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Healey Proposes Her Own Social Media Bill

Advocates Remain Wary

By Sue O'Connell
Co-Editor

Gov. Maura Healey unveiled her own youth social media legislation April 15, one week after the Massachusetts House passed what supporters called one of the country's most restrictive youth social media measures, and as LGBTQ+ advocates warned both proposals could put queer young people at risk.

"This isn't a ban," Healey said at a State House news conference. "But it is deactivation." Her bill would require social media platforms to automatically disable features including infinite scrolling, autoplay video, push notifications and algorithm-driven content feeds for users under 18. Users 16 and older could change those default settings themselves; users 15 and younger would require a parent or guardian to do so. The proposal also includes a two-hour daily limit for users under 16.

see **SOCIAL,** *page 4*

LGBTQ+ Immigrant Org Returns Grant After Death Threats, Media Firestorm

By Sue O'Connell
Co-Editor

A Cambridge-based nonprofit that supports LGBTQ+ migrants has returned a $7,500 Boston city grant and shut down a new wellness program after its founder received death threats and threats of being reported to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

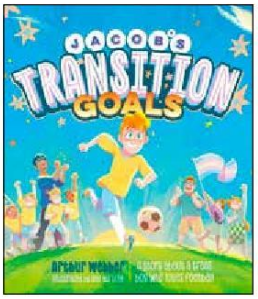
OUTnewcomers, a community-led organization supporting LGBTQ+ asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Greater Boston, launched its "Project Belonging Matters" program in mid-April, advertising small wellness vouchers to help low-income queer and transgender migrants access non-clinical supports including peer counseling, yoga, massage, hair styling, creative arts programming and other wellness services. The program required that all funds be spent within Boston city limits.

The program became a flashpoint after Mass Daily News, a website operated by Mass Daily Media LLC, a Wyoming-registered limited liability company with no named publisher, editor or staff listed on its site, published a story highlighting the vouchers as taxpayer-funded benefits for immigrants receiving services such as "massages and hair salons." The story was later picked up by national outlets including the New York Post

see **OUTNEWCOMERS,** *page 7*

3 New Picture Books Celebrate LGBTQ+ People in Sports

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer



The WNBA's landmark 30th season is about to start; the newer PWHL (Professional Women's Hockey League), is heading into its third-season playoffs; and baseball, soccer, rugby, and other sports are in full swing. Three recent and upcoming picture books happily showcase sports as an integral part of many LGBTQ+ lives.

Why do these books matter? LGBTQ+ children and families often have difficult relationships with sports, whether it's trans kids (particularly trans girls) wanting to play with others of their gender, queer girl athletes being told not to be too masculine, queer boy athletes being taunted for not being masculine enough, nonbinary kids seeking where they belong in the often binary world of sports, or LGBTQ+ parents and our children being ostracized on the field or in the stands. At the same time,

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 2*

dbar Unveils New Mural Ahead of 21st Anniversary on Dot Ave

A new exterior mural by Provincetown artist Joshua Wilmoth now wraps the façade of dbar at 1236 Dorchester Ave. as the longtime LGBTQ bar approaches its 21st anniversary on Dot Ave. Owner Brian Piccini called the piece "a love letter to the community," while Wilmoth said he wanted to bring the bar's energy and joy out onto the street. Photo by Kyle Tildsley.

MASSACHUSETTS PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

ORGANIZED CHRONOLGICALLY

SATURDAY, MAY 2

NORTHAMPTON

Hampshire Pride Parade, Festival & Bar Crawl | 11 AM–2 AM Hampshire Pride | Sheldon Field to Main Street, Northampton Parade 11 AM–12:30 PM; Vendor Festival noon–6 PM; Main Stage 1–6 PM; Drag Stage 2–6 PM; Bar Crawl 6 PM–2 AM. Kicks off New England's Pride season. hampshirepridema.com

THURSDAY–SUNDAY, MAY 28–31

GLOUCESTER/ROCKPORT/ ESSEX/MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

Cape Ann Pride Weekend | Various times Cape Ann Pride Coalition | Various venues, Cape Ann region Multi-day celebration with flag raisings, live music, and community events across the Cape Ann region. capeannpride.org

SUNDAY, MAY 31

BERKSHIRE REGION

Berkshire Pride 5K/Walk Berkshire Pride | Berkshire region Part of Berkshire Pride's 10th Anniversary "Every Day is Pride" season. berkshirepride.org

FRIDAY–SUNDAY, JUNE 5–7

PROVINCETOWN

Provincetown Pride (9th Annual) | Various times Provincetown Business Guild / Provincetown Pride Center | Town Hall & Commercial Street, Provincetown Three-day celebration including Pride Market, Pride Rally, "Sashay to Tea" parade down Commercial Street, Queer Comedy Showcase, Tea Dances at the Boatslip, and Feet Over Front Street 5K. Friday night Pride Ferry from Boston available via Bay State Cruise Co. provincetownbusinessguild.com | ptowntourism.com

see **MASSACHUSETTS PRIDE,** *page 5*

BOSTON PRIDE
FOR THE PEOPLE

Festival & Parade
Saturday, June 6 at 12p.m.
Boston Pride For The People is excited to announce Pride Month celebration in Boston on June 6, 2026. The celebration will include a parade, a festival, and more! Go to bp4tp.org for more information.
SEE LISTING ON PAGE 5

BOSTON PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 16

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH PRIDE

BAGLY | City Hall Plaza, Boston The oldest youth-led, adult-supported LGBTQ+ Youth Pride in the country, featuring a march, festival, resource fair, and live stage show produced by LGBTQ+ youth. Free. Registration at bagly.org/myp. bagly.org/myp

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

PRIDE NIGHT — BOSTON POPS FEATURING ALEX NEWELL

7:30 PM Boston Symphony Orchestra / Boston Gay Men's Chorus | Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston Alex Newell joins the Boston Gay Men's Chorus for the Pops' third annual Pride Night celebration. bso.org

BOSTON DYKE MARCH

6:30 PM Boston Dyke March | Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common, Boston Annual grassroots, non-commercial Dyke March. Mask required. ASL interpreted, wheelchair and stroller accessible. bostondykemarch.com

see **BOSTON PRIDE,** *page 5*

Mombian

Continued from page 1

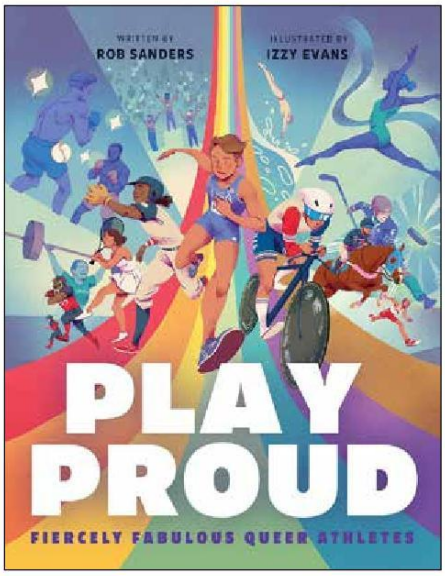
many LGBTQ+ people and our children have found community, strength, and belonging in sports—and these books may help more to do so.

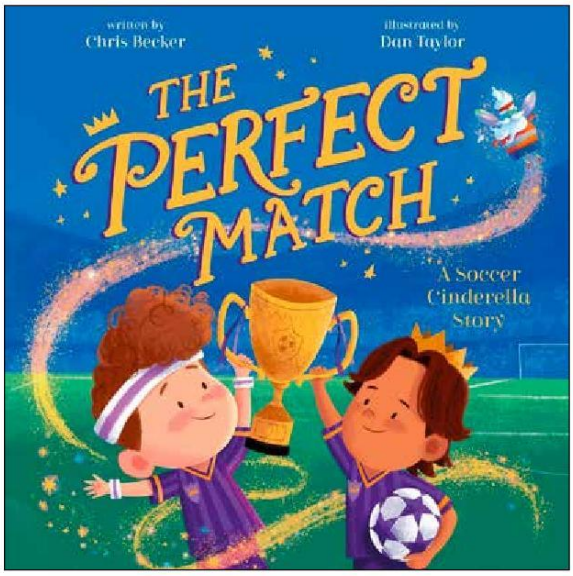
"Jacob's Transition Goals: A Story About a Trans Boy Who Loves Football," by Arthur Webber, illustrated by Hui Qing Ang (Jessica Kingsley): Jacob dreams of playing for his local football team (as the U.K.-based author refers to soccer) and winning the league. He used to play for a girls' team, he tells us, but after he came out as transgender, started playing with the boys.

Jacob then explains to readers what it means to be transgender ("when I was born, doctors said I was a girl, but I realized that I'm a boy"), and how his parents affirmed him and spoke with his coach to gain his support. While the coach was welcoming, though, some of the boys at his school were not. The coach intervened, telling the other boys that they must work together if they want to win. He also had a youth worker from a local LGBTQ+ group meet with them to explain more about being trans. (Importantly, the coach didn't put that burden of explanation on Jacob.)

During the next match, the other boys included Jacob, who even scored a goal! The story closes with Jacob hoping to impress scouts from the local pro team—and a final image shows a grown-up Jacob triumphantly raising the league-winning trophy.

The story has a clear pedagogical purpose and takes a perhaps overly optimistic approach to the coach's acceptance and the teammates' rapid change of heart. It conveys the joy that can be had if trans youth are affirmed and supported, though, and that's an invaluable message. The image of Jacob as a grown-up is powerful, too, showing young trans boys that they can have a bright future. This story isn't just for trans boys, however; cisgender children with trans teammates may also learn important lessons—as may the adults in their lives.





"The Perfect Match," by Chris Becker, illustrated by Dan Taylor (Nosy Crow): Jack loves when his dad tells him the bedtime story about Leo and the royal soccer match. In it, Leo's mean brothers never let him play soccer, but instead make him do all the chores. When an invitation to the Royal Soccer Match arrives, Leo knows he won't be able to attend—until the Hairy Squadfather arrives to magically transform him.

At the match, Leo scores the winning goal for Prince Ollie's team—but exits the pitch before the magic wears off, leaving a silver cleat behind. Prince Ollie searches high and low for his team's star, until he finds Leo, whose foot fits the cleat.

That's Jack's favorite part of the story—and his dads, King Leo and King Ollie, agree! Without that missing cleat, they never would have found each other and become a family. A final scene shows the three of them playing soccer outside their castle.

This isn't the first queer picture book take on Cinderella (see "Cinderella and a Mouse Called Fred," "Cinderelliot: A Scrumptious Fairytale," and "Cinda Meets Ella: A Fairly Queer Tale," among others), but it's a fun new twist on the tale. It's also notable that the villains are not the traditional step-relatives, but simply siblings. Not that bullying by anyone is good, but it's best that step-relatives aren't always the bad folks. It's a recommended book and bound to be a story time winner.

"Play Proud: Fiercely Fabulous Queer Athletes," by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Izzy Evans (Beaming Books): "Every athlete does their best.... Out and proud, their lifelong quest," begins this lively, rhyming ode to queer athletes. From well-known stars like Billie Jean King, Greg Louganis, and Megan Rapinoe, to ones that many readers will encounter here for the first time, like weightlifter Laurel Hubbard, NASCAR racer Zach Herrin, decathlete Tom Waddell, and more, the athletes (and a few managers, coaches, and officials) cover a wide range of sports, eras, and identities.

The book is not, however, a collective biography per se. Each page simply offers a verse about a few connected athletes, such as: "Schuyler swam laps in the pool./Greg and Tom made splashing cool," as bold, dynamic illustrations show them in action. For the picture book age range, this feels like a perfect approach to spark young readers' interest, without overwhelming them with detail. (Backmatter includes additional information for those who want it.) The rhyme and meter keep the narrative moving like an athlete, creating a winning title that both tells us and shows us, "When you're you, there's no defeat."

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents, plus a searchable database of 2,000+ LGBTQ+ family books.

Letters Policy

Bay Windows welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letters should not be more than 200 words.

e-mail: letters.baywindows@gmail.com

HRC targets battleground districts during broader reckoning over LGBTQ+ rights

By Matt Brown
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Human Rights Campaign, one of the nation's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations, is vaulting into the midterms with a $15 million investment targeting Republicans in battleground districts after a series of setbacks in recent years.

"I think that this is the election that's going to be the sea change, not only for getting to a pro-equality majority but for changing the momentum on this fight for equality," said Kelley Robinson, the Washington-based organization's president, in an interview with The Associated Press. "This movement is ready for its next wind, its second wind."

Besides eight congressional districts that could help determine control of the U.S. House, the Human Rights Campaign is also supporting Democratic candidates for the U.S. Senate in Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Ohio and Texas. The money will be spent on advertising, events and canvassers.

The LGBTQ+ movement has been reckoning with a wave of defeats on the campaign trail and in the courtroom that have left Democrats struggling to regain their footing.

President Donald Trump's Republican administration has rolled back protections for transgender people, such as banning them from serving in the military and cutting off gender-affirming care for children. The U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority has upheld Republican states' restrictions while striking down bans on "conversion therapy" practices in Democratic states.

"I believe that our movement made ourselves believe that we were closer to equality than we actually are," Robinson said. "The last few years, we've been doing an incredible amount of listening, of learning, also of repositioning this work."

After the 2024 presidential election, Democrats were divided over the role that LGBTQ+ rights played in their party's losses. The Trump campaign ran a series of advertisements mocking Vice President Kamala Harris for supporting medical gender transitions for incarcerated people and highlighting the issue of transgender people playing on women's sports teams.

"Kamala Harris is for they/them," said a voice-over in one national ad. "President Trump is for you."

Robinson argued that the ad was effective because of an implicit economic message, not for its critiques of the policy toward transgender people. But conservative activists and some moderate Democrats have argued such stances are too unpopular with swing voters.

"There's a real disconnect between most voters and the party elite," said Leor Sapir, a fellow with the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank.

He added, "If I'm a Democrat consultant, my advice would be: Do everything in your power to keep this issue off the public agenda."

Robinson said her organization has been soul-searching on how to best craft winning messages on LGBTQ+ rights.

"Our job is to move away from the fireballs that our opposition wants to talk about and instead find a way to get back to the things that are impacting folks every day," she said.

In January, the Human Rights Campaign published a guide to blunting conservative attacks on LGBTQ+ issues, citing the successful campaigns of Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear.

Although the guide encourages candidates to "lead with your values" and "address concerns directly," it also encourages them to "go big" and quickly pivot to issues like cost-of-living concerns.

"I think the number one way to shut out a voter is to try to make them believe that their fears are not real. So what we coach candidates on doing is listening," Robinson said. "For folks who have questions about the issues, that's OK. We're in a moment where the stakes in front of us are too high to look away."

Follow the AP's coverage of LGBTQ+ issues at https://apnews.com/hub/lgbtq.

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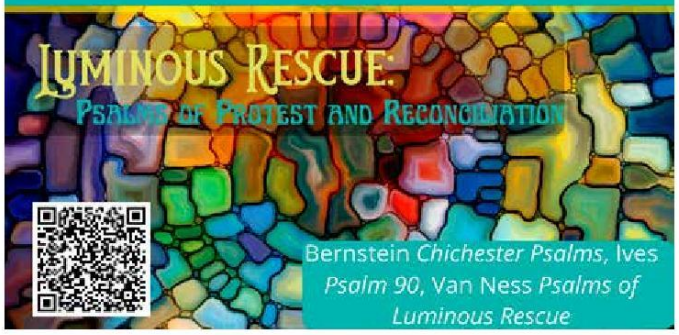

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We are all on Vance's humiliation tour

'Blessed are the peacemakers' was not said by Jane Fonda

by Richard J. Rosendall | rrosendall@starpower.net
contributing writer

Our hapless vice president has nicely illustrated the plight of Republicans who submit to Trump, stumbling dutifully from campaigning for Hungary's Viktor Orbán to disastrous peace negotiations with Iran to lecturing our Augustinian pope on Saint Augustine's "just war" theory.

Given how disastrously the first 15 months of Trump's second term have gone, he is lucky that he picked JD Vance as his running mate and packed his cabinet with people ripe for humiliation, whom he can blame for his incompetent, deranged, whim-driven leadership style.

This is like a dark version of the 1969 movie, "If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium," except it's more like, "If It's Tuesday, It Must Be Time to Bomb Denmark."

It's not that I regard Trump's campaign to wreck our country and our international alliances as harmless fun. It's that virtually the entire Republican Party is too afraid to get off his hell-bound train.

MOST OF US, BOTH HERE AND ABROAD, ARE EXHAUSTED BY TRUMP. AS I WRITE THIS, HIS APPROVAL RATING ON THE ECONOMY IS DOWN TO 30%.

It's gotten so bad that even the fanatical leaders of Iran are starting to look sympathetic. Imagine the fun of working for their propaganda ministry.

Leo XIV, the first American pope, is proving to be far more popular than the president. This, I suspect, is the main problem. Trump cannot stand to be outshone by someone who has made clear he is not afraid of him. Leo happens to be my fellow Villanova alum, and I am the nephew of an Augustinian, but my non-Catholic friends love His Holiness.

One of the funniest things about the situation is Trump's and his minions' tone deafness. When Leo criticized the war on Iran and said "Blessed are the peacemakers," Trump & Co. reacted as if he had quoted Jane Fonda instead of the Sermon on the Mount. Pete Hegseth, at a prayer service in the Pentagon, quoted something written by Quentin Tarantino for "Pulp Fiction" as if it were real Scripture.

Granted, Samuel L. Jackson's delivery was convincing in that movie.

As for FBI Director Kash Patel, let's just say it is better to keep one's mouth shut and be thought a drunken fool than to sue The Atlantic and leave no doubt.

Sometimes I unwind by playing games. There are several animated variations of Monopoly that you can play on your mobile device, created for Hasbro by Marmalade Game Studio. The version set in pre-WWI Paris has a choo-choo train circling the city, but it never stops to let passengers on or off. This could be the basis of a suspense thriller like the 1994 "Speed," in which Sandra Bullock's bus is set to explode if its speed drops below 50 mph.

As the French would say, "Laissez-nous descendre de ce train!"

(You can look that up as I looked up the pronunciation of the street names in that version of Monopoly.)

I honestly don't know how we get off this thing we are stuck on with Trump. It's not as if we can move to a colony on Mars to avoid getting blown up. Besides, I could not bear to leave my beloved city of Washington, so lovely in springtime, for a dusty pile of rocks.

Plenty of people, myself included, have been urging everyone to vote. Never mind that Trump is determined to steal the election, because he can never be wrong and can only lose an election rigged by treasonous Democrats.

Have you noticed, by the way, how he has drained all the force out of words like treason and terrorism by overuse?

Those of us who can afford it have the option of moving overseas, or spending a lot of time traveling. My friends Alan and Will, in addition to their home in DC, now have a place in Bordeaux. I cannot begrudge them their escape, especially since they are big foodies and have included me many times over the years in the multi-course gourmet meals with paired wines they enjoy hosting.

Most of us, both here and abroad, are exhausted by Trump. As I write this, his approval rating on the economy is down to 30%. It may be tempting to note that he is nearly 80 and the Good Lord could call him home any day, but I wouldn't count on it.

Other than reciting the latest appalling headlines—and let's spare ourselves from any more of that today—all we can do other than remember our civic duty is to live our best lives.

That, and try to get control of the blue properties so you can build a hotel on Avenue des Champs-Elysées.

Richard Rosendall is a writer and activist who can be reached at rrosendall@me.com.

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Social

Continued from page 1

Healey called her proposal "complementary" to the House bill, which passed 129-25 on April 8 and would prohibit children under 14 from opening social media accounts entirely, while requiring parental consent for users ages 14 and 15.

LGBTQ+ rights advocates, however, say both proposals could endanger vulnerable youth. Evan Greer, a Boston-based transgender activist and director of the digital rights group Fight for the Future, said the legislation overlooks research showing that social media can serve as a critical support system for queer young people.

"While numerous studies have shown that excessive social media use is harmful to youth mental health, other studies have shown that cutting LGBTQ youth off from social media actually leads to worse mental health outcomes," Greer said in a statement to Boston.com. "The data is quite nuanced, and while it supports action to crack down on predatory business practices, it does not support an outright ban."

Advocates also raised alarms about a parental surveillance provision in the House bill that would allow any parent — or anyone claiming to be a parent — to request a minor child's social media account data, raising concerns about LGBTQ+ teenagers being outed to unsupportive families. The House LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus offered an amendment narrowing that provision, limiting parental requests to age verification data only.

But in a statement issued April 23, Fight for the Future — joined by groups including the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, the ACLU of Massachusetts, the Queer Neighborhood Council and the Transgender Emergency Fund — said the fix created a new concern: it requires companies to store sensitive age verification data, including government IDs or biometric face scans, in case a parent later requests it.

The groups also warned that facial analysis systems frequently fail for transgender people, and that an abusive or estranged parent could still have a queer teenager's account shut down using forged documents.

"The amendment offered by the LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus, while well-intentioned, did not solve the core concerns with H. 5366, and will not protect LGBTQ youth from harm," the coalition said.

House lawmakers added language stating that platforms may not disclose information related to a minor's sexual orientation, gender identity or other protected characteristics without consent. Education Committee Chair Rep. Ken Gordon, a chief backer of the House bill, cited that provision in a Boston Globe op-ed, saying LGBTQ+ concerns had been addressed. Advocates say it does not resolve the underlying risks.

A broad coalition of civil rights and privacy organizations has opposed mandatory age-verification requirements, warning they could expose users to data breaches and compromise anonymity for vulnerable communities. Similar laws in states including Florida and Ohio have faced significant First Amendment challenges in court.

"Massachusetts legislators are actively helping Trump's authoritarian takeover by pushing for legislation that expands censorship and surveillance," Fight for the Future said in its April 23 statement.

Because the Senate previously passed a narrower cellphone-focused measure and has not yet approved broader social media restrictions, lawmakers would need to reconcile major differences before any final legislation reaches Gov. Healey's desk.

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Massachusetts Pride

Continued from page 1

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

HULL

Hull Pride | 3–10 PM Hull Pride | Hull Yacht Club, 5 Fitzpatrick Way, Hull Annual waterfront Pride celebration. Booty Vortex, Boston's funk and disco band, returns as entertainment. Note: same date as Boston Pride Parade. hullpride.net

LENOX

Lenox Pride (Inaugural) Berkshire Pride | Lenox Part of Berkshire Pride's 10th Anniversary "Every Day is Pride" season. berkshirepride.org

NEW BEDFORD

South Coast Pride | Noon–5 PM South Coast LGBTQ+ Network | Buttonwood Park, New Bedford Annual South Coast Pride festival with live entertainment, drag performances, music, food vendors, local artisans, games, and community organizations. sclgbtqnetwork.org

NEWBURYPORT

Newburyport Pride Parade & Festival | Arrive 11 AM, Parade noon Newburyport Pride | Bartlet Mall to downtown, Newburyport Parade departs Bartlet Mall at noon; festival follows in downtown Newburyport. newburyportpride.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

NORTH ADAMS

North Adams Pride Night Berkshire Pride | North Adams Part of Berkshire Pride's 10th Anniversary "Every Day is Pride" season. berkshirepride.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

LEE

Lee Pride (2nd Annual) Berkshire Pride | Downtown Lee — Lee Farmers Market, First Congregational Church, Lee Library, Devonfield Inn, and Starving Artist Café Interfaith Pride Prayer Breakfast, Pride Market at the Lee Farmers Market, a library exhibit, live afternoon concert at the Devonfield Inn, family-friendly Drag Bingo, and an adults-only drag show and dance party at the Starving Artist Café. berkshirepride.org

LOWELL

Greater Lowell Pride | Flag raising noon; Festival 1–4 PM Greater Lowell Health Alliance | City Hall & festival location TBD, Lowell Annual flag raising and full-day festival serving the Greater Lowell region. Moved from June 6 to avoid conflict with Boston Pride. greaterlowellpride.org

TAUNTON

South Coast Pride | Noon–5 PM South Coast LGBTQ+ Network | Hopewell Park, Taunton Annual South Coast Pride festival with live entertainment, drag performances, food vendors, and community organizations. sclgbtqnetwork.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

WALTHAM

Waltham Pride | Noon–4 PM Waltham Pride | Waltham Common, 610 Main St., Waltham Fifth annual festival featuring musical acts, drag performances, speeches, food, and family programming. Note: The City of Waltham's events page lists June 7 — verify at walthampride.org, which lists June 14. walthampride.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

PITTSFIELD

Pride on the Common Parade and Festival (10th Anniversary) Berkshire Pride | Park Square to Pittsfield Common Park, Pittsfield Flagship 10th anniversary event stepping off at Park Square. berkshirepride.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

HOLYOKE

Holyoke Pride Fest | Noon–6 PM Holyoke Pride | Veterans Park, Dwight and Maple Streets, Holyoke Annual outdoor Pride festival, part of a month-long series of events. Date shifted from June 21 (2025) to June 27 this year. holyokepride.org

QUINCY

Quincy Pride | Noon–5 PM Quincy Pride | Pageant Field, 1 Merrymount Pkwy., Quincy Annual South Shore Pride festival. quincypride.com

SALEM

North Shore Pride Parade & Festival | Time TBD North Shore Pride Inc. | Salem Common, Salem Annual parade and festival at Salem Common serving the entire North Shore LGBTQ+ community. northshorepride.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

PLYMOUTH

Plymouth Pride | 11 AM–5 PM Plymouth Pride Inc. | Nelson Park, Plymouth Annual South Shore Pride festival. plymouthprideinc.com

SUNDAY–SUNDAY, JULY 12–19

PROVINCETOWN

Bear Week | Various times Provincetown Bears | Provincetown Annual 8-day Bear community celebration with pool parties, beach outings, dance parties, and more. ptownbears.events

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

WORCESTER

Worcester Pride | Time TBD Queer Coalition of Greater Worcester | 50 Franklin St., Worcester Annual Pride festival coordinated by a collaborative LGBTQ+ community initiative. prideworcester.org

Boston Pride

Continued from page 1

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

BOSTON PRIDE FOR THE PEOPLE — PARADE, FESTIVAL & BLOCK PARTY

11 AM–8 PM Boston Pride for the People | Copley Square to Boston Common, Boston New England's largest Pride event. Parade steps off at 11 AM from Copley Square through the South End and Back Bay to Boston Common. All-ages festival noon–6 PM. Block party 2–8 PM. Free to attend. bostonprideforthepeople.org | info@bp4tp.org

ROAD OF RAINBOWS PRIDE 5K (6TH ANNUAL)

Time TBD Boston Theater Company | Brewer Fountain, Boston Common, Boston Inclusive LGBTQ+ 5K run/walk on Boston Common with post-race performances. Pay-what-you-can, including free. All genders welcome. bostontheater.org/ror | assistant@bostontheater.org

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 6-7

RISE — BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRIDE CONCERT

Sat, June 6 | 8 PM & Sun, June 7 | 3 PM | Boston Gay Men's Chorus | Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (Also Sun, June 14 | 2 PM at Groton Hill Music Center, Groton, MA) High-energy Pride concert honoring resilience, resistance, and radical joy. Featuring music by Pink, Madonna, Bob Dylan, Cyndi Lauper, and Lady Gaga. bgmc.org

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

PRIDE NIGHT AT FENWAY PARK — RED SOX VS. BLUE JAYS

7:10 PM Boston Red Sox / Fenway Health | Fenway Park, 4 Jersey St., Boston Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Night at Fenway. mlb.com/redsox

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billy masters

"I don't know what the f&*k you're saying, hun. Please remember where you are, OK. 'Cause if you're trying to shade me, bitch, I'm gonna come for you. I'm from Brooklyn, and if I want to f&*kin' talk, I will do a tap dance if I f&*kin' want. Sorry. That, of course, is not part of my people skills."

- Cyndi Lauper shuts down a heckler at the opening night of her Las Vegas residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace.

The White House Correspondents Association dinner is always a great weekend for gays in DC to hook up with a politician or a political aide (or, in the worst possible case, a gay journalist). Last weekend, the Capitol was buzzing with homosexual activity — why, the thought of it gave **Lindsey Graham** a case of the vapors! It was so out of control, Grindr had to hire extra data centers just to handle the load (as it were). Rest assured, the gay hookup app made its presence known by hosting a mixer the eve of the main event. It was such a hot ticket, "Vanity Fair" and "USA Today" wrote about it. Everyone was speculating who'd attend. We're told people like **Don Lemon, Kaitlan Collins,** some reality stars and lesser politicos along with a handful of anonymous hotties showed up.

As to the WHCA dinner itself, shots rang out in the lobby as people were settling in. The Secret Service told attendees to duck under their tables (which led to some pretty interesting photos), while **Il Duce, Madame Duce, the Vice Duce,** the head of the WHCA, and **Oz Pearlman** were whisked off the dais into the lobby. This begs the question — what the fuck kinda mentalist are you, Oz? Shortly after the Secret Service pushed **Wolf Blitzer** into a men's room, the suspect was neutralized. Il Duce proclaimed, "The show must go on." The Secret Service disagreed and sent everyone home. Trump promises the event will be rescheduled "in the next 30 days."

Last week, Boston had some presidential presence of its own. **Bill and Hillary Clinton** were in town to see their daughter **Chelsea** running...her first Boston Marathon. She finished 130th with a commendable time of 3:40:52. To protect her privacy, she ran under the name "Margaret Smith" and was accompanied by Secret Service agents.

Margaret Cho made a not-particularly startling revelation — **Donald Trump** tried to get her to compete on "The Celebrity Apprentice". "I was asked several times to be on it, season after season, and they kept saying, 'Well, Donald Trump really loves you. Please come on,' and I just had a bad feeling about it." She didn't completely boycott the show — she showed up during the 2010 season to assist pal **Cyndi Lauper** in a challenge. But, it didn't end there. In 2016, Cho heard from Trump's lawyer, **Michael Cohen**. "He somehow got my email and was really begging me to become part of the campaign. And I'm like 'That's insane.' I'm a lifelong Democrat. Why would I back somebody that I didn't know anything about?"

Kathy Griffin waded into political waters by making a revelation of her own. "I donated $10,000 to the **Eric Swalwell** campaign last November and today Team Swalwell gave me the 10K back!!! I want you guys to know that I turned right around and gave that same $10,000 to **Amy Goodman** and @DemocracyNow. You want legit, tried and true independent, NON CORPORATE journalism, keep up with @democracynow, and Amy Goodman."

The **Michael Jackson** biopic opened to record-breaking box office numbers. "Michael" itself got pretty awful reviews — not that anyone suggested the film is badly acted or directed. The words used were more like "sanitized", "surface-level", "greatest hits". Even **Jaafar Jackson** got off (so to speak) as a capable actor and an even better dancer and performer. But anyone looking for depth or reality about Jackson's life should look elsewhere. You'd also better look elsewhere if you're trying to find **Janet Jackson**. We got the lowdown from **LaToya** (who never met a microphone she didn't like, in one way or another). "I wish everybody was in the movie. [Janet] was asked and she kindly declined so you have to respect her wishes." It should be noted that the Jackson family has a huge financial stake in the flick, and Michael's "son", **Prince Jackson**, is an executive producer. **Paris and Blanket** are not involved. Paris, in particular, has criticized the film as having "a lot of full blown lies". "The film panders to a very specific section of my dad's fandom that still lives in the fantasy. And they're going to be happy with it."

You should know that the film planned to include the child molestation allegations in the final section. However, attorneys for the Jackson estate realized that there was a clause in Michael's settlement with **Jordan Chandler** that "barred the depiction or mention of him in any movie". So that entire storyline was scrapped and the film ends in 1988. There is, however, talk of a sequel.

In a late-breaking diva moment, **Madonna** showed up at The Abbey in WeHo to celebrate owner **Tristan Schukraft's** birthday. She had on one of those outfits worn in competition by **Tara Lipinski** (or was it **Johnny Weir**? I get them confused all the time). "Hello, children, mutha is here to save you," she said from the DJ booth. "Are you ready to dance for me? Come on, meet me on the dance floor. Alright, let's go gays, come on. Don't let me down, gays." Then she sang, danced, served a few drinks, emptied a few ashtrays. You know, the usual.

Here's the diva story that everybody's talking about — **Cher's** secret granddaughter. First, let's clear this up — the kid was no secret. Cher heard about the child that **Kayti Edwards** gave birth to in 2010 and knew there was a good chance it was sired by her son, **Elijah Blue Allman**. Kayti says, "Cher got in touch with me last June and asked if it was true, so I had to confess." Believe it or not, that's not the craziest part. Kayti Edwards' step-grandmother is **Julie Andrews**! So this kid has a great-grandmother who was Mary Poppins and a grandmother that straddled a 16-inch naval gun on the battleship USS Missouri clad in a black leather thong bodysuit! Talk about diversity!

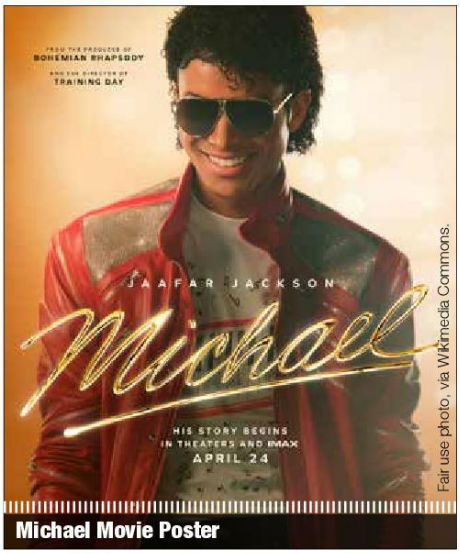
By the way, Cher has once again petitioned the court to place Elijah under a temporary conservatorship. She claims he "has no concept of money" and "is unable to manage his financial resources and is unable to withstand fraud or undue influence" because of his "severe mental health and addiction issues". Elijah's half-brother also told the court that he "is currently a danger to himself and unable to manage his life and any funds that would become available to him." Elijah Blue is also estranged from his wife, **Mariecangela King**, who filed for divorce last April. She was granted $6,500 a month in temporary spousal support along with custody of their 2017 Toyota Prius.

You all know that Cher has famously collaborated with the

see **BILLY MASTERS** *page 7*

Photo by Nick Spanos.

Margaret Cho



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Michael Movie Poster

Photo via of Bruce Bozzi/Instagram.

Walker Halls & Ava Bozzi

Billy Masters

Continued from page 6

great **Diane Warren**. But here's something you probably don't know — Warren once collaborated with **Matt Bomer**! When "Magic Mike XXL" was being put together, there was talk of Bomer's character singing onstage (he does sing "Heaven", from that **Christopher Atkins** stripper movie). There was even talk of him releasing an EP in conjunction with the film. So he recorded a handful of songs — some covers, some originals, and some written by Warren. Ultimately, the project was shelved. "I knew that if I released them into the world, I was gonna have to go on talk shows and do them... and tour around the country with them, and do all this stuff. And I was like, 'You know what? I love her music, but if I'm gonna do this, it has to come from me,' and so we never released it."

This leads perfectly to our "Ask Billy" question. Chris in Maryland writes, *"I saw a photo of Matt Bomer's son going to his prom. He's so gorgeous — just like his dad. What can you tell me about him?"*

We actually don't know who **Walker Halls'** biological father is. It could be Matt or it could be Matt's husband, PR guru Simon Halls. The supposition was always that they were Halls' kids since they took his last name. While they were all born before Halls married Bomer, they were a couple. Either way, these kids have good—looking parents. Little Walker Halls went to his prom with **Ava Bozzi**, who is the adopted daughter of **Bryan Lourd**, who was **Carrie Fisher's** gay ex-husband. She is also the sister of that fun-loving **Billie Lourd**. With family like that, no doubt the high school couple had plenty to talk about! You can check out photos on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm covering high school proms, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since we're dangerously approaching Epstein country (although I think high school was too old for him), let me remind you to check out BillyMasters.com — the site you can even check out from under the table. If you have a question that only I could answer, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before we find out if Wolf ran into Lindsey in that men's room! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

OUTnewcomers

Continued from page 1

and Daily Mail.

OUTnewcomers disputed that characterization, saying the reporting was misleading and took the program out of context. The organization said the initiative was intended as limited, need-based wellness support for vulnerable LGBTQ+ migrants — not unrestricted direct cash payments — and that no funds had been distributed.

"The severity of the threats we have received has made it impossible to continue this program safely," OUTnewcomers founder Sal Khan said in a statement. "Our work has always been rooted in care, dignity, and community support."

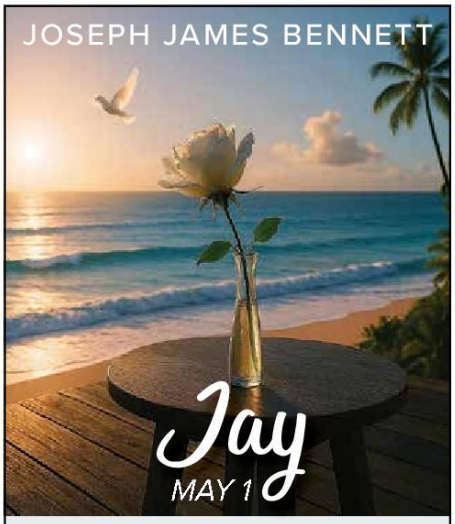
A Boston city spokesperson confirmed to Boston.com that the funds will be returned and that no money had been distributed.

"No funds were distributed for this purpose. The organization is returning the funds to the City. The $7,500 grant was awarded to support mental health programs and services — using it for the voucher program being referenced was never allowed and is not happening," the spokesperson said.

The city's own Weaving Well-Being program page on Boston.gov describes the grant as funding "community-led mental health and well-being programming" and "non-clinical practices" for Boston immigrant residents.

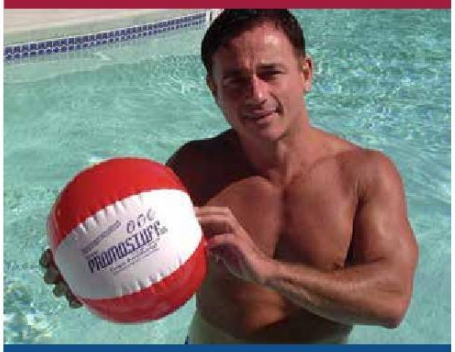
OUTnewcomers, founded by Khan in 2023, was one of 45 organizations selected through the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement's Weaving Well-Being initiative. Khan said the organization will continue operating through private donations.

"This is something greater than myself," Khan told Boston.com. "I've been advocating for people like me since I've been here so that people understand our humanity."



"...And when you speak, angels sing from above; and though I close my eyes, I see La Vie en Rose..."
Remembering you always,
Gary

HOT IDEAS



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