can progress rapidly as antifouling coatings become compromised by lack of movement.

Strait of Hormuz in focus

Biologists stated that the unique environmental pressures, such as high temperature and salinity, in the Gulf region have led to the development of "stress-tolerant taxa." These taxa are therefore more likely to survive the transport and establish themselves in the regions where the ships will sail.

On the flip side, the vessels carrying biofouling organisms from far away have also been stranded in the region. The ships also provide abundant settlement substrate for these organisms.

To rectify the issues, the authors suggest that biofouling be removed from ships stranded in the Gulf region

before shipping resumes. They also suggest the collection and safe disposal of the debris to minimize the release of live organisms and other waste in the surrounding waters.

They recommend in-water cleaning (IWC), which will not only help eliminate biofouling but also reduce the vessel's

drag and fuel consumption. However, in case IWC is not performed, they recommend estimating biofouling on the vessel before departure and also forecasting the ports to which the ships will make a call once they depart from the Gulf.

Establishing rapid alert and knowledge-dissemination

networks is also of importance to reduce the risks. The authors called for coordinated action from the government, regulators, the maritime industry, and other stakeholders to strengthen biofouling management for both typical ship operations and varying lay-up scenarios.



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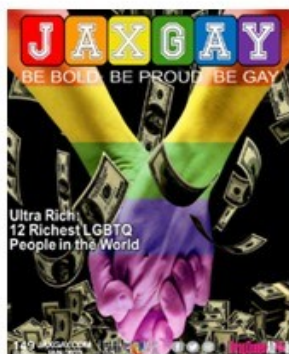
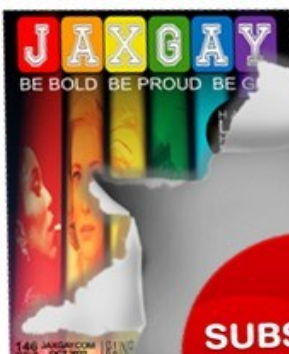
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Ryan Murphy Hints At Possible Glee Reboot

By Lydia Bennett



Ryan Murphy was on the red carpet for his new show, *The Shards*, this week when a reporter asked about his memories of the show he turned into a major international pop culture and LGBTQ+ representational phenomenon, *Glee*.

She didn't ask if he'd consider a reboot, a remake, or a reunion. But he went there, and spoke fondly of the cast that started it all 17 years ago. And now the internet is taking sides for and against a potential reboot.

"Well, I loved them all. I had a great time making that show," Murphy told *People* on Monday. "That show is interesting because it's come back around. So many young people now watch it. And I'm like, 'Maybe we should revisit that show.'"

Wait, what? Revisit? Is the out gay uber producer of hit shows like *Popular*, *Nip/Tuck*, *American Horror Story*, *American Crime Story*, *9-1-1*, *Pose*, *Monster* and now *The Shards* really contemplating a return to McKinley High School?

"My nostalgia and love for that
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show is enough that I'm like, 'Well, maybe people would like to see a new incarnation of that in some capacity.' So yeah, I love that show and I loved what it became and what it meant to so many people," said Murphy.

And his answer hit the interwebs harder than when Santana Lopez — played by the late Naya Rivera — came out to her family in season three.

"Would be nice to have that back again," a fan wrote in response to *People's* Instagram post, describing a reboot as "not off the table."

"Please don't!" wrote another user. "The original is soooo damn good we don't need a new one for a new generation. Let the new generation enjoy the original. My gosh not everything needs a reboot."

"Leave *Glee* alone," echoed a fan named Lindsey. "Not everything needs a reboot; this show is one of them. *Glee* worked because it was during a time where the content (unhinged jokes & lines) could be aired without the repercussions of what it would face today. and besides, nothing could even begin to

come close to the original cast & the impact they had on so many of us."

"It would never work bc it couldn't be as unhinged," suggested another. But a fan named Eddie is onboard, with some notes for Murphy. "Yes - and introduce all the nuance 'clique' experiences - the classic - Jocks - Cheerleaders - emos - nerds - non binary / trans - shake the block a little lol."

A fan on X, replying to another media report about the possibility of a new *Glee*, also had a question for Murphy: "is he not traumatized enough?"

"*Glee* left a lasting mark on television by blending music, comedy, and drama in a way that resonated with millions," said a fan who goes by the name Chicago on X. "If Ryan Murphy decides it's time to bring it back, the challenge will be creating a revival that honors the original while connecting with a new generation of viewers."

The vast majority of Gleeks took time to say "no" to a reboot in one form or another on the various posts and platforms.



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OUT & HEALTH

LGBTQ+ Health Care in Jacksonville: Expanding Access While Addressing Ongoing Challenges

By Jeremy Galen

Jacksonville's LGBTQ+ community has seen significant progress in access to affirming healthcare over the past decade, with a growing network of medical providers, nonprofit organizations, and community advocates working to improve health outcomes across Northeast Florida.

Today, LGBTQ+ residents have more options than ever for primary care, HIV prevention and treatment, mental health services, and sexual health resources. However, advocates say barriers—including affordability, provider shortages, transportation, and concerns about discrimination—continue to affect many community members, particularly transgender individuals and LGBTQ+ youth.

One of Jacksonville's leading providers is CAN Community Health - Jacksonville, which offers integrated primary care, HIV treatment, behavioral health services, pharmacy support, case management, and PrEP services. The clinic has become a vital resource for individuals seeking comprehensive, affirming care
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in one location.

Another important provider is Reza Health, which specializes in infectious disease care, HIV prevention and treatment, and sexual health while emphasizing inclusive care for LGBTQ+ patients. The practice also supports community outreach and health equity initiatives through local partnerships.

Free and confidential HIV and STI testing remains available through organizations such as AHF Wellness Center - Jacksonville and the Florida Department of Health in Duval County, both of which provide prevention services, counseling, and connections to ongoing medical care for those who need it.

For LGBTQ+ youth and young adults, JASMYN continues to serve as one of Northeast Florida's most important community organizations. In addition to counseling, support groups, and housing assistance, JASMYN offers free sexual health services, HIV and STI testing, and mental health resources designed specifically for LGBTQ+ young people. The



organization has long emphasized creating safe, affirming spaces where youth can access both healthcare and community support.

Mental health remains another major priority. National research consistently shows LGBTQ+ individuals experience higher rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide risk than the general population, often due to discrimination, family rejection, and minority stress. Jacksonville organizations continue expanding access to affirming counseling and peer support while training healthcare professionals to better understand LGBTQ+ health needs. Programs such as PFLAG Jacksonville's SAGE initiative work with healthcare providers and other professionals to improve LGBTQ+ cultural competency throughout Northeast Florida.

HIV prevention also continues to evolve. Thanks to expanded access to PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), routine testing, and community education, local healthcare organizations have made significant progress in reducing new HIV infections while connecting people living

with HIV to treatment that allows them to live long, healthy lives. Community organizations throughout Jacksonville also provide case management, housing assistance, food support, and transportation services to help patients remain engaged in care.

Community leaders note that healthcare extends beyond medical treatment. Economic stability, safe housing, social

connection, and access to affirming services all play critical roles in overall well-being. Organizations including the Jax LGBT Chamber of Commerce, local nonprofits, and healthcare providers increasingly collaborate to address these broader social factors that influence health outcomes.

While challenges remain, advocates say Jacksonville's LGBTQ+ healthcare landscape

continues to improve through partnerships among medical providers, nonprofit organizations, public health agencies, and community leaders. Their shared goal is ensuring every LGBTQ+ resident—regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or income—has access to respectful, high-quality healthcare and the support needed to live healthy, fulfilling lives.



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Life and Style

Stonewall Sports Jacksonville Kicks Off New Kickball Season

By William Fryer



@stonewallsportsjax

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Energy, teamwork, and community spirit were on full display as Stonewall Sports Jacksonville officially launched its newest kickball season, welcoming hundreds of LGBTQ+ athletes and allies back to the field for another season of friendly competition and connection.

More than just a recreational sports league, Stonewall Sports Jacksonville has become one of Northeast Florida's fastest-growing LGBTQ+ organizations, providing a welcoming space where participants of all athletic abilities can build friendships, stay active, and give back to the community. The organization offers multiple sports throughout the year, including kickball, volleyball, dodgeball, cornhole, billiards, darts, and book club activities, creating opportunities for members to stay connected beyond game day.

Opening day marked the beginning of weeks of competition as teams took to the field sporting creative names, colorful uniforms, and plenty of enthusiasm. While wins and losses matter on the scoreboard, participants say

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the league's greatest victory is the sense of belonging it creates.

"For many people, this is where they find their chosen family," said one returning player. "Whether you've lived in Jacksonville your whole life or just moved here, Stonewall Sports gives you an instant community."

Founded on the principles of inclusion, diversity, and community service, Stonewall Sports welcomes LGBTQ+ individuals and allies alike. Players range from seasoned athletes to first-time participants who simply want to meet new people and enjoy a fun, supportive environment.

In addition to league play, Stonewall Sports Jacksonville regularly partners with local nonprofits and charitable organizations, using sports as a platform to raise funds and increase awareness for causes that support the LGBTQ+ community. The organization also participates in regional and national Stonewall Sports events, connecting Jacksonville players with thousands of LGBTQ+ athletes from across the country.

As the first games got

underway, teammates cheered from the sidelines, music filled the park, and spectators gathered to support friends and family. The opening weekend showcased the league's signature blend of competition, camaraderie, and celebration that has helped make Stonewall Sports one of the nation's largest LGBTQ+ recreational sports organizations.

League organizers encourage anyone interested in joining to keep an eye on future registration periods, as new players and free agents are welcomed throughout the year for many of the organization's sports leagues. No prior athletic experience is required—only a willingness to have fun, be respectful, and become part of an inclusive community.

With another kickball season officially underway, Stonewall Sports Jacksonville continues to demonstrate that sports can be about much more than competition. They can create lasting friendships, strengthen community bonds, and provide a place where everyone belongs.

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Regina Livingston (Natalia Dupree): Building Hope Through Unspoken Treasure Society

By David Vandygriff

For many people, adversity becomes an obstacle. For Regina Livingston, also known as Natalia Dupree, it became the inspiration for a movement dedicated to serving and empowering transgender individuals throughout Florida. As the founder of Unspoken Treasure Society, Regina has transformed personal challenges into a mission of advocacy, education, and community support, ensuring that others have access to the resources she once struggled to find herself.

A proud Gainesville, Florida, native, Regina has spent her life witnessing both the strengths and struggles of her community. Like many transgender people, she experienced firsthand the difficulties of navigating systems that often lacked the resources, understanding, and compassion necessary to meet her needs. When she sought assistance, she found very little available.

Rather than accepting that reality, Regina decided to create change.

"At that moment, I needed to be the help," she recalls. "I needed to be the change that I wanted to see."

Those words became more than a personal philosophy—they became the foundation for Unspoken Treasure Society, an organization committed to ensuring that transgender individuals are seen, supported, and given opportunities to thrive.

A Mission Rooted in Service

Unspoken Treasure Society was established with a clear purpose: to improve the lives of transgender men and women by connecting them with critical resources and advocating for equity and justice.

The organization's mission is to rally communities while providing resources for:

- Job placement and employment opportunities
- Equality and civil rights advocacy
- Affordable and fair housing
- Safe-sex education
- HIV awareness and counseling

- Suicide prevention
- Support and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence

These services address some of the most pressing issues facing transgender individuals, who often experience disproportionate rates of discrimination, homelessness, unemployment, violence, and barriers to healthcare.

By working to eliminate these disparities, Unspoken Treasure Society strives to create pathways toward stability, dignity, and long-term success.

Leading With Courage

Regina's advocacy extends well beyond providing services. She has become a visible voice for justice and equality, often leading crowds in powerful affirmations of "Black Lives Matter" and "Trans Lives Matter." Her leadership reflects the belief that true equality cannot exist without recognizing the dignity and humanity of every individual.

Her work encourages communities to confront prejudice, embrace diversity,

and recognize the importance of creating safe spaces where people can live authentically without fear.

Whether organizing events, speaking publicly, or mentoring individuals seeking guidance, Regina approaches every opportunity with compassion, determination, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting others.

Addressing Critical Needs

Transgender individuals continue to face significant challenges that extend beyond discrimination. Housing insecurity, employment barriers, mental health concerns, and exposure to violence remain persistent realities for many.

Recognizing these challenges, Unspoken Treasure Society has focused its efforts on practical, life-changing support. Connecting individuals with employment opportunities can mean financial independence. Assisting with housing can provide stability and safety. Offering HIV education and suicide prevention resources helps improve health outcomes, while counseling and domestic violence advocacy provide hope to those facing crisis.

These services are not simply programs—they represent opportunities for individuals to rebuild their lives with dignity and confidence.

Creating Lasting Change

Regina believes that meaningful change begins with community. Through

partnerships, education, advocacy, and outreach, Unspoken Treasure Society works to build stronger connections between service providers, community organizations, and the people who need support most.

The organization's work demonstrates that advocacy is not limited to raising awareness; it also requires creating tangible solutions that improve lives.

Every resource shared, every individual assisted, and every voice amplified contributes to a broader vision of equality and inclusion.

A Legacy of Compassion

The story of Regina Livingston is ultimately one of resilience, leadership, and hope. Faced with the absence of support, she chose to create it. Faced with barriers, she built bridges. Faced with injustice, she became an advocate for change.

Today, Unspoken Treasure Society stands as a testament to what one person's determination can accomplish when fueled by compassion and purpose.

Regina continues to inspire others by demonstrating that leadership is not defined by titles or recognition but by a willingness to serve others and create opportunities where none previously existed.



Her journey reminds us that some of the most impactful organizations are born from deeply personal experiences—and that lasting change often begins with a single decision to help someone else.

As Unspoken Treasure Society continues its mission, Regina Livingston remains committed to ensuring that every transgender individual has access to the support, respect, and opportunities they deserve. Through advocacy, education, and community engagement, she is helping build a future where every person can live safely, authentically, and with hope.



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Science & Technology

\$1B Arizona Project Expands Ultra-Pure Gas Supply For Advanced Chipmaking

By Vance Ashmil



One of the world's largest semiconductor manufacturers is expanding its U.S. chip production with a new \$1B investment in industrial gas infrastructure, as demand for advanced semiconductors continues to grow.

Linde has signed a long-term agreement to supply ultra-high-purity industrial gases to the unnamed chipmaker's manufacturing complex in Phoenix, Arizona. The company will invest \$1B to expand its existing on-site gas production facilities, making it one of Linde's largest investments for an electronics customer worldwide.

The expansion will support two new semiconductor fabrication plants by supplying ultra-high-purity nitrogen, oxygen and argon, gases that are essential for manufacturing advanced chips in contamination-free environments.

Alongside the U.S. project, Linde's Taiwan joint venture, Linde LienHwa, will invest about \$800M to build new industrial gas and hydrogen

production facilities for the same customer's semiconductor manufacturing and advanced packaging sites across Taiwan.

Supporting chip expansion

As part of the Arizona project, Linde will build, own and operate two new SPECTRA air separation units and related infrastructure. The new facilities will join three existing air separation units already operating at the Phoenix site.

Air separation units produce industrial gases by separating atmospheric air into oxygen, nitrogen and argon. In semiconductor fabrication, these gases are used throughout manufacturing processes, including wafer processing, chamber purging and maintaining contamination-free production environments.

The new plants will use Linde's SPECTRA technology, which the company says is designed to deliver the purity and operational reliability required for advanced semiconductor manufacturing.

"Advanced semiconductor manufacturing depends on the

reliable supply of gases at exceptional levels of purity," said Armando Botello, President Linde Gases, US.

Taiwan capacity expands

The Taiwan expansion mirrors the U.S. investment, reflecting continued growth in advanced chip production across two of the world's largest semiconductor manufacturing hubs.

Linde LienHwa plans to build several additional air separation units along with hydrogen production facilities to support new semiconductor fabrication and advanced packaging operations. The company did not disclose the identity of the customer, but described it as one of the world's largest semiconductor manufacturers.

"As global demand for advanced semiconductors continues to increase, this investment demonstrates Linde's ability to deliver the purity, reliability and scale our customers require," Botello said.

He added: "We are proud to support our customer's

expansion in the United States and Taiwan and to further strengthen our long-term global relationship.”

Industrial gases are among the critical materials required for chip production, alongside ultrapure water, specialty chemicals and silicon wafers.

Modern semiconductor fabrication plants consume massive volumes of high-purity nitrogen, oxygen, argon and hydrogen to maintain the tightly controlled manufacturing conditions needed for advanced chips.

Linde said the Arizona

expansion represents one of its largest electronics-sector investments globally, while the combined U.S. and Taiwan projects underscore continued investment in semiconductor supply chains as chipmakers expand production capacity.

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

RU5H, The 'Sex-Progressive' New Gay Cruise Setting Sail This Year

By James Hudson



Get ready to feel the rush!

Making its grand debut at Folsom Street Fair last year, RU5H is an "all-gay, all-male" brand that's launching a new cruise option for daring gay travelers.

The company is officially setting sail the first weekend of October and pulling out all of the stops to make it "the biggest queer party festival at sea." Guests are invited to board Paradise, a recently reimagined and gorgeous ship, that serves as the perfect setting for an unforgettable trip across the Caribbean.

With plenty of parties, excursions, music sets, pools, and dining options to explore, RU5H is a queer fantasy come to life for new and experienced tourists alike. In a new interview with JaxGayMag, Patrick Gunn, the Co-Founder & CMO of RU5H, is breaking down everything happening on board, pricing for the cruise, and what adventures are in store for all patrons ready for the trip of a lifetime.

Congratulations on the

inaugural RU5H cruise! How did this exciting getaway come about?

Thank you! RU5H was born from years of experience creating LGBTQ+ travel experiences and recognizing an opportunity to create something completely different: a travel experience built around freedom, connection, adventure, and self-expression. The idea was to bring together the energy of the world's most exciting queer festivals, nightlife destinations, and lifestyle communities and combine it with the comfort, hospitality, and ease of a full-ship cruise. RU5H was created for gay, bi, and pan men, as well as male-identifying adventurers, who are looking for more than a traditional vacation. We wanted to create a space where guests could disconnect from expectations, explore their interests, meet incredible people, and experience a level of freedom that feels authentic and exciting. Launching RU5H at Folsom Street Fair in 2025 was the perfect introduction because Folsom represents so much of what inspires this

brand: confidence, creativity, self-expression, and the celebration of living authentically.

You're about to set sail for the first time. What should patrons expect on this cruise?

RU5H is unlike any cruise experience that has come before it. Think of it as a four-day queer festival at sea where the entire ship becomes the destination. Guests can expect nonstop entertainment, incredible music, daytime pool deck energy, sunset celebrations, late-night parties, social gatherings, and immersive experiences designed to bring people together. The inaugural RU5H experience will feature eight major parties powered by DJs from some of the world's biggest queer nightlife scenes, along with themed events, meetups, and curated Experience Zones throughout the ship. But RU5H is about more than just the parties. It is about creating moments of connection. Some guests will come for the music, some for the nightlife, some for the community, and some to

to explore new experiences in a welcoming, judgment-free environment.

There are many successful gay cruise lines operating today. How does RU5H stand out compared to other cruise lines?

We have enormous respect for the LGBTQ+ travel experiences that came before RU5H. They helped create incredible communities and showed the world the power of queer travel. What makes RU5H different is that it was created as a lifestyle experience first, with the cruise serving as the ultimate setting. RU5H blends the excitement of a major queer music festival, the energy of nightlife destinations around the world, and the comfort of a premium vacation. It is intentionally more immersive, more social, and centered around exploration, connection, and personal freedom. The entire ship becomes our playground. From world-class parties and DJs to Experience Zones designed around creativity, curiosity, and connection, every part of the journey is designed to feel uniquely RU5H.

You're putting a huge emphasis on the live music and DJ lineup. Who is on the lineup and what type of DJ sets should fans expect?

Music is one of the biggest drivers of the RU5H experience. We wanted to bring together the sounds and energy of the world's most exciting queer nightlife scenes, from New York and Los

Angeles to Austin, London, Berlin, Amsterdam, and Fire Island. The lineup brings together DJs who understand how to create those unforgettable moments where a crowd becomes a community. Guests can expect everything from daytime pool deck sessions and house grooves to late-night underground sounds and sunrise sets. The goal is to create a soundtrack that carries guests from their first sail-away celebration through the final unforgettable moments of the weekend. Music will power nearly every hour of the inaugural RU5H weekend, with eight distinctive queer party brands taking over the ship from afternoon through sunrise. The lineup moves between underwear parties, underground raves, open-air house and disco, heavy house-tech, fetish-driven after-hours energy, and playful themed dance floors. Friday begins with the DWORLD Underwear Party, bringing the spirit of Fire Island's Friday-night tradition aboard for an afternoon of dancing in your favorite underwear. That evening, POR DETROIT merges the underground sounds of Mexico City and Los Angeles for a late-night queer rave, followed by HARDER, an uninhibited techno after-hours party that carries the energy into Saturday morning. Saturday's music begins with Bears in Space, Los Angeles' beloved open-air party known for sunny, inclusive energy and a mix of house and disco. The

night then shifts to BRÜT, delivering a gear-friendly, judgment-free blend of heavy house and tech. At 4 a.m., HUSTLABALL takes over with its internationally recognized fetish-party spirit, dark beats, fearless expression, and high-energy sunrise atmosphere. On Sunday, Fruit Snacks brings colorful, joyful New York house-party energy to the afternoon dance floor, complete with playful looks, sweet surprises, and flirty beats. The weekend's final featured event is The Puppy Party, a playful late-night gathering filled with frisky music, gear, costumes, go-go energy, and plenty of after-dark mischief. RU5H will pair each of these parties with celebrated DJs representing nightlife scenes from cities including New York, Los Angeles, Austin, London, Berlin, Amsterdam, and Fire Island.

We've seen many notable adult entertainers confirm their attendance for RU5H. Why was it important for you to team up with Carnal Media for this cruise? Which models will be on board?



RU5H is about celebrating the full spectrum of queer expression, and that absolutely includes the creativity, confidence, and artistry found within today's creator community. One of the most unique experiences on board will be the JustFor.Fans Content Creation Studio, a professionally designed space where guests can get a behind-the-scenes look at how creators produce content, build their brands, and engage with their audiences. It's an immersive experience that celebrates the artistry, entrepreneurship, and innovation driving today's LGBTQ+ creator economy. Our partnership with Carnal Media brings that experience to life through the Carnal+/JockPack All-Stars Experience. Throughout the weekend, guests will have opportunities to meet many of their favorite creators during special appearances, interactive events, and exclusive programming. Select Carnal+ performers will also create content live inside the JustFor.Fans Content Creation Studio, giving guests a rare opportunity to witness the creative process firsthand in a way that's engaging, entertaining, and unlike anything else at sea. The inaugural sailing will feature an incredible lineup of Carnal+ and JockPack All-Stars to be announced soon.

What type of adult excursions can people expect on the cruise? Will there be sex shows, clothing-

optional areas, etc.?

RU5H is a sex-progressive experience built around choice, consent, and personal exploration. Guests will find a variety of experiences designed for different comfort levels and interests. Throughout the ship, RU5H Experience Zones offer opportunities for connection, curiosity, and exploration. These include spaces inspired by fantasy, role-play, creator culture, and after-hours social experiences. There will also be clothing-optional upper decks while at sea, creating a space where guests can relax and express themselves comfortably. One important thing to emphasize is that RU5H is not about pressure. It is about freedom. Every guest chooses how they want to participate, and respect, communication, and consent are at the center of the experience.

While some patrons may love all of the sex-progressive options, are there relaxing and more chill excursions that people can also enjoy? Besides all of the partying, will guests also be able to sleep comfortably?

Absolutely. RU5H is designed around the idea that everyone creates their own experience. While there will be incredible parties and high-energy moments, there are also plenty of opportunities to slow down, recharge, and connect in more relaxed ways. Guests can enjoy quieter social spaces, poolside relaxation, dining, conversations with new friends,

and spaces designed for unwinding after the excitement. The beauty of a cruise is that guests can choose their own rhythm. Some may dance until sunrise, while others may enjoy the music, the friendships, the destination, and the atmosphere at a more relaxed pace. And yes, guests will absolutely have comfortable accommodations where they can recharge before the next adventure.

Besides all of the fun on the boat, are there also excursion opportunities when the cruise ventures off into the Bahamas?

Yes. While the ship itself is the main destination, guests will also have the opportunity to enjoy the Bahamas during the voyage. Like any great cruise experience, time ashore gives guests the chance to explore, relax, enjoy the destination, and create memories beyond the ship. More details about specific port experiences and excursions will be announced as the sailing approaches.

Many people are cautious about attending a gay cruise for various reasons. For anyone considering RU5H for their first gay cruise, why do you think they should take the leap and join the fun?

Trying something new can always feel a little intimidating, but one of the most powerful things about LGBTQ+ travel is the instant sense of community that happens when people come together. Many guests arrive not knowing anyone and

leave with friendships that a lifetime. RU5H was created to be welcoming, inclusive, and easy to step into. Whether someone comes with a group of friends, a partner, or on their own, they will find thousands of opportunities to connect. You do not have to participate in every part of the experience. RU5H is about discovering what feels right for you and experiencing a vacation where you can truly be yourself.

For people who have already booked their trip, what are you hoping they'll take away from their RU5H experience?

Our hope is that guests leave RU5H feeling energized, connected, and inspired. We want people to experience the freedom that comes from stepping outside their everyday routine and being surrounded by people who share their excitement for adventure, connection, and self-expression. The memories will be the parties, the music, the unexpected moments, and the friendships created along the way, but ultimately, RU5H is about creating a place where people feel free to be exactly who they are. That is the true RU5H: feeling confident, connected, and alive.

One of the biggest misconceptions about gay cruises is that they're out of reach financially. What have you done to make RU5H more accessible, whether someone is traveling with friends, coming solo, or simply looking for an affordable getaway?

We wanted to challenge the idea that an all-gay cruise has to cost thousands of dollars. That's why RU5H starts at just \$397 per person, making it one of the most affordable all-gay cruise experiences available. We believe an unforgettable vacation should be within reach for more people, not just a select few. In addition, we've created a private Facebook group where solo travelers can connect with others looking to share a cabin. It's a simple way to reduce costs while often

making a new friend before you even step aboard. And for those who aren't quite ready to book, we're giving everyone a chance to win a free RU5H cruise. It's another way we're lowering the barrier to entry and inviting more people to discover what RU5H is all about. Sometimes all it takes is taking a chance. Just head to our website and complete the entry form at the bottom of the homepage. Find RU5H at RU5H.com and on socials @FeelTheRU5H.

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&ENTERTAINMENT

A Twink Is Coming For Timothée Chalamet's Crown

By Jimmy Roberts



Timothée Chalamet may have played a gay twink long ago in *Call Me By Your Name*, but in the current timeline, another twink is coming to snatch Chalamet's wig. And honestly? He's giving the Marty Supreme actor a serious run for his money.

While Chalamet is cementing his obnoxious bad boy persona via Kashi ads (ew) and talking about how fine art is boring, the man who calls himself by the name Eddie Veyro is making serious waves on OF and beyond. He's using his resemblance to Mr. Kylie Jenner to promote his own personal, very spicy brand, and wouldn't you know it, it's totally working out for him!

While Eddie's OF page proudly proclaims that "the Timothée lookalike fantasy brought you here," he's also very smart to add the disclaimer that he is NOT, in fact, the actual Timothée Chalamet. "Any perceived resemblance is third-party opinion," he states clearly up top, for obvious a** covering reasons. Glad that's cleared up, because nobody comes to OF to see covered a**es.

Veyro splits his time between London and Mexico, where he seems to have a pretty chill time collaborating with other creators, hanging out, and putting in some long, hard hours in the gym.

While we definitely see the resemblance, it's definitely giving way more little lad who loves berries and cream (in a good way!) than Timothée in his current more grunge-forward iteration. And do we detect a soupçon of young Justin Hawkins of The Darkness in there?

It's definitely not a perfect 1:1 with the real Timothée, but that's not stopping Veyro from racking up followers, which is pretty hard to do in the ultra-competitive OF market. On that platform—and even in Veyro's own retweets on X—you can find Joe Locke lookalikes, Connor Storrie lookalikes, and even a Chord Overstreet lookalike for those of us who have slightly more vintage memory holes.

The celebrity-adjacent OF fantasy genre is absolutely booming, and we can't blame these guys for cashing in. In today's economy, you've got to

work with what the good lord gave you. And if the good lord gave you a striking resemblance to an A-list Hollywood actor, it's only natural that you'd use that fortune fact to bolster your brand.

Of course, we're all thinking the same thing here: does the real Timothée know, and does he care? Does he have an opinion about having his own OF category? Or is he too focused on his latest brand deal to care?

Currently, we don't know. But if Chalamet does know about his OF twin, he's being very classy about it, which is kind of a surprise, considering his very openly, non-classy views on ballet and opera.

In today's world, it's got to feel pretty weird to be a recognizable-enough brand that you have your own OF genre dedicated to you. Then again, it probably feels just a little bit awesome, too.



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Life and Style

Which Country Drinks The Most Tequila? (It's Not Mexico)

By Angie Gibson



Mexico may have invented tequila, but the U.S. drinks more of it than any other country in the world. Americans consume an estimated 308 million liters of tequila each year, about 59% of all tequila consumed worldwide, according to Tequila Report. That's just over twice as much as Mexico's estimated consumption. It seems Mexico is sending the vast majority of its tequila north of the border, making America by far its largest market. After the United States, the next-largest tequila-consuming countries are Mexico, Spain, Germany, Canada, Great Britain, and Colombia, but none come close to matching America's demand.

Since 2003, tequila's U.S. growth rate has been averaging 7% per year (via Distilled Spirits Council of the United States), making it one of the fastest-growing spirits categories in the country. Today, tequila ranks as the third-largest spirit in the U.S., trailing only vodka and whisky (via IWSR). Yet it's not just bottle sales that are fueling tequila's growth. Tequila is the top spirit ordered in bars and restaurants. More than 50K bars, 15K restaurants, & 150K

retail outlets across North America actively promote tequila-based drinks, according to Market Report World. It even surpassed vodka sales at bars in 2024 (via Worth), even Smirnoff, the world's best-selling vodka brand.

Considering tequila is a protected Mexican spirit that can only be produced in designated regions of Mexico under strict regulations, it's surprising that Americans, not Mexicans, consume more of it than anyone else.

Why is tequila so popular in the US?

Tequila's popularity in the United States didn't happen overnight. The agave spirit first made its way north in the 1800s thanks to José Antonio de Cuervo of best-selling tequila brand Jose Cuervo fame. As railroads expanded between the U.S. and Mexico at the turn of the century, so, too, did the availability of tequila. A surge in black market tequila sales later came during Prohibition, as Americans looked for access to liquor across the border. Short of a decade later, World War II disrupted the availability of European spirits, prompting many American drinkers to

again turn to tequila and other locally produced alcohol types.

Perhaps the turning point in tequila's rise in popularity among American consumers came with the creation of the margarita in the 1940s and 1950s. While its exact origins are still subject to debate, many believe it evolved from the daisy family of cocktails. (Margarita is Spanish for daisy after all.) The margarita eventually became America's favorite cocktail, according to NielsenIQ Data, and helped cement tequila's place in modern U.S. drinking culture. Annual Cinco de Mayo celebrations and the popularity of Mexican chain restaurants like Chuy's have only reinforced tequila's popularity, giving millions of Americans another reason to reach for a margarita.

These days tequila sales keep increasing thanks to the addition of canned, ready-to-drink cocktails and the rise in premium celebrity-backed brands. But whether you're grabbing a budget-friendly bottle, canned margarita, or deciding between an añejo and extra añejo, tequila has never been more accessible — or popular — with American drinkers.

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EVERYTHING DRAGQUEEN IN ONE PLACE™

By Dawn Davis



It's official: RuPaul headlined the largest drag show ever, as certified by Guinness World Records.

It happened at the Drag Me to Cowboys show at the annual Cowboys Music Festival in downtown Calgary, Alberta in Canada on Saturday July 11. 7,423 people sashayed their way to breaking the world record for attendance.

Legends from RuPaul's Drag Race appeared alongside RuPaul including Sasha Velour, Sasha Colby, Roxxxy Andrews and Coco Montrese as well as local Canadian performers. The host was Calgary drag queen Farrah Nuff, who spoke with the Calgary Herald about the historic event.

"This show has been a labor of love for the last decade with Cowboys," they said. "It's really lovely that we get the chance to put on the world's largest drag show on one of the biggest music stages in the world like this."

One of the other performers, Karla Marx, said the show's popularity proved there is still public support for the LGBTQ+ community.

"It shows that queerness is celebrated and welcome in Alberta," she told the Herald. "On the biggest stages and in the biggest celebrations in Canada and Alberta, queerness is absolutely a vibrant part of our communities."

"Our goal with this record is to make this a title worth fighting for in the future, by expanding the size and impact of drag performances worldwide," organizers told Guinness World Records. "It's grown and grown and grown into this epic adventure that is Drag Me to Cowboys every stampede, and it's just the coolest thing we get to do."

"People were connected through music," Guinness World Records adjudicator Tina Shi told PinkNews. "This inspired them to embrace life more fully, and experience the passion and joy of music and dance."

Weather that day was scorching hot, but that didn't slow down those who danced, sang, and celebrated for hours in the open-air tent. The Herald called it a "loud and celebratory hall fit for Queens (and Kings)!"

With the speakers blasting

"Waitin' Tonight" by Nari, the crowd jumped along to the beat as Sasha Velour — dressed as a blue tasseled armchair — lip synced the lyrics with her shoulders dramatically shaking the cushions of her couture. Then the beat dropped, and Sasha Velour popped out of the furniture with a broad smile as the audience sang along to the classic club tune.

Following Sasha Velour was Sasha Colby, who Guinness said "strutted down the runway" as well as a split-performing Nearah Nuff, Roxxxy Andrews, Coco Montrose and local Canadian artists.

But the big moment was when the Queen of Drag herself, RuPaul hit the stage and not only danced, but DJ'd as well.

The Cowboys Music Festival is in its 30th year, and each year organizers invite a variety of global artists to perform at Cowboys Park.

Organizers said they wanted to mark its anniversary this year with an incredible display and set an official record count to prove the LGBTQ+ community was "more alive than ever." They also told Guinness they hoped to bring more awareness to the history and

of drag to those around the globe.

A long line stretched outside the venue, around the outskirts of Cowboys Park, as attendees waited to get inside. Farrah Nuff told the Herald a ride-share driver hired to take her and two of the performers to the venue drove away upon pulling-up and seeing they were in drag.

"The driver pulled up to pick us up, took one look at us, and then sped off," said Farrah Nuff, who spoke to Alberta's "divisive" political climate.

"Drag is political. It always has been political and it always will be political," they said. "As soon as I put on my outfit, my hair is done and I walk out there, that's a political statement."

The record set stands in contrast to what Alberta's government is doing: an act that require schools to obtain parental consent before using a different name or pronouns for students under 16 related to gender identity. Also, there's now a requirement for parents to opt in before their child can

participate in instruction that deals primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality, as opposed to the previous opt-out approach.

"We're definitely seeing a lack of visibility," said Mitchell Bowers, executive director of Wood Buffalo Pride. "We're seeing less youth being able to participate and we're seeing an increase in bullying," he said. "The impacts of this current government are directly harming queer people in our communities."



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News & Politics

Black Trans Teen Was Shot And Killed In Florida

BBY Paige Mahogany Parks



If a Black transgender teenager gets shot and killed in Florida and no one reports it, what does that say about the value of their life? It's a question trans activists are struggling with after the scant attention paid to the killing of Jayla McGee, a 19-year-old whose death has been barely acknowledged by the media or authorities.

McGee's relatives announced her death on social media after she died on July 5. Posts promoting a candlelight vigil held July 18 identified her as Jayla and Baby Jay, while others used her apparent assigned name. In various posts, her mother, Jameka McGee, referred to McGee while also sharing graphics bearing the name Jayla.

According to social media reports, McGee died from gun violence in Belle Glade, Florida, where she was born and raised.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office confirmed responding to a shooting at 5:28 p.m. on Southwest Avenue B.

"Upon arrival, deputies located an adult male deceased from

gunshot wound(s)," a spokesperson for the Sheriff's Office told The Advocate, which misgendered and deadnamed her. "Detectives are investigating this shooting as a homicide. No motive or suspect information is known at this time."

But a mysterious fatal shooting, with the killer potentially still at large, has garnered no media attention in the Palm Beach market.

That's despite South Florida being a major media market. The shooting occurred less than an hour from West Palm Beach and roughly the same distance from President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, in a lower-income inland community near one of the wealthiest coastal regions in the nation.

The death did earn notice from Pittsburgh Lesbian Correspondents, which chronicles the violent deaths of transgender people, particularly transgender people of color. The site notes that McGee was the 15th reported transgender person of color killed in the United States this year.

"I'm a little shocked that we

cannot find any information, any acknowledgment that this young person was ripped from this mortal coil by gunshot," wrote site founder Sue Kerr in a blog post. "There are many reports of violent incidents over that time period, but none match up with the facts that Jayla's friends are posting."

Trans United Fund also reported on the death, taking issue with both authorities' refusal to recognize McGee's identity and the media's failure to document the homicide.

"That silence forced Jayla's family and friends to preserve the record themselves. They documented her face, identity, names, date of death, the gun violence they say ended her life, and the grief that followed," the site notes. "Without their testimony, a young Black trans person could die violently and then disappear from public understanding because official documentation failed to connect the death to the person her community knew." way."

McGee's erasure fits a broader pattern advocates have documented across the South, where the deaths of Black

transgender women can be distorted or obscured by official records that fail to recognize their identities, investigate possible bias or accurately count the violence affecting their communities.

A March report from the social justice organization JULIAN cataloged more than 150 deaths described as "modern-day lynchings," notable hate crimes or suspicious deaths across seven Southern states, including Florida. More than 50 of the cases involved transgender women. The

organization argues that the intersection of racism and transphobia is compounded by institutional failures, including incomplete investigations, inaccurate classifications and records that do not reflect the people their families and communities knew.

Federal statistics provide an incomplete picture as well. Hate crime reporting to the FBI is voluntary, and participation varies among law enforcement agencies, leaving gaps that make anti-transgender violence more difficult to recognize and

measure. As JULIAN founder Jill Collen Jefferson put it in an interview with at the time, "What cannot be fully counted can be more easily dismissed."

Notably, the McGee family's previous loss to gun violence did not receive the same lack of attention. Jayla's younger sister, Ronziyah, was killed in a shooting at her home on the same block where McGee died in 2022. That tragedy earned extensive coverage from ABC affiliate WPBF.

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Jacksonville's LGBTQ+ Community Continues to Grow Through Business, Advocacy, and Pride

By Richard Drake

Jacksonville's LGBTQ+ community continues to expand its influence across Northeast Florida, fueled by growing business networks, community organizations, advocacy efforts, and year-round events that celebrate diversity while addressing the challenges facing LGBTQ+ residents.

Once known primarily for its annual Pride celebration, Jacksonville has evolved into a city where LGBTQ+ organizations are creating opportunities in economic development, youth services, healthcare, arts, and civic engagement. Community leaders say the city's growth reflects years of collaboration among nonprofits, businesses, elected officials, and volunteers committed to making Jacksonville more welcoming and inclusive.

One of the largest annual celebrations is Jax River City Pride, which traces its roots back to 1978. The organization hosts Jacksonville's signature Pride Parade and Festival in the historic Riverside and Five Points neighborhoods, drawing 44 www.JaxGayMag.com

thousands of attendees for live entertainment, local vendors, educational exhibits, and community outreach. The nonprofit describes its mission as fostering an inclusive and equitable community through celebration, education, advocacy, and outreach.

Business leadership has also become an increasingly important part of Jacksonville's LGBTQ+ landscape. The Jax LGBT Chamber of Commerce has expanded networking opportunities for LGBTQ+-owned businesses, professionals, and allies through monthly coffee meetups, business luncheons, educational workshops, and community events designed to strengthen economic opportunity throughout Northeast Florida.

Beyond business and celebration, organizations throughout Jacksonville continue to provide critical support services. Youth-focused nonprofit JASMYN remains one of the region's leading organizations serving LGBTQ+ young people through education, advocacy, support programs, and community partnerships. Other local

organizations provide services related to HIV prevention, mental health, housing assistance, domestic violence prevention, and transgender advocacy, helping meet the diverse needs of the community.

The city has also seen increased recognition of LGBTQ+ residents through civic events. In recent years, Jacksonville has hosted Pride Month celebrations at City Hall featuring speakers, performances, and recognition of community leaders, demonstrating growing visibility within local government.

Despite these advances, many advocates acknowledge that challenges remain. Florida has become a focal point in national debates over LGBTQ+ rights, with recent state policies affecting transgender healthcare, diversity initiatives, and local government support for LGBTQ+ programs generating concern among advocacy organizations. Community leaders say these developments have strengthened the resolve of local organizations to continue



providing resources, legal advocacy, and support for LGBTQ+ residents.

Throughout the year, Jacksonville's LGBTQ+ community hosts social gatherings, cultural events, fundraisers, networking opportunities, and educational programs that extend well beyond Pride season. From business awards and charity galas to community festivals, volunteer initiatives, and

support groups, organizers say the goal is to build lasting connections while creating opportunities for every member of the community to thrive.

As Jacksonville continues to grow, LGBTQ+ leaders say the city's greatest strength lies in its collaboration. Businesses, nonprofits, faith leaders, healthcare providers, artists, and volunteers are increasingly working together to create a more inclusive future—one

where diversity is recognized not only during Pride celebrations, but throughout the entire year.

For many residents, that vision represents more than acceptance. It reflects a community that continues to build opportunity, foster belonging, and demonstrate that Jacksonville's LGBTQ+ population is an integral part of the city's cultural and economic future.

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