MA voters uphold trans rights law

By BOB SALSBERG, AP

BOSTON (AP) — Massachusetts voters on Tuesday supported a state law that protects transgender people from discrimination in public accommodations, including bathrooms and locker rooms, rejecting efforts by opponents to repeal the 2-year-old law in the first statewide referendum in the U.S. on transgender rights.

Supporters of the law had feared a vote to repeal would prompt a wave of similar efforts to roll back protections in other states. Massachusetts was the first to legalize gay marriage and is viewed as one of the most LGBT-friendly states.

The Yes on 3 campaign described

see TRANS, page 2

Election briefs

Two transgender women elected to N.H. House

by Michael K. Lavers

washington blade

Two openly transgender women were elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives on Tuesday.

Gerri Cannon finished second in the Stafford County District 18, which includes the city of Somersworth, with 21 percent of the vote. Lisa Bunker will represent Rockingham County District 18, which includes the city of Exeter.

Cannon and Bunker will join Virginia state Del. Danica Roem as the only openly trans members of any state legislature in the country once they take office in January.

Statement from HRC

A record number of LGBTQ lawmakers were elected at all levels. Notably, Senator Tammy Baldwin was re-elected to the U.S. Senate. Jared Polis became the first openly gay man to be elected governor in the United States. Oregon Governor Kate Brown, the first LGBTQ governor in history, was re-elected. Shari Backes became the first gay Native American lawmaker in Congress. And a record number of out LGBTQ candidates were elected and re-elected to the U.S. Congress.

Victory Fund Results

The LGBTQ Victory Fund works to change the face and voice of American politics.

Openly Gay Polis wins Colorado gov’s race

By James Anderson

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Democratic U.S. Rep. Jared Polis handily defeated Republican state Treasurer Walker Stapleton in the Colorado governor’s race Tuesday, becoming the first openly gay man to be elected governor in the United States.

Polis will succeed Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper, who is term-limited. He briefly acknowledged his sexual orientation in a victory speech, though he never campaigned on the issue. He quickly turned to health care, children’s education, protecting public lands and immigration — key themes of his campaign.

“God’s greatest gift to me.”

— Tim Cook tells Christiane Amanpour how he views being born gay. I couldn’t have said it better myself.

find Billy Masters on page 5!
Trans
Continued from page 1
Massachusetts as the first state in the nation “to successfully defend transgender rights by popular vote.”

The organizers of “Yes on 3,” Freedom for All Massachusetts released the following statement: Massachusetts voters tonight supported a “Yes” vote on Question 3, upholding the state’s transgender nondiscrimination law and becoming the first state in United States history to successfully defend basic protections for their transgender neighbors at the ballot box.

“Massachusetts made history tonight, both for our transgender neighbors who call this state home and for transgender people across this nation,” said Kasey Suffredini, Yes on 3 Campaign co-chair and President of Strategy at Freedom for All Americans. “From the very early days of our campaign, we have been clear that this is about dignity and respect for all people. Together, we have shattered long-held stereotypes of what it means to be transgender and debunked the myth—once and for all—that protecting transgender people compromises the safety of others. Winning this popular vote is irrefutable proof that public support for transgender people is growing, and tonight’s outcome will provide the necessary momentum to change the landscape on transgender rights everywhere.”

“Voters here in Massachusetts have sent a powerful, unmistakable message that this is a state that values, welcomes, and honors transgender people,” said Mason Dunn, Yes on 3 Campaign co-chair and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. “We could not have been successful without the transgender people and their families who stepped forward and courageously shared their stories, as well as the countless others who worked behind the scenes and propelled us forward. This campaign also allowed us to engage thousands of new allies who are ready to stand with us in the work that remains for full transgender equality here in Massachusetts and across America.”

In 2011, advocates in Massachusetts updated the state’s nondiscrimination law to include protections for transgender people from discrimination in employment, housing, credit, and education. In 2015, Freedom for All Massachusetts launched to update the law to include protection for transgender people in public places, including restaurants, stores, doctors’ offices, and more. The coalition engaged hundreds of civic, business, and community leaders throughout Massachusetts, and the legislation eventually passed—with a bipartisan, supermajority vote—these historic protections. Governor Charlie Baker signed the bill into law in July 2016. Shortly after it went into effect in October 2016, a small group of opponents gathered the minimum number of signatures required to place the law on the ballot for repeal. For more than two years, Freedom for All Massachusetts, the official ballot committee of Yes on 3, worked to ensure voters would stand with the transgender community on Election Day.

The Yes on 3 campaign was staffed by more than 70 paid employees and more than 4,000 volunteers who filled more than 15,000 shifts. Collectively, Yes on 3 staff and volunteers knocked on more than 300,000 doors and made more than 2 million phone calls, resulting in more than 100,000 conversations with voters across Massachusetts.

The campaign was governed by an executive committee, half of whom are transgender people, including the two campaign co-chairs—representing a number of local and national LGBTQ advocacy organizations including: ACLU Massachusetts, BAGLY (Boston Alliance of Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Youth), Fenway Health, Freedom for All Americans, GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders, Greater Boston PFLAG, Human Rights Campaign, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, and MassEquality.

Yes on 3 raised more than $5 million from a wide range of people and organizations, including more than $1 million from the local business community. About 90 percent of donors to the campaign were from in-state. The campaign’s groundbreaking ad strategy included a first-of-its-kind focus on the lives of transgender young people impacted by nondiscrimination protections as well public safety experts who debunked myths about restrooms. Boasting more than 1,500 strong, the coalition supporting the Yes on 3 campaign was among the most diverse and broad of any ballot campaign in recent Massachusetts history, and the largest ballot campaign on transgender rights in U.S. history. Support came from the LGBTQ community, businesses and small, labor unions, law enforcement, sexual assault prevention advocates, faith leaders, the region’s professional sports franchises, educators, parents, and many more.

Continued from page 1
ica’s politics and achieve equality for LGBTQ Americans by increasing the number of openly LGBTQ officials at all levels of government. Below are the results as of Wednesday, November 7, 2018. Check victoryfund.org for updates.
AL Neill Rafferty, Alabama House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
AR Laurie Farrow, Justice of the Peace, Carroll County Local, Open, W
AR Tippit McCullough, Arkansas House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
AZ Andres Cano, Arizona House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
AZ Cesar Chavez, Arizona House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
AZ Daniel Hernandez, Arizona House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
AZ Darlene Martinez, Constable of Downtown Justice Court, Judicial, Challenger, W
CA James Aguilar, San Leandro Unified School District Governing Board Member, Local, Open, W
CA Miles Prince, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Local, Open, W
CO Alex Valdez, Colorado House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
CO Danley Eggar, Colorado House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
CO Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado, Governor, Open, W
CO Leslie Herod, Colorado House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
CO Sonya Jaques Lewis, Colorado House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
CT Caitlin Clarkson-Peireira, Connecticut House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, L
CT John Scott Connecticut, House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, L
DC Dionne Reeder, DC Council Local, Challenger, L
DC Jason Andruan, DC State Board of Educa- tion Local, Open, L
FL Carlos Guillermo Smith, Florida House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
FL Jennifer Webb, Florida House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
FL Shervin Jones, Florida House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
FL Teri Johnston, Mayor of Key West, Mayor, Open, W
FL Javier Estevez, Florida House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, L
FL Lauren Baer, US House of Representatives Federal Challenger, L
GA Park Cannon, Georgia House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
GA Renitta Shannon, Georgia House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
GA Sam Park Georgia House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
GA Guam Joshua Tenorio, Lt. Governor of Guam Statewide Challenger, W
GA Laisa Calil, Legislature of Guam, State Leg, Challenger, L
IA Liz Bennett, Iowa House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
ID John McCrow, Idaho State House, State Leg, Incumbent, W
IL Cecilia Horan, Circuit Court of Cook County, Local, Incumbent, W
IL Kevin Morrison, Cook County Board Commissioner, Local, Challenger, W
IL Lamont Robinson Illinois House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
IL Rob Reenee Poria County Board Member Local, Challenger, W
IL Sam Yingling Illinois House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
IL Chris Miller Madison County Treasurer Local, Challenger, L
IL J.D. Ford, Indiana State Senate, State Leg, Challenger, W
KS Branden Woodard, Kansas House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
KS Sharice Davids, US House of Representatives Federal Challenger, W
KS Susan Rice Kansas, House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, W
KY Susan Lamb, Lexington County Council Local, Incumbent, W
LA Richard Perque, Civil District Court Judge, Judicial, Open, L
MA Jack Lewis, Massachusetts House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MA Julian Cyr, Massachusetts State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MA Maura Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General Statewide Incumbent, W
MA Sarah Peake, Massachusetts House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MD Anne Kaiser, Maryland House of Delegates, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MD Byron MacFarlane, Howard County Register of Wills Local, Incumbent, W
MD Gabriel Acevero, Maryland House of Delegates, State Leg, Challenger, W
MD Luke Clipping, Maryland House of Delegates, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MD Mary Washington, Maryland State Senate, State Leg, Challenger, W
ME Andrew McLean, Maine House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
ME Justin Chenette, Maine State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, W
ME Matthew Moonen, Maine House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
ME Ryan Fecteu, Maine House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MI Jason Morgan, Washtenaw County Commissioner Local, Incumbent, W
MI Jeremy Moss, Michigan State Senate, State Leg, Open, W
MI Jon Hoadley, Michigan House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MI Kate Scott, Washtenaw County Commissioner Local, Challenger, W
MI Tim Sneller, Michigan House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MN Angie Craig, US House of Representa- tives Federal Challenger, W
MN Dave Hutchinson, Hennepin County Sheriff Local, Challenger, W
MN Hunter Cantrell, Minnesota House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, W
MN Wendy Berry, West St. Paul Local, Challenger, W
MO Greg Razer, Missouri House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
MO Mitch Weiber, Missouri House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, L
MN Ryan Dillon, Missouri State Senate, State Leg, Open, L
MT Andrea Olsen, Montana House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NC Allison Duhle, North Carolina House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, W
NC Amanda Maris, NC District Court Judge Judicial, Incumbent, W
NC Cecil Brockman, North Carolina House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NC Deb Butler, North Carolina House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NC Greg Ford, Wake County Board of Commissioner Local, Incumbent, W
NC John Arrowood, North Carolina Court of Appeals Judicial, Incumbent, W
NC Marci Morey, North Carolina House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NC Mark Kleinschmidt, Orange County Clerk of Superior Court Judicial, Challenger, W
NC Marcia Morgan, North Carolina House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, L
ND Joshua Boschee, North Dakota Secretary of State Statewide Challenger, L
NE Marque Snow, Omaha Public Schools District Local, Incumbent, W
NE Megan Hunt, Nebraska House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
NE Scott Windler, Nebraska House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, L
NH Chris Pappas, US House of Representa-
Iowa library considers options after burning of LGBTQ books

ORANGE CITY, Iowa (AP)—Library officials in northwest Iowa are deciding how to respond after a religious activist burned four LGBTQ children’s books.

Orange City library director Amanda Vazquez told The Sioux City Journal that officials aren’t sure if they’ll replace the destroyed books.

“We’re exploring our options at this point,” she said.

Paul Dorst, the director of religious group Rescue the Perishing, released a nearly 30-minute video on Facebook Live in which he denounced the library for having the LGBTQ books and threw them in a burning barrel. The video was made on Oct. 19, the first day of the city’s gay pride festival.

Dorst, burned David Levithan’s “Two Boys Kissing,” Suzanne and Max Lang’s “Families, Families, Families,” Gaye E. Pitman’s “This Day in June” and Christine Baldacchino’s “Morrise Mickelwhite and the Tangerine Dress.”

The library will follow official policy regarding stolen or lost books, Vazquez said. The library charges a fine of 10 cents each day a book isn’t renewed after a three-week checkout period and revokes privileges once the fine exceeds $2.01.

The library sends an itemized bill of costs and materials once a book has been overdue for 28 days. A certified letter with an itemized bill and a “notification of criminal action” is sent after 60 days. The library director can contact law enforcement or the county attorney about a book theft if the borrower doesn’t respond.

Dorst previously told the newspaper that he doesn’t plan to replace or pay for the books.

Dorst could be charged with misdemeanor fifth-degree theft if he doesn’t respond to the library’s fine. He could be fined between $65 and $625 and face 30 days in jail if convicted.

Information from Sioux City Journal, http://www.suicocityjournal.com

NYPD commissioner apologizes over mishandled 1994 rape case

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Police Department Commissioner James O’Neill on Sunday apologized to a woman who came forward with a rape allegation in 1994 but was discredited by police, saying the department let her down “in almost every possible way.”

In a letter, O’Neill offered the woman his “heartfelt apology for all aspersions cast upon your credibility by NYPD personnel those many years ago.”

The woman, who is African-American, had told police in April 1994 that she had been in Prospect Park in Brooklyn when she was dragged into the bushes and raped.

She gave authorities a detailed description which was the basis of a police sketch, and DNA evidence was recovered, but no arrests were made.

A newspaper columnist, Mike McAlary of the Daily News, wrote at the time that police sources cast doubt on the woman, saying she had invented her story in an effort to gain attention around a speech she was going to give at a rally demonstrating against anti-LGBT violence.

The woman sued McAlary for libel, but a judge dismissed the case in part because McAlary had been relying on information from police.

McA
dary died in 1998.

In January, police announced that the case had been cracked, that modern DNA analysis methods found a match to a man serving prison time for rape. He told police he wasn’t involved in the 1994 attack.

A few days after that announcement, another NYPD official made an apology.

Deputy Commissioner John Miller sent a statement to the woman’s lawyer that he was wrong to tell reporters that police doubted the woman’s account. He was the chief police spokesman at the time.

In his apology letter on Sunday, O’Neill said, “We know the damage that sexual assaults inflict on survivors. Compounding that damage with insensitive comments and wild conspiracy theories only further amplifies the cruelty and injustice of the initial crime itself. For that, I am deeply and profoundly sorry.”

The woman, now 52, said in an interview with the New York Times on Sunday that the apology left her feeling grateful and unexpectedly emotional.

The Associated Press doesn’t normally identify victims of sexual assault.

Bay Windows | November 8, 2018 | Page 3

Man who killed lesbian couple, man, dies on death row

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A man who killed a lesbian couple in Oregon and a man in California has died on death row at the Oregon State Penitentiary, authorities said.

Robert James Acrement, 50, died Friday, according to the Oregon Department of Correction.

A medical examiner will determine Acrement’s cause of death, said corrections spokeswoman Tonya Gushard.

“Acrement was found dead in his solitary cell during a routine morning check,” Gushard told the Mail Tribune. “There was nothing suspicious that we know of.”

Acrement was convicted of aggravated murder, kidnapping and robbery in the 1995 deaths of Romante Ellis, 53, and Michelle Abdill, 42.

Authorities said they were tipped to Ellis and Abdill in a Medicaid, Oregon, duplex apartment, where he bound, gagged and blindfolded them with duct tape, and shot them twice in the head with a pistol as they lay in their truck.

Their bodies were discovered three days later in the vehicle, which was parked nearby. Acrement was arrested by a SWAT team over a week later in California.

He claimed the murders were motivated by his dislike of lesbians. Ellis and Abdill had worked on a campaign that defeated a statewide measure to see NATIONAL, page 6

Continued from page 2
tives Federal Open, W
NH Garrett Muscard, New Hampshire House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
NH Gerri Cannon, New Hampshire House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger/Open, W
NH Lisa Bunker, New Hampshire House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
NH Dan Innis, New Hampshire State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, L
NJ Betsy Driver, Mayor of Flemington, Mayor, Challenger, W
NJ Caityn Giles-McCormick, Flemington Borough Council Local, Challenger, W
NJ Julia Fahl, Mayor of Lambertville, Mayor, Challenger, W
NJ Daniel Ward, Barnegat Township Committee Local, Open, L
NJ Leonard Resto, Chatham Borough Council Local, Incumbent, L
NJ Meghan Hurty, Neptune City Borough Council Local, Challenger/Open, L
NY Daniel O’Donnell, New York State Assembly, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NY Deborah Glick, New York State Assembly, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NY Harry Bronson, New York State Assembly, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NY Sean Maloney, US House of Representatives Federal Incumbent, W
NY Tracy Mitrano, US House of Representatives Federal Challenger, W
NY Nickie Antonio, Ohio State Senate, State Leg, Open, W
NY Rick Neal, US House of Representatives Federal Challenger, L
NY Taylor Sappington, Ohio House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, L
NY Chelsey Branhm, Oklahoma House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, W
NY Beach Pace, Hillsborough City Council Local, Open, W
NY CM Hall, Newport City Hall Local, Challenger/Open, W
NY Karin Powere, Oregon House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NY Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon Governor, Incumbent, W
NY Tina Kotek, Oregon House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
NY Brian Sims, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
PA Malcolm Kenyatta, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
PA Daniel Smith Jr., Pennsylvania House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, L
PA Kristin Seale, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
PA David Cicilline, US House of Representatives Federal Incumbent, W
RI Donna Nesselbush, Rhode Island State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, W
RI Rebecca Kildall, Rhode Island House of Representatives, State Leg, Open, W
RI Samuel Bell, Rhode Island State Senate, State Leg, Challenger, W
TX Beau Miller, 10th Judicial, District Court Judicial, Challenger, W
TX Celia Israel, Texas House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
TX Charles Spain, Justice, Court of Appeals for the 14th District of Texas Judicial, Challenger, W
TX Jason Cox Harris, County Probate Court Judicial, Challenger, W
TX Jerry Simonen, Harris County Probate Court Judicial, Challenger, W
TX Jessica Gonzalez, Texas House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, W
TX Jim Kovach Harris, County Civil Court at Law Judicial, Challenger, W
TX Mary Gonzalez, Texas House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
TX Shannon Baldwin, Harris County Criminal Court Judicial, Challenger, W
TX Bobby Levinski, Austin City Council Local, Open, R
TX Danielle Skidmore Austin City Council Local, Challenger, L
TX Gina Ortiz Jones, US House of Representatives Federal Challenger, L
TX Julie Johnson, Texas House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, W
TX Lupe Valdez, Governor of Texas Governor, Challenger, L
UT Derek Kitchen, Utah State Senate, State Leg, Open, W
VT Becca Balint, Vermont State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, W
VT Bill Lippert, Vermont House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
VT Debbie Ingram, Vermont State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, W
VT Kathleen James, Vermont House of Representatives, State Leg, Challenger, W
VT Christine Hallquist, Governor of Vermont Governor Challenger, L
WA Claire Wilson, Washington State Senate, State Leg, Challenger, W
WA Emily Randall, Washington State Senate, State Leg, Challenger, W
WA Jamie Pedersen, Washington State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, W
WA Marko Liias, Washington State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, W
WA Nicole Macr, Washington House of Representatives, State Leg, Incumbent, W
WA JoCasta Zamarripa, Wisconsin State Assembly, State Leg, Incumbent, W
WI Marisabel Cabrera, Wisconsin State Assembly, State Leg, Challenger, W
WI Mark Pocan, US House of Representatives Federal Incumbent, W
WI Mark Spritzer, Wisconsin State Assembly, State Leg, Incumbent, W
WI Tammy Baldwin, US Senate Federal, Incumbent, W
WI Tim Carpenter, Wisconsin State Senate, State Leg, Incumbent, W
WV Cody Thompson, West Virginia House of Delegates, State Leg, Challenger, W

With Democrats winning the House, LGBT advocates have great expectations

by Chris Johnson

After a disappointing election night in 2016 and two years of President Trump in the White House, Democrats came back with an important win Tuesday night and were projected to win control of the U.S. House — a victory celebrated by LGBT rights supporters eager to thwart the administration and advance equality measures.

NBC News and Fox News declared at late Tuesday night Democrats would win enough seats on Election Day to take control of the House, marking the first time since 2008 Democrats won a majority of seats in the chamber. Democrats needed a net gain of 23 seats to win control of the House, but the early call means they could win significantly more as the night progresses.

Meanwhile, CNN declared the Senate would remain in Republicans hands after Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) declared the winner against a Democratic challenger Beto O’Rourke. Despite an expected “blue” wave, political observers expected Republicans to retain control of the Senate.

Topping the list for what LGBT rights supporters were expecting from the House with Democrats in control was oversight of the Trump administration’s anti-LGBT policies and advancement of the Equality Act.

Sarah McBride, a transgender advocate and spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, identified the Equality Act as a top priority with Democrats finally in control of the House.

“Voters across the country have helped to pull the emergency brake on the hateful agenda of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, and with a pro-equality majority in the U.S. House and pro-equality leadership in the U.S. Senate, we’re hopeful that we can see the Equality Act pass through the chamber this Congress,” McBride said. “That would send an important message that the U.S. House of Representatives believes that LGBT people should be protected from discrimination throughout daily life.

Although the Equality Act, which would expand the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to bar anti-LGBT discrimination, is unlikely to become law if Democrats control only one chamber of Congress and President Trump is in the White House, McBride said movement in one chamber would be beneficial.

“It would help build momentum for us to pass the Equality Act and have it signed into law by a pro-equality president when a pro-equality president is elected into office in 2020,” McBride said. “It would help to build momentum for state legislatures and more city councils to pass inclusive non-discrimination protections.”

Rea Carey, executive director of the National LG-BTQ Task Force, said legislation to prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination in Congress has languished for decades and the time has come for action.

“Given that so many LGBTQ people and their families face discrimination in multiple areas of their lives, it is well past time for a federal bill to provide protections, so we will certainly continue working with members of the House to pass federal legislation, to push for passage of the Equality Act and ensure that our community members are finally protected,” Carey said.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has said she’ll assign the legislation a low bill number between 1 and 10 designating the legislation a top priority with Democrats in control of the House.

In terms of the expected timing from LGBT advocates for movement on the Equality Act, the general consensus was as soon as possible, although no specific timeframe was offered.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, called the Equality Act the “centerpiece bill” for the LGBT community and said timing for movement should be “sooner rather than later,” but didn’t offer a specific deadline.

Asked when she expects to see movement from the House on the Equality Act, Carey replied, “Yesterday.”

“We will continue to push for the Equality Act very early on in this next session,” Carey said. “It is past time. We’ve been having this conversation for decades starting really in the 1970s when the first piece of legislation was introduced, but certainly into ENDA, and now the full Equality Act. But it is just well past time for our community to have protections.”

But oversight of the Trump administration’s anti-LGBT policies — such as the transgender military ban, efforts to define laws against sex discrimination to exclude LGBT people and “religious freedom” laws that would enable anti-LGBT discrimination — was also high on the list of priorities for LGBT rights supporters.

Keisling said oversight and accountability of the Trump administration are “by far the most important things” in the next Congress.

“Finally, somebody will be holding President Trump accountable for all his lawless actions,” Keisling said. “So...
billy masters

I don’t know about the rest of the country, but Halloween was a rather quiet affair in New England. This was the first time in years I’d been in Boston for trick-or-treating, and there were only a handful of kids knocking on the imposing doors of Masters Manor. The next day, the practically full bags of Snickers were calling my name. I got out in the nick of time and flew to West Hollywood, which never has a paucity of scantily clad Halloween revelers.

Some of our queer celebs had inventive costumes this year. The one that stuck out for me was that of skier Gus Kenworthy, who went as fellow Olympian Adam Rippon. He wore a replica of the skater’s Oscars ensemble, complete with leather harness! Gus called himself “Adam Ripoff”, and replaced the Oscar over the real Adam’s shoulder with a similarly sized penis...as one does. Rippon applauded the homage, saying, “We finally did each other.” Kenworthy responded, “I’ve been wanting to do you since we met.” Boys, boys, save it for someplace where same-sex encounters are encouraged—like the Olympic Village!

If you saw six people who looked familiar standing in front of the Brady Bunch home-stead in North Hollywood, it’s because it was the actual Brady Kids. For the first time in eons, Maureen McCormick, Eve Plumb, Susan Olsen, Barry Williams, Christopher Knight, and Mike Lookinland put aside their petty differences to be photographed in front of the iconic home before HGTV begins renovations. As you may recall, the network was in a hotly contested bidding war with Lance Bass when the house went on the market. HGTV won the day and plans to gut the inside and make it match what we saw on our television screens so many years ago. That won’t be an easy task since the house is actually some 2,000 square feet smaller than what was depicted on the soundstage. Good luck.

Despite tepid reviews for “The Greatest Showman”, Hugh Jackman is certain that the upcoming live stage adaptation will be a huge hit. “All I know is when we were in the room during those workshops, you get a real keen sense if it’s going to work in a theater. And I know it will work. I just know the power. I’ve seen Keala standing in the center of the room singing ‘This Is Me’ and there was not a dry eye in the house.” Of course, if all you need for a hit is one good song and some facial hair, they might as well cast Madonna! Let’s hear it for the girls.

With this platform we want to show that love has no face or color. But love is all about treating others with respect. Allowing people to just live their best lives.” I do hope I included enough O’s in that quote! You can sample the couple on our website.

I’m sure many of you are spending sleepless nights wondering about Colton Haynes and Jeff Leatham. You’ll be happy (or sad) to know that they are officially back together.

On their first anniversary, the florist posted a photo from their wedding with the following caption: “Can’t believe it’s already been 1 yr. since we got married. Happy Anniversary my beautiful husband.”

The problem with so many out gay people on television is that it’s hard to keep track of their ever-changing relationship status. Take Antoni Porowski from the cast of the revamped “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy”. Last week, he announced he was single. Then, a few hours later, he was in a new relationship. Well, we gays work fast and, let’s face it—ripped abs have a treacherously short shelf life. Antoni’s revelation was that he’d split from the equally hot Joey Krietemeyer, whom he had been dating for about seven years. We suspect the split happened a few months ago, since Antoni showed up on the arm of a familiar fella at some Emmy parties back in September. Back then, people just figured Antoni and Trace Lehnhoft, from “Flipping Out”, were professional colleagues. Apparently, it is much more than that—the twosome have gone public with their coupling. Since the name Trace sounded familiar (one doesn’t meet many of them), I checked out the indispensable ar-
Continued from page 3

limit gay rights in the early 1990s.

However, Acremant later said the killings were part of a botched robbery.

Prosecutors at the time said Acremant killed the women in an attempt to rob them of money he wanted to spend on a stripper whom he called his girlfriend. Alla Kosova said in court during Acremant’s trial that he was nothing but “one of my best customers,” but that he had spent thousands of dollars attempting to woo her.

A jury sentenced him to death in 1997. The sentence was reduced to life in prison in 2011 after his appeal.

Norfolk, Va. (AP)—Outside of the Hershee Bar’s main entrance, two lit candles sat on a bench Wednesday night. Sandwiched between the property’s walls was a sign.

“You have Hershee Bar for ‘being there’ for me when no one else was,” it read.

Inside, flashing lights lit up the dance floor. A 1990s R&B mix blared through the speakers as people dressed as Run DMC, Minnie Mouse and pharaohs flashed their driver’s licenses to get in.

It was their last night to grab drinks and feast on shrimp and french fries at the bar on Sewells Point Road before the building is torn down and the property is sold to the city. At 1:45 a.m., supporters said on social media, police arrived and watched the doors from the parking lot.

Berger Flach was there with hers two friends, Christi Hogg and Rene Hayes.

She met them at Hershee in 1998, she said. For the past 20 years, the trio has gone there to remember lost loved ones, attend wedding receptions and unwind, they said. The bar was a safe haven for lesbians when it first opened, Berger’s son has said the bar was not targeted and other nearby businesses would also be affected by the sale.

Most recently, a spokesperson for Gov. Ralph Northam said they had received four calls by Wednesday afternoon about the bar, but an application to designate the location as historic had not been filed.

Bar owner Annette Stone hugged customers as she walked in Wednesday night. Over 200 people showed up, she said.

“It’s overwhelming,” she said. “But I expected that because that’s how great these people are. That’s how much this bar means to them.”

Stone and a group of her supporters both posted on Facebook in the early hours Thursday that several Norfolk police officers showed up about 1:45 a.m., minutes before the bar shut down for good.

Michael Carney also came to celebrate one last time.

He has been visiting the bar since it opened in 1983, and he was one of the few men allowed into the bar back then, he said.

“There were maybe four or five of us who could get past the door person,” Carney said. “Men would come in and harass the girls.”

When his partner died, he went to Hershee to feel safe. He went through a three-day depression when he found out the fate of the bar, he said.

“Today was also a very emotional day,” said Carney. “The reality of it. I’ve dealt with it, but a lot of people haven’t.”

Lakela Fuller, who has been going to Hershee since she was 18, showed up, too. The bar’s staff has seen her at her best and her worst, she said, grinning and pointing toward Burt McManus, a bartender at Hershee for 34 years.

McManus and other staff at Hershee have taken care of her and helped her accept who she is, she said.

If the bar ever opens in another location, she said, she’ll be there.

“Whenever they tell me they’re going, I will go,” she said. “It’s like a family.”

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A faith-based women’s homeless shelter in Anchorage is suing to block the city from requiring it to accept transgender women, which it said would violate its religious beliefs.

Lawyers for Alliance Defending Freedom filed a motion in federal court Thursday seeking an injunction to stop the city from applying its gender identity law to the Hope Center shelter in Anchorage. The conservative Christian law firm based in Scottsdale, Arizona, says homeless shelters are exempt from the local law, yet the city has used the law to “investigate, harass, and pressure” the downtown shelter.

“The injunction would mean that Anchorage can’t apply the ordinance to the Hope Center in order to force the Hope Center to allow men to come in the shelter and sleep and undress alongside these vulnerable homeless women,” Denise Harle, an attorney with the alliance, said Thursday.

The shelter operators filed a federal lawsuit against the city and its Equal Rights Commission in August, months after a transgender woman complained to the commission that she was denied entry at the shelter.

Because the matter is not resolved, Thursday’s filing is premature, and so is the request for injunctive relief, said Deputy Municipal Attorney Deitra Ennis, who represents the city and its Equal Rights Commission in the matter. The commission began an investigation after the transgender woman complained she was denied housing at the shelter.

The commission’s investigation has not been concluded “due in large part to the noncooperation of the Hope Center,” Ennis said in a statement provided to The Associated Press. She said the commission had reached no decision or enforcement action before Thursday’s court motion.

“There is strong federal policy not to intervene in local agency proceedings prior to any enforcement action or state court review of local code interpretation,” she wrote.

The plaintiffs said the individual identified only as “Jessie Doe” showed up inebriated after hours in January and was not turned away because of her gender. The shelter officials even paid for a taxi ride to a local hospital for the individual, who had a forehead wound from fighting at an-
For the past several years I’ve been wiped out—exhausted. Is this what life in middle age looks like? If that’s true, what do I have to look forward to in my 60s?

This sudden loss of energy, going from 60 to 0 in the space of a few months, didn’t feel like normal aging. But when have I ever been normal?

I went from one doctor to another. Those doctors said I had low thyroid and almost no vitamin D. I gobbled pills and capsules—fish oil, probiotics, supplements, all for naught. Was I blue? Well, waking up at 7 am, after tossing and turning all night—was depressing.

One day I stumbled on an article about sleep apnea on the internet. Fatigue, low mood, and waking up at night, gasping for air—check, check, and check. Once a month for the past 20 years I’d fall asleep and then bolt awake, gasping for breath, my heart racing. I wrote it down to nerves. And sleep apnea was the domain of overweight snorers, and I was neither.

Last fall I finally went over to the sleep lab at Mt Auburn Hospital, where I picked up a small device to measure my heart rate, oxygen level, and the number of times I stopped breathing at night.

Two weeks later I got my report—I had moderate apnea and stopped breathing 56 during the seven hours I was on the monitor, while my blood oxygen level dropped to 85%. Anything below 90 was considered dangerous. Being both a researcher and a hypochondriac, I panicked when I discovered I was at risk for minor medical events, like a heart attack, a stroke, and sudden death. I had lost the ability to even breathe on my own.

This was my life in middle age: a betrayal of the body.

The gold standard treatment was a C-PAP machine, a helpful device about the size of a bread loaf, complete with water tank, hose, and mask. The technician at Mt Auburn told me the machine would take “a little getting used to,” but that getting my apnea under control was vital, because every time I stopped breathing it put a strain on my heart, bad news in a family where the men tend to die young from heart disease. After all, my Dad had his first heart attack at 44, and a second fatal one just past 60, and my uncle died from heart disease, too.

But there was one problem: with the mask and hose I could only sleep on my back. And that led to another problem. I can’t sleep in that position. I sleep on my stomach or on my side, not on my back, attached to a machine forcing air down my throat.

Over Christmas break, I tried one mask and then another. The first was small, light, and fit over my nose, with plugs that pushed air into each nostril. But those nostrils were congested, and when I finally fell asleep my mouth fell open, and I was blasted with a jolt of air, which woke me up. So, I tried a full-face mask, well-designed for scuba diving, if not for sleep. When I saw the machine and mask, I thought, “How will this affect my already non-existent social life?” And Do apnea-sufferers only date each other? Would I be consigned to a sub-culture of gay apneacs? Wasn’t being gay, Jewish, and hard of hearing enough?

When I first got my report, I was told that apnea was a “serious disease,” and that compliance in using my c-pap was very important. Each night the machine would send off my data to technicians at the hospital, so that if I didn’t use the machine on a night basis, my insurance company would refuse to pay for my c-pap and it would be repossessioned.

But after a few nights, it became clear that I couldn’t sleep with the damn thing. Back to the drawing board. Back to the internet for more resources.

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But after a few nights, it became clear that I couldn’t sleep with the damn thing. Back to the drawing board. Back to the internet for more resources.
By Jules Becker

Joe Kinosian was a fan early on of Marx Brothers movies and murder mysteries—especially Agatha Christie ones like “Ten Little Indians” (better known in the United States as “And Then There Were None”) and “The Thin Man” films. That fondness for vaudevillian comedies and classic mysteries makes “Murder for Two”—an acclaimed Off-Broadway musical—a labor of love for composer and co-author Kinosian and lyricist and co-author Kellen Blair. Jared Troilo sang vibrantly as detective Marcus and Kirsten Salpini moved deftly from character to character as all of the suspects—male and female—in a somewhat satisfying recent Lyric Stage Company of Boston production.

Now Kinosian himself is taking on all of the suspect roles at Merrimack Repertory Theatre as he did in New York—with Martin Landry as the young eager sleuth—in a staging sharply directed by JC Clementz that even more smoothly moves from the initial discovery of murdered Arthur Landry, with Martin Landry as the suspects, keeps all of the characters as distinct as Salpini did at Lyric Stage. His cavorting—especially as ballerina Barrele Lewis—has all the signature style of Gusano Marx. Standout characterizations include would-be detective Steph and quirky psychotherapist Dr. Griff, who seems to have a thing for Marcus. Landry may not sing as richly as Troilo did at the Lyric Stage, but his interaction with Kinosian and their musical duos with piano work seamlessly—most notably a friendship anthem in which Griff waxes rhapsodic with Marcus. Particular praise also goes to Aimee Hanyzewski’s film noir-suggesting lighting and David Remedios’ vivid sound design.

Leave it to a co-creator himself to enhance a revival of “Murder for Two” by richly reprising the very different characters Marcus interrogates. This take-off may not rival Christie or Raymond Chandler classics, but Kinosian and Merrimack Rep make its 90 minutes of spirited wit and silliness as enjoyable as a premium quality sundae. Shakespeare was remarkably attentive to establishing governmental stability at the respective conclusions of his history plays—a stability often referred to as Elizabethan order. Another such order—namely the reign of Protestant King James I (1603-1625)—was allegedly threatened in 1605 by The Gunpowder Plot, an ostensible attempt by a group of unhappy Catholics to assassinate the king. Bill Cain’s speculative 2009 play “Equivocation” provocatively centers on the possibility that Shakespeare’s great anti-usurper tragedy “Macbeth” grew out of a commission to write an essentially propaganda history of the plot to be entitled “The True History of the Gunpowder Plot.” No mere historical-literary chronicle, “Equivocation”—as its clever title suggests—resonates with universal questions about a writer’s truth-telling responsibilities as well as Shakespeare’s own literary and moral conflicts. Actors Shakespeare Project, under the strong direction of Christopher V. Edwards, is bringing you—there immediately to Cain’s thoughtful if over long play (about two hours and forty minutes including intermission) at Brookline’s United Parish of Brookline.

Shakespeare—whose very name was written in his New York performance as the suspects, keeps all of the characters as distinct as Salpini did at Lyric Stage. His cavorting—especially as ballerina Barrele Lewis—has all the signature style of Gusano Marx. Standout characterizations include would-be detective Steph and quirky psychotherapist Dr. Griff, who seems to have a thing for Marcus. Landry may not sing as richly as Troilo did at the Lyric Stage, but his interaction with Kinosian and their musical duos with piano work seamlessly—most notably a friendship anthem in which Griff waxes rhapsodic with Marcus. Particular praise also goes to Aimee Hanyzewski’s film noir-suggesting lighting and David Remedios’ vivid sound design.

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Obituary

Lyn Elizabeth Ackerly

By Robert Nesti

Blackstone Park “citizen” and South End neighborhood spirit Lyn Elizabeth Ackerly passed away on Monday, October 1 at her home in the South End at the age of 57. She was surrounded by friends and family.

She was loved by all on her street, on surrounding streets, in clubs, bars, restaurants, bookstores, and if she did observe a religion it was with a book in her hand at the Boston Public Library, Copley branch, where she worked for years, tirelessly saving great, arcane books from being deaccessioned by those with lesser literary tastes.

She was a connoisseur of people, places, pets, politics, portraits, “pininess”, plants, peanuts, and really crappy beer.

She loved all book genres—lightbrow and lowbrow, Balzac parlor dramas to Highsmith crime sprees, secret histories and political gimmickry, from the great artists to the doodlers, and was equally taken in by prose both poetic and plain.

Last book read was “Hangover Square” by Patrick Hamilton, one of her favorites.

She had a great memory for the Latin names of her garden plants. And she loved her pets, which over the years were numerous: Cats: Vivian, Monkey, PePe, Huckleberry, Alice, Dino, and Percy.

Dogs: Pancho (aka The Pickle), Pip, Moby, Maggie…and many more.

Even while lost to us, she is loved by us all, and will be forever remembered.

Analysis

Continued from page 4

when the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education says it will no longer enforce federal civil rights laws, somebody can hold them accountable. Somebody can hold hearings, somebody can subpoena their records to find out why they’re doing.”

Carey expressed a similar sentiment about the importance of congressional oversight under the Trump administration.

“We’re expecting them to step up,” Carey said. “They should be using their authority to conduct hearings and investigations to stand up for the American people to ensure that this administration be using their authority to conduct hearings and investigations to hold them accountable. Somebody can hold hearings, somebody

Continued from page 4

Lyn Ackerly is remembered.

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Brazil elects far-right president, worrying rights groups

By SARAH DiLORENZO, PETER PRENGAMAN and MAURICIO SA VARESE
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP)—In some of his first words to the nation as president-elect, far-right politician Jair Bolsonaro has promised to defend the constitution and unite a bitterly divided populace.

His left-leaning rival immediately vowed to mount a vigorous opposition, while rights groups warned against a rollback of civil liberties.

That juxtaposition underscored that the end of the election was not the end of acrimony and that myriad challenges lay ahead for Latin America’s largest nation.

Bolsonaro appeared to try to allay those concerns Sunday night, saying he would “pacify” Brazil following a race that revealed deep divisions and was repeatedly marred by violence. The candidate himself was stabbed and almost died while campaigning in early September, and there were numerous reports of politically motivated violence, especially directed at gay people.

“This country belongs to all of us, Brazilians by birth or by heart, a Brazil of diverse opinions, colors and orientations,” he said, reading off a sheet of paper in a live television address.

But in a sign of the challenges ahead, the hashtag EleNaoEmeuPresidente—HeIsNotMy-President in Portuguese—was the top trending topic on Twitter in Brazil on Monday morning.

Bolsonaro’s victory moved Brazil, the world’s fourth-largest democracy, sharply to the right away from the left-leaning Workers’ Party won.

Like other right-leaning leaders who have risen to power around the globe, Bolsonaro built his popularity on a mixture of often outrageous or offensive comments and handline positions. And, like many, he is sure to face stiff pushback from groups concerned that his strong views will lead to policies that threaten democratic institutions.

Bolsonaro has frequently disparaged women, gays and blacks, praised torture and killings by police, and has said he would name military men to his Cabinet.

He often took to Twitter to lambaste the rival Workers’ Party as unethical and dangerous. In recent weeks, Brazilians were bombarded with WhatsApp messages that condemned Workers’ Party candidate Fernando Haddad, often making outrageous claims.

Ultimately, Bolsonaro’s messages resonated with Brazilians hungry for change: He got just over 55 percent of the votes Sunday, compared to right under 45 percent for Haddad.

Haddad promised a fight while saying he would respect the country’s institutions.

“We have the responsibility to mount an opposition, putting national interests, the interests of the entire Brazilian people, above everything,” Haddad said in a speech to supporters. “Brazil has possibly never needed the exercise of citizenship more than right now.”

In a sign of how tense the race got, Haddad did not congratulate Bolsonaro and only on Monday morning did he wish him luck.

“I wish him success,” he wrote on Twitter. “Our country deserves the best.”

Among international leaders congratulating Bolsonaro was U.S. President Donald Trump, who tweeted Monday that he had “a very good conversation” with Brazil’s president-elect.

“We agreed that Brazil and the United States will work closely together on Trade, Military and everything else!” Trump tweeted. “Excellent call, wished him congrats!”

The judge who oversaw many of the cases in Brazil’s massive corruption investigation also wished Bolsonaro well.

“It is important to enact, with dialogue and tolerance, reforms to improve the economy and the integrity of the public administration, as well as restoring the population’s confidence in the political class,” Judge Sergio Moro wrote in a

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with HIV-infected blood! Someone else says that when Cesar got jealous that another dancer was getting too much attention, he taped the tops of tuna cans to the bottom of his boots and threatened to stomp on the rival’s face and cut him! Sayoc allegedly said, “Just wait, I’m gonna take this guy out.” Something tells me he’ll be popular in the pokey.

With “Bohemian Rhapsody” opening, I expect I will get several “Ask Billy” questions like this one from Justin in Rhode Island: “Rami Malek is so hot. Is he gay? Do you have nude pics or videos of him?”

We got similar questions about Rami after he won the Emmy for “Mr. Robot”—and back then, we happily obliged. However, I somehow missed last summer’s release of “Papillon” starring Rami and Charlie Hunnam. This was a remake of the 1973 flick, with Charlie in the Steve McQueen role and Rami as a latter-day Dustin Hoffman. His prison flick features quite a bit of nudity—like LOTS of it. In fact, it would be easier for me to point out the scenes where hot men are clothed as opposed to when they’re showing skin. Of course, that defeats the purpose of such a riveting story... at least, I suppose there was a story. But you can look at the pretty pictures on BillyMasters.com.

When we’re featuring hot men doing time, I’ve gotta find me a new prison pen pal and end yet another column. It certainly would be a crime if you didn’t check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that has files which will get you off, if not out. If I can perhaps assist in a conjugal way, reach out and touch me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before anyone attacks me with a tuna can.

So, until next time, remember, one man’s fifth is another man’s bible.

Brazil

Continued from page 10
statement.

The rise of Bolsonaro, who cast himself as a political outsider despite a largely lackluster 27-year career in Congress, parallels the emergence of hard-right leaders in many countries. But in extremis, messages were rendered more palatable by a perfect storm in Brazil: widespread anger at the political class after years of corruption, an economy that has struggled to recover from a punishing recession and a surge in violence.

In particular, many Brazilians were furious with the Workers’ Party for its role in the graft scheme revealed by the “Operation Car Wash” investigation, which uncovered billions of dollars in bribes paid to politicians via inflated construction contracts.

Haddad struggled to build momentum with retreat. He is a man who has a past as a male stripper, and we’ve got the photos to prove it! Apparently he wasn’t so stable back then. He was part of a troupe of guys who traveled around in a van and performed on the road. One dancer claims that when he made more tips than Cesar, the future terrorist threatened to stab him with a syringe filled with privy to the truth.

The past few years in Brazil have been exceptionally turbulent. In 2016, then-President Dilma Rousseff of the Workers’ Party was impeached and removed from office on charges that many of the details of his positions were thinly veiled crime and drastically reduce the size of Brazil’s state. But many of the details of his positions remain unclear since he has largely conducted his campaign via blasts on social media. After he was stabbed, he declined to debate Haddad and gave interviews only to largely friendly media who rarely asked tough questions.

“Tomorrow we start a new country,” said Mario Marcondes, a 61-year-old pilot who gathered with other supporters outside Bolsonaro’s house. “This was like a soccer game, a dispute that is over. Now we will all know to unite.”

Associated Press writer Prengraman reported this story from Rio de Janeiro and AP writers Sarah DiLorenzo and Mauricio Savarese reported in Sao Paulo. Associated Press reporter Marcelo Silva de Souza also contributed to this report.
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