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WHO WE ARE

Jax Gay Mag LLC is the ONLY LGBT+ Publication in Northeast Florida. With monthly readership of approximately 300,000.

Our mission is to promote North Florida and especially in Jacksonville, as a welcoming LGBT+ destination through marketing and events.

Jax Gay Mag produces many events throughout year. Visit www.JaxGayMag.com for more information.

Jax Gay Mag LLC also plans to launch our Jax Event Center & LGBT+ Art Gallery in Fall of 2026.

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On The Inside

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Jax River City Pride Festival & Parade 2025















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Feds Remove 'T' From LGBT+ Community Threats In National Security Report By David Vandygriff



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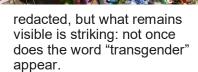
As first reported by investigative journalist Ken Klippenstein, federal threat assessments drafted ahead of Pride Month this year omitted any mention of transgender people, instead referring to the "LGB+ community." Klippenstein, a Washington-based reporter known for exposing government secrecy, obtained the documents through public records requests and published Washington, D.C. That bulletin them on Wednesday. Historically, these assessments motivated by a range of used "LGBTQ+" or "LGBTQIA+." The sudden absence of the "T" is part of a broader project by Republicans to erase transgender people from public recognition.

One of the documents Klippenstein obtained is an 11page Joint Threat Assessment coauthored by multiple New York law enforcement agencies. According to 08 www.JaxGayMag.com

Klippenstein, it warns of potential attacks on Pride events across the country, including New York City, by ideologically motivated offenders. The report sketches out risks ranging from improvised explosives to intimidation campaigns. But throughout, it uses only "LGB+ community," never acknowledging transgender people, even though trans individuals face the highest rates of hate-motivated violence, Klippenstein reports.

The second document, a twopage DHS memo dated May 16. 2025, was circulated to state and local law enforcement one day before the World Pride kickoff in warns that "violent extremists anti-LGB+ grievances probably view upcoming Pride events ... as potential targets for attacks," citing tactics like vehicle rammings, explosives, and suicide drones.

The first page and most of the second outline risks and recommend mitigation steps such as crowd control, police sweeps, barricades, and awareness campaigns. The final quarter of page two is



The omission comes as antitrans violence grows. According to GLAAD's ALERT Desk, between May 2024 and May 2025, there were 932 anti-LGBTQ+ incidents nationwide, averaging 2.5 a day. Over half, 52 percent, or 485 cases, specifically targeted transgender and gendernonconforming people. The report documented 84 injuries and 10 deaths, eight of them people of color. Compared to the previous year, anti-trans incidents rose 14 percent.

Amid the increase in violence, earlier this year, the National Park Service altered the description of the Stonewall National Monument to remove "transgender" and replace "LGBTQ+" with "LGB." The change sparked protests outside the Stonewall Inn, where demonstrators declared, "Stonewall is transgender history," and invoked Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. trans women of color who were central to the 1969 uprising that defined the movement to achieve equal rights for LGBTQ+ people. Lawmakers,

including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, who represents New York, demanded that transgender references be restored.

The intelligence reports align with one of President Donald Trump's earliest executive orders this term. The directive, signed on the first day of Trump's second term, rescinded federal acknowledgment of transgender identities, declaring that the government would recognize only two sexes — male and female — based on "immutable

biological" characteristics at birth. Agencies were instructed to strip references to gender identity from policies, forms, and records.

Sex refers to biological traits, including chromosomes, hormones, and anatomy. Gender is a deeply held social and personal identity, which may or may not align with the sex assigned at birth. All major medical associations affirm the difference, with advocates noting that conflating the two erases transgender people's lived reality and undermines both medical care and civil

rights.

Following the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk in early September, Trump allies began labeling transgender suspects "nihilist violent extremists" — a baseless framing now being circulated by influential Republicans. The administration has erased LGBTQ+ people from other public-facing government websites and documents, including within the Department of Health and Human Services.

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Standford Study: Autism & Epilepsy Share Brain Pathway By Maggie Crawford



Stanford study links reticular thalamic nucleus overactivity to autism in mice, with seizure drugs reversing symptoms.

Researchers at Stanford Medicine have pinpointed a brain region that may drive autism-related behaviors. They report that dialing down its activity reversed symptoms in mice engineered to model autism. The discovery highlights a new target for treatment and shows overlap with epilepsy research.

The study zeroed in on the reticular thalamic nucleus, or RTN, a region that filters sensory information between the thalamus and cortex. This area had not been directly tied to autism before.

Using a mouse model lacking the Cntnap2 gene, scientists recorded heightened activity in the RTN when animals faced stimuli such as light flashes or air puffs. The RTN also spiked during social encounters. In addition, bursts of spontaneous activity triggered seizures.

Mice with this neural overdrive displayed traits often linked to autism. These included repetitive behaviors, heightened sensitivity, reduced social interaction, and increased motor activity. They also had greater seizure susceptibility.

The findings position the RTN as a promising treatment t arget. John Huguenard, professor of neurology and neurological sciences, served as senior author. Lead author Sung-Soo Jang is a postdoctoral scholar in the same department.

Shared pathways with epilepsy

Autism and epilepsy often occur together. Roughly 30% of people with autism also experience epilepsy, compared with 1% of the general population. The connection remains poorly understood, but the new work strengthens the link.

The team tested Z944, an experimental seizure drug. Administering it dampened RTN overactivity and reversed behavioral deficits in the autism mouse model. The results suggest that drugs developed for epilepsy may also hold potential for autism.

Researchers also tried a

method called DREADD-based neuromodulation. This approach genetically alters neurons so that they can be controlled by designer drugs. Using it, scientists suppressed RTN hyperactivity in the mice. Once again, autism-like behaviors eased.

The experiments cut both ways. When researchers ramped up RTN activity in otherwise normal mice, the animals developed autism-like traits. This direct evidence strengthens the case that RTN overactivity drives the behavioral changes.

A new treatment target

Connections between the thalamus and cortex have long been implicated in autism. Until now, the RTN's specific role had remained uncertain. By identifying it as a driver of key behaviors, the Stanford team has opened a new path for intervention.





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Japan's Osmotic Power Plant Turns Saltwater Into Electricity

By Taylor Aswad

Japan has brought its first osmotic power plant online in Fukuoka, marking the world's second such facility and the first in Asia.

The Fukuoka District Waterworks Agency said the plant began operations on August 5 and is expected to produce 880,000 kilowatt-hours a year, power that will be fed to a desalination facility serving the city and neighboring areas.

Describing osmotic power as "a next-generation renewable energy source that is not affected by weather or time of day and emits no carbon dioxide," the agency framed the start-up as a step toward round -the-clock clean electricity.

"I feel overwhelmed that we have been able to put this into practical use. I hope it spreads not just in Japan, but across the world," said Akihiko Tanioka, professor emeritus at the Institute of Science Tokyo, via Kyodo News.

The Fukuoka site is only the second power plant of its type in the world, and is expected to power roughly 220 Japanese households, Dr Ali Altaee of the

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University of Technology Sydney told the Guardian.

The technology's recent momentum follows the world's first commercial-scale installation in Mariager, Denmark, which came online in 2023.

How the Fukuoka plant works

Osmotic power plants harness the same principle as osmosis: water moving from a less concentrated solution to a more concentrated one across a semipermeable membrane. At Fukuoka, electricity is produced from the salinity gradient between two streams placed on either side of a semipermeable membrane.

On one side, there is concentrated seawater created by extracting fresh water; on the other, treated water from a sewage treatment facility. The membrane allows water to pass but blocks impurities. As water naturally moves toward the saltier side, pressure builds and is used to spin a turbine, which then drives a generator.

The Agency emphasizes that this approach avoids the intermittency of wind and solar



Global context and current hurdles

The Fukuoka facility follows the first plant in Denmark (2023). It comes after pilot-scale demonstrations in Norway and South Korea, with research groups also building prototypes in Sydney (UTS), Spain, and Qatar, according to the Guardian. While the idea is simple, scaling has been difficult.

As Prof Sandra Kentish told the Guardian, "While energy is released when the salt water is mixed with fresh water, a lot of energy is lost in pumping the two streams into the power plant and from the frictional loss across the membranes. This means that the net energy that can be gained is small."

She added, "It is also noteworthy that the Japanese plant uses concentrated seawater, the brine left after removal of fresh water in a d esalination plant, as the feed, which increases the difference in salt concentrations and thus the energy available."

From idea to deployment: a brief explainer and what's next

The concept behind osmotic or "blue" energy has been in development for decades. In 1954, R.E. Pattle first theorized the potential to harvest energy

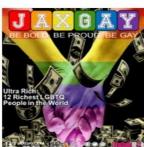
from the mixing of fresh and saltwater. In the 1970s, Professor Sidney Loeb, co-inventor of reverse osmosis desalination, developed the framework for pressureretarded osmosis (PRO) after observing the natural mixing of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea.

One of the major barriers has been membrane cost and efficiency, because large surface areas and high pressures are required, and pressure-related and frictional losses erode net gains.



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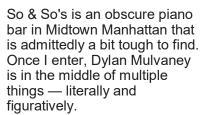
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Dylan Mulvaney Embraces Being A 'Problematic Woman': Off-Broadway

Bv Adam Dawson



Standing on stage, illuminated by five rows of soft-yellow Edison bulbs and flanked by a piano and drum set, she's wearing a pair of light-wash denim jeans and a light-pink crop top that says "Retired Twink" in cursive letters because, as her fans know, she never misses an opportunity to wear pink. She's soon whisked away for an interview that lasts about 20 minutes, and when she returns to the main dining room, which her team has populated with half-drunk iced coffees and water bottles, she asks, "OK, what's next?"

A quick interview for BroadwayWorld's social team, Mulvaney's publicist replies, eliciting an "OK, got it" from the budding stage actor as she takes a sip of water. With her usual ear-to-ear smile and natural charisma, Mulvaney turns on the charm for the



interviewer, who asks her about her "theater hot takes" and then wonders if she's comfortable doing a TikTok set to audio of Cher playing all the parts in West Side Story.

After that's done, she gets pulled to do a few videos with the marketing team from her upcoming off-Broadway show, The Least Problematic Woman in the World, which is set to begin performances this Saturday, September 27. The show, which is making its stateside debut at New York Citv's Lucille Lortel Theater, the original home of Oh, Mary!, first played at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe earlier this summer.

Mulvaney wraps up her last video, but before she's ready to sit down, she decides to change. This time, she opts for a brown pleather jacket, a white spaghetti-strap tank top that has the show's title emblazoned across the chest. and a simple skirt. We both breathe a sigh of relief as she settles into the semicircular booth we're taking over. Just watching her bounce from one promotional opp to the next and throw on a smile that could

mezzanine has been exhausting.



Life after Beergate

In the past year, Mulvaney has prioritized happiness — not just her own, but also everyone's in her orbit. "After Beergate, I hadn't experienced pure joy," she tells me, slightly softening her bubbly tone. "It was so hard to go through that period of being so heavily criticized in the media, not knowing if I'd ever reach that level of happiness again."

Creating The Least Problematic Woman in the World not only made her happy, it also ended up giving her a chance to process an avalanche of emotions. After the first show at the Fringe festival, she started sobbing at curtain call. "I felt it again," she says. "I thought to myself, 'OK, be seen from the last row of the if I can make it through what I

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can make it through what I went through and get to a stage, I think I can always find that level of joy."

The idea for the show came after she commemorated 365 days of girlhood — which she documented on TikTok in her viral "Davs of Girlhood" series — with a celebration in New York in support of the Trevor Project. She knew she wanted to be on stage, and her original idea was a nationwide symphony tour of her performing songs from Golden Age musicals in ball gowns. But that idea ended up being scrapped when she realized how unsafe she felt traveling to and performing in places that may not be accepting of transgender people.

Mulvaney sat on the idea of being on stage for a second and the thought of a onewoman show called Fag Hag came to her. That's when she started pitching the project to producers, who jumped on board despite the fact that she didn't have a script. ("That was a lot of blind faith from a lot of really important people," Mulvaney says.) She ended up starting the writing process for the show three weeks before rehearsals, but when she sat down to put her thoughts on paper, what came up was a lot more than she had expected.

She started writing about growing up in the Catholic Church and experiencing gender dysphoria as a young person, subjects she had thought that she wanted to escape. "I thought the show

was going to be a way to run away from [these things], especially my identity because it had been so 'Scarlet Lettered' by the media," Mulvaney explains. But instead of running away, she leaned in, because she knew she had a few things to get off her chest, especially in a story that is centered around her.

"I knew if people were watching it and they were seeing me have a good time, they would have a good time, and if they saw me get really vulnerable, they might be more willing to get vulnerable," she says, adding that her favorite works of entertainment, like PEN15 and Theater Camp, are "slightly self-indulgent" anyway.



Mulvaney says that one of the biggest themes of The Least Problematic Woman in the World is palatability — especially trans palatability and trying to be interpreted as the most acceptable version of a trans person in 2025.

When she showed it in

Edinburgh, it was a bit less rough around the edges than it is now — not in terms of quality, but in terms of messiness and the darkness of the humor. "It's actually a lot more problematic," the TikTok influencer says, explaining that that comes from her caring less about what people think about her. "I've realized that no matter what I do, for some people, it will still never be enough, whether that's my right to womanhood or my talents."

Mulvaney describes her show as "the pink, dollar store version" of The Picture of Dorian Gray or Operation Mincemeat. Throughout it, she takes on 26 of the 40 roles while showcasing special video appearances from Heartstopper's Joe Locke, Queer Eye's Jonathan Van Ness, and The Traitors' Alan Cumming, who she's been fast friends with since they met at an event in Paris.

"Her warmth and intelligence and humor and resilience completely floored me. I love her so much," Cumming tells Out in an emailed statement, adding that he jumped at the opportunity to take part.

"Not long after we met, she was preparing for the Edinburgh run of her show and I was working in London, so she asked me if I'd come by the rehearsal room and record the voiceover. I was delighted to," he says, explaining that he had no "compunction about saying yes" and would be involved in anything she does.

Mulvaney's natural charm has brought her to millions of screens around the world and helped her collect admirers wherever she goes, especially in show business. It's also the reason she was able to get a few of her famous friends to help write original songs for the show. In the end, she convinced some of the biggest names in music to take part: Mark Sonnenblick, who had a hand in penning the song "Golden" for the Netflix phenomenon KPop Demon Hunters; the Tony-winning duo Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, cocreators of the Broadway hit Six; Ingrid Michaelson, who wrote the music and lyrics for the musical adaptation of The Notebook; and Abigail Barlow, the Grammy-winning songwriter who cowrote music for Disney's Moana 2.

Putting the spotlight on the dolls

While The Least Problematic Woman in the World shares a lot about the inner workings of her mind, Mulvaney says that she's taking a step back from sharing so much about her personal life and her transition. "When you start to overshare online, it becomes an addiction," she says, explaining that she constantly grappled with trying to one-up herself by creating one viral moment after the other.

Especially after Beergate — when a collaboration with Bud Light led to her becoming a scapegoat for conservatives looking to spread anti-trans hate — Mulvaney felt like she had to pull back from putting herself online so much. "I felt like I was forced to, because I knew that if I said something, it could actually hurt the trans community, and I wasn't willing to do that," she says.

Her ultimate goal is to help

create more space for the trans community in theater, because she knows how flawed the industry is and the work that needs to be done. She even has aspirations to build something like Reese Witherspoon's production company, Hello Sunshine, for the dolls that are excited to create something new. But for now, her focus is on making The Least

Problematic Woman in the World the best it can be.

When we finish talking about her dreams for the show and for the future, Mulvaney thanks me for the interview and gets whisked off to a day of rehearsals.

The Least Problematic Woman in the World is playing at the Lucille Lortel Theater. Tickets are on sale now on the show's website.



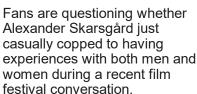








Did Alexander Skarsgård Just Casually Come Out? By Daniel Covington



The True Blood star has been in the middle of promoting his new film, Pillion, about a kinky gay biker (Skarsgård) who strikes up a D/s relationship with a wallflower named Colin (Harry Melling). During a recent appearance at the Zurich Film Festival, he spoke candidly about what drew him to the film and how he approached the role.

"I found that in this case, it's not really relevant what my background is. I mean, I do have a kid, but what I've done in the past, who I've been with. men. women... To me. what was important was that this felt like an opportunity to tell a story about a subculture I hadn't seen portrayed this way with so much authenticity, Skarsgård said, according to Variety.

It didn't take long for people to pounce on the "who I've been with, men, women" portion of what he said and question whether that actually meant he was admitting to having been with both men and women.

Admittedly, the other reading of Skarsgård's statement is that he's saying it doesn't matter if he's been with men or women. rather than that he has been with men and women, but... sometimes in life you have to make a choice, and people are choosing to go with the interpretation that sparks joy.

"He had too much chemistry with literally everyone in True Blood for him to be straight." wrote one X user.

"Yea he BEEN that James Dean/Richard Pryor type sexual," said another. "A man who knows he's that fine is fucking everyone."

"I feel like Alexander Skarsgård is very much a case of 'I'm an actor. Of course I've had gay



sex."

"Well you don't get to be that hot by being straight!!!!"

Adding fuel to the fire, at another point in the conversation. Skarsgård did admit that he has "a little bit of experience from that world" of leather gays and pushed back against the idea that it's in anyway scary or dark. He also said that when he first read the script for Pillion, he was worried it would include some twist where his character secretly has a wife, and was thrilled to discover that wasn't the case.

"We had a joint after party with a Nigerian film where homosexuality is illegal," he added. "It was the first Nigerian film ever to play at Cannes Film Festival, so there were ambassadors and politicians from Nigeria – we had our kinky gay bikers in leather harnesses and Paul in his pup mask. It was pretty beautiful to watch."



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LifesStyle

15 Years After the Rebirth Of Gay Pride In Jacksonville By David Vandygriff

Fifteen years ago, there was a spark in Jacksonville's Rosenberg, former owner that lit the way for the rebirth of Gay Pride in our city.

At the center of it all was Rosenberg, former owner the Metro Entertainment Complex, who acted as a catalyst to bring Pride ba

Yes, the "family scabbles" were always around (LOL), but what truly defined that time was the gathering of leaders, business owners, clergy, nonprofits, entertainers, and volunteers who all came together with one shared belief: we could do anything as a united community.

Every bar owner showed up for every River City Pride weekly meeting. They not only attended, but supported each other's benefits. Drag Queens and Kings donated endless hours to fundraisers. Local clergy, HIV/AIDS organizations, leather groups, musicians, and performers all gave their time and energy. What came out of that collaboration was electric.

Around the same time, I launched Jacksonville's first LGBTQ+ publication in years. Every bar and nightclub backed it, advertising and rallying behind the idea of Pride and Communication. Two rebirths, both feeding each other, both lifting up our community.

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At the center of it all was Jerry Rosenberg, former owner of the Metro Entertainment Complex, who acted as a catalyst to bring Pride back to life. There were no sponsors, no major funding for the 2010 event — just a hat passed around at weekly meetings. And yet, by the end of that first year, River City Pride had more than \$24,000 in reserve. Small business owners and volunteers had made the impossible possible.

The weekly open meetings were key. They gave everyone — every business, group, and individual — a voice. Nobody was left out. Everyone felt included, because they were included. That's how you create true community buy-in.

JASMYN developed the kids' section of Pride. Friends of the Quilt and NFAN brought remembrance for lives lost to HIV/AIDS. Local musicians and performers filled the stage with power and joy. Religious leaders built bridges. Businesses showed support beyond just Pride weekend. Even the zoo had a Pride Night. Carmine's hosted a packed-out Pride Night. Bowling nights, bingo nights, benefit nights — each one added to the feeling of unity.



In those early years, River City Pride operated under NFAN's nonprofit umbrella. Donna Fuchs and NFAN's board deserve deep gratitude for their leadership and support. The JASMYN staff even helped secure liquor licenses during many Pride Celebrations.

And then came the corporate sponsors. Bank of America and AHF (AIDS Healthcare Foundation) were the first to step up — and to this day, they remain committed sponsors. Without their early belief in us, Pride in Jacksonville would not be what it is today.

The story of Pride in Jacksonville is one of collaboration, creativity, resilience, and above all, unity. Fifteen years later, we celebrate not just the parades, floats, and festivals, but the spirit of inclusion and solidarity that made it all possible.



www.WillNotBeErased.com



COVER STORY

Jax River City Pride Festival & Parade 2025 By Sydney Dishon



The JaxRCPride Festival & Cabaret is Jacksonville's premier fall celebration of Pride, bringing together over 10,000 visitors for a day of community, entertainment, and unforgettable moments at Riverside Park in 5 Points, where the energy is high, and the vibes are unbeatable!

□ Festival Marketplace (Noon – 6 PM): Stroll through a vibrant mix of local artists, nonprofits, sponsors, and food vendors, plus a dedicated family zone packed with fun for all ages.

□ Festival Entertainment (1 PM – 8 PM): The stage comes alive with vocalists, dance groups, bands, and incredible local talent—bringing non-stop entertainment throughout the day - rain or shine.

□ Cabaret Show: As the sun sets, the energy turns up with show-stopping performances from national headliners, including music artists and stars from RuPaul's Drag Race, Dragula, and beyond.



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Jax River City Pride has the most talented local entertainers that Northeast Florida has to offer. National Titleholders, Queens, Kings, and Female/Male Illusionists will put on a show like no other.

Cabaret

Jax River City Pride Cabaret, the festival's crown jewel, brings in nationally known performers, speakers, and entertainers from hit shows like RuPaul's Drag Race, NBC The Voice, and America's Got Talent.

Jax River City Pride Parade Route 2025 – March With Pride!

Join us for a journey of love, visibility, and community! Whether you're marching or cheering from the sidelines, you're part of something special. See you there!

Get ready to strut, dance, and celebrate as we take over the streets of Jacksonville! Here's where the magic happens:

- □ Kickoff: Historic Willow Branch Park (Park St. & Cherry St.) – where Jacksonville's first Pride picnic took place in 1978!
- ☐ March down Park St. soak in the energy as we bring the rainbow to Riverside!
- ☐ Turn left onto King St. keep that Pride spirit going strong!
- ☐ Swing right onto Post St.– more room to wave those flags!
- ☐ **Right onto Stockton St.** the crowd keeps growing!
- ☐ **Left onto Park St.** the energy is electric now!
- ☐ **Left onto Post St.** (stay right of the caution light at Five Points almost there!)

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□ Right onto Margaret St. –
 the grand finale is just ahead!
 □ Finish Line: Riverside Park –
 time to celebrate

Have questions? We're happy to help! Email

parade@jaxrcpride.org for more information. Let's make 2025 the best Pride Parade yet!

A huge thank you to everyone who participates, marches, and

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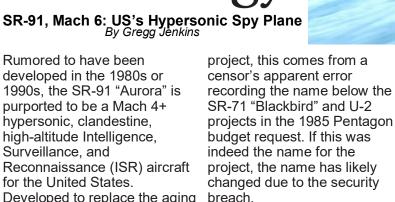


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Science & **Technology**



Beyond tantalizing information like this, other evidence could include direct observations of "Aurora." The most well-known sighting of this aircraft was in August 1989, when oil exploration engineer Chris Gibson spotted a triangular plane over the North Sea.

Additionally, there have been reports of "sky quakes" heard over Los Angeles since the early 1990s. These are believed to be coming from the secret Groom Lake (Area 51) installation in the Nevada desert and could serve as additional evidence of some new high-tech secretive project in development.

Another interesting piece of evidence could be the purported breaking of the official air speed record by the SR-71 "Blackbird" on March 6. 1990. The aircraft was officially retired in the late 1990s in the apparent shift to the preferred use of the U2, spy satellites, and drones. But wait, there is more.

Major defense contractors, like Lockheed Martin, have also hinted at the existence, or active research, of new aircraft faster than the SR-71 as recently as this year. One prime example of the so-called "Darkstar" that was "unveiled" in March of this year. Could this be more direct evidence of the mythical "Aurora?"

As Defense Aviation points out, designing a new aircraft requires immense cost, new facilities, and a blanket of secrecy. The Groom Lake facility has seen massive expansion over recent years with new buildings, longer runways, and other new associated facilities. This is seen as a "red flag" that something major is in the works there. "Aurora" or otherwise.

Other indirect evidence comes from what is "hidden in plane sight" within U.S. budget releases. "This evidence of 20 years of examining budget 'holes,' unexplained sonic booms, plus the Gibson

developed in the 1980s or 1990s, the SR-91 "Aurora" is purported to be a Mach 4+ hypersonic, clandestine, high-altitude Intelligence. Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft for the United States. Developed to replace the aging SR-71 "Blackbird," the "Aurora" is believed by many to have been developed by Lockheed's Skunk Works, now the Lockheed Advanced Development Company, U.S. officials have never officially confirmed or denied its existence.

Is "Aurora" a myth?

However, some interesting snippets of information may. indeed, appear to confirm the existence of the SR-91. One of the few "official ones." as Defense Aviation reports, is a 2006 British Ministry of Defence report that makes mention of the USAF's "priority plans" to produce a Mach 4 to 6" highly supersonic vehicle." However, other than that, there is no direct evidence of the project's true status.

As for the name given to the

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Gibson sighting, helps establish the program's initial existence," explained r enowned aviation writer Bill Sweetman in 2006.

Fact or fiction?

"My investigations continue to

turn up evidence that suggests current activity. For example, having spent years sifting through military budgets, [and] tracking untraceable dollars and code names, I learned how to sort out where money was going. This year, when I looked

at the Air Force operations budget in detail, I found a \$9billion black hole that seems a perfect fit for a project like Aurora," he added.

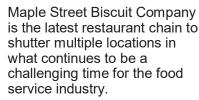
So does the SR-91 "Aurora" exist? Well, let you decide for yourself.

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Cracker Barrel Downsizing Maple Street Chain

By Trina Wilmington



Cracker Barrel, the parent company of the breakfast joint, shared the news in its latest earnings call, which included details about the company's fourth quarter financial results and a full-year fiscal update.

Per the earnings report, Cracker Barrel has plans to close 14 Maple Street Biscuit Company locations as the company looks ahead to the 2026 fiscal year.

The company didn't share a list of the affected locations or a timeline. However, a chart from Cracker Barrel's earnings report revealed that two company-owned locations were closed in the fourth quarter.

The same chart noted that there were 68 company-owned

locations remaining at the end of the fourth quarter.

In a statement to USA Today, Cracker Barrel explained the rationale behind the planned closures, saying, these locations "simply didn't meet our financial expectations."

"We appreciate the continued patronage of the many guests who have dined with Maple Street at these 14 locations over recent years and thank our team members for their passionate dedication to Maple Street," the statement reads.

In 2019, Cracker Barrel acquired Maple Street Biscuit Company for \$36 million. At the time, there were 28 company-owned and five franchised restaurants in seven states.

Cracker Barrel Is Hoping To Move On From Recent Customer Backlash

One topic that was top of mind for investors during the

earnings call? The backlash Cracker Barrel recently received from customers after the company announced plans to remodel its restaurants with a more modern look

When Cracker Barrel also debuted its new logo, which removed the familiar "old timer" that fans loved, many people expressed outrage.

In the end, Cracker Barrel listened to customer feedback and scrapped its remodeling plans and new logo.

Cracker Barrel president and chief executive officer Julie Masino addressed the topic in the call, saying, "We thank our guests for sharing their voices and their passion for Cracker Barrel in recent weeks, and we've listened, switching back to our 'Old Timer' logo, hitting pause on remodels, and placing an even bigger emphasis in the kitchen and other areas that enhance the guest experience."



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The Country's Largest Queer Film Festival Returns By Cindy Griffin

NewFest has unveiled the full slate for the 37th Annual New York LGBTQ+ Film Festival. The hybrid event runs in person from October 9 to 19 at SVA Theatre, The LGBT Community Center, BAM, and Nitehawk Prospect Park, with a virtual program available across the United States from October 9 to 21.

This year's lineup features 130 films representing 29 countries. The program includes new narrative and documentary features, episodic work, legacy screenings, and more than ten shorts blocks.

"Celebrating queer stories is an act of rebellion, one that challenges erasure and insists on visibility," said Executive Director David Hatkoff. "This festival is a space for resistance, celebration, and community."



"This year's wide ranging lineup centers triumphant LGBTQ+ stories and embraces films that defy easy categorization," said Director of Programming Nick McCarthy. "We are excited to engage artists and audiences in conversation around the best in queer cinema."

Spotlight Screenings:

Opening Night: Blue Moon, directed by Richard Linklater, starring Ethan Hawke, Margaret Qualley, Bobby Cannavale, and Andrew Scott.

Closing Night: Christy, directed by David Michôd, starring Sydney Sweeney, Ben Foster, Merritt Wever, Katy O'Brian, and Ethan Embry.

Centerpieces:

Documentary: Come See Me in the Good Light, directed by
Ryan White, about poet Andrea

Shirley
Brown's
Bodies.

Gibson.

U.S.: FUCKTOYS, written and directed by Annapurna Sriram. International: Night Stage, directed by Filipe Matzembacher and Marcio Reolon.

New York: A Deeper Love: The Story of Miss Peppermint, directed by Oriel Pe'er.

Additional Highlights

New York City premiere of Kristen Stewart's directorial debut The Chronology of Water.North American premieres of Dustin Lance Black's documentary Rock Out and Elliot Tuttle's Blue Film.

World premieres include Drew Denny's Second Nature, narrated by Elliot Page, Stephen Winter's Jason and Shirley Revisited, and Alan Brown's Other People's Bodies.





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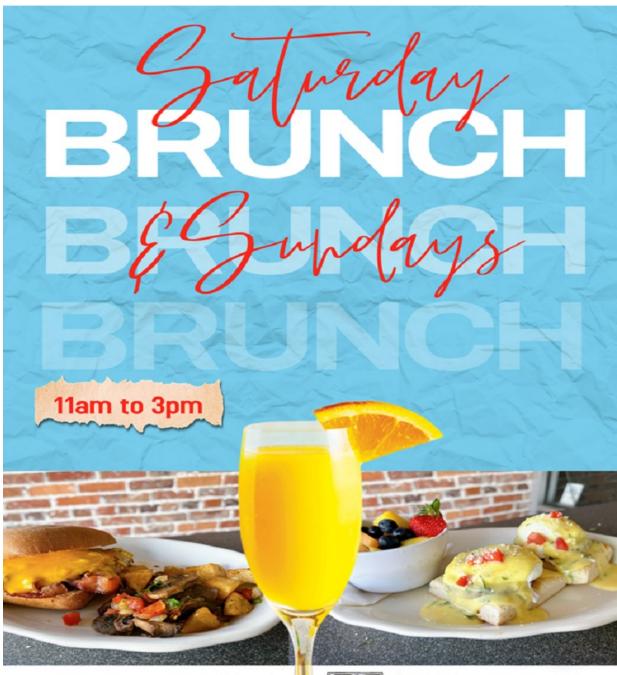












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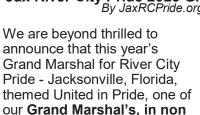


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LifeStyle

Jax River City Pride 2025 Grand Marshalls

By JaxRCPride.org



other than Regina Livingston

(she/her/diva/queen)!

Regina is the dynamic Executive Director of Unspoken and I won't let you all down." Treasure Society (UTS), a grassroots nonprofit she founded in 2018 to uplift and support the #lgbtqia+ community. As a proud BIPOC transgender woman, she has built UTS into a vital force serving Jacksonville, North Central Florida, Atlanta, and beyond—expanding into areas like disability support where queerness and accessibility intersect. Through HIV testing, educational outreach, job placement, housing support, suicide prevention, and more, Regina and UTS embody unity, empowerment, and love in action.

When asked what being Grand Marshal means, Regina shared:

I'm humbled and filled with joy as I feel seen here in Jacksonville, the home base of Unspoken Treasure Society. I truly am beaming with pride being honored with this task.

Jax River City Pride is honored to announce State

Representative Angle Nixon as one of this year's Honorary Grand Marshal for Pride 2025. themed United in Pride!

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Angle is a mother, union organizer, and proven fighter for working families across Florida. In the State House, she has been a bold champion—expanding childcare access, stopping corporate price gouging, and leading the fight against unfair redistricting. Her leadership also extends beyond the legislature: as Executive

Director of Florida for All, Angie helped register tens of thousands of voters and built resources for grassroots campaigns and issue-based organizing statewide.

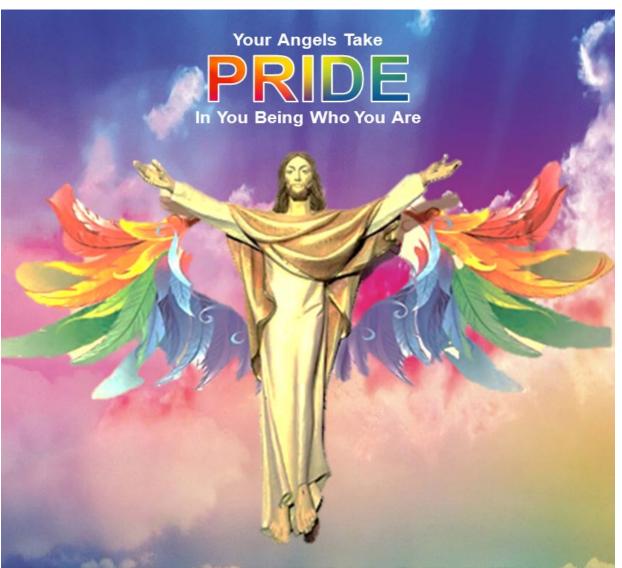
PARADE GRÄND MARHSAL'S

At home in Jacksonville, Angie runs a community-centered bookstore that doubles as a hub for healthy food access and educational opportunities. Her dedication to service is deeply rooted in her own journey—watching her mother work tirelessly to provide, experiencing inequities in education firsthand, and losing her cousin to gun violence. These experiences fuel her relentless fight for equity, opportunity, and justice.

Join Jax River City Pride October 5th as we honor Regina & Angie and celebrate what it means to be United in Pride!

For more information visit JaxRCPride.org





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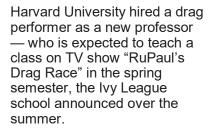
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Harvard Hires Drag Queen Named 'LaWhore Vagistan'

By Maggie Bennett



The institution welcomed Kareem Khubchandani in a July message to the college community and revealed that the visiting professor from Tufts University will teach in the Studies of Gender and Sexuality program thanks to the Harvard Gender and Sexuality Caucus.

Khubchandani is perhaps better known by his stage name, "LaWhore Vagistani" — a persona that the academic has made an integral part of their pedagogy.

The professor will often lecture in the guise of "LaWhore," which has been a personal project for over a decade, even spawning a music video titled "Sari."

an interview with his own drag persona published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2015, Khubchandani spilled the tea on the origin of the offputting stage name.

"My name is LaWhore Vagistan, my preferred pronouns are 'she' or 'aunty.' I chose 'LaWhore' because my family traces its origins to Pakistan: Lahore is an important city in Pakistan, and well, I'm a bit of a w*ore," the drag queen said.

"And Vagistan because I see the subcontinent as one, big, beautiful Vag ... istan," he wrote in the tacky, naval-gazing self-interview.

Khubchandani will teach just two classes over the course of two semesters — "Queer Ethnography" in the fall and "RuPaulitics: Drag, Race, and Desire" in the spring semester, according to Harvard's announcement.

The latter class will apparently focus on the cable television



show "RuPaul's Drag Race."

The Tufts University associate professor of theater, dance, and performance studies has authored the books "Decolonizer Drag" and "Ishstyle: Accenting Gay Indian Nightlife" and is debuting his newest tome this fall — "Lessons in Drag: A Queer Manual for Academics, Artists, and Aunties."

News of Khubchandani's new gig emerged just days after President Trump unfroze \$2.4 billion in federal grants to Harvard after an agreement that the institution would operate a bevy of new trade schools.

"This would be a giant trade school, or a series of trade schools. It would be run by Harvard," the president told reporters in the Oval Office on Tuesday.

Harvard did not respond to a request for comment.









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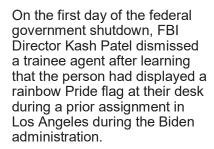
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'Despicable' Kash Patel For Firing FBI Agent Over LGBTQ+ Pride Flag

By Drew Williams



The move, first reported by MSNBC's Carol Leonnig, a multiple Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist with deep law enforcement sourcing, highlights what civil-rights advocates describe as a sweeping campaign by the Trump admin to purge GBTQ+ employees and dismantle decades of inclusion efforts in federal service.

In a letter dated October 1, Patel invoked President rump's claimed Article II powers to fire career personnel without the traditional due process.

Patel informed the trainee: "You are being summarily dismissed from your position as a New Agent Trainee at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and removed from the federal service." The letter, obtained by MSNBC and delivered on the first day of a nationwide government shutdown that had

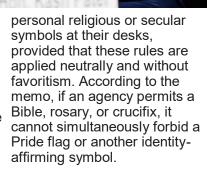
already created job uncertainty across the federal workforce, accused the employee of poor judgment.

"After reviewing the facts and circumstances and considering your probationary status, I have determined that you exercised poor judgment with an inappropriate display of political signage in your work area during your previous assignment in the Los Angeles Field Office," Patel wrote, without directly referencing the flag itself.

The signage referenced in the letter, according to people f amiliar with the case, was a small Pride flag, MSNBC reports.

The dismissal stunned many within the Bureau, particularly because the trainee was a decorated employee who had coordinated diversity programming in a field office and received awards for service, including the Attorney General's Award in 2022.

Patel's justification also appears to conflict with federal workplace rules. In July 2023, the Office of Personnel Management issued guidance reminding agencies that employees may display



"That same protection extends to secular expressions, such as flags representing LGBTQ+ identity, disability awareness, or ethnic heritage," The Mindful Federal Employee blog reported.

The Human Rights Campaign responded to the firing on social media, writing, If true, this is the latest example of Donald Trump, Kash Patel, and the entire administration weaponizing the federal government to silence speech and deny our LGBTQ+ community's existence. Plus, it's illegal."

The group added, "Federal employees do not lose basic 1st Amendment protections. If you can be targeted for your expression, no one is safe."

Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has direct oversight of the FBI, sharply criticized Patel's action "LGBTQ+ should be able to serve their country openly and proudly," Josh Sorbe, spokesperson for Senate **Judiciary Committee** Democrats, stated. "Rather than policing desk displays, Kash Patel should focus on keeping our nation safe. Senate Judiciary Democrats will continue to hold the Trump-Patel FBI accountable as this FBI Director tragically deprofessionalizes and weaponizes the world's strongest law enforcement agency."

Gay California U.S. Rep Takano, Chair of the Congressional Equality Caucus, went further, charging that the firing fits into a broader purge. "Trump and his Administration have been obsessively trying to purge our community from the federal workforce since they took power. This firing is just their next attack," Takano said in a statement. He pointed to agencies rolling back nondiscrimination protections, disbanding LGBTQI+ employee resource groups, & censoring Pride celebrations. "It's not just censorship, they're also firing people for simply being LGBTQI+ or doing work that supports the LGBTQI+ community. These despicable acts are just another example of how commonplace anti-LGBTQI+ discrimination is in this Administration." U.S. Senate Dem Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois, the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, also

condemned the firing.

"President Trump is attacking free speech and trying to quash any expression that he feels threatened by. Director Patel just further confirmed he's willing to do his bidding," Durbin said in a statement provided. "If you're an LGBTQ+ person who wants to help protect our country at the FBI, you should be able to do so openly and with pride. We're all on the same team—America's team."

He added, "Director Patel's tenure has left America less safe, less free, and less secure. I will continue to fight to keep our FBI strong and hold this Admin accountable."

The firing also comes just weeks after Patel faced more than four hours of bruising testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, where Democrats accused him of politicizing the Bureau and carrying out loyalty purges. Lawmakers pressed Patel about a string of high-profile controversies, including his confusing public statements after the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, his management of Jeffrey Epstein-related files, and the ouster of FBI officials tied to investigations involving Trump.

Durbin, the committee's top Democrat, called Patel arguably the most partisan FBI director ever" and accused him of directing a purge of senior officials even before his confirmation. Sen. Booker of New Jersey told Patel he was "not long for [his] job," while California Sen. Adam Schiff, in a heated clash, branded Patel "an internet troll" after Patel called him "a political buffoon."

Despite the withering criticism, Patel insisted his personnel decisions were "based on merit and qualification." But the firing of a trainee over a Pride flag raises new questions about whether those firings are rooted in bias rather than performance.

This week's dismissal did not occur in isolation. AL.com reports that Patel previously fired about 20 agents who had been photographed kneeling during racial-justice protests after the 2020 killing of George Floyd.

The episode also coincides with Patel's move, reported by The Washington Post, to sever the Bureau's decades-long partnership with the Anti-Defamation League. That r elationship, which had included mandatory hate-crimes and Holocaust-education workshops for new agents, was dismantled after Patel denounced the ADL as a "political front."

The last time federal agencies terminated LGBTQ+ people for their identity was during the Lavender Scare of the 1950s, when thousands of government employees lost their jobs simply for being suspected of homosexuality. That campaign of mass firings, which paralleled the Red Scare targeting suspected communists, devastated careers and forced many into secrecy.







Asado Life Restaurant Coming To Jacksonville Shipyards Marina

By James Fienberg



Iguana Investments, Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Khan's development company, announced Sept. 25 that Asado Life, "a live-fire culinary experience," will open in the Shipyards marina support building Downtown.

The building is near the Four Seasons Hotel & Residences and One Shipyards Place, the future Jaguars headquarters building, and a marina all under construction on the Downtown Jacksonville Northbank near EverBank Stadium along the St. John River.

The full-service restaurant is planned for an August 2026 opening.

Asado Life focuses on communal fire-grilling, or asado, and exceptional cuisine highlighting scratch-made ingredients and traditional Argentinian-inspired cooking methods of chef's cuts, sausages, fresh catches and grilled vegetables. The concept will serve as a waterfront destination dining experience with a la carte menus and unique private events which will draw residents and visitors to Downtown Jacksonville.

"I am proud to welcome Asado Life, a restaurant centered around celebrating the centuries-old Argentine tradition of open-flame cooking, to the Shipyards Development. Fire has been rooted in mankind's origins since the beginning of time, and I am eager for guests to enter this vibrant space designed to spark memorable connections while dining along the St. Johns River," said Iguana Investments' CEO and Chief Design Officer Shanna Khan.

The restaurant's culinary team will be led by Executive Chef Matthew Brown and serve lunch and dinner Tuesdays through Sundays. It will accommodate approximately 140 guests with options for inside and outdoor patio seating overlooking the St. Johns River.

This is the second location for Asado Life; its original counterpart in St. Augustine will remain open. The Jacksonville restaurant will offer a more modern, metropolitan vibe to the coastal St. Augustine interior, but the menu and attention to detail will remain the same.

"We are excited to bring our devotion to creating unique and memorable dining experiences to Jacksonville, where Asado Life will introduce our signature live-fire cuisine to the heart of the city's sports and entertainment district," said Nick Carrera, owner of Asado Life. "Just as in St. Augustine, we look forward to welcoming guests around the fire to share the food, the atmosphere, and the sense of community that define who we are."

Asado Life plans to lean into its proximity to EverBank Stadium, Daily's Place and other venues in the Sports & Entertainment Complex by hosting special tailgating events for gamedays and concerts.

The long-anticipated Jacksonville Shipyards project will encompass the Four Seasons Hotel and Private Residences Jacksonville with 170 hotel rooms and 26 residences; a six-story Class-A office building, housing Jaguars' front office headquarters; five public-facing restaurants; Riverwalk; pier; a marina support building; and 78 -boat slip public marina.



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