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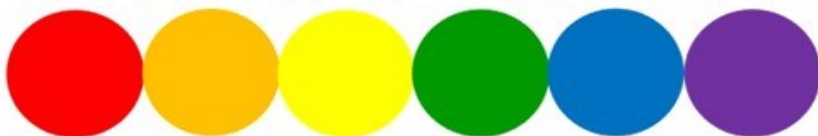
Thailand's King Signs **Marriage Equality Law**

Trump Accused Of Selling **'Policy'** For Campaign Cash

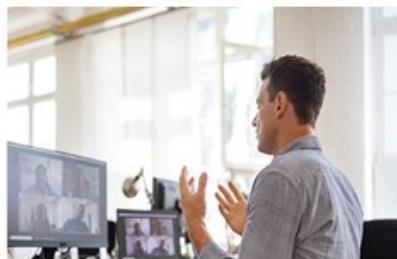
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Jax Gay Inc. is a Community Marketing and Events organization incorporating Jax Gay Magazine, Rainbow Events, and Drag Queen Aholic.

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

Jax Gay Inc. also plans to launch our Jax Event Center & LGBTQ+ Art Gallery in Fall of 2023.

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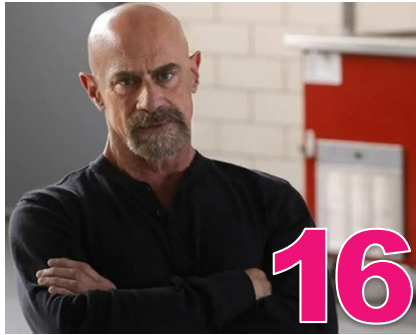
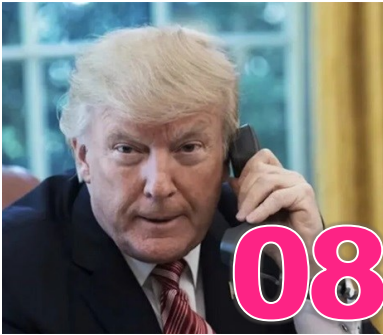
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'Tammy Faye'
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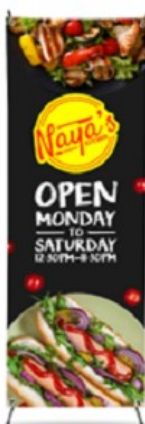
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News & Politics

Trump Accused Of Selling 'Policy' For Campaign Cash

By Kathy Jenkins



If he's elected to a second term, former President Donald Trump may have the most blatantly transactional administration in modern history, according to new reporting.

The New York Times recently did a deep-dive on all of the policy positions Trump has flipped on in an effort to court more campaign cash. In their investigation, the Times' Shane Goldmacher, Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan found several areas in which the former president bent his own views to fit the preferences of wealthy donors he was courting.

"[Trump] is sometimes making overt promises about what he will do once he's in office, a level of explicitness toward individual industries and a handful of billionaires that has rarely been seen in modern presidential politics," they wrote.

One major area where the former president has flip-flopped in favor of donors is cryptocurrency. The Times noted that he previously called crypto a "scam against the dollar" that's only good for

enabling criminal activity. But he has since changed his tune, promising to be a "crypto president" while pitching himself to tech industry titans at San Francisco fundraisers. CNBC reported that a pro-Trump PAC has received the equivalent of more than \$7 million USD in cryptocurrency donations since June.

"Former President Trump has a 'For Sale' sign around his neck and appears to be willing to sell basically any policy in exchange for campaign contributions," Dennis Kelleher, president of the pro-regulation nonprofit Better Markets, told the Times.

Despite Trump's public stances against smoking, the tobacco industry has thrown its weight behind his candidacy. According to the Times, a subsidiary of tobacco conglomerate Reynolds American — RAI Services Company — has given roughly \$8.5 million to the ex-president's main super PAC. President Joe Biden's administration has sought to ban menthol cigarettes, though Trump has yet to explicitly come out against the proposed ban. He has, however, become warmer to the concept of

legalized recreational marijuana.

In his new adopted home state of Florida, voters are weighing a ballot measure that would allow for the regulated sale of recreational cannabis in the Sunshine State. Trump was anti-legalization in 2015, though he's since endorsed the Florida measure.

The Times further reported that the ex-president has changed his tune on the social media app TikTok while soliciting donations from one of its top investors. Billionaire Jeff Yass, who is a major investor in TikTok parent company ByteDance, has long been a supporter of Republican causes in his home state of Pennsylvania. He has not yet disclosed any donations to Trump, though he has given roughly \$6 million to two Republican-aligned super PACs supporting the GOP's down-ballot candidates.

Trump has made the accommodating of wealthy donors and billion-dollar industries a central theme of his 2024 candidacy. this spring, he hosted an event with oil executives and lobbyists at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida,

offering them a slew of favorable policies in exchange for \$1 billion in campaign

donations. Politico reported that industry titans have a ready-made list of executive

orders for Trump to sign once he takes office, should he win the election in 10 days.

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OUT & HEALTH

Mifepristone Could Also Extend Lifespan, Scientists Say

By Adam Kelly

New research from biologists at the University of Southern California Dornsife College reveals that mifepristone, a drug best known for its use for ending early pregnancies, might also extend lifespan.

The findings could pave the way for anti-aging treatments.

Mifepristone, which is also used to treat Cushing's disease & certain cancers, has caught the attention of scientists exploring ways to promote longer, healthier lives.

Increasing Lifespan

In a study involving fruit flies, John Tower, a professor sciences at USC Dornsife, compared the effects of mifepristone to rapamycin, a drug that has demonstrated the to increase the lifespan of various animals.

The study, showed that both drugs independently extended the lifespan of fruit flies.

Combining the two drugs does not offer additional benefits and a slightly reduced lifespan, suggesting they act through the same biological pathway.

Researchers focused on mitophagy to understand how mifepristone and rapamycin might extend lifespan.

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Mitophagy is like a cellular "cleanup" process in which damaged or dysfunctional mitochondria — the cell's energy producers — are broken down and recycled. Impaired mitophagy has been linked to aging & age-related diseases, while increased mitophagy is believed to be a factor in rapamycin's life-extending effects.

First-Of-Its-Kind Study

For the first time, the researchers could noninvasively measure mitophagy in fruit flies. They found that mifepristone increased mitophagy to the same extent as rapamycin.

"The noninvasive in vivo mitophagy assay is novel, and our findings suggest that enhancing mitochondrial health could be central to how both drugs extend lifespan," Tower said.

The fact that mifepristone — a drug already approved for various medical uses — can boost mitophagy points to its potential as an anti-aging treatment, added Tower, whose previous research has shown anti-aging benefits. Because it is already approved, repurposing mifepristone for anti-aging clinical trials could

be faster, potentially accelerate the development of new longevity therapies.

Future research must determine whether the effects observed in fruit flies can be replicated in humans, said Tower.

If so, mifepristone might provide a relatively accessible and safe way to reduce age-related cellular decline, paving the way for other therapies that enhance mitochondrial health to support longevity.

Mifepristone

Mifepristone is a drug that blocks a hormone called progesterone that is needed for a pregnancy to continue.

Mifepristone, when used together with another medicine called misoprostol, is used to end a pregnancy through 10 weeks gestation.

The FDA first approved Mifeprex (mifepristone) in Sept 2000 for medical termination of pregnancy through seven weeks gestation, and this was extended to ten weeks gestation in 2016.

Recently, scientists found that the widely available cheap diabetes drug Metformin can also extend life.



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Science & Technology

EV 'Unlimited' Range, Battery Energy Increased As It Travels More

By Drew Snyder



A significant advancement has taken place in the EV landscape with a modified electric car. Demonstrated in Latina, Italy, the energy density of the vehicle's battery reportedly increased as it traveled for six hours.

The demonstration consisted of two models of the Renault Twizy 80. One of the models that was fitted with an E-Cat power generation system showcased stunning performance.

The modified car's battery had energy density of 62%, which increased to 83% following a continuous six-hour run.

E-Cat Power Generation System Offers Unique Solution

The E-Cat power generation system fitted in the car is developed by Leonardo Corporation.

The company claims that E-Cat technology can charge the battery of an electric vehicle continuously while it is driving. E-Cat Power provides 24/7 continuous, unlimited and

sustainable electricity without generating emissions or requiring fuel.

The superior power-density and modular, autonomous functionality allows for electricity generation directly at the point of need, including in mobile applications, according to the company.

Both Evs Were Tested At The Racetrack

The vehicles were tested at the racetrack Circuito Internazionale di Latina late last month.

Prior to the test, the state of charge of each of the cars' batteries was taken. The unmodified car had a battery charge of 96 per cent. The car with the E-Cat on board started with a charge of 62.18 percent.

After 2 hours and 20 minutes, the unmodified car stopped moving, due to its battery being fully depleted after covering a distance of 45 miles.

While the E-Cat powered car continued to drive until 5:07 pm when it was determined that the test was concluded. The modified car covered the

distance of 124 miles and energy density of its battery increased to 83%, which was 33 per cent higher than when the test began.

Demonstration Was Verified By Independent Expert

The test was verified by independent expert Maico Marzocchi, a specialist in electronic engineering. The E-Cat used in this test was installed by Marzocchi in his own Renault Twizy EV.

"I am very pleased with the results of our presentation. Our goal was to show that E-Cat technology is a practical source of energy that can be useful to the world," said Andrea Rossi, CEO of Leonardo Corporation.

"We have demonstrated with the E-Cat prototype we used that we are able to generate enough electricity directly from an E-Cat assembly not only to maintain a charge in a battery, but also to increase it over time."

E-Cat Harnesses Electricity From Vacuum Energy Of Zero-Point Energy Field

The company stated that an

E-Cat Power generator utilizes a unique component which they call the SKL NGU Power Cell. "Think of it like a solar cell, but instead of sunlight, this cell harnesses electricity from the vacuum energy of the Zero-point energy field, the abundant energy source available throughout the universe. NGU (Never Give Up) denotes our meticulous efforts behind this invention."

The company maintains that one NGU Power Cell (only 60 mm in diameter) can continuously generate 10W of DC electricity – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for more than 10 years and without relying on fuel, weather conditions, or any external connection.

"Just like with solar cells and solar panels, multiple NGU

Power Cells can be combined into NGU Power Generators with capacities from watts to megawatts. And as with solar panels, the DC power from NGU generators can be converted to AC power using commercial inverters," said the company.

E-Cat Power Suitable For All Kinds Of Applications

With low initial costs, no fuel expenses, and a long lifespan, E-Cat Power is claimed to offer a competitive total cost of the generated electricity.

E-Cat electricity generator cells are available in sizes of 10 and 100 watts. Any number of E-Cats can be combined to reach the desired level of power.

The company claims that E-Cat Power is suitable for all kinds of

applications in homes, businesses and industry, such as lighting, heating, cooling, and powering all kinds of electronic devices and appliances.

Months ago, the company had clarified that any NGU Power Generator, made by assembled 10 W NGU Power Cells, can be used to generate constant, electrical power, without any input and while in motion.

"This opens for EVs with unlimited range and a future where transportation finally moves away from fossil fuels. The NGU Power Generator was same time demonstrated as ready to enter the mainstream as a universal, flexible generator of clean electricity," said the company earlier.

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ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

'Law & Order: Organized Crime' Moving To Peacock

By James Donnavon



As Law & Order: Organized Crime prepares to move to Peacock, the show's cast is expanding. Variety reports that Olivia Thirlby has joined the procedural's upcoming fifth season in a recurring role. Details on her role are being kept under wraps, however. This marks the latest casting news for the series since it was announced Organized Crime was to move from NBC to Peacock for Season 5. Breaking Bad alum Dean Norris was previously bumped up to series regular after recurring last season as Elliot's brother, Randall.

Organized Crime will mark Thirlby's first TV role since starring on the short-lived FX on Hulu series Y: The Last Man in 2021. She previously had a main role on the MTV adult animated series Good Vibes and the first season of the Prime series Goliath. 2023 was

a busy year for Thirlby, film-wise, appearing in Oppenheimer, Dumb Money, and Lousy Carter. Other credits include United 93, Juno, No Strings Attached, The Darkest Hour, The Stanford Prison Experiment, and The L Word: Generation Q, among others.

Starring Christopher Meloni, Law & Order: Organized Crime premiered in April 2021 on NBC. Centering on Meloni's beloved Detective Elliot Stabler from Law & Order: SVU, who joins the NYPD's Organized Crime Task Force, the series also stars Danielle Moné Truitt, Ainsley Seiger, and Rick Gonzalez. After some speculation, it was announced in May that Organized Crime would be moving to Peacock for Season 5. While the show won't be joining Law & Order and SVU on NBC this season, Mariska Hargitay still has ideas to bring Olivia and Elliot

together for the Bensler fans.

As of now, not too much information has been released about the fifth season, including Olivia Thirlby's character and when it will premiere. It's likely Organized Crime will return sometime in 2025, but fans will have to wait a little bit longer since release schedules are different on streaming. At the very least, it should be fun to see longer episodes for Season 5, meaning a lot more packed into one episode that could be around an hour long rather than the usual 42-44 minutes.

There will be a lot to look forward to when Law & Order: Organized Crime eventually premieres Season 5 on Peacock. More information should arrive soon, but fans can always watch the first four seasons on Peacock to prepare for the upcoming fifth season.

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OUT & HEALTH

Shawn Mendes On His Sexuality 'I'm Figuring It Out'

By Debi Paxton

Shawn Mendes is, once again, tackling the ongoing, years-long rumors about his sexuality head on.

During a recent concert performance on Monday night at Colorado's Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre, the 26-year-old singer-songwriter took a moment to explicitly address the pervasive speculation about his sexuality — and whether or not he is actually straight.

"I was really young when I started. I was 15 years old," Mendes told the crowd at one point during his show, according to video from the event captured and shared by TikTok user @lewisiana. "I went right into working a lot and traveling, and it was the most beautiful thing, but the truth is that I didn't get to do a lot of 15-year-old things and discover parts of myself that you do at 15."

Mendes continued:

"Since I was really young, there's been this thing about my sexuality, and people have been talking about it for so long. I think it's kind of silly because I think sexuality is such a beautifully complex

thing, and it's so hard to just put into boxes. It always felt like such an intrusion on something very personal to me. Something that I was figuring out in myself, something that I had yet to discover and still have yet to discover."

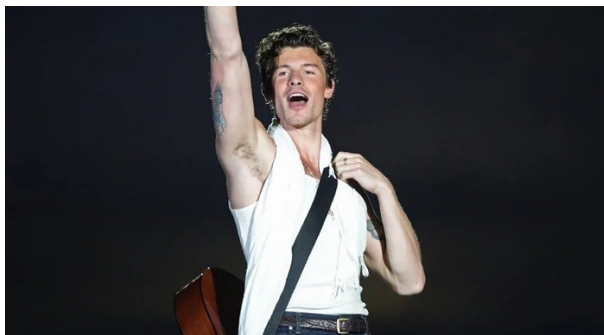
While this is far from the first time Mendes has addressed rumors and gossip (he has talked about them in 2016, 2018, and in 2019), this time feels distinctively different in that his recent speech is probably the most intimate he's ever gone when talking about his sexuality, saying he has "yet to discover" parts about his identity he still hasn't discovered yet.

And just earlier this month, during another concert performance (this time in Woodstock, New York), Mendes sang about people questioning if he "likes girls or boys" in his new song "The Mountain," which is set to be released as part of his upcoming fifth studio album Shawn.

"Some days/I have a change of heart/You can say what you need to say/You can say I'm too young/You can say I'm too old/You can say I like girls or

boys, whatever fits your mold," he croons on the track.

"I guess I'm just speaking freely now because I just want to be closer to everyone and just kind of be in my truth. The real truth about my life and my sexuality is that I'm just figuring it out like everyone," Mendes can be heard saying later on during his speech. "I don't really know sometimes, and I know other times. It feels really scary because we live in a society that has a lot to say about that, and I'm trying to be really brave and just allow myself to be a human and feel things. And that's all I really want to say about that for now."



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JaxGayMag

Life and Style

Is It Still Safe To Come Out At Work?

By Erin Uritus



My experience coming out at work was complicated, to say the least. When I first began dating women in my 20s, my coworkers assumed I was a lesbian — and I didn't correct them. It was only much later that I proudly and publicly claimed the identities bisexual and pansexual, terms I initially feared would be too difficult for others to understand. Was it challenging? Yes. Was it worth it? Absolutely.

Today, on National Coming Out Day, I'm thinking about all the LGBTQ+ employees standing where I once did.

Many of them are watching closely as diversity, equity, and inclusion programs come under attack and questioning whether it's still worth it to come out at work. Unfortunately, I can't blame them. Over the past year, right-wing extremists like Robby Starbuck have been on a mission to turn DEI from a business no-brainer into a dangerous boogymon. Several high-profile corporations have fallen prey to his tactics, publicly stepping away from their DEI initiatives and distancing themselves from the LGBTQ+ community.

But the truth is the backlash

has not shaken the bedrock. Most corporate leaders remain firmly committed to building businesses where LGBTQ+ employees belong. I've been in boardrooms and on calls with corporate leaders, and no one is questioning that LGBTQ+ employees are an important, valuable part of the workforce. I don't know of a single major company that has rescinded its antidiscrimination policies or protections for sexual orientation and identity.

Still, given the current context, corporate leaders must make their commitment to LGBTQ+ employees clear.

These employees are making their own cost-benefit calculations about whether it is safe to be out at work. In a recent survey, 94 percent of respondents felt LGBTQ+ equality has worsened in the last year, and employees are watching closely to see how their companies are responding to the onslaught of attacks on LGBTQ+ rights. As one respondent put it, "I used to be 'loud and proud' but have dialed back due to the general social climate, especially in my state."

LGBTQ+ employees might be wondering whether their

company will be the next to be sucked in by Starbuck. And in the absence of clear, affirmative support from their leaders, they might conclude that coming out is just not worth the potential personal cost. Worse still, they might even head for the door. So employers need to provide that clear, affirmative support. No matter what salacious headlines are swirling, the message to employees (and potential employees) needs to be: this is a place where you belong.

Make no mistake: This isn't just about making people feel good — this is about doing what's good for business. Inclusive environments correlate with higher retention rates, enhanced collaboration, and breakthrough innovations. In other words, when LGBTQ+ employees feel safe to come out, companies come out on top. And that's why the vast majority of corporate leaders recognize that diversity is far from just a buzzword, it's a competitive edge. They know companies that fail to foster true belonging risk losing out on an enormous, talented workforce — not just today, but tomorrow. The number of adults identifying as LGBTQ+

has reached historic highs, with Gen Z as the queerest generation yet.

Building a sense of belonging will look different for every company. It might mean a bold statement from the CEO reaffirming support for LGBTQ+ employees. It might mean many small, challenging conversations with team members to set the norm that anti-LGBTQ jokes won't be tolerated. Of course, even after all that, not every employee will feel ready to come out — and that's OK. The point is to make it clear that, if and when they want to, it will be worth it.

On the very first National Coming Out Day in 1988, activists sent out a mailer to people all across the country. It said: "No matter how far in the closet or out of the closet you are, you have a NEXT STEP." Corporate leaders today can find inspiration in that message: you don't have to be perfect, but take the next step so that it's easier for your LGBTQ+ employees to take their next step, whatever it may be.

Erin Uritus (she/her) is the CEO of Out & Equal, the premier nonprofit working to advance LGBTQ+ representation, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the workplace.



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A New Musical From Elton John 'Tammy Faye'

By David Vandygriff



When Elton John was on tour in America in the 1970s, there was someone on TV who caught his eye. She was an over-the-top, heavy makeup-wearing performer who wore her heart on her sleeve and yet seemed in on the joke — televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker. You could say game was recognizing game.

John — who back then toured in bedazzled hats, cartoonish outfits and sported enough sequins to choke an elephant — was drawn to a woman with caked-on makeup, an ability to connect with fans and the skill to return after a gut-punch of betrayal.

"She fascinated the hell out of me," John tells Jax Gay Magazine. "I love people who come back from the dead, more or less. She was completely outlawed and banished, and she fought through that because of her goodness and kindness and her belief and her faith. It's an amazing story, Shakespearean in a way."

John has put this Shakespearean heroine's story to song

with the stage musical "Tammy Faye" and the latest iteration lands on Broadway this month, championing what he calls "a gladiator on her own terms."

"She comes from absolute nothing — complete poverty — getting all the fame and the wealth and then losing it all in a world of men," says book writer James Graham. "There is a universality to that story."



Who Was Tammy Faye?

Tammy Faye and Jim Bakker rose to prominence as the husband-and-wife televangelist hosts of TV's Praise the Lord Club from 1974 through 1987. They preached the prosperity gospel, a belief that God

wants his followers to be wealthy and healthy.

The Bakkers were embroiled in a scandal when Jim Bakker was accused of sexual assault and financial fraud involving hush money paid to his alleged victim. After divorcing Bakker in 1992, Tammy Faye would go on to marry Roe Messner, who was himself convicted of bankruptcy fraud in 1996.

The musical has been retooled from a run in London in 2022, with two songs out and two added. The project has the blessing of her second husband, and her son Jay Bakker, has attended rehearsals.



The creative team — John, Graham, director Rupert Gould and lyricist Jake Shears of Scissor Sisters — is largely

British, except for Shears, so they say they were careful coming to America telling the story of an American icon.

"Most of the music is joyous because it's set in the South and it's gospel-orientated," says John. "I consider her to be joyous and so it was quite easy to write the joyous songs. I love that kind of music. I'm basically a born-again Southern person. It just appealed to me."

Audiences will see a woman — two-time Olivier Award-winner Katie Brayben reprises her West End Tammy Faye — surrounded by men, including portrayals of Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Swaggart, Pat Robertson and Marvin Gorman.

"She is the one that no one was really paying attention to. Everyone went, 'Oh, that silly woman with the hair and the eyes.' She's the one who's lasted and now has a musical on Broadway. And I think that's great," says Graham.



Larger Issues On Show

The musical comes at a time when the culture is reconsidering stories of women lost amid crisis, like Sinéad O'Connor, Janet Jackson and Monica Lewinsky. But the look at Tammy Faye is not entirely sympathetic, pointing out that

she turned a blind eye to the vast riches coming into her church.

"We celebrate her values and what she represented and her kookiness and her humor. She got into some stuff as well, though, and we have to hold her accountable for," says Graham. "We have to test her and push her a bit as well, giving her a prosecution and a defense."

This is not the first time the story of Tammy Faye Messner, who died of cancer in 2007 at 65, has been explored. RuPaul narrated the documentary "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," which was turned into a Hollywood movie that snagged Jessica Chastain her first Oscar opposite Andrew Garfield.

John has had smashing success on Broadway — like with "The Lion King," "Aida" and "Billy Elliot: The Musical." He sees a few connections between "Billy Elliot" from 2005 with "Tammy Faye." Both lampoon conservatives — Margaret Thatcher in "Billy Elliot" and evangelicals in "Tammy Faye" — and both examine traditional gender roles amid culture wars.

Graham hopes a younger audience can connect even without having lived through the time when Messner warbled gospel songs on TV or cried so much her mascara dripped down her cheeks.

"Way before reality television and cancel culture and social media, in a way, she and her family were the very first reality TV family," he says. "For a

younger audience, it's also all about how you celebrate your individual idiosyncrasies and your identity and not apologize for them."

In the soulful ballad "Empty Hands" that closes Act 1, Brayben as Tammy Faye sings to her husband: "Here I am/ Trying to stand/With faithless mercy/Empty hands/I want to forgive you/ But I don't think I can/With faithless mercy and empty hands."

Messner gained lasting affection for stepping out of the strict evangelical, anti-gay doctrine of the time to show compassion and empathy with Steve Pieters, a gay minister living with HIV and AIDS.



"What she represented even 30 or 40 years ago was a desire to reach across those divides and nothing about her faith contradicted that," says Graham.

"I think what she represents — that goodness and decency — is something we all, particularly in this election year, need to remind ourselves. We're not divided by these things. That's weaponized by people to divide us."



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Science & Technology

Airbus, Toshiba Partner To Develop Superconducting Tech For Hydrogen Aircraft

By Paige Caviness

Airbus UpNext and Toshiba Energy Systems will collaborate to share expertise in superconducting technologies aimed at developing hydrogen-powered aircraft.

Airbus has been advancing superconducting technologies for high-power electric propulsion for several years, achieving a milestone last year with the successful power-on of a 500 kW integrated cryogenic propulsion system.

The firms believe Hydrogen-powered aircraft hold great potential for achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Superconducting technologies, cooled by liquid hydrogen at -253°C, can enhance the efficiency of electric propulsion systems.

They highlight that cryogenic technology boosts energy transmission, improving aircraft performance and sustainability. Together, they aim to co-develop a two-megawatt superconducting motor.

“Partnering with Toshiba presents a unique opportunity to push beyond the limitations

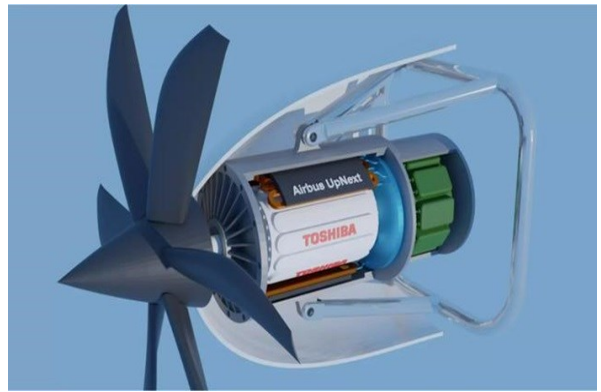
of today's partial superconducting and conventional electrical motors. Through this collaboration, we aim to deliver a breakthrough technology that could unlock new design possibilities, in particular for Airbus' future hydrogen-powered aircraft,” said Grzegorz Ombach, Airbus Senior Vice President and Head of Disruptive R&T, in a statement.

Next-Gen Aircraft

The partnership aims to leverage Toshiba's extensive expertise in superconducting technology for high current flow, precise motor drive technology, and advanced rotating machinery for stable, high-speed operation.

Together, they aim to unlock the potential of superconducting systems in transforming aircraft design, particularly for hydrogen-powered propulsion. By integrating these, they seek to enhance energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and accelerate the aviation industry's shift towards sustainable flight.

Both companies recognize the



critical role superconducting technology will play in driving decarbonization efforts. According to them, the collaboration marks a pivotal step in advancing next-generation aerospace technologies.

In May, Airbus introduced a new technology demonstrator to advance superconducting technologies for electric propulsion in future hydrogen-powered aircraft.

The new demonstrator, Cyroprop, will incorporate and develop a two-megawatt superconducting electric propulsion system.

Developed by Airbus teams in Toulouse, France, and Ottobrunn, Germany, the electric propulsion system will employ liquid hydrogen to cool it using a helium recirculation loop.

ZEROe Project Innovation

Airbus has been experimenting with hydrogen for a while, and by 2035, it hopes to launch the first commercial aircraft fueled by hydrogen worldwide.

The business is working on the ZEROe project to bring the

hydrogen-powered commercial aircraft to market. This project uses two ideas—hydrogen fuel cells and hydrogen combustion—to accomplish the same goal.

In the case of hydrogen combustion, hydrogen is used to power gas turbines using modified fuel injectors and fuel systems, much like it is used to

power modern airplanes.

The second technique, hydrogen fuel cells, produces electrical energy that drives electric motors that rotate a fan or propeller. The propulsion system of an airplane currently in operation is very different from this one, which is all electric.

It is currently developing four hydrogen-powered aircraft ideas. A turbofan can accommodate up to 200 passengers and travel 2,000 nautical miles. The slightly smaller turboprop version can accommodate 100 passengers and cover up to 1,000 nautical miles.

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Community First Credit Union Buys Edgewood Bakery Site

By Robert Washington



Community First Credit Union, one of Florida's largest credit unions, announces it has purchased the vacant retail property and building at 1012 Edgewood Avenue South.

Community First is in the very early stages of analysis related to the property and building, but it plans to serve Murray Hill with a future financial services branch.

The property was listed for sale in the spring of 2024 by Legacy Restaurant Group. It was formerly the Edgewood Bakery from 1947 until it closed in 2016. Community First has not yet determined if it can repurpose or renovate the existing structure. While it is not designated historical, the property has been a significant contributor to the Murray Hill business corridor and its history.

"The Edgewood Bakery building has been a mainstay in the Murray Hill neighborhood since 1947," said Greg Beere, board president of the Murray Hill Preservation Association. "Something special is happening in Murray Hill and this is just another example of how attractive it is to entrepreneurs, small

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businesses and others who serve our community. Community First will play a vital role in Murray Hill's commercial and neighborhood revitalization and quality of life,"

Community First is expanding and improving its branch network, aiming to enhance member service by configuring spaces to create a modern retail experience. Community First locations feature financial service lobbies, drive-thru teller access and 24-hour ATMs.

Designed with Community First's modern branch concept, its new branches have open floor plans, upgraded digital technologies, and a historical mural depicting the history of the locations. Community First has more than 1,300 members who live within about two miles and that number continues to increase with neighborhood growth.

"Community First has a long history of serving our members and being strong community

partners," said Sam Inman, president and CEO of Community First. "We intend for this future Murray Hill location to become an asset to the historic Edgewood Avenue Business Corridor retail strip that has been serving the neighborhood for almost 100 years."

Community First is undertaking its largest historic investment in its branch network with six new branches announced or opened since 2022 when it had 19 locations. The credit union recently announced the opening of its Murabella Branch (Branch 22), the start of construction of its Beachwalk Branch (Branch 23), a property purchase for its Callahan Branch (Branch 24) and property purchase for a Treaty Oaks location in St. Johns (Branch 25). It is also building a new location in Southside Quarter on Gate Parkway to replace its Baymeadows Branch.

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ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

Why T.I. Just Retired From Performing Live

By Jimmy Joshlin



Rapper T.I. is retiring from live performances at the end of the year. Last week, the embattled musician joined Atlanta radio station 96.1 The Beat for an interview where he said the station's year-end Jingle Ball would be his final concert. The 44-year-old said: "I do not need the money anymore, and I will not be performing. I don't want to do it anymore."

T.I. – whose real name is Clifford Joseph Harris Jr. – is slated to headline The Beat's Jingle Ball in Atlanta on Dec. 19, 2024, and he says it will be his "last working gig." The show's co-hosts Sean Ferrari Simmons and BT were shocked by this pronouncement, but Harris continued: "I don't want people to pay me to hop around and sweat for their entertainment anymore." Harris has plenty of other business interests off-stage to keep him busy, but he also has sexual abuse allegations that are still unresolved as far as the public knows.

Harris kicked off his music career as a teenager, selling his own mixtapes out of the trunk of his car. He caught the attention of record executives

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and released his debut studio album I'm Serious in 2001. He had steady success as a solo act over the years that followed, peaking with his 2008 album Paper Trail, which went quadruple-platinum. His most recent album, The L.I.B.R.A., hit the Billboard charts as well.

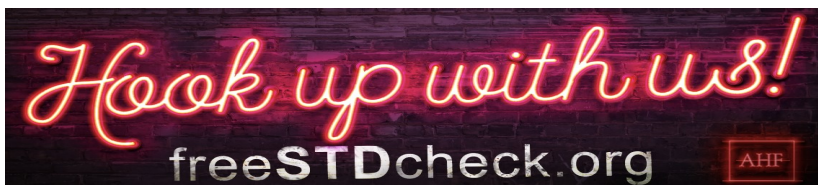
As for his collaborations, Harris was joined on The Beat by fellow rapper Young Dro, who is a part of his group Pimp Squad Click. When asked if he would still perform with the group, Harris said: "Of course. I'm going to answer the phone to tell them that I will not be performing."

Behind the scenes, Harris has had success as a producer and a mentor for other performers, along with his wife Tameka "Tiny" Cottle, who was a member of the group Xscape. They helped Cottle's daughter Zonnique cultivate the group OMG Girlz, which just earned them a major windfall last week. They won a lawsuit against MGA Entertainment, whose "L.O.L. Surprise!

O.M.G." doll line was found to have violated OMG Girlz's intellectual property rights. They were awarded \$71 million.

At the same time, Harris and Cottle have been out of the public eye in recent years while a slew of sexual abuse allegations against them have surfaced. In 2021, over 30 women and at least one man accused the couple of forced drugging, kidnapping, intimidation and sexual assault over the previous two decades. Harris and Cottle denied the allegations, but at least one criminal investigation was opened in Georgia. More recently, a new sexual assault lawsuit was filed against the couple back in January of 2024.

Harris continues to deny any wrongdoing in those cases, and he did not reference them while announcing his retirement from live performances. It's unclear what comes next for the rapper.



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Life and Style

Creative Way To Give Your Cheese Balls A Fall Twist

By Angie Davis



The classic cheese ball is a staple for your fall spread, especially when you're hosting a group (or you're just obsessed with cheese like us). While it's pretty perfect as is, why not give your cheese ball an adorable seasonal twist? A clever way to infuse autumn into your spread is by reshaping cheese balls to resemble an apple, which is simple to do and can make your cheese ball a fall-themed centerpiece.

Start by molding your favorite cheese ball mixture into a ball as usual, then make an impression on top that resembles the dent on the top of an apple. While some creativity comes in handy here, you don't need to be a master sculptor for this trick. Then, use a pretzel or cinnamon stick to recreate an apple stem, and fresh herbs, like basil or sage,

for the leaves. For an added touch, rolling it around in paprika gives it the right apple-red hue while also adding a subtle sweet pepper touch. To complete the whole look, consider presenting your spread on something like this apple-shaped wood cutting board with fall leaf cheese spreader knives for a lovely final touch.

Seasonal Flavors And Pairings For A Fall-Inspired Cheese Ball

Once your cheese balls look ready for the cozy sweater weather, why not amp up the fall theme with seasonal flavors? You can incorporate things like sharp cheddar, pumpkin puree, or roasted butternut squash, while a dash of rosemary, cinnamon, or nutmeg can bring an earthy note to your cheese ball recipe. For more of a fall twist, keep

your apple cheese ball company by adding a pumpkin cheese ball to the spread. Plus, if you're looking for ways to use leftover cranberry sauce, it's perfectly on-theme to add to your cheese ball mixture.

Pairing your fall-inspired cheese balls with the right ingredients will keep everything on theme. Serve them alongside spiced nuts, toasty crostini, or dried fruits like cranberries and figs for a balance of flavors and textures. The apple-shaped cheese ball is a great match for fall foods like crispy apple slices, spiced crackers, and fig jam. Add a drizzle of honey, maple syrup, or balsamic glaze for a sophisticated and sweet finish. Whether it's a casual get-together or a lively holiday party, these creative cheese balls will make sure your spread stands out.

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RPDR Winner Is 'Taking A Little Break' For Mental Health

By Mateo Bennett



"This year has been intense for me in many ways, and I've experienced a lot of burnouts," the RuPaul's Drag Race champion explained. "Society doesn't encourage you about looking after your mental health."

Krystal Versace, the winner of RuPaul's Drag Race UK season 3 — and still the youngest-ever queen to be crowned across the entire Drag Race franchise — shared a new post announcing that she's taking a break from drag. She wrote via Instagram story:

"Just wanted to be transparent with you all on here. I'm taking a little break. This year has been intense for me in many ways and I've experienced a lot of burnouts. Society doesn't encourage you about looking after your mental health. In fact, it encourages the opposite, especially in my industry."

The Drag Race UK champion added, "So without getting into too much detail [at the moment,] I want to be open about Krystal's presence as I'm choosing to work on Luke's. I want to start to LOVE what I do best again so all you beautiful people can love it with me."

"I'm constantly amazed [by] the love I receive from you all, and from all the new people that come across my art, and I'm forever grateful to have people that love what I present as much as I love creating it," the statement concluded. "I will be back in good time when I feel I'm ready to put energy back into Krystal. But, as of now, I just need a little moment to catch my breath. Love you all."

Krystal was crowned the winner of Drag Race UK season 3 — at just 19 years old at the time — after competing against fellow finalists Ella Vaday and Kitty Scott-Claus. Overall, she won two maxi

challenges and only had to lip sync for her life once, against Vanity Milan, right before the grand finale.

Over the course of the season, RuPaul told Krystal that she had been "born to do drag" — an acknowledgement that Mama Ru has repeated in subsequent seasons when referring to other queens. But given that Krystal was the first Drag Race star to hear that from the Queen of Drag herself, this high compliment really stood out within the queendom.

While it's always concerning to read that someone is struggling with their mental health, it's also important for Drag Race fans to respect Krystal's privacy and give her some space at this time.

All seasons of RuPaul's Drag Race UK are available for streaming on WOW Presents Plus.

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News & Politics

Machete-Wielding MAGA Arrested For Intimidating Dem Voters

By Stacey Kennedy

A machete-wielding teenager was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly trying to intimidate two women who were holding signs in support of Vice President Kamala Harris at the Beaches Branch Library in Neptune Beach, Florida.

The Neptune Beach Police Department said that 18-year-old Caleb James Williams tried to intimidate to unidentified women, aged 54 and 71, by brandishing a machete while they stood outside of a polling place.

Local Democratic officials say that Williams was part of "a group of young men waving signs supporting former President Donald Trump" who "confronted a group holding signs promoting Kamala Harris," reports NBC News.

Neptune Beach Police Chief Michael J. Key Jr. backed up the Democrats' assessment of Williams's motivation and said that his group "arrived to protest and antagonize the opposing political side."

Key added that, after an



argument broke out between Trump supporters and Harris supporters, Williams "brandished a machete in an aggressive, threatening posture over his head."

He also said that Williams's group "was there for no other reason but for ill intentions, to cause a disturbance."

Williams now faces charges of aggravated assault and improper exhibition of a weapon, according to Neptune Beach Police.

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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

Thailand's King Signs Marriage Equality Law

By Jeff Kingston



The king of Thailand signed a new law recognizing marriage equality, the government announced in its official Royal Gazette on Tuesday, LeMonde with Agence France-Presse reported. With the royal ascent of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, Thailand became Southeast Asia's first country and only the third country in Asia to recognize marriage equality. The new law will take effect on January 22, 2025.

"To all the love," Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra posted to X Twitter. "Congratulations on everyone's love."

The new law amends the country's civil code and ensures same-sex married couples receive full legal, medical, and financial rights, as well as full inheritance and adoption rights. The new law also amends the civil code to use gender-neutral rather than

binary language.

The law was passed by the country's senate on June 18 by a vote of 130 to 4 and was the signature legislation of former Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin, a vocal supporter of the LGBTQ+ community in Thailand.

"Another important step for Thai society, the marriage equality law has been passed," Thavasin posted to X Twitter, adding "Gender diversity will finally be fully accepted."

Thavasin was removed from office in August by the country's Constitutional Court for appointing a cabinet minister who had been previously arrested for alleged bribery.

Despite its strongly conservative religious and cultural heritage, Thailand has been a welcoming tourist

destination for the LGBTQ+ community.

Local LGBTQ+ advocates hailed the new law legalizing marriage equality.

"The law is a monumental step towards equal rights in Thailand," LGBTQ+ rights advocate Waaddao Chumaporn told AFP.

Chumaporn said she is organizing a mass wedding in the country's capital Bangkok to celebrate the historic event. She said she hopes to attract over a thousand same-sex couples to tie the knot on January 22 of next year.

Thailand joins Nepal and Taiwan as the only countries in Asia recognizing marriage equality when the new law takes effect next year. Taiwan legalized marriage equality in 2019 and Nepal followed in 2023.



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JACKSONVILLE PORCHFEST

JACKSONVILLEPORCHFEST.ORG

NOV
9TH
12-8PM

FREE
ENTRY

HISTORIC
SPRINGFIELD

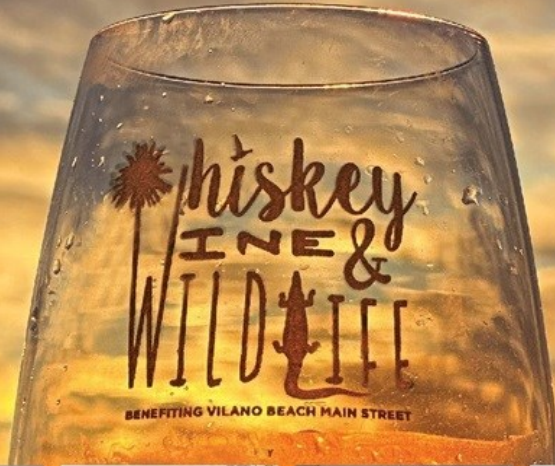
FEATURING:

THE
QUEENS OF TULUA



Walk on the Wild Side!

November 7 - 10, 2024



A Culinary Weekend Like No Other

Enjoy tasting bites from some of Northeast Florida's best restaurants, along with hundreds of wines, beers, and spirits tastings - and Vilano Beach's natural wildlife!

LIMITED TICKETS LEFT AVAILABLE!

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