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WHO WE ARE

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

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

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

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

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On The Inside



RuPaul Talks Being Queer & Black Growing Up

By Drew Williams



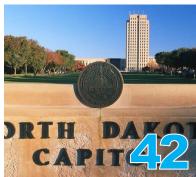












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MEN, **STUCK** IN THE **OFF** POSITION?

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

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

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

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Trump Michigan GOP Lawmaker To Introduce Resolution Asking SCOTUS To Overturn Marriage Equality By Kimerly Wilkerson



A Michigan state representative has announced his plans to introduce a resolution asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn marriage equality.

majority created by Donald Trump overturned the natio right to abortion in 2022, Justice Clarence Thomas working in his concurring opinion at

Republican Rep. Josh Schriver announced on X, formerly Twitter, that he will be introducing the measure on Tuesday urging the court to reverse Obergefell v. Hodges, the landmark 2015 ruling that guaranteed same-sex couples the right to marry, stating that it is supposedly "at odds with the sanctity of marriage, the Michigan Constitution, and principles upon which the country was established."

Schriver's resolution is nonbinding — meaning it carries no legal weight. It has 12 cosponsors in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, but it would not be able to pass the Democrat-controlled Senate or be signed by Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Other states have introduced similar resolutions, but the Supreme Court has yet to agree to hear such a case again.

However, when the conservative Supreme Court

majority created by Donald Trump overturned the national right to abortion in 2022, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in his concurring opinion at the time that the court should also revisit and overrule decisions that prevent state restrictions on contraception, marriage equality, sodomy, and other private consensual sex acts, calling the rulings "demonstrably erroneous."

Similar resolutions have been proposed in Republican state legislatures, such as Idaho, where the House of Representatives approved the measure. Idaho LGBTQ+ advocacy group Pride Foundation's CEO, Katie Carter, previously told The Advocate that "the resolution. while non-binding, amounts to an amplified cultural attack against our community — and a foreshadowing of what's to come for LGBTQ+ people across the United States "

Voters in Michigan did approve a constitutional amendment prohibiting marriages between same-sex couples in 2004, which was nullified by the 2015 Supreme Court ruling. If the Supreme Court were to overturn Obergefell, marriage equality would still be protected nationally by the Respect for Marriage Act, which passed in 2022 and was signed by President Joe Biden that December.

Schriver has previously spoken out against marriage equality, saying in December that the U.S. should "make gay marriage illegal again." He claimed his stance was "not remotely controversial, nor extreme," then called Obergefell a "perverted Supreme Court ruling," asserting that "America 2124 doesn't have to be as dvsfunctional as America 2024." The vast majority of Americans (over 69 percent) believe that same-sex couples should legally be allowed to marry, according to a 2024 survey from Gallup.

Schriver's introduction of the resolution comes in the midst of a racism scandal that's caused him to lose staff members as well as his committee assignment. Schriver posted online earlier this month a picture with a map of the world featuring Black people greatly outnumbering white people next to the phrase, "The great

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replacement!" The great replacement is a debunked white supremacist conspiracy theory that falsely asserts there is an ongoing effort to replace white people with minorities.

Whitmer denounced Schriver's proposal in a public statement on Instagram, stating that "we fought a long hard fight to win marriage equality, and we will always protect our family, our friends, and neighbors from hateful attacks."

"In Michigan, everyone has the freedom to marry who they love. It's not only the law of the land — it's a nonnegotiable," Whitmer said. "Right now, some extreme members of the Michigan Legislature are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn marriage equality. Here's my response to that: Hell no."

"No one should be fired from their job or evicted from their home because of who they love or who they are. This is personal for me just like so many Michiganders," continued the governor, whose daughter is a lesbian. "And I'm not gonna allow the people I love most in the world to have less rights than anyone else. That's just not how we do things in Michigan."





When Doctors Ignore Pronouns, Patients Pay The Price By Luis Green



The first thing I notice when the nurse enters the room is her pin: a small pink circle with "she/her" in bold lettering. She introduced herself, asked for my name and pronouns, and took my vitals.

Whether she realizes it or not. the extra ten seconds the nurse takes to ask for my pronouns signal to me that she cares about my identity and understands that not all patients adhere to the gender binary. Sadly, this type of interaction is not as common as it should be. Many providers have not received adequate training on how to treat the LGBTQ+ community. As a result, many sexual and gender minority patients experience anxiety or gender dysphoria in clinical settings.

What Are The Benefits Of Using Pronoun?

Using a patient's preferred pronouns and chosen name, known as gender-affirming language, enhances the quality of healthcare experiences for gender-diverse patients. When transgender and nonbinary patients receive gender-affirming treatment, they are

significantly less likely to delay healthcare in the future. Unfortunately, nearly half of transgender adults reported mistreatment or discrimination from a healthcare professional, according to a study from 2020. The same study found that at least a third of nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, and transgender patients experienced intentional misgendering or deadnaming referring to someone with a name they no longer use - in medical settings.

Treating a patient in this manner can have lasting effects on their mental health beyond initial discomfort, such as long-term anxiety or gender dysphoria. In working to dismantle LGBTQ+ discrimination within the healthcare system, addressing these offenses and incorporating instruction on gender-affirming language in medical education can improve long-term health outcomes for the queer and trans community.

What Is Gender-Affirming Care?

In the last few decades, the medical community has gained momentum in education on gender-affirming care. The

World Health Organization (WHO) defines genderaffirming care as social, psychological, behavioral, and medical interventions that support gender identity. Typical interventions range from counseling on the coming-out process to medication-based hormone therapies. Although some of these interventions may be more relevant in specific medical specialties, all healthcare providers have an opportunity to integrate genderaffirming language into their daily routines.

But many medical schools do not provide adequate or routine training on LGBTQ+ health, leaving knowledge gaps that prevent providers from effectively treating their queer patients. In fact, a study in 2011 indicated that, on average, American and Canadian medical schools only spent five hours of class time on LGBT-related topics ranging from sexual orientation to gender identity, coming out, transitioning, or safe sex practices.

Aiming to close these gaps, the American Medical Association (AMA) released a report in 2014 encouraging medical schools to offer more comprehensive training and curriculum for treating LGBTQ+ patients. The report details how existing programs can adopt LGBTQ-related content in both classroom and clinical settings, integrating the lessons into pre-existing competencies such as patient care, interpersonal skills, and knowledge for practice. In the ten years since its publication, some medical schools have made admirable progress in the development of queer and trans-informed curricula, offering certificates on LGBTQ+ health studies or creating research programs focused on transgender health.

However, most schools have not changed their curriculum due in part to the lack of requirements attached to the report. Additional factors such as insufficient knowledge among faculty, political pressures, and administrative resistance to change have obstructed progress toward universal education on LGBTQ+ health. Amid an increasingly fraught political climate, many medical schools

have hesitated to incorporate inclusive curricula on gender diversity and the queer community.

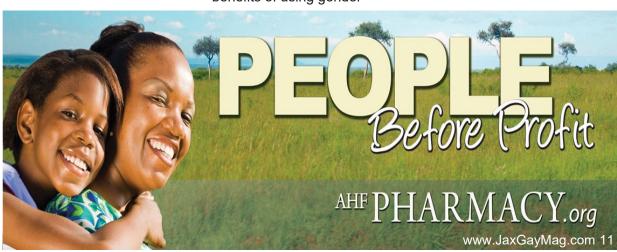
How Has Trump Impacted LGBTQ+ Healthcare?

Donald Trump's re-election has undoubtedly complicated these matters further, gradually removing medical protections for the LGBTQ+ community and pressuring public institutions not to teach queerrelated topics. Medical schools must also worry about whether the use of gender-affirming practices in healthcare could inadvertently alienate a different subset of patients who may not agree with or understand gender-inclusive language. While medical institutions must take these perspectives into account when deciding how to implement LGBTQ-related curricula, they must also acknowledge the potential irreversible and detrimental effects on queer health outcomes if these topics are ignored.

Ultimately, the proven health benefits of using gender-

inclusive language in medical settings outweigh the possible discomfort of those opposed.

The inclusion of a genderaffirming curriculum in medical education can serve as a stepping stone on the way towards remediating health disparities by improving the accessibility of gender-affirming care and reversing historical patterns of mistrust between LBGTQ+ patients and providers. Even seemingly minor changes, such as teaching providers to ask for a patient's pronouns, could significantly improve a transgender or nonbinary patient's health experience. Integrating gender-affirming care into the medical curriculum will help providers build trust with LGBTQ+ patients, increasing the likelihood that they return for continued care. American medical institutions must take gender-inclusive language seriously, especially when the health and lives of an already vulnerable population are at stake.





Breakthrough: Nuclear Battery Generates Electricity

By Aman Tripathi

Researchers at The Ohio State University have developed a battery that can convert nuclear "There's still lots of room for waste into electricity.

This innovative technology utilizes ambient gamma radiation from spent nuclear fuel to power electronics and offers a cleaner and more efficient energy source.

"We're harvesting something considered as waste and by nature, trying to turn it into treasure," said Raymond Cao, lead author of the study.

Using Scintillator Crystals For Battery

Nuclear power is a reliable source of energy. However, it produces radioactive waste that emits gamma radiation, which is a form of energy that has traditionally been difficult to harness safely.

The Ohio State team's prototype battery solves this problem by using scintillator crystals, which emit light when exposed to radiation. This light is then captured by solar cells, which, like those on rooftop solar panels, convert it into electricity.

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"The nuclear battery concept is very promising," Cao asserted.

improvement, but I believe in the future, this approach will carve an important space for itself in both the energy production and sensors industry."

The battery is roughly the size of a four-cubic-centimeter cube. The researchers utilized two common radioactive isotopes found in spent nuclear fuel, cesium-137 and cobalt-60, to test the prototype.

The results demonstrated that the battery generated 288 nanowatts with cesium-137 and a more substantial 1.5 microwatts with cobalt-60. enough to power a small sensor.

"Although most power outputs for homes and electronics are measured in kilowatts, this suggests that with the right power source, such devices could be scaled up to target applications at or beyond the watts level." remarked Cao.

Addressing Radioactive Waste Problem

This technology offers a



promising solution to the challenges posed by radioactive waste, a significant byproduct of nuclear power generation.

Nuclear power plants provide about 20% of the United States' electricity with minimal greenhouse gas emissions.

"However, these systems do create radioactive waste, which can be dangerous to human health," said the researchers in a press release.

By converting this waste into electricity, the battery offers a potential pathway for transforming a liability into a valuable resource.

Moreover, the design of the battery makes it particularly suited for environments where high levels of radiation are already present, such as nuclear waste storage facilities, deep-sea exploration, and even space missions.

"Fortunately, although the gamma radiation utilized in this work is about a hundred times more penetrating than a normal X-ray or CT scan, the battery itself does not incorporate radioactive materials, meaning it is still safe to touch," highlighted the researchers.

Design's Impact On Power Output

The study also highlighted the impact of the scintillator crystal's design on power output, with larger volumes and surface areas enhancing

radiation absorption and light conversion.

The technology shows great promise, but scaling it up for broader applications will require addressing manufacturing costs and conducting further research.

That said, this development represents a significant step towards a more sustainable and efficient use of nuclear energy.

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Lady Gaga's "Mayhem Album" Was Inspired By Ballroom Culture

By Tina Bennett

Lady Gaga says her new album Mayhem is for the mothers

During a new interview, Mother Monster talked about where she Drew inspirations for her upcoming album Mayhem, including an important part of queer history.

In the beginning of the music video for the single "Abracadabra" — which was released during a commercial break at the 2025 Grammy Awards, Gaga declared: "The category is... dance or die." Not only was that perceived as a reference to ballroom categories, but the video also featured dancing styles inspired by vogueing and other ballroom staples.

When asked by InStyle about that opening line, Gaga was happy to credit the ballroom scene with inspiring the "Abracadabra" song and music video, as well as this new album overall. "I grew up in New York City and I also was a student of Paris Is Burning when I was really, really young," Gaga explained. "I was always inspired by the tremendous amount of grace,

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freedom, expression, and joy of her late uncle Johnny, who was ballroom culture."

Gaga continued:

"I was lucky enough to be around some dancers that were a part of that life. Being a part of the dance community is a privilege. There are these spaces in the world where there's an ability for the community to express and experience joy, even when life is not treating them that way."

"And I am still so inspired by it and to this day," she pop star went on. "It felt like a relevant thing to bring up in the video because it's about resilience. I can't think of a place where I've seen more resilience than in a ballroom."

Another music superstar, Beyoncé, also paid tribute to the groundbreaking ballroom scene with the Renaissance album.

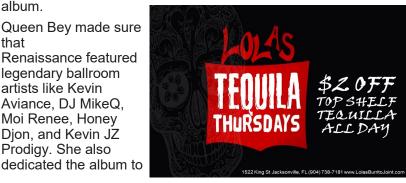
Queen Bey made sure that Renaissance featured legendary ballroom artists like Kevin Aviance, DJ MikeQ, Moi Renee, Honey Djon, and Kevin JZ Prodigy. She also

a gay man.

"He was my godmother and the first person to expose me to a lot of the music and culture that serve as inspiration for this album," Beyoncé explained at the time. "Thank you to all of the pioneers who originate culture, to all of the fallen angels whose contributions have gone unrecognized for far too long. This is a celebration for vou."

Huh, it's almost like everything is leading up to the recently teased Telephone sequel collab between Gaga and Beyoncé, isn't it?

Beyoncé's Renaissance is available on all music streaming services. Lady Gaga's Mayhem drops Friday, May 7 on all music streaming services.







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More Adults Than Ever Identify As LGBTQ+

By Daniel Williams



The number of adults in the United States who identify as LGBTQ+ is higher than ever.

About 9.3 percent of U.S. adults in 2024 said that they identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or something other than heterosexual in a new report from Gallup, up over one whole percentage point from the previous year. This is also nearly double the amount who identified as LGBTQ+ in 2020, and almost three times as many as those who did in 2012, when Gallup first began measuring it.

Gallup surveyed over 14,000 adults, with 85.7 percent identifying as straight, 5.2 percent identifying as bisexual, 2.0 percent as gay, 1.4 percent as lesbian, 1.3 percent as transgender, and under 1 percent as another LGBTQ+ identity. About five percent declined to a

Out of LGBTQ+ adults, 56 percent said they were bisexual, 21 percent said they were gay, 15 percent said lesbian, 14 percent said transgender, and 6 percent said something else. Gallup explains that "these figures

total more than 100 percent because the survey allows respondents to report multiple LGBTQ+ identities."

The number of adults identifying as LGBTQ+ increased drastically as their ages decreased. Nearly one in four (23.1 percent) of Gen Z adults — those born between 1997 and 2006 who were between the ages of 18 and 27 in2024 — said they identify as LGBTQ+, compared to 14.2 percent of millennials, 5.1 percent of Gen X, 3.0 percent of baby boomers, and just 1.8 percent of the Silent Generation — those born 1945 or earlier

Democrats and Independents were much more likely to identify as LGBTQ+ than Republicans, at 14 percent, 11 percent, and 3 percent, respectively. Even stronger differences were seen by ideology, with 21percent of liberals, compared with 8 percent of moderates and 3 percent of conservatives identifying as LGBTQ+.

Women were also more likely than men to say they identify as LGBTQ+, at 10 percent and 6 percent, respectively. The "gender gaps" were especially prevalent in younger generations, as 31 percent of Gen Z women versus 12 percent of Gen Z men, and 18 percent of millennial women versus 9 percent of millennial men, identify as LGBTQ+.

The report notes that the gaps between generations and genders are "largely due to more adults in their late teens, 20s and 30s — particularly young women — saying they are bisexual."

"In the 12 years that Gallup has been tracking LGBTQ+ identification, it has nearly tripled, as those becoming adults during that period have been far more likely than their elders to say they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender," the report states, concluding, "The rate of LGBTQ+ identification is likely to continue to grow, given the generational shifts underway."

The Human Rights Campaign said the poll shows how useless Republican anti-LGBTQ+rhetoric and policies are.

"This polling reflects what we've been saying all along: the future that anti-equality politicians are fear mongering about is already here," Human Rights Campaign president

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Kelley Robinson said in a press release. "LGBTQ+ Americans have always been here, and we are not going anywhere. There are way too many of us to be ignored, there are way too many of us to drive us out

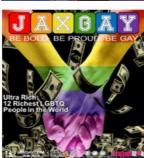
of everyday life, and the politicians who think they can turn back the clock on LGBTQ+ acceptance will fail. It is a beautiful thing that growing acceptance over the course of recent decades has allowed

more and more people to show up as their authentic selves, and we should all be working toward a future where everyone can be exactly who they are."

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LifeStyle

Creating An Oasis And Finding Joy In My Garden By Brett Chisholm



There have been times in my life when I convinced myself that I was going to explode. The tensions inside my brain and body had reached a fever pitch. I was a helpless bystander, strapped to the front of a steam engine, heading for a direct collision with myself. The stresses of work, life, money, and family piled up throughout the corridors of my mind.

On one particular day, I was stressed to the point of breaking. My constant drip of negative thoughts turned into a cascade of doubt. My body was pelted by a storm of emotions, and none were good. With so much adrenaline pumping through my veins, I felt like I was self-combusting from the inside, and I had to just... move.

Moving my body was the only thing that mitigated the stress to the point I felt like I would survive. I paced the room back and forth, my mind still racing, my eyes still watering. But my pacing was getting stronger. This limited movement wasn't helping me anymore, and I wanted just to get outside.

I live on a horse farm in Texas

and have access to open grass. I let myself go. I left the house barefoot and quickly stomped to the grass. I vividly remember pacing that field for fifteen minutes, back and forth, sometimes talking to myself, always thinking, never being able to stop moving. I wouldn't say I was breaking down, but I did feel like my spirit was broken. I was exhausted. But the adrenaline flowed.

It wasn't long until I noticed my breath had eased, and I wasn't walking with as much force as I started. Still, I kept walking.

As my heart rate decreased and my mind eased, I started to feel the grass on my feet. My feet in the grass and the tactile feeling of something other than the fire building inside me gave me a sense of relief. It wasn't perfect, and I was still spinning, but I could breathe.

One thing about anxiety is that it's made me very in tune with my body's feelings. Pacing through that field that day, I felt composure wrap me from the bottom up, like the bottom half of my body began to anchor itself to the earth. In every sense of the word, I felt grounded.

Still, I kept walking. Did it feel

nice?

I walked a lot on that grass during that time. That field became my safe space. And every time, without fail, I left that field breathing easier than when I entered it.

To distract myself, I started a garden. It was larger than it should have been, and I took on more than I should have. My modus operandi was to distract myself when anxiety clouded my mind. If I could occupy every waking moment with a task, my mind wouldn't have gotten to take control.

Being called to the land is a centuries-old story, but this was all new to me. I instinctively knew I felt better in that garden. Still, I had no idea why it was calling me so strongly. What I learned was that the beauty of what I was producing, the still quiet of the garden surrounding me, and the constant need for work weren't just filling me.

They were filling holes within me. They were healing me.

I have grown tired of life sometimes. It's a sad realization when you find you're just phoning it in, and you might even like it that way. I've spent so much time rehashing

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the past, concerned over a future that doesn't exist, and mostly trying to understand why people act the way they do. It's exhausting, disappointing, and can be debilitating.

So, I made my mental plan to check out. Grace became a resignation—a quiet, passive acknowledgment that if I didn't let something go, it would eat me alive, stealing the present moment from under me. Resistance seemed baked into everything I did, and it colored my view of the world with darkness instead of light.

Queer Trauma & Finding Queer Joy

For many of us in the queer community, trauma feels like a thread woven into the fabric of our lives. And while there's often pressure to be grateful for the pain—because it shaped who we are—I've come to believe that's a form of cultural gaslighting. I don't have to be grateful for what hurt me. Gratitude doesn't need to stretch that far.

Joy isn't about appreciating the trauma but reclaiming the power that trauma tried to take away.

Joy is a quiet but powerful reclamation. For those of us who've faced trauma, it's not about erasing the pain or pretending it didn't happen. It's about building something beautiful in its shadow. It's about choosing to create light even when left in darkness. Everything changed when I stopped resisting the world and started building resilience within myself. Resilience isn't about fighting—it's about showing up, tending to what matters, and finding light in the dark.

Joy As Resistance

As a queer person living in Texas, I know how anger and resentment can burn incredibly bright within ourselves and our communities. Joy is different. Joy is a quiet, sustainable resistance. It's what anchors us to today but keeps us moving if you let it, but if you find joy right now, there can be nothing but light on your path. The truth is, it takes more energy to fight, more muscles to frown, more energy to fight invisible battles. and more energy to worry. But joy can be light. It isn't effortless, but it's always the easiest choice.

The truest act of resistance in the modern day is resisting the urge to resist at all. Because that is the resistance that will build you up instead of bringing vou down.

Growing food and flowers has filled me with many perspectives about the power we give ourselves by living in the present. Ever since I've lived on land with my horses and animals, it has seemed like the world is on fire. Tempers flare, bridges burn, and you cannot escape an every-person -for-themselves mentality.

But the garden has taught me that the quietest acts of resistance—tending to a plant, finding joy, staying presentare the most powerful. These are the things that keep us whole.

Joy is not about ignoring darkness but choosing light despite it. The act of planting seeds in the dirt, spreading love amidst the world's chaos. even when the future seems uncertain—this is resistance. When you're in the garden, there is only right now. All you can do is plant, tend, and trust. Somehow, that turns out to be enough.

forward. The future can be dark My mental health journey in the garden turned into an entire business and community in my corner of the world. And along the way, I've returned barefoot to the same field many times. We plant our best crops in it. which has rewarded us profoundly throughout the seasons.

> I remember paying it back to the earth and giving some reserves to my future self often. When I'm feeling good, I walk the property barefoot, sending my joy back to the source and bottling up a little for when I may need it soon. Even if a present moment is filled with struggle, you are always right where you need to be, right where you want to be, when you commit to the journey.

Brett Chisholm is a writer, farmer, and founder of Three Dudes Farm, home to Houston's largest flower subscription program. His work explores the intersection of mental health, nature, and community, using the land as both a healer and a storyteller.



RuPaul Talks Being Queer & Black Growing Up

By Tonya Mosely

TONYA MOSLEY, HOST:

This is FRESH AIR. I'm Tonya Mosley. In 1992, a new anthem hit the dance club scene, propelling a young man dressed in drag into the consciousness of the mainstream. The song was "Supermodel (You Better Work)," and the name of the singer was RuPaul.

(SOUNDBITE OF SONG. "SUPERMODEL (YOU **BETTER WORK)")**

RUPAUL: (Singing) You better work, cover girl. Work it, girl. Give a twirl. Do your thing on the runway. Work, supermodel. You better work it, girl of the world. Wet your lips, and make love to the camera. Work. Turn to the left. Work. Now turn to the right. Work. Sashay, shantay.

MOSLEY: The song "Supermodel" became an MTV staple and RuPaul's most successful commercial song to date. And as we learned from his new memoir, "The House Of Hidden Meanings," the success of the song presented the fulfillment of a prophecy he was told growing up.



Decades earlier. RuPaul's mother, when she was pregnant with him, was told by a psychic that she'd give birth to a son who would be famous.

RuPaul's new book takes us through the years leading up to fame, growing up in San Diego and coming of age in the punk and drag scenes in Atlanta and New York. He would go on to appear in film and television, hosting several iterations of "The RuPaul Show" and "RuPaul's Drag Race." That series, now in its 16th season, is a reality competition show where drag queens compete for the title of America's next drag superstar. RuPaul has earned several awards, including 14 Emmy Awards. In 2022, he won a Tony Award for producing the musical "A Strange Loop." And in addition to his latest memoir, RuPaul has also written several other books, including "Lettin' It All Hang Out," a guide to life, "Workin' It," and a book of philosophies in 2018 called "GuRu."

RuPaul, welcome back to FRESH AIR.

RUPAUL: Thank you.

MOSLEY: Well, this book - it takes us through the first 40 or so years of your life. And one thing that seemed very clear to you at a very young age is that life is theater, that everyone around is playing a role. And the people that you learned this from the most were your mother and father. You talk about them constantly being in conflict with each other.

RUPAUL: Yeah. You know. I grew up in a house with my mother and father, who were at war the whole time I was growing up, and I learned how to be a diplomat. I learned how to read the room, figure out what people wanted from me and be able to do that because, ultimately, I needed to get through the situation, or I needed to get something from the situation. So, you know, for years growing up, people - they didn't know what box to put me in. They didn't know what to do with me. And I was very clear on what I am, but other people weren't. So I could morph. I could be a shape-shifter into whatever needed to be done to get myself from point A to point B. So drag happened to be that

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MOSLEY: How would you describe the hostility in '99?

RUPAUL: Well, we had just come out of the Bill Clinton era, which is when I found my success, and we had entered back into a very restrictive Bush presidency. I don't want to talk about politics, but that's what had happened. So fast-forward to today. I think we are also in a very restrictive time, so I probably - I wouldn't participate.

MOSLEY: Participate, yeah.

RUPAUL: I would step back. And there's a time when an artist or when a sweet, sensitive soul has to step away from the canvas, has to protect oneself. The sort of mob mentality is so dangerous that you have to take yourself out of harm's way in that way. There's a mob sensibility that you can't win with. It's a lose-lose situation. So the best you could do is extract yourself from all of that.

MOSLEY: As you mentioned, you've been sober since '99. Weed and alcohol were your vices. Was there a particular moment when you realized it wasn't working?

RUPAUL: Well, when my partner got into trouble with that, and having lived so much of my successes vicariously through him, when I realized that he was in deep trouble, I realized that I was in deep trouble. And I had to shift from living my life through him to putting the focus back into me. And I realized, too, that - I tell this story in the book - I had disassociated from my feelings

early on, because the feelings I was having with my family and the trauma of my family were too much and too traumatic. And this is what humans do children especially - you disassociate, and you separate from yourself. And through sobriety, I was able to come back inside and learn how to process feelings I couldn't process when I was a kid. You know, you - I brushed all of this stuff under the rug. Ultimately, through sobriety and a 12-step program. I was able to look under that rug and sift through these issues and come up to speed with what was happening.

MOSLEY: Well, you mentioned your partner, Georges. The book actually ends with - you guys are not together...

RUPAUL: Yeah.

MOSLEY: ...At the end of this book. We know the other part of the story - if - those who have been following your career knows that, at some point, you get back together 'cause you're now married.

RUPAUL: Yeah.

MOSLEY: Yeah. But why did you want to end with the breakup, with you all not being together? And I just want to preface, to lay out for folks, that you all were together. You were - he was with you during the height of your career, and you all were having this fabulous life. And then he started to struggle with drug addiction. And you broke up. RUPAUL: Yeah. Yeah. Well.

the book does end when the

both of us get sober. It's just a natural place to - it was a natural place for the book to end there because it was such a huge change that happened, a huge change that I really didn't anticipate. But when it did happen, it made so much sense. We split up so that we could focus on our sobriety. And ultimately, after the book, we realize we love each other so much. We couldn't - I couldn't shake him loose. I couldn't. He couldn't shake me loose. We just, you know - so ultimately, we did eventually get married. But he's my favorite person. I've met so many people on this planet. I like him the most. I like him the most of anybody I've ever met.

MOSLEY: One of the tenets of 12-step programs, of course, is one day at a time. And '99 to 2024 is a very long time to be sober. Congratulations.

RUPAUL: Thank you.

MOSLEY: Were there - are any moments when you struggle with that?

RUPAUL: No. there haven't been. It's so funny. It's - you know, listen. It's still early in the day. I could still go out this afternoon, you know? But, no, I did it. I did it. I did all of that stuff. And what happens, you learn that even if you get the impulse - the only time I've ever thought, like, that would be interesting is when I'm listening to jazz, when I think, a glass of wine and a joint for jazz. But then I take it - the next step, and I go, oh, I know where that leads. So, you

know, it's like - it's what I call my Google Earth button moment, where you press that Google Earth button, and you see the whole layout, and you go, oh, oh, I see how this works Hidden Meanings." Coming up, out, you know? But, no, I never have.

MOSLEY: RuPaul, thank you so much for this conversation. RUPAUL: Thank you.

MOSLEY: Reality show host, actor and author RuPaul. His new memoir is "The House Of book critic Maureen Corrigan reviews "The Freaks Came Out To Write," a 50-year history of The Village Voice. This is FRESH AIR.

(SOUNDBITE OF QUEEN LATIFAH SONG, "LADIES FIRST (FEAT. MONIE LOVE)")

Tonya Mosley is an Emmy awardwinning journalist and the co-host of Fresh Air. Previously, she was the co-host of NPR's midday program Here & Now, where she led daily coverage during the Trump administration, the pandemic, and the racial reckoning of 2021.





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Researchers Use Focused Ultrasound To Shrink Prostate Tumors By David Harrington



Researchers from Rice University and Vanderbilt University have made significant advancements in the fight against prostate cancer.

They have shown that combining a small-molecule therapy called tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL) with focused ultrasound (FUS) can effectively reduce tumor size in laboratory models.

The findings were published in the journal Advanced Science.

Focused Ultrasound

Cancer remains a leading cause of death worldwide, claiming approximately 10 million lives annually.

The collaborative study, spearheaded by Michael King, a professor of bioengineering at Rice, and Charles Caskey, an associate professor at Vanderbilt, is pioneering in its approach.

It highlights how low-intensity mechanical forces can be utilized with TRAIL to provide a new treatment strategy for cancer patients.

King highlights the pressing 26 www.JaxGayMag.com

need for better treatment options for advanced and recurrent prostate cancer, which ranks as the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States.

"Prostate cancer is also the most commonly diagnosed cancer in over 100 countries," he notes, highlighting the urgency for innovative therapeutic strategies. He expresses optimism that their findings could soon translate to practical clinical applications.

Traditional treatments for prostate cancer often come with severe side effects, causing a growing interest in FUS therapies.

This non-invasive method enables targeted treatment directly at tumor sites, which can limit damaging effects on surrounding healthy tissues.

Shrinking Prostate Tumors

One of the challenges with TRAIL therapy is its short lifespan in the bloodstream, lasting only about 30 minutes before being metabolized. This necessitates frequent dosing to achieve any substantial effect, which can lead to increased

side effects and patient inconvenience.

"TRAIL specifically triggers the death of cancer cells while sparing healthy ones," King explains, noting that previous studies indicated mechanical forces like fluid shear stress (FSS) could enhance TRAIL's anticancer effects.

However, FSS operates primarily within the circulatory system, limiting its effectiveness to circulating tumor cells and not addressing solid tumors directly.

This limitation highlighted the need for a practical method that combines mechanical forces with TRAIL therapy in a localized manner.

The researchers sought to explore whether FUS could serve as a viable partner for TRAIL in treating primary prostate tumors before they metastasize.

In their investigation, graduate students Abigail Fabiano and Malachy Newman conducted experiments using prostate cancer cell lines.

No Surgery Needed

Their objective involved varying

the parameters of FUS treatment to ensure that healthy cells were not adversely affected by mechanical forces while maximizing the effects on cancer cells. The results were promising.

The researchers found that the combined application of FUS and TRAIL substantially

diminished the number of cancer cells and the overall size of tumors compared to administering either treatment alone.

"This foundational study lays the groundwork for a potential new therapy for prostate cancer," King states, underscoring the importance of their research.

Their findings could open new avenues in medical treatment, indicating a future where mechanical therapies like focused ultrasound are used alongside small-molecule treatments to tackle various cancers more effectively while minimizing adverse effects.



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

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

Common Causes of E.D.

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Atherosclerosis
- Hormone Imbalances
- Neurological Disorders
- Drug Side Effects
- Obesity

options become available.

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

The providers at Riddle Wellness/ Northeast Florida Wellness in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fl have another option for men seeking lasting improvements in sexual performance. It's safe, natural and designed to use only your body's own healing powers to enhance and rejuvenate male sexual performance. It's called the P-Shot®

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- No allergic reactions

Potentiates the effect of other E.D. medications like Viagra, Cialis, especially in cases where effects of these medications are dwindling.

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The P-Shot® is a fairly new procedure, but the PRP technique has been around for decades and has been used in countless other medical applications. The PRP-PRFM (platelet rich fibrin matrix) techniques are commonly used to enhance, heal and rejuvenate tissues by promoting neovascularization (formation of new blood vessels and increasing blood supply).

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How Long is the Procedure and is there Down Time?

The P-Shot® procedure will take 20 minutes or less and there is no downtime after the treatment. You can return to normal activity immediately and it is encouraged.

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Last weekend, I overheard a fellow gay mention he was planning a trip to Puerto Vallarta soon, which can only mean one thing: Spring is right around the corner.

A cute lil' springtime trip can be a great way to recalibrate, particularly after what's been a tumultuous start to the year. I took a trip last month, a quick getaway to Mexico City, and found that a couple days spent swapping out doomscrolling for sightseeing was the vitamin drip my heart and soul needed. As Out's finance columnist, me telling you to go burn cash is typically a no-no ("tsk, tsk," goes the purity culture). But if vou're financially splurging and numbing to get through the weeks right now, a hard reset in the form of a weekend getaway might actually be the better money move in the long run.

Spring is also when many people get that juicy tax refund, which can make funding your wanderlust a bit easier. About 65 percent of Americans who filed their taxes last year got a refund, with the average refund being just over \$3,100. If you're expecting money back, this

might be your biggest cash windfall for the year, so consider splitting it between responsible stuff, like paying down debt, and cultivating queer joy. And if you don't get money back, drown your sorrows in a martini or mocktail to grieve, then move on. Whichever your situation, planning a spring fling now can help you save some bucks later.

First, pick your destination and get a sense of your budget. For some of you, this is flying to Paris, and for others it's a road trip to Paris, Illinois. You make the location fabulous, not the other way around, so pick something you'll look forward to that also doesn't break the bank. If you'll be booking flights and/or lodging, sign up for price alerts in the event a sudden discount comes along on a random Wednesday afternoon.

As you price watch, do a little spring cleaning on your expenses to free up some extra cash. I say this with love: You don't need ten streaming subscriptions. Pause a few of them. Or consider rotating between services (But leave Peacock in, because Traitors is everything right now).

Also look into whether your checking account offers a round-up service. This is when every purchase you make on vour debit card is rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the difference getting dumped in a savings or investing account. If vour bank doesn't do round-ups, apps like Acorns are an option. A few extra dollars a day will be funneled into your savings account, and in a couple months' time you'll have extra blow money to work with.

Set aside time to get excited about the place you're visiting, too. If you're exhausted in the weeks and days leading up to thrills entirely, which are half the local queens performing? Remember, this isn't just some silly little gaycation or getaway; you're doing valuable life research, exploring how you most enjoy spending your free time and what brings you pleasure. That's real wealth. And queer people being happy triggers the shit out of online trolls these days, so it's important we frolic and continue to cultivate fun in the current political moment.

Maybe these flight attendants are onto something. Maybe travel is how we learn more about ourselves and assert more control over our destiny. Money is great, but you can't

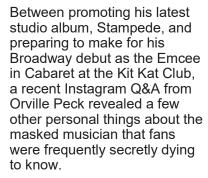
take it with you when you're dead, and if you spend all your energy saving for the future, you might miss the meaning of life along the way. Whether it's a picnic in the park or some

new stamps in your passport, plan to take a trip this spring to refresh your spirit and keep your fire burning bright.





Orville Peck's 'Gay Sexual Awakening' Came From This Marvel Superhero By Michael Alsup



The questions answered by Peck ranged from how he promotes new music, how long his Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club run will be, whether or not he still skateboards, which designer makes his outfits, and who's responsible for Peck's "gay sexual awakening."

The Q&A started with a question about Peck's marketing strategy for his first studio album, 2019's Pony, and how he went on to reach new listeners.

Peck replied:

"1. Focus all your energy on making an album that YOU love; 2. Lie to record labels to get them to listen to it; 3. Convince strangers to play in your band; 4. Book your own tour by begging."



Peck was asked how long his run in Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club will last. The singer responded that he's scheduled to perform between March 31 and July 20.

He also pointed to the Kit-Kat.Club website for fans to get tickets and learn more information about the Broadway production.

Another inquiring mind asked if Peck still keeps a comprehensive log of tattoos from his fans. The Stampede singer shared the screenshot of an album titled "Tattoos" that seems to have 512 pictures in it.

"Lost count a few years back [smiling face with tear emoji]," he wrote in response.

When asked who was responsible for his "gay sexual awakening," Peck replied that it was none other than Gambit the Marvel superhero and X-Men mutant. Though the singer replied candidly, he also added a "shrugging emoji" in case anyone thought this was a weird or unlikely answer.

Otherwise known as Remy LeBeau. Gambit is a mutant within the Marvel universe. Gambit's first full appearance in Hahn's collaborations with

the Marvel comic books took place in 1990's Uncanny X-Men #266. While fans have been eagerly anticipating the live-action version of Gambit eventually joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe, previous projects for a standalone films and potential inclusions in the movies haven't come to fruition (yet).

One the funniest questions answered by Peck wondered if he ever worried about "running out of horse references for his album names."

The singer replied with the hilarious horse sitting on the front porch meme.

Peck also highlighted the designer who's behind making his dazzling outfits: "The ride or die @cathyhahn."

As a Los Angeles-based designer and stylist, Catherine Hahn's work has been worn by numerous artists in different mediums — from television, film, music videos, live performances, and commercials. Besides Peck. Hahn is a frequent collaborator with artists such as Post Malone, Lil Nas X, and Sierra Ferrell, to name a few.

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with Peck include the singer's 2022 Out cover referencing Dolly Parton.

Other fans wanted to know if Peck still took time to skateboard. Even though the singer responded with a picture of him skateboarding, he wrote over it: "Wrists too important."

Skateboarding can be a tricky hobby for musicians, and it seems like Peck had to make a responsible choice here!

Peck replied with a meme from the 1999 mockumentary film Drop Dead Gorgeous, which includes a scene asking that exact same question.

(If you're wondering, the response is "Dogwood.")

Last but not least, a fan asked Peck to say "howdy."

Peck responded with a picture of his dog and wrote, "howdy."



Life Style

How To Heal Your Broken Queer Heart By Antonio Pagliarulo



While numerous healing modalities can help mend the pain of a broken heart, the greatest magic is letting go. What exactly does "letting go" mean? It doesn't start with forgiving the person who hurt you; it begins with recognizing where you are in your journey of self-awareness. Acknowledge that you feel rejected, angry, lonely, or sad. In doing so, you aren't admitting weakness but instead giving yourself space to experience the restorative power of stillness and rejuvenation.

In plain words, give yourself the gift of compassion.

Consider every aspect of selfcare, especially the wellspring of tools within you. Mindfulness plays a key role in healing. Begin the process of letting go through introspection and gently asking yourself what you want out of a relationship or if you want one at all. Sometimes, the most incredible realization is that you control your happiness and don't require another person to fill

practices as you work on letting go and healing your heartache.

The Body: Mindful Walking

Consider the following

Often considered a form of meditation, this practice is more than just leaving the house and heading for a brisk stroll. Mindful walking is about paying close attention to your thoughts and feelings as you move. Are your anger or sadness dissipating? Is your immediate environment looking clearer and encouraging you to move at a slower pace? This allows you to tune in to your body, acknowledge your feelings, and then release them. If you can't go for a Mindful Walk, consider sitting in nature or green spaces conducive to healing and connecting with yourself. Relax and let your body release all tension and feelings of discord.

The Mind: Journaling

A surefire way to regulate your emotions, journaling requires little more than putting your thoughts and feelings on paper with free-flowing ease. What are you feeling? Why are you feeling it? What do you want to say to the person who broke your heart? If you're feeling down because you're spending the empty spaces of your heart. another Valentine's Day single, list your attributes and affirm your fabulous qualities on the page. Journaling is the most private of conversations. Notice how you feel after getting everything out in writing. More

relaxed? More relieved? Now, they burn the pages and feel the magic of letting go.

The Spirit: Saint Petition

In addition to being one of the most remarkable examples of the Divine Feminine, Saint Mary Magdalene is the patron saint of broken hearts. No, you don't have to be Catholic to call on her. She was once human. just like you, and your desire for otherworldly assistance is all that is needed. Consider lighting a white candle, sitting in front of it, and asking Saint Mary Magdalene to help heal your broken heart by showing you the best way to let go of your anguish.

Above all, stop judging yourself and whatever actions led to vour broken heart or (seemingly) absent love life.

When you feel strong enough to do so, releaseyour pain. Forgiveness might feel downright impossible, and not only is that okay, but it might well be true. Forgiving the person who hurt you isn't necessary to let go and be healed. Instead, when you release the pain, you give yourself to the love of self. The alchemy of knowing your worth, your unique place in the world, and that you alone model the love you need.

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And if all else fails, buy yourself content. a box of chocolates and bingewatch Luke McFarlane romcoms to your heart's

Antonio Pagliarulo is the author of The Evil Eve: The History, Mystery and Magic of

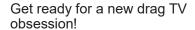
the Quiet Curse and the forthcoming The Queer Saints: A Radical Guide to Magic. Miracles and Modern Intercession.





Drag Icons Come Together For New Satire Series Drag House Rules

By Gaberial Zinke



On Wednesday, February 19, Entertainment Weekly released an exclusive preview of a new satirical drag competition series titled Drag House Rules that brings together six RuPaul's Drag Race alumni and one The reads. "The game sounds Boulet Brothers' Dragula winner into a house to compete for a "mysterious \$100,000 prize package that may or may not come with a few caveats."

Drag Race superstars Jujubee, Manila Luzon, Silky Nutmeg Ganache, Laganja Estranja, Rock M. Sakura, and Tammie Brown join Dragula winner Biqtch Puddin' in the new show, which is set to premiere this Friday, February 21 on

OUTtv.

"Drag House Rules raises the stakes with seven legendary drag queens living under one roof, battling it out in a competition full of alliances, betrayals, and jaw-dropping moments," the show's synopsis simple enough, but what begins as a glamorous highstrakes competition quickly unravels into pure. unpredictable chaos. Secrets are exposed and alliances crumble as the queens fight to stay on top — in ways no one saw coming."

EW's exclusive has a lot of indications that the show is not a straightforward reality show. Quotation marks in phrases



like, "this 'competition' series might not be all that it seems" and "this peculiar 'contest," as well as the information that the show was written and directed by Trixie & Katya Live – The Last Show co-director John Mark Hostetler, and the preview itself all indicate that this is a scripted series spoofing drag reality shows.

The trailer is full of the queens hamming it up with host Tony Moore, getting into fights with other crew members, dragging one another across the floor. and coming up with all-new catchphrases.

Drag House Rules premieres February 21 on OUTtv.

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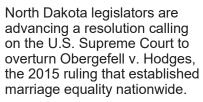


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North Dakota GOP Advances Resolution For End To Marriage Equality

By Drew Williams



The state's House of Representatives passed the resolution Monday, and it is now in the hands of the North Dakota Senate. It doesn't carry the force of law, and it would take a marriage equality case coming to the high court for it to revisit Obergefell, although Kim Davis, the infamous antimarriage equality Kentucky politician, and her lawyers are trying to set one up.

This follows the passage of a similar resolution in Idaho and comes alongside a state representative's plan to introduce one in Michigan. The Michigan one will probably be passed by the state House but not by the Senate, as the latter has a Democratic majority.

House Concurrent Resolution 3013 passed by a vote of 52-40. Republican Rep. Bill Tveit, who introduced it, said samesex couples shouldn't be able to marry because they can't reproduce, an argument that was long used against

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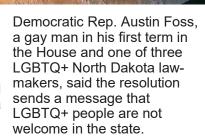
marriage equality but has now been rejected by most Americans.

"As you are well aware, two cannot conceive or birth a child except for coming together of a female and a male," Tveit told his fellow lawmakers, according to the North Dakota Monitor. "Based on the laws of nature, it's just that simple."

Of course, some different-sex couples can't conceive children through sexual intercourse either, and many same-sex couples become parents through assisted reproductive technologies, adoptions, or previous relationships with opposite-sex partners.

"If same-sex couples desire a collaborative union of a sort or a legal bonding, they must call it anything but marriage," Tveit added.

The resolution states, among other things, that "Obergefell v. Hodges invokes a definition of liberty the framers of the United States Constitution would not have recognized" and that "the judicial branch of government is authorized to interpret the law but it does not have the authority to legislate from the bench to enact policy decisions."



CAPITOL

"It's a message to the world that in North Dakota, if you are like me, you are not welcome here," Foss said. "If you don't conform to the ideas that we have about creating a family, you are not welcome here. That's not North Dakota nice. That's not even Christian-like."

"I don't come into your church, into your home, and force you to relabel your relationship just because I don't agree with it," added Foss, who married his partner a year ago.

Some House Republicans voted against the resolution — the chamber has 83 Republicans to 11 Democrats — and Foss said he was grateful for the support of some GOPers.

Marriage equality received some protection from negative Supreme Court action when President Joe Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law in December 2022. The act writes the rights to same-sex marriage and interracial marriage into federal law, assuring that the U.S. government will recognize these marriages and that all states will recognize those performed in other states. It forbids anyone acting under a state law to discriminate based on the gender or race of a married couple. However, it does not require any state to allow same-sex marriages to be performed.

Supreme Court Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas have said they would like to see Obergefell overturned. When the conservative Supreme Court majority created by Donald Trump overturned the national right to abortion in 2022, Thomas wrote in his concurring opinion at the time that the court should also revisit and overrule decisions that prevent state restrictions on contraception, marriage equality, sodomy, and other private consensual sex acts, calling the rulings "demonstrably erroneous."

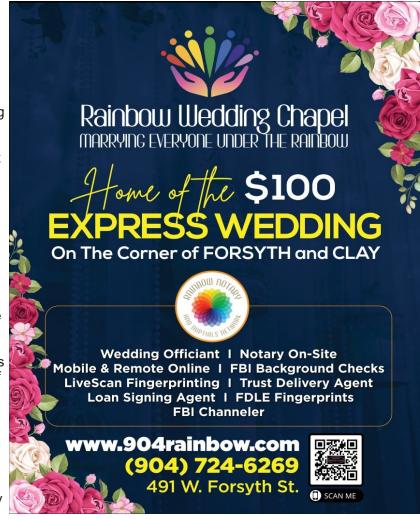
While Alito, who wrote the Dobbs ruling, said it was not intended to affect marriage rights, he too has called for the overturning of the marriage equality decision. Trump appointee Amy Coney Barrett has suggested that the definition of marriage should be left to individual states. Chief Justice John Roberts dissented from the majority inObergefell. And the court's other two conservatives. Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, both Trump appointees, would likely

join the others in ruling against marriage equality.

Kim Davis, as clerk of Rowan County, Ky., shut down all marriage license operations at her office shortly after the high court's marriage equality ruling in 2015 rather than issue licenses to same-sex couples. She cited religious objections to same-sex marriage. She was briefly jailed for contempt of court because she wouldn't obey a judge's order to issue licenses without discrimination.

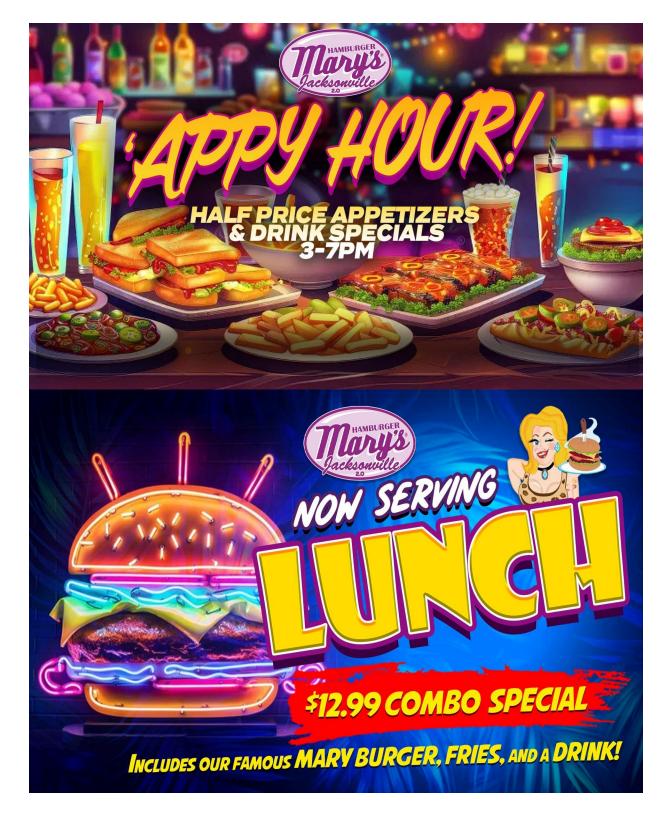
Eventually, a deputy agreed to serve same-sex couples, and then Kentucky enacted a policy taking clerks' names off the licenses.

Davis has been in court appealing a ruling that ordered her to pay damages to a male couple denied a license. She and her attorney Mat Staver of the anti-LGBTQ+ Liberty Counsel have said their ultimate goal is to overturn Obergefell.











EDC Las Vegas Making History With Iconic 2025 Lineup

By Greg Wilkerson

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EDC Las Vegas can't come soon enough!

The renowned Insomniac music festival is hitting its 29 anniversary under the electric sky and pulling out all of the stops to make it one of the best years yet.

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Insomniac also promises new additions and enhanced experiences for this year's festival, so if ravers think they've seen everything EDC



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Las Vegas can offer, think again.

Let's countdown to all of the fun by checking out this year's impressive lineup below. Tickets may have sold out, but to join the wait list and get all of the info on EDC Las Vegas 2025, visit the official www.LaxVegas.ElectricDaisyCarnival.com





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