April 20 - May 3 2023
50 cents at newsstands Vol. 39, No 20

BAY WINDOWS

Serving New England's LGBTQ Communities

Single Copies Free. Multiple copies may be available, with prior approval, for 50 cents each by contacting the BayWindows business office.

STAY CONNECTED
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER
TO GET THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES
TWITTER: @BAYWINDOWSNE
FACEBOOK: @BAYWINDOWS
STAY UP TO DATE WITH REAL NEWS IN YOUR COMMUNITY
BAYWINDOWS.COM

Threats to MA dictionary publisher land man a year in prison

By Mark Pratt
Associated Press

A California man who made violent anti-LGBTQ-related threats against dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster Inc. over its updated gender definitions was sentenced Thursday to a year in prison.

The sentence imposed on Jeremy Hanson, 35, by a federal court in Massachusetts also included 30 days of home confinement, three years of probation and mental health treatment.

Hanson pleaded guilty last year to interstate transmission of threatening communications in connection with threats made to the Springfield, Massachusetts-based dictionary publisher and to the president of the University of North Texas.

In court documents, prosecutors said the Rossmoor, California, man has a history of making "threatening communications, nearly all of which were motivated by ... biases based upon race, gender, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation."

Those other communications were

see **DICTIONARY,** *page 7*

Bishop, A Marathon "Fastest Bostonian"

Runner in inaugural non-binary category makes history

Submitted by City of Boston

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) today announced the recipients of the previously announced inaugural awards for the Fastest Bostonian. The awards will be given to Vinny Castronuovo, who finished the race in 2:25:56, and Shannon Lamarre, who finished the race in 2:54:34. Castronuovo is a 23 year old South End resident and mechanical engineering graduate student at Northeastern University who ran his second Boston Marathon today and set a personal record. He is a member of the university's club running team. Lamarre, a 28 year old Charlestown resident, is an environmental engineer and a member of the Greater Boston Track Club who ran her fifth Boston Marathon and also

see **MARATHON,** *page 3*

Bodies of Medford couple found in Brighton self-storage unit

Suspect arrested

By Bay Windows Staff

A Medford man has been arrested for allegedly murdering and dismembering two of his neighbors whose bodies were found in a Brighton storage unit.

According to the Middlesex County District Attorney's office, Leonid Volkov, 37, is accused of stabbing Kiryl Schukin, 37, and Pavel Vekshin, 28, who were married, after a dispute

see **MEDFORD,** *page 5*

Man Threatens to Shoot and Burn Hingham Pride Flag

By Bay Windows Staff

A man threatened to shoot down and burn a Pride flag that was displayed at a the Derby Street Shoppes in Hingham. Hingham police identified the man as Gage Scammell, and say he left a voicemail to the mall management on April 13, demanding that they take down the flag within three days or he would shoot down the flag with a rifle and burn it. He also expressed his hatred towards Jewish people in his message.

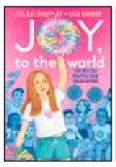
Scammell, was charged with interference with civil rights, threatened use or presence of deadly weapons, and threat to commit a crime. He appeared in court on April 17 and was arraigned in Hingham District Court on the following charges: interference with civil

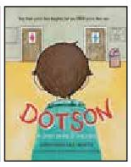
see **HINGHAM,** *page 4*

Chief Jones stopped by Hingham High School today to recognize the students participating in the Day of Silence and to offer support to our LGBTQ students and staff. He met with GSA Advisor Mr. Bagan to talk over ideas of how our department can make Hingham safe and inclusive. Photo via Hingham Police, Twitter.

2 New Books by Trans Youth Offer Important Perspectives

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer





In this time of unconscionable attacks on transgender youth, two new middle-grade books, one by a trans girl and one by a trans boy, are both timely and vital.

"Joy, to the World," by Kai Shappley and Lisa Bunker (Clarion), is a fictional story heavily shaped by Kai's real life as a transgender girl and activist growing up in Texas. The protagonist, 12-year-old Joy, has just moved to Texas with her divorced mother. Her family supports her

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 5*

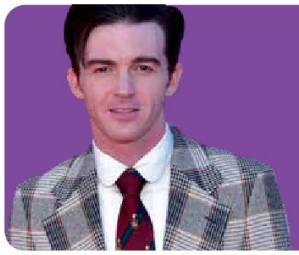
Counter Protesters Heavily Outnumber Those Rallying for Cancelation of Newton Drag Show

By Bay Windows Staff

According to reports, on Thursday April 13 in Newton, about a dozen people showed up to call for the cancellation of a drag show planned for Friday, April 14 at Newton North High School. More than 100 people came out to support the school's decision.

The small group of protesters held signs that read "Stop the Drag Show" and "Protect Our Children".

see **NEWTON,** *page 5*



"You leave your phone in the car and don't answer for the night and this?"

—Drake Bell addresses someone reporting him to the police as "missing and endangered".

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin launches run for 3rd term

By SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) - Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, who spearheaded legislation to protect same-sex and interracial marriages last year, announced on Wednesday that she is seeking a third term in battleground Wisconsin.

Baldwin, 60, said in a statement that she intends to continue fighting for the working class and families struggling with inflation, as well as opposing Wisconsin's abortion ban.

No Republicans have announced they are running for Baldwin's seat, which will be critical for Democrats to hold if they want to maintain control of the Senate.

Baldwin won her first local race at age 24 and in 1998 won a seat in the U.S. House to became the first woman whom Wisconsin voters sent to Congress. She was elected to the Senate in 2012, handing former Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson his first defeat in a statewide race, in a year when Barack Obama was also on the ballot.

Baldwin will be seeking a third term in a presidential election year when turnout on both sides is likely to be high.

Baldwin won her 2012 race by nearly 6 percentage points and defeated a Republican state senator for reelection in 2018 by 11 percentage points. In that race, which came two years after Donald Trump won Wisconsin, Baldwin solidified Democratic support while attracting independent voters with her message that she was looking out for the best interests of everyone in the state.

A tireless campaigner, her victory in the swing state was closely analyzed and followed by Democratic candidates who also found success, including Gov. Tony Evers, who won reelection in 2022. Her strategy included highly targeted digital ads on a variety of issues and competing for voters outside of the Democratic strongholds in Madison and Milwaukee.

Baldwin was the first person elected to Congress after announcing they were gay and was the first openly gay person elected to the Senate. In the early 1990s, she was the first openly lesbian member of the Wisconsin Assembly and one of the first openly gay people in elected office across the country.

She has been open about her sexual orientation but did not emphasize it during her previous runs for the Senate.

"I didn't run to make history," Baldwin said after winning her first Senate race in 2012. "I ran to make a difference."

But in 2022, after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion, Baldwin gained national attention for her leading role in passing a bill protecting the rights of gay couples. She spent months winning over Republicans for the measure, which passed last December with bipartisan support.

Republicans have tried to portray Baldwin as too liberal for Wisconsin, a state that reelected Republican Sen. Ron Johnson in 2022 and that Trump narrowly won in 2016 and lost by a similarly small margin in 2020. Johnson is one of the Senate's most conservative members.

But Baldwin, despite embracing policies like "Medicare for All," has been able to win over key swing voters in the state

Copyright 2023 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

LGBTQ+ Victory Fund Endorses John Moran for 9th Suffolk District State Representative

Submitted by LGBTQ+ Victory Fund

BOSTON — Today, John Moran's campaign announced that LGBTQ+ Victory Fund – the only national organization dedicated to electing LGBTQ+ people to public office – has endorsed John Moran for State Representative. The endorsement signals Victory Fund's confidence that Moran is well-positioned to win the state representative race and will be a strong voice for equality once elected. Moran would be the first openly LGBTQ+ person to hold this seat, one that encompasses a historically LGBTQ+ population in the South End.

"LGBTQ+ Victory Fund is pleased to endorse John Moran for State Representative," said Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund. "John will bring a unique and important perspective to Beacon Hill and ensure all residents are considered when policy decisions are made. He will also make history when elected, becoming the first out LGBTQ+ person to represent this district."

"I am proud to earn the LGBTQ+ Victory Fund endorsement," said John Moran. "When I arrived in the South End 24 years ago, I was not completely confident in who I was as a gay man. What I found here, in the 9th Suffolk district, was a welcoming community that helped me to develop my voice and inspired my call to progressive values and real change. I look forward to giving back this great gift by working hard for all if I were to be elected your next State Representative."

OBITUARY

Norm Kent: A Pioneer of LGBT and Marijuana Activism

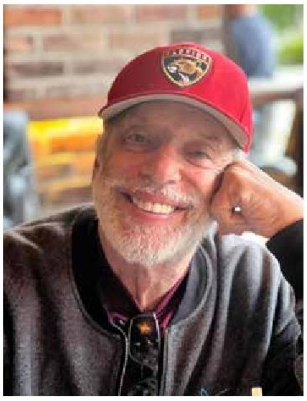
By Bay Windows Staff
with information from Steve Rothaus, SFGN

Norm Kent was an attorney, publisher, radio host, and a trailblazer for LGBT and marijuana rights, a champion of social justice and a mentor to many, passed away in Florida on April 13, 2023, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Kent was one of the founding members of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, and served as its national board chairman. He fought for the legalization of cannabis and the end of the war on drugs. As a lawyer, he defended countless clients who faced discrimination, harassment and criminalization because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Kent founded the Express Gay News in 1999, which later became the South Florida Blade.

In January 2010, Kent launched a new newspaper and website called South Florida Gay News, along with a new business partner Piero Guidugli, who stayed with the company until 2020.



Norm Kent. Photo courtesy of SFGN.

Norm Kent will be missed by many, but his spirit will live on in his work and his impact. He was a pioneer of LGBT and marijuana activism.

Marathon

Continued from page 1

set a personal record today.

This is also the first year the Boston Marathon has a category for non-binary runners, and one Boston resident made history running in this category. The City and the B.A.A. will recognize Danielle Bishop, who finished the race in 3:32:29, as the first Bostonian to participate in the race registered as non-binary. Bishop is a 28 year old Allston resident running in their fifth Boston Marathon. They are a Team Lead at New Balance, a Boston University alum, and enjoy running for fun.

"We are thrilled to celebrate three Bostonians who exemplify the spirit of the Boston Marathon," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Each of these athletes ran an incredible race. I'm grateful to the B.A.A for joining with the City of Boston to recognize the incredible talent right here in our neighborhoods that is part of what makes this the greatest race in the world. Congratulations to Shannon LaMarre, Vinny Castronuovo, and Danielle Bishop! We look forward to celebrating with them and the larger Boston running community."

"Congratulations to our Fastest Bostonians! Vinny, Shannon and Danielle made history today and have set the stage for many Bostonians in the years to come. In typical Bostonian fashion, our champions showed grit, determination and a never-give-up attitude," said Jack Fleming, CEO and President of the B.A.A.

The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon. This is the first year that Boston residents with the quickest time crossing the Finish Line will receive a commemorative glass bowl engraved with the phrase "Fastest Bostonian."

The reception to honor Boston's fastest runners will be announced soon.

RICHARD SILVERMAN, M.D.

CYNOSURE SculpSure® **25 minutes, 25% less fat!**

- No Incisions
- Minimal Discomfort
- No Downtime
- No Compressionwear

- *FDA-cleared laser treatment for non-invasive fat removal from abdomen and flanks*
- *Treated patients saw up to 25% fat reduction with our treatment*

Visit http://www.cynosure.com/product/sculpsure/

COSMETIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY
OFFICES IN NEWTON AND BOSTON
617-965-9500 • WWW.RICKSILVERMAN.COM
CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PLASTIC SURGERY

ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Massachusetts

ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
invites applications for the following positions:

FOOD SERVICE WORKERS

Responsibilities: Prepares and assists in serving food to students according to standards related to sanitary conditions.

Qualifications: A knowledge of quantity cooking is desirable, as is a knowledge of how cafeteria records are kept for the kitchen on a day-to-day basis.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Responsibilities: Responsible for instructing students and carrying out lesson plans provided by the teacher in order to ensure the continuity of instruction.

Qualifications: Minimum two years of college or equivalent experience working with children. Evidence of strong interpersonal skills.

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

Responsibilities: Under the direct supervision of a teacher, supports instructional programming by helping students understand lessons being taught by the teacher. Assists teachers with various clerical tasks and supervises students during activities outside of the classroom.

Qualifications: Minimum two years of college or equivalent experience working with children. Ability to understand student curriculum and to implement multiple teacher directed activities.

CUSTODIANS

Responsibilities: Clean and maintain assigned schools, offices, cafeterias, and lavatories. Perform basic repair and maintenance functions, as well as shoveling snow.

Qualifications: Knowledge of materials, methods, and techniques of the trade. Ability to follow written and oral instructions.

BUILDING AND LUNCH MONITORS

Responsibilities: Ensure the safety and well-being of the student population and assist the administration and faculty in maintaining a positive school environment.

Qualifications: Able to follow instructions and complete tasks efficiently. An ability to work with and understand adolescents and to de-escalate potential confrontations.

For a more complete list of employment opportunities and job descriptions, and to apply for any of the above positions, applicants should visit:

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/andoverma

Andover Public Schools seeks candidates who embody our ethos, which includes valuing the identities of all students, high expectations for all students, teaching excellence, collaboration, innovation, respect, and responsibility. APS is committed to hiring and supporting a racially and ethnically diverse faculty and staff. Racially and ethnically diverse teachers produce a myriad of positive outcomes for all students, especially the most historically marginalized students. EOE.

'No Justins, no peace!'

Fighting old battles with new fervor

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

In 2002, two transgender teenagers named Ukea Davis and Stephanie Thomas were shot to death one night in Southeast DC. The Washington Post identified them by their birth names, not their chosen names. In the aftermath, I attended a meeting in the basement of a church on East Capitol Street. Many issues were discussed, from public safety to development.

Also attending the meeting was a savvy older black woman who served on the advisory neighborhood commission. Afterward, she paused to look at a framed picture of Dr. King on the wall. Standing beside her, I said, "Look at that handsome man." She said, "Oh, yes, he was very good looking." I then realized she had been a young woman in King's heyday.

Thus we connected despite being separated by more than the 70 blocks between our homes. Our differences of race, gender, and orientation were bridged by a tragedy. On the evening after the shootings, I and other activists had stood at the crime scene across from Nalle Elementary with the mayor, police chief, reporters, and neighborhood residents. A toddler standing near me held a soccer ball almost as large as himself. He started wandering toward a boarded-up apartment building before his mother stopped him.

That child, blissfully unaware of the particular darkness that brought us together, is by now just a few years younger than the two Tennessee Justins, who are about the age King was during the Montgomery bus boycott. Members of Gen Z, they grew up with greater expectations for LGBTQ people than their parents did. At the same time, the MAGA backlash threatens to turn back the clock and run our democracy into a ditch.

DC Emancipation Day is April 16, marking the day in 1862 when slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia. In 2023, there are still people in need of emancipation from racial, gender-based, and other forms of intolerance.

Missouri Republicans recently voted to defund all public libraries. That is like putting a loaded gun to your own head and saying, "Vote for me or the idiot gets it."

Luckily, teens denied access to books on black or LGBTQ themes can access them electronically through Brooklyn Public Library's Books Unbanned initiative.

Regarding the Tennessee legislature, Radley Balko writes on Substack: "Fresh off mandating that professors teach 'both sides' of slavery … our idiot legislature is now encouraging students to snitch on teachers who are too 'divisive,' and in a particularly Orwellian twist, claiming this is all in the name of 'promoting free expression.'"

Teaching children a non-airbrushed version of our history is essential to bringing the "liberty and justice for all" promised in the Pledge of Allegiance yet denied by Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton and his confederates.

It was not until 2021 that a bust of Confederate general and early Ku Klux Klan leader Nathan Bedford Forrest was removed from the Tennessee state capitol. He led a massacre at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864, in which 300 Union soldiers, most of them black, were gunned down after surrendering.

A leaked audio of Tennessee Republicans includes Rep. Jason Zachary objecting to being called racist. If they allowed non-white voters to have their representatives heard in the legislature and desisted from celebrating a racist heritage, it would signal their readiness to help build a new South. Instead, they continue to re-litigate the Civil War.

Michael Harriot of The Grio notes that a majority of Tennesseans support universal background checks, red flag laws, Medicaid expansion, and abortion rights. Their Republican representatives do not care.

Rep. Justin Pearson's former writing and rhetoric teacher at Bowdoin College, Meredith McCarroll, writes in Salon about him and the other members of the Tennessee Three: "Their voices are disruptive not because they know of no other way to speak, but because the situation called for disruption."

Republicans provided a reminder of the continuing threat by targeting the Tennessee Three with a robocall falsely accusing them of being violent radicals. It is truly depraved for politicians who defend the January 6 insurrectionists at the US Capitol to demonize peaceful protesters for gun safety in Nashville.

Pearson knows that he and his fellow change agents cannot succeed simply by sitting politely in the legislature while a corrupt Speaker stands smirking with his finger poised on the mute button. The continuing demands by the diverse young people who protested outside the chamber and beyond are charting the course and providing the fuel to make our country live up to its creed.

Richard J. Rosendall is a writer and activist at rrosendall@me.com.

Copyright © 2023 by Richard J. Rosendall. All rights reserved.

GUEST OPINION

Over Half of Trans = Youth Ages Could Face Barriers to Life-Saving, Medically Necessary Gender Affirming Care

New HRC Data

by Cullen Peele, Human Rights Campaign

Washington, D.C. — On March 22, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) civil rights organization, released data indicating that more than half (50.4%) of transgender youth (ages 13-17) have lost or are at risk of losing access to age appropriate, medically necessary gender-affirming care in their state - care which is, in many cases, life-saving. The figure was pulled from the more than 300,000 transgender youth aged 13-17 in the U.S., as reported by the Williams Institute. This alarming finding, as bans on gender affirming care are on the verge of going into effect in more than 10 states, is highlighted in a newly launched map developed by HRC that tracks legislative and administrative attacks on gender affirming care. Gender affirming care, when made in consultation between a provider, their patient, and the patient's parents, is backed by decades of research and is supported by every major medical association, representing over 1.3 million doctors nationwide.

However, amid growing disinformation peddled by extremists and national anti-LGBTQ+ organizations, lawmakers in statehouses across the country continue to introduce and pass legislation that severely restricts or prohibits gender affirming care for transgender youth. Additionally, Florida and Texas have prohibited this care through administrative action. Politicians invoke counterfactual concerns about the best interests of transgender youth, but some states, such as Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas are even considering legislation that would ban care for transgender people up to 26 years of age. Indeed, the national anti-LGBTQ+ groups pushing for these bills have admitted that their goal is to ban gender affirming care for all transgender people.

To date:

Seven states have enacted laws banning gender affirming care (AL, AZ, AR, MS, SD, TN, UT)

Four states have passed legislation banning gender affirming care that is currently awaiting signature or veto from their governor (IA, GA, KY, WV)

Six states have advanced gender affirming care ban legislation through one chamber (ID, IN, KS, MT, ND, and OK)

In addition, Florida's Board of Medicine forbade gender affirming care last year via administrative action, which took effect March 16, 2023, and the Governor of Texas last year directed the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to investigate the provision or support of gender affirming care by parents, doctors, or others, as child abuse.

Hingham

Continued from page 1

rights, threatened use or presence of deadly weapons and threat to commit a crime.

"The Hingham Police Department supports and stand with our LGBTQ+ and Jewish communities and we will not tolerate any threats or discrimination against them," Hingham police Chief David Jones said in a statement.

The Pride flag was part of a display that celebrated diversity and inclusion at the Derby Street Shoppes mall.

The incident sparked outrage and solidarity among the local residents and activists, who organized a rally on April 16 to show their support for the Pride flag and the Jewish community. They also denounced Scammell's threat and called for more tolerance and acceptance in society.

The rally was attended by hundreds of people, including local officials, religious leaders, and representatives of various organizations. They held signs that read "Love Wins", "Hate Has No Home Here", and "We Stand With You". They also sang songs and chanted slogans of unity and peace.

If anyone has any information or concerns they can reach out to the Hingham Police Civil Rights Officer, Lt. John Marquardt (civilrights@hpd.org).

© 2023 Bay Windows, Inc.

PO BOX E14,
Boston, MA 02127

Publishers:
Jeff Coakley
Sue O'Connell

Editorial:
Editor-in-Chief
Sue O'Connell
sue.baywindows@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:
Judah Leblang
Billy Masters
Richard J. Rosendall
Dana Rudolph
Rev. Irene Monroe
Scott Kearnan

Letters to the Editor:
letters.baywindows@gmail.com

News tips:
news.baywindows@gmail.com

Calendar listings:
news.baywindows@gmail.com

Announcements:
announcements.baywindows@gmail.com

Advertising:

Display Advertising

Jeff Coakley
jcoakley@baywindows.com

Classified Advertising:
classifiedads@baywindows.com

Editorial Design Manager:
Julie Walker Palmer

Fine Print:

Bay Windows is a copyrighted publication. Any stories or photos contained herein may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express written permission of the publisher. Bay Windows will not assume financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements. Questions or complaints regarding advertising must be sent in writing to the billing department within seven days of publication in order for adjustments to be made to the account. We reserve the right to use our discretion in accepting or rejecting advertising copy. Bay Windows is not responsible for damages due to typographical errors, except for the cost of replacing ads that have typographical errors caused by our negligence. Bay Windows is published every Thursday of the year. We offer First Class subscriptions. Single Copies Free. Multiple copies may be available, with prior approval, for 50 cents each by contacting the Bay Windows business office.

Rivendell Media
National Advertising Representative
212.242.6863
rivendellmedia.com

FOUNDING MEMBER
National Gay Media Association
South End SCBA Business Alliance
National Gay Newspaper Guild
VERIFIED AUDIT CIRCULATION

Mombian

Continued from page 1

identity, and she's beginning to make friends and practice her newfound love of cheerleading with her "Sparkle Squad." When her school principal says she can't be on the school cheerleading team because she's not a girl, however, she decides to challenge him, and later to speak out against anti-trans legislation in the state, inspired by her hero, Kai Shappley, who has done the same. In fact, she even ends up meeting Kai and her mother, who help Joy and her family in their fight.

Joy is "just a kid" whose life (like Kai's) is full of friends and fun and bolstered by her Christian faith, and whose only exposure to "perversion" and "indoctrination" is when those words (which she must look up to understand) are used by those speaking against her.

Joy's mother, though supportive, wants to protect her daughter from the inevitable hateful comments that Joy's activism will trigger online and in the media. As Joy and her mother navigate this together (as I imagine Kai and her mom have, too), they provide a model for readers and their families who may be going through something similar.

Details from Kai's real life are woven into the tale—but a fictional protagonist gives the narrative a greater flexibility. Kai's appearance in the story as herself, however, reminds us of the tale's real-life roots, and her interaction with Joy and her family underscores how real trans youth and their families are building networks of information and support. And co-author Lisa Bunker, both a published novelist and one of the first two trans women to serve in the New Hampshire legislature, has clearly brought to bear her writing skills, her knowledge of the trans community, and her knowledge of state legislative processes.

Kai and her family left Texas in 2022 because of the state's increasingly harsh anti-trans laws, but her deep familiarity with life there for trans youth makes this a resonant, empowering book that trans youth in anti-trans states may particularly appreciate. The book's storyline of a determined young person fighting for her rights with the help of her family and friends, however, should have an even wider appeal.

"Dotson: My Journey Growing Up Transgender," is a memoir more directly following the life of its young author, Grayson Lee White. When Grayson was two years old, he asked his mother, "Why did God make me a girl?" insisting, "I am supposed to be a boy." The book takes us with engaging candor on his journey from then to the present.

As a preschooler, he started calling himself "Dotson," a combination of "daughter" and "son." That name stuck until he and his family learned the correct term, "transgender." With his parents' support, he chose a new name and began using he/him pronouns. He came out to his class (with support from his identical twin sister), ran into obstacles over which bathroom to use, legally changed his name, and began seeing an endocrinologist at age seven—not to start puberty blockers, but to begin the careful preliminary monitoring that could someday lead to that. This depiction of the lengthy process is important because of the many accusations from proponents of anti-trans legislation that such gender-affirming care is initiated too quickly.

As Grayson got older, he also came out to new friends (with varied reactions) and started having to deal with sometimes intrusive questions. At age 12, he got his first puberty blocking shot (which he was excited about despite his fear of needles). The story ends (for now) with him at age 13, thriving and happy, a young man who plays video games, rides his bike, and snowboards, though he admits to sometimes being socially awkward. He is careful to convey that not every trans person has an identical experience.

Although his supportive family and friends have clearly made his journey easier, he's also upfront about the questions, concerns, and worries he's had—and some he still has. Still, he says, all the challenges have been worth it in order to be himself.

"Dotson," with short chapters illustrated by Stephanie Roth Sisson, feels like the perfect next book for kids who have moved beyond picture books, though older middle-grade readers should enjoy it as well. While it came out last year in a version exclusive to Target, it is being rereleased for wider distribution by West Margin Press. Through a trans youth's own words, it shows how trans youth can thrive when they have support and affirmation.

Both books above will likely face bans—and are already blocked by the "Don't Say Gay or Trans" laws in eight states—but now you know they exist. Recommend or buy them for anyone you know who may appreciate them—trans youth, their families, allies, and those who could become allies. And perhaps someone will airdrop copies of them at the state houses of every legislature considering anti-trans bills. These are voices that need to be heard.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1200+ LGBTQ family books.

Medford

Continued from page 1

over a lease agreement. The bodies of the victims were found in rubber bins inside a storage facility on April 14. Investigators believe Volkov used the victims' names and belongings to access the storage facility and their apartment.

Schukin and Vekshin had last been reported seen on April 9.

Schukin's LinkedIn page listed him as a cybersecurity expert at EPAM Systems, a software-engineering firm. Vekshin, a native of St. Petersburg, Russia, was a photographer, and moved to the Boston area in 2021.

Newton

Continued from page 1

Counter-protesters who included students, parents, teachers, and community members, held signs that read "We Love Our Drag Queens" and "Newton North Supports Diversity". They chanted "Love is love" and "Drag is art" as they faced the anti-drag demonstrators.

The performance went on as planned, featuring performances by students and professional drag queens. The event was organized by the school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) as part of a week-long celebration of LGBTQ+ culture and history.

Serving our community with pride
from the beginning

JJBodner
Insurance Agency of Boston

Auto Home Business Condo Pet Insurance

8 Clarendon St Boston 617-437-9400
jjbodner.com

KAUFFMAN
Law & Mediation

Joyce Kauffman

RESIST TYRANNY – EMBRACE DIVERSITY
CELEBRATE OUR FAMILIES

Providing Skilled and Compassionate Legal Services and Mediation to the LGBTQ Community

kauffmanlaw.net
4238 Washington St., Ste. 313
Roslindale, Massachusetts 02142
617.577.1505
joyce@kauffmanlaw.net

billy masters

The size of **Pete Davidson's** penis has long been a point of discussion among his former paramours. There was **Ariana Grande**, who joked that Davidson was sporting "like 10 inches" —but do I expect accuracy from a member of the Grande family? **Kim Kardashian** added fuel to the fire by admitting she only dated him because of his "big dick energy". Davidson put the topic to rest...kinda. During a recent chat with **Charlamagne tha God** on "The Breakfast Club", Pete admitted, "It's really not that special. It's a very normal-sized penis." While he didn't get into specifics, he added, "It's not too big or too small. It's big enough to enjoy and not big enough for it to hurt, is what I was told." By whom? Because if it was Ariana, I suspect anything more than a thimble is gonna make her scream "Ouch!" Conversely, I bet you could have a javelin and Kim would ask, "Is it in yet?"

I suspect many of you are waiting to hear what I have to say about this **Dylan Mulvaney** situation, but you probably should be checking out another column. You see, I've never even had a Bud Light. But let me say this —if you are going to buy or not buy a beer based on somebody in an ad, you've got bigger problems.

Is **Mo'Nique** a member of our community? Well, she's certainly gay-adjacent. In her latest comedy special, "My Name is Mo'Nique", she shares a conversation she had with her husband —whom she calls "Daddy" (side note —I really hate it when people refer to their partner with parental terms). "Daddy," Mo'Nique said, "I want to be with another woman sexually." Her husband responded, "Bitch, me too!" Well, ain't that a kick in the clitoris! Mo'Nique then said, "Now I know y'all are looking at me, saying, 'Wait a minute, bitch. Are you a motherfuckin' dyke?' No, I'm not...all the way." See? Adjacent. She also discusses her Uncle Tina, but for that story you should check out the special on Netflix. And I think I should book her for a future "Billy Masters LIVE".

Last week, the hysterical **Judy Gold** was my guest on "Billy Masters LIVE". We discussed many topics —including her very hot (and very straight) sons. She just wrapped up her show, "Yes, I Can Say That!" off-Broadway, and is heading back on the road —including a special performance at Helium Comedy Club in Philadelphia on Mother's Day (May 14th). That show, which will be all about her mother, will be recorded for future release. She'll also be at the Post Office Café and Cabaret in Provincetown this summer. You can find all things Judy on her website, JudyGold.com. To find out more dish, check out my chat with Judy (among others) on our YouTube channel, Billy Masters TV, or on BillyMasters.com/TV.

Some of my favorite stories this week come from overseas. Like this headline —"Former Gay Adult Film Star Running for Mayor of a Spanish Village". I don't know why, but I picture chickens and donkeys running around —or maybe I've seen one too many productions of "Carmen". Antonio Moreno (no relation) did gay porn under the name **Héctor de Silva** as recently as 2021- and he was remarkably versatile, which has nothing to do with this story. He moved to the little village of Carcelén because that's where his boyfriend is a forest firefighter. Antonio is working as a livestock farmer and wants to help the village, which is termed as "very abandoned" and has roughly 500 residents. So he's thrown his sombrero into the ring. He is running against **Maria Dolores Gómez Piquera**, who has been mayor since 2011. She may have the edge, but did I mention Antonio is versatile?

Two hot Latin men are in a tussle, and I for one couldn't be happier. It all started with **Eduardo Verástegui**, who I fondly remember as a member of the Latin pop group Kairo. He also appeared in **Jennifer Lopez's** video for "Ain't That Funny", in addition to the 2003 flick "Chasing Papi" (opposite **Sofía Vergara, Lisa Vidal and Roselyn Sánchez**). He then segued into a bunch of telenovelas, during which time he was rumored to be dating **Ricky Martin**. Somewhere along the way, he became a conservative politician and a supporter of **Donald Trump**!

Then there's openly gay **Polo Morín**, who'll be appearing in the upcoming Amazon flick "Red, White & Royal Blue". But you can currently see him in the Netflix series "High Heat" —which is about firefighting male strippers (yes, really). The shower scene alone will get you all hot and bothered! Polo is also very active on social media where he regularly posts risqué photos. Well, he's hot, in his early 30s, and has no body fat. And he's got a fantastic ass and pretty sizable penis. Why do I know this? Well, when Polo was outed, it was with a leaked sex video —which you can see on our website.

Now that you know the players, let's get to the game. In a recent speech, Eddie said, "Without a doubt, homosexuality is linked to pedophilia". Well, he said it in Spanish, but pedophilia is one of those universal words. This was all a bit much for Polo, who responded on Twitter. "If that was the case when YOU 'were' gay, it's just that —YOUR PERSONAL CRIMINAL EXPERIENCE. Hopefully one day you'll find the peace that you say you've found so you no longer have to 'condemn' others." The duo went back and forth a few times, but you get the gist. You can make your own gist after seeing the hot footage of both fellas on BillyMasters.com.

Since we're talking foreign nudity, I picked an appropriate "Ask Billy" question. Greg in Chicago asks, *"I heard about a naked dating show in Europe. Did they actually show all on a regular channel? Was anyone hot?"*

Ah, this would be "Dating Naked Germany". And, in this case, the title says it all. It also proves that the vast majority of the world's population should not be seen naked 24/7. It's just not a good look. It does, however, get one in the mood to iron! On the show, there are a few lookers. There's the striking **Fabio De Pasquale** —who may have some German in him, but is mostly Italian. He's a personal trainer and has a number of reality shows under his belt. In fact, what's under his belt is as impressive as what's above his belt. Some countries will get to watch the show on Paramount+. The rest of you can check out some of the more notable talent on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm in the mood for some knockwurst, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Well, if they're really hot, they don't even have to knock —what's the wurst that could happen? Oh, these puns —I'm a regular cunning linguist! I should mention that there was a notable female contestant on "Dating Naked" —she is a former Miss Frankfurt...and that joke writes itself. For some visual aids, head to www.BillyMasters.com —the site that can give a Frankfurt as well as take one! If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I get a glimpse of Davidson's kielbasa. To my fellow Albanians, "Krishti u Ngjall." To the Greeks, "Christos Anesti." And to everyone else, remember: one man's filth is another man's bible.

Photo via Pete Davidson, Facebook.

Pete Davidson

Photo via www.therealmoworldwide.com.

Mo'Nique

Photo via Appletv.com.

Fabio De Pasquale

Dictionary

Continued from page 1

directed at the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, Land O' Lakes Inc., Hasbro, a nonbinary rabbi and others, prosecutors said.

In a remote hearing Thursday, prosecutor Steven Breslow asked for an 18-month prison sentence, in part to serve as a deterrent to others at a time when violent rhetoric is becoming more common.

Hanson's defense attorney, Marissa Elkins, asked that her client be sentenced to the time he has already served, citing his history of emotional and behavioral issues, including anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

More time behind bars could negatively affect his mental health, she said.

Judge Mark Mastroianni in U.S District Court in Springfield acknowledged Hanson's medical history and said he had no intent or capacity to carry out his threats, but called his actions "disturbing and terrifying."

He noted that Merriam-Webster management was "fearful that Hanson would come to their office and cause harm," and said internal company communications referenced the 2015 attack on Charlie Hebdo offices in France, where terrorists killed 12 people who worked for the satirical weekly newspaper.

Hanson sent Merriam-Webster threatening messages and comments between Oct. 2 and Oct. 8, 2021 using the website's "contact us" function, where he commented on word entries such as "girl," "woman," and "female," prosecutors said.

"It is absolutely sickening that Merriam-Webster now tells blatant lies and promotes anti-science propaganda," Hanson wrote, according to prosecutors. "There is no such thing as 'gender identity.' The imbecile who wrote this entry should be hunted down and shot."

Twice he threatened to shoot and bomb company headquarters, prompting Merriam-Webster to close offices in Springfield and New York City for several days, prosecutors said.

Hanson also wrote an email to the president of the University of North Texas in 2022 that said "You ought to be shot in the head and have your offices set on fire," for supporting transgender students, prosecutors said.

Hanson, who appeared at the hearing remotely from a California jail, declined to address the court when given the opportunity.

Letters Policy

Bay Windows welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and 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

Wills, Trusts, Health Care Proxies, Probate, Prenuptuals

Create Protection for you and your loved ones

One of the only Estate Planning firms focused on the unique needs of LGBT couples, individuals and families

KLO

Kraft Law Offices
60 State Street, Suite 700
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 573-0010

rick@kraftlawboston.com

UNPLUG AND UNWIND
AT A VERMONT CABIN
WWW.FORESTECHO.NET
FOREST ECHO FARM

LAPOINTE & DAYS LLC

LAPOINTE & DAYS LLC ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Helping People Find Solutions.

Please call for an appointment: 617-738-1919
www.lapointedays.com

LGBTQ+ Planning • Wills • Trusts • Probate • Real Estate • Medicaid Planning

SERVICE GUIDE

PAINTING

Angel's Painting, Inc.

Residential / Commercial

"When it comes to painting and carpentry, we're the Angels you've been looking for."

Cell: (781) 640-5590
Office: (508) 270-6841
Tim@angelspainting.net
www.angelspaintinginc.com

CLEANING

Spring Cleaning
For All Seasons

- Trustworthy cleaning services to meet your needs
- Houses, apartments and commercial
- Schedule that works best for you, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly
- All routine housework, plus special clean-up jobs
- Owner supervised cleaning crew and ensures quality
- Excellent references and competitive rates

Cleaning by Judy
617-895-7472

ELECTRICAL

D'S ELECTRIC

PROVIDING QUALITY ELECTRICAL SERVICES *to the* BOSTON AREA

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FREE ESTIMATES
24 HOUR SERVICE

Dedicated to Customer Service since 1971

617.542.2000
www.ds-electric.com

Mass License #14580A

PLACE YOUR AD IN THE SERVICE GUIDE TODAY!!!
email sales@baywindows.com

It takes a powerhouse to power a houseful.

xfinity 10G

Introducing the next generation 10G network. Only from Xfinity. A network that can effortlessly handle a house full of devices. All at the same time. Which means that you and everyone else can seamlessly watch, work, stream and play whatever you want on all your devices with ultra-low lag. Get ready for a network that can handle the entire house, no matter how full it is. The future starts now.

99.9% reliable internet on the Xfinity 10G Network

$25 a month for 2 years

with no annual contract.
Requires paperless billing and autopay with stored bank account.

Taxes and other charges extra and subject to change.
See details below.

WiFi equipment included

1-800-xfinity | xfinity.com/10G | Visit a store today

Restrictions apply. Ends 4/23/23. Not available in all areas. New Xfinity Internet residential customers only. Offer requires enrollment in both paperless billing and automatic payments with stored bank account. Without enrollment, the monthly service charge automatically increases by $10 (or $5 if enrolling with credit or debit card information). The discount will appear on your bill within 45 days of enrolling in automatic payments and paperless billing. If either automatic payments or paperless billing are subsequently canceled, the $10 monthly discount will be removed automatically. Limited to Connect More 200 Mbps internet. All other installation, taxes & fees extra, and subj. to change during and after promo. After 24 months, or if any service is canceled or downgraded, regular charges apply to internet service and devices. Service limited to a single outlet. May not be combined with other offers. Actual speeds vary and not guaranteed. Ultra-low lag based on median latency of 13 milliseconds or below for Xfinity gigabit Internet customers with xFi Gateway as measured by Xfinity Speed Test. For factors affecting speed visit www.xfinity.com/networkmanagement. Call for restrictions and complete details, or visit xfinity.com. NPA244949-0005 NED-NEW10G Platform-V11