LUMBER YARD REBUILDS
Gay community staple rises from ashes

BY CARTER HEMION
SGN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In July 2021, the Lumber Yard, White Center’s first LGBTQ+ bar, suffered extensive damage in a fire still under active investigation as arson and a hate crime. Since then, the bar has been rebuilding across the street from its original location, with the support of the community. Its reopening is anticipated in early June 2022.

The bar is co-owned by husbands Nathan Adams and Michale Farrar. Adams shared updates on the construction at 9630 16th Ave. SW. He assured us that the new space, which will be 4,000 square feet, will continue to have “a lot of what we had at the old bar.” All prior performers are set to return, and the location will continue hosting drag shows and themed parties. The bar will also bring back about 90% of its staff when it reopens.

Photo courtesy of Nathan Adams

see LUMBER YARD page 11
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Register online begins April 4

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**Local News**

**Same woman charged with first two local anti-LGBTQ hate crimes of 2022**

by Hannah Saunders  
SGV Contributing Writer

The King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (KCPAO) has filed two hate crime charges relating to gender identity and sexual orientation this year. Both charges were filed against Desirae Marie Freeman, 42.

The charging documents state that Freeman maliciously and intentionally caused the physical injury of the victim due to her perception of her sexual orientation. On Dec. 5, 2021, Freeman bashed on the door of a tenant who resided in the same apartment building as her and called him an “HV positive faggot.” The documents also state that Freeman yelled numerous homophobic slurs during the incident, which escalated to physical violence: when the victim opened his door, Freeman punched him in the face as she called him a “fucking faggot.”

Once officers arrived, Freeman continued with homophobic statements and told officers that the victim “wants to be a girl” like herself.

On Jan. 2, 2022, Freeman and the victim were both in another tenant’s apartment in the same building. Freeman was sitting in a chair while the victim, who identifies as a Transgender female, was standing next to her.

The victim was discussing her transition when the defendant began making comments about what the victim should not do with her own body.

During the interaction, Freeman reached out and grabbed the victim’s chest, and twisted and pinched her nipples, which caused the victim pain. The victim told Freeman to stop and pushed her hands away numerous times, but Freeman continued and escalated to grabbing the victim’s genitalia, which also caused her pain.

On May 2, 2022, the KCPAO filed charges against Freeman for “hate crime, assault in the fourth degree.” These charges document that Freeman maliciously and intentionally caused the physical injury of the victim due to her perception of gender expression or gender identity.

The charging documents also state “that the defendant... [committed] this crime with sexual motivation, that is, that one of the purposes for which the defendant committed this crime was for the purpose of her sexual gratification, under the authority of RCW 9.66A.040.”

The state requested that Freeman also have no contact with the victim. Freeman’s trial dates on the charges are set for April 13 and May 2, both at 9:00 a.m.

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**Nightlife**

**Issa Man and Kylie Mooncakes curate a perfect Thursday night at Kickback**

by Nick Rapp  
SGV Contributing Writer

A good performer makes the audience feel like they’re in on it — “it” being some essential character of the show, a connective thread that pieces everything together. At Kickback, a monthly drag showcase hosted by the lovely duo of Kylie Mooncakes and Issa Man, that thread is friendship.

The show takes place on the second Thursday of every month, beginning itself with the tagline “Your new super chill, super lit Thursday night.” They deliver on that promise, creating a diverse lineup of performers that don’t take themselves too seriously but whose contributions showcase each one’s individuality.

As hosts, Kylie and Issa bounced off each other’s energy. You could tell they loved sharing a stage. They opened with a duet, wearing matching pink outfits (each with its own hair) and using all of the space possible on the runway stage. Later, they jokingly asked the audience how many people actually knew the song they lip-synced to in their opener. Kickback thrived in moments like these; the hosts’ love for each other, bubbling gum, and all the performers in the lineup was so fun to take in that you didn’t need to know what song was playing.

Others performers included Sami Ahmed, VIPer Feng, The Dub Boyz, Baby, and Starla Cong, all Northwest locals and all distinct in their talents. There was prop work and duets, solo lip syncs and pseudo performance art. Everyone’s style shone through, with Kylie and Issa bookending the night together in stunning get-ups.

I felt Kickback was still unraveling at the talent and liveliness of all the performers and had to ask the hosts a few questions about how they curate the show.

Nick Rapp: How did y’all decide on a monthly Thursday evening show?

Issa Man: We started doing drag, all of my favorite shows were on the weekdays. Then, when I traveled to other cities recently, it felt like all the great ones that I saw in the local queer community were on the weekdays, while weekend gigs were for Drag Race girls coming to town, or for your standard 6- to 9 p.m. crowds.

Kylie Mooncakes: If I’m being honest, I was just being a girl boss. I wanted a consistent gig but also wanted to leave my Fridays and Saturdays open for bookings.

NR: What is the inspiration behind Kickback?

Kylie: The vision for Kickback was just to be a show that performers would feel safe at home. We urge them to get high (if that fuels them) and just get loose and have fun with whatever they pull out — whether it’s the experimental numbers they’ve been waiting to show off or their face in school sound. We’re just the best friends on stage. We both admire each other so much and have a lot of crossover in our drag tastes, so working together just seemed like a must.

NR: When did you two meet and start performing together?

Kylie: I met Issa at Backwards in 2019 when they first moved here from Alaska. I was so immediately taken by their talent and aesthetic, and we bonded over our style, our humor, and our passions immediately. We cooked up a couple fun duos numbers here and there, and even though we take a while to get there, the end result always feels so fulfilling that continuing to do this felt like no-brainer.

NR: Issa and Kylie’s, are you both tall in heels. Are you ever scared of hitting the beam at Kenneth’s?

Kylie: Every moment of my life.

NR: What is your final number?

Kylie: Not! Issa’s an indie fashion fiend, and she puts us on to House of Aris, this super dope independent brand made by this one Black girl based in Vietnam. Both looks from our first number are Issa’s fits that she made too! We bought them at different times, but they ended up fitting kind of perfectly together for the number.

NR: Issa and Kylie’s, do you have any shows outside of your final?

Issa: Our house is on fire! We are so excited to be performing at the Kickback and can’t wait to see everyone there.

The next iteration of Kickback is on Thursday, April 14 at Kenneth’s, 1809 Minor Ave., Seattle.
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Get Tested WA
That’s a wrap on our winter book club!

By Lindsey Anderson
SGW Contributing Writer

The Seattle winter can be a rough and hopeless time. Skies are endlessly gray, the rain makes the perfect backdrop for an imaginary cozy winter movie, and love seems to have fled the city as quickly as the sunshine.

May the Best Man Win

We started the season off with a classic lovers-to-enemies-to-lovers-again story set against the timeless backdrop of a preppy high school. Mary the Best Man Win followed Jeremy, a Trans boy trying to prove his masculinity to the world, and Lukas, the only boy left behind in the dust. As their senior year begins, the boys find themselves in a heated battle for homecoming king.

A new ending

R. J. Eliot wrote this hilarious romance novel to bring some lighthearted joy to the Queer literary community. “We are still very much in a period where Queer teenagers do not have access to that kind of representation in their reading life,” Eliot said. “When I was a teen, the few pieces of Queer media I had weren’t written for me. They were specific, sensationalized, and tragic, written in a way that didn’t make me understand that I could be Queer and that label could be specific to us. I think it is important to have Queer rep in media, for Queer teens who are looking to find a sense of themselves and the world they live in.”

The Quirky Principles of Kitt Webb

For our next romantic read, we took a trip back in time with author Cat Sebastian to a steamy 19th-century coffee shop for an even steamier romance. The Quirky Principles of Kitt Webb tells the story of the titular character, Kitt Webb, and his roommate, Percy, who hires him to write a romance.

The story is set in the 1800s, and the characters are in a polyamorous relationship. Kitt is a young, queer, and non-binary person who struggles with their identity and the societal expectations placed on them. The book explores gender and sexuality in a way that is both entertaining and thought-provoking.

Mangos and Mistletoe

As Christmas rolled around, we found the best Hallmark-esque Christmas book to read. We read Adriana Herrera’s novel, Hot Christmas, which tells the story of two women who fall in love during the holiday season. The story explores the challenges of being in a relationship when society and family members do not support it. It also highlights the importance of staying true to oneself and not compromising one’s values.

Written in the Stars

The holiday season wrapped up with a sapphic love letter to Seattle. Written in the Stars is a novella by Samantha Bellefeu’s first novel in the Her Rome series, which follows a non-binary protagonist who writes romance novels to support themselves. She is struggling with her identity and her feelings for a woman who she has known since childhood.

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The Lights on Knockbridge Lane

As the holiday season ramped up, we took a stroll down Knockbridge Lane with author Risa Parikh. Lights on Knockbridge Lane is the jolly story of single dad Adam, his two children, and their mysterious and very new neighbor Wes, as the three of them try to create the best Christmas light show ever.

I love holiday stories, and this is a Christmas book,” Parikh said. “I’m Jewish, and people were like, ‘Why are you writing a Christmas book?’ Growing up, my family always had a Christmas tree, but it never felt quite right. I wanted to write something that felt magical but also a little bit different.”

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I Wish You All the Best

Following the theme of coming-out and coming-out stories, we next read Jamie E. Hyneman’s I Wish You All the Best, the touching story of Ben, a nonbinary teen struggling to show the world their identity and cope with anxiety. The book gives all the feels as well as a touching and authentic friends-to-lovers-slow-burn romance.

Girl Haven

As the gloomy winter weather dragged on, our book club took a field trip to the delightful, fantasy land of Korecitis. Inside the pages of Little Sturgis’s middle-grade graphic novel, Girl Haven, we met Ash, who travels to the mystical world where only girls are allowed. The only catch: Ash was born a boy. The whimsical adventure follows Ash’s journey to gender identity and self-discovery along with her new, delightfully Queer friends.

Not only is Girl Haven a special book for many QT women and young adults, but it was also a special journey for Sturgis. “Girl Haven is a very special book to me, because it’s one of the first things I’ve ever written that came from a place of total honesty and vulnerability,” Sturgis said. “I started working on it right after I transitioned in 2016, so a lot of feelings in there are very raw for me.”

Of Ice and Shadows

The book club continued to journey to distant and fantastical lands. For the next book, we read Ice and Shadows, Audrey Coulthurst’s highly anticipated sequel to the fall book club read Gif Fire and Stars. The novel picked up where readers had left off, with star-crossed lovers Tate and Demas reuniting their kingdom and hoping to avoid a war.

For Coulthurst, part of the fun of writing a sequel was being able to get the charac-
Keep your eyes on the Shadows

by Terri Schlichenmeyer
Special to the SGN

SHADOWMAN: AN ELUSIVE PSYCHO KILLER AND THE BIRTH OF THE FBI PROFILER
RON FRANSELL
© 2022 Berkley
527.00
304 pages

It was toward the end of June, 1973, and it wasn't quite morning when 14-year-old Heidi Jaeger was awakened by a breeze.

He had left the tent-flap open around midnight when she'd come back from an outhouse run. No, she'd been creeped out by something and had gone straight back to the tent, but she was sure she'd rigged it up tight. All was well then — her siblings were asleep like a pile of poppies. But now, in this predawn darkness, completely alone, Susie, Heidi's 7-year-old sister, was gone, and there was a neatly cut hole in the tent where her sleeping bag should have been.

FBI Special Agent Byron Dunbar was called. He was a local who'd served under Edgar Hoover in the bureau's pathfinding bone to care for his parents. He knew the terrain, so he started gathering evidence, but there was no sign of her. He began interviewing people who might have had information about the abduction, but even in everybody in everybody in the world of children, nobody seemed to know a thing.

Then someone began phoning the Jaeger mansion, taunting Susie's mother with false clues. And 19-year-old Sandy Smallegan disappeared.

Crime-solving in the early 1970s was still relatively simple, although the FBI had been working with intriguing new theories. It'd already been established that some killers could be profiled by their habits and personality quirks. Dunbar knew this, and with the bureau's help, he'd severely narrowed the list of suspects. But he was frustrated — until it was suggested that he use a new method of crime solving.

The technique involved examining a suspect's letters and comparing them with the writing style and handwriting of theJaeger children. Among the various clues were a couple of letters written by the children that had been intercepted. Dunbar also had access to a special technique for identifying the writer through the use of a microscope and a variety of other tools.

In the end, Dunbar was able to match the handwriting of the letters to that of the Jaeger children. This led to the arrest of the perpetrator and the return of the children safely. The case was one of the earliest documented instances of the use of forensic techniques in crime solving, and it paved the way for the development of more advanced techniques in the future.

If you're interested in joining the SGN Book Club, follow us on Instagram at @sgn_books. Starting next week, we will be launching into our spring book club, which is all about Queen pioneers telling their stories in their own words.
Energetic Adam Project is a family-friendly, time-travel joyride

by Sara Michelle Feters
SGN Staff Writer

THE ADAM PROJECT

Netflix

Pilot Adam Reed (Ryan Reynolds) has traveled from the year 2020 to right a grievous wrong. But his ship is damaged and he is shot during the unauthorized trip, and instead of arriving in 2018 as planned, he ends up in the middle of nowhere in a lushly forested 2022.

Or maybe he landed exactly where he was meant to? Intentionally or not, he’s come to the childhood home of his 12-year-old self. Young Adam (Walker Scobell) lives alone with his single mother Ellie (Jennifer Garner), the pair still grieving the tragic loss of the boy’s scientist father Louis (Mark Ruffalo) a year prior, even if neither will admit it.

This is the setup to director Shawn Levy’s The Adam Project, his latest collaboration with his Free Guy star Reynolds — and this star-studded bit of sci-fi silliness is even more entertaining than that 2021 box office hit was. Reminiscent of ’80s favorites like Flight of the Navigator, The Last Starfighter, or Batteries Not Included, this heartwarming adventure is a lot of fun. It also has an underlying emotional complexity I didn’t anticipate, making it far more memorable and endearing than it has any right to be.

The book is that both Adams join forces to go back to 2018 to see their dad and convince him not only that he invents time travel, but that his wealthy tech-billionaire business partner MayaSoria (Catherine Keener) will utilize this power recklessly when she gains control of his discovery after his imminent — and mysterious — death. This forces Louis into an ethical quandary: the logic-driven scientist has to decide whether to listen to two versions of his son from the future, or instead turn them away to keep from risking doing greater damage to the universe by changing set timelines without knowing how they’ll affect events still to come.

With four credited writers, there is a “scripted by committee” feel to some of what happens, mostly in how the narrative treats Soria. There is an attempt during the 2018 section to show how the character began as a selfless do-gooder who legitimately wants Louis’ invention to be a boon to humanity. But something transforms her into a maddeningly despot thirsting for power, and while Keener does a solid job differentiating between the two versions of her character, the mechanics of this descent into full-blown evil never rings true.

What does work is the interplay between Reynolds and Scobell. The two have incredible chemistry, and I got a big kick out of their rapid-fire banter. Scobell is especially terrific. The youngster has to not only be a pint-sized version of Reynolds but also emotionally navigate a path well outside of the one his older self insists is the only one available to him. It’s a tricky part, and the newcomer doesn’t just play it well, at times he’s downright spectacular.

There’s an engaging, albeit brief, supporting turn from Zoe Saldana as a character I choose not to speak more about, and a quick 13 Going on 30 reunion between Garner and Ruffalo right around the two-thirds mark is well worth the wait. The visual effects are excellent, composer Rob Simonsen (Ghostbusters: Afterlife) provides a suitably eXtasescore, and cinematographer Tobin Schleth (Beauty and the Beast) gives the picture a magnetic visual aesthetic I was continually drawn to.

It all slightly runs out of steam near the end, but thankfully Levy and his screenwriters stay true to their characters and the foundations of the mythology they’ve created. Instead of taking the easy way out, the aftereffects of tragedy and loss are allowed to linger in ways atypical for genre fare like this, granting the film an extra layer of empathetic, hopeful sadness that’s lovely.

I enjoyed The Adam Project. Its past, present, and future permutations were an exciting joyride fit for the whole family.

Walker Scobell and Ryan Reynolds in The Adam Project — Photo courtesy of Netflix

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Northwest Black Restaurant Week Round-Up

BY KYLIE BROWN
SGN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From Feb. 25 to Mar. 6, Black Restaurant Week took over the Pacific Northwest. Dozens of African-American, African, and Caribbean eateries were celebrated across Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. This year marked the second tour of Black Restaurant Week's campaign in the Northwest. In total, 44 restaurants across Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia participated.

Through the summer and fall, the event will come to 15 US and Canadian markets, and over 1,800 businesses will participate. During BRW alone, the organization reports an average increase in sales of 15% for participating restaurants in each region.

"More Than Just a Week"

Unlike most such campaigns, BRW also includes panels, awards, and other recognitions for bars, catering, solo chefs, and food trucks. For example, its culinary showcase, "Nosh," helps connect restaurateurs to consumers and each other.

"I'm really grateful for the support we've gotten. I know we're not the only one out there, but we're one of the few," said Atlanta-based chef Marcella Kriebel, the 2019 winner of BRW's Power of the Palate award.

Black Restaurant Week (BRW) was founded in 2016 by Warren Luckett, Felco Ferrell, and Derek Robinson, a trio of marketing and culinary entrepreneurs who sought to address the lack of Black community through food.

For 2022, the chosen theme was "More Than Just a Week," representative of all of the work the organization performs beyond the week-long campaign. BRW "goes beyond restaurants," said Luckett.

Robinson is the BRW team's marketing specialist. He and Ferrell co-own Fade Media, a digital marketing firm in Houston, Tex. They discussed their passion for providing Black businesses with exposure, recognition, and connections in order to connect the greater Black community to better food.

"I thought [Black Restaurant Week] was the perfect opportunity to support small businesses in the community, which I'm really passionate about," said Ferrell.

"I love seeing people learn about and engage with these amazing businesses," said Robinson. "It's important to support local Black-owned businesses and keep them afloat. Thanks to its focus on Afro-eats in Seattle, we've seen some new ideas on how to spend our "flavor" budget next year."

On Capitol Hill, Osteria La Spiga's executive chef Sabrina Tinsley's dishes are a gastronomic tribute to the Emilia-Romagna region of Northern Italy, where her husband was raised. Her menu is made in-house daily and paired with fresh seasonal ingredients from local market vendors. Tinsley is also a mentor and advocate for female chefs and chefs of color. Find out more or make a reservation at www.laspiga.com.

First Hill residents can enjoy a quick stroll to Jamaica at E. Jefferson's Taste of the Caribbean. From 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, you can find a combination of authentic Caribbean food, culture, and music all in one. Find photos, reviews, and menus at tastethebeach.bnaeseattle.com.

A trip down Rainier Ave. S will bring you to Lil Red Jamaican BBQ & Soul Cuisine located in last week's SGGQ, where you can find a unique array of specialties from Chef Jason Bearden Award semi-finalist Erasto Jackson. To order takeout or take a peek at the current menu, visit lilredjamaican.com.

Celebrate further south to enjoy highly-rated Delaware Ethiopian Cuisine. The menu says it all. It is known as "the best Ethiopian food in Seattle," according to the restaurant's website. Delish, the owner, and his wife also offer cocktails, vegetarian options, and a great ambience. Find their menu at delishethiopianfood.com.

Lastly, no need to travel to West Seattle for Black Star Kebab, even though it resides at the tip of Alki Beach. The Ghanaian food truck tours across Seattle, offering fresh, organic kebabs and sides, including vegetarian and halal options. Its current locations are posted daily at www.facebook.com/blackstarkebabs.

From West African jollof rice to plantation fritters and Texas BBQ, Seattle's lineup of Black Restaurant Week partners brings a comprehensive palette of Black culinary masterpieces to the table. And its partnerships with local restaurants is just beginning. African American, African, and Caribbean businesses are encouraged to register on the BRW website for free (or at the premium level) to be highlighted in next year's Black Restaurant Week or if interested in year-round opportunities.

Learn more about BRW at blackrestaurantweeks.com/about. Find the Seattle directory, including an interactive map and links to all aforementioned businesses at blackrestaurantweeks.com/bcw-campaigns/united-states/washington-seattle-3.
Broadway is second to none when it comes to food options. Every block has something for everyone. But a few blocks west, at Thomas and Sammamish, lies a hidden gem serving breakfast food that stands out from the rest. B-Side Foods is nestled in a cozy space alongside its sister cafe, Analog Coffee. This unassuming spot would be easy to miss without its corner ease sign — and the crowds lined up for breakfast fare. They're there for a reason.

I am going on the record to say that B-Side is home to the best breakfast sandwich in Seattle (maybe even the Northwest). It is no mere bacon, egg, and cheese. The sandwich is made of an English muffin, a scrambled egg crepe with green onions folded in, pickled daikon, charred onion aioli, Beecher’s cheese, and your choice of numerous jams, hams, or both. You can also spice it up with some fermented hot sauce. (More on the sandwich below.)

Danny Hakke, co-owner of Analog and B-Side, filled the SGN on the cafe’s history and what makes B-Side’s menu so special.

Hakke explained that he and Tim Hayden “opened Analog in June of 2011, and B-Side in September of 2017.” There was a wall between the two spots until June 2020, when they were sure of B-Side’s success and decided to knock it down and combine them.

Hayden and Hakke’s approach to developing new menu items is asking the simple question: “What do we want to eat?” It turns out that what they want to eat is most certainly what you want to eat as well.

“We are inspired by everything that we get excited about eating,” said Hakke. “Often we are trying to recreate a food memory or just a certain feeling with a new dish.”

The core menu consists of the egg sandwich and a rice bowl, along with an herb veggie roll that grew into a staple. Otherwise, they “try to keep the rest of the spaces on the menu somewhat open to change seasonally, to give us some room to create new favorites,” Hakke said.

The egg sandwich

If the ingredients of the egg sandwich strike you as odd, you would be reasonable in your concern. But trust that thought went into combining unique flavors to create something delicious, if atypical.

“We knew from the very beginning that we wanted to serve an egg sandwich, and that we wanted it to be unique,” said Hakke. “We worked with our friend and local cook Jake Vezon to develop the original menu.”

The well-known chef Sanin Norrat popularized the four components of good cooking: salt, fat, acid, and heat. The B-Side sandwich finds its success in utilizing each of these categories to allow every ingredient the chance to shine.

On developing the recipe, Hakke explained, “We like the English muffin as a base for the egg sandwich, because it’s easy to hold and eat, aside from being delicious.” The owners also “wanted a flavorful sauce, and wanted the crunch and acid from a pickle,” resulting in the use of charred onion aioli and a daikon pickle: as a mild radish, daikon provides a miner sweet crunch than a classic dill pickle and doesn’t overwhelm the palate.

If you like spice, the fermented hot sauce brings a flavor reminiscent of Korean cooking to the sandwich. This somehow all pairs wonderfully with Beecher’s Flagship cheddar, the perfectly fatty addition that rounds out the sandwich.

Additionally, all of the ingredients are super fresh. The egg sandwich sits less heavily in the stomach than a traditional breakfast sandwich, and every other menu item is made to order.

B-Side sources its eggs from Sustara Farms in Yelm, and the English muffins are local, from Frantz. Hakke noted that they aim to make local sourcing of ingredients as an even larger focus in the future.

If you’re sold on the sandwich (which you should be), B-Side and Analog are open for takeout from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. They plan on eventually transitioning back to indoor dining as well, but they want to be careful and sure that it will be a permanent transition.

LUMBER YARD

continued from cover

Adams described the new space as having two main parts — the Lumber Yard Bar side and Loading Dock dance side — which take up the same amount of space in the old location’s combined parts. Said Adams, “The larger side will be where we’ll be doing karaoke, drag shoes, dance parties. And then the smaller side, which looks a lot like the footprint of the original Lumber Yard, is going to be more like the neighborhood, casual, sit-down dining experience.”

On the current state of rebuilding, Adams said, “The fun thing has been, this last month, we’re actually starting to see it come together. So the plumbers and the other contractors have started coming in and doing what they need to do, so that we can start putting the cosmetic stuff in place and seeing what this space is actually going to look and feel like.”

Since the July fire, the bar has received ongoing financial support. In the first week alone, the community raised over $800,000 for the rebuilding. Adams is proud of “the support we have from the community to get the space back up and going.”

He is also proud of what the bar means to the LGBTQ+ community and Seattle. Said Adams, “There’s no way, after the fire, that we could have just let it go away. It just meant too much to too many of us, including my husband and myself.”

Adams said the Lumber Yard plans to reopen at the start of June, depending on how fast reconstruction moves forward. He looks forward to White Center’s Pride festival in early June.

“It’ll be, hopefully, fun that we can be a full part of that,” he said.

Follow Lumber Yard Bar’s Facebook page for updates.
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If there's one thing Seattleites love more than good food, it's good companionship. Hailed as one of the most dog-friendly cities in the country, Seattle boasts several amazing dog parks, daycare, and even bars dedicated to dog lovers. So if you're looking for the best place to score a special treat for your best furry friends, look no further than these dog-friendly locations!

Pints and pops
Looking for a place to hang with Rover? Check out Dog Yard Bar in Ballard. For those 21 and older, Dog Yard Bar is the perfect place to make friends, sip pints, and mark your territory.

Each weekend, Dog Yard Bar hosts a breed-specific meet-up for one type of pooch, these "heavy breathers" to "man's best friend". The event typically lasts a few hours and is exclusive to dogs that fit the event criteria.

Seattle Pride's 2021 Doggie Drag Queen Championship, Pety's "Patricia Choccone," had the pleasure of visiting Dog Yard Bar for its latest "Small Dog" meetup. Dressing in his best attire, Pety enjoyed many treats, pets, and butt sniffs in a friendly and safe environment. Pety spent his evening lounging in the sunshine and making friends with other small breeds. The small-dog environment allowed him to let his guard down and enjoy the company of others without feeling the need to pretend to be a pit bull.

The staff was on the grounds at all times, monitoring the behavior of all those in attendance and making sure the yard remained clean and sanitary while owners enjoyed tasty cocktails.

After the meet-ups and on weekdays, the bar is open to dogs and all dogs, as long as they (and their owners) can provide proof of vaccination. Dogs and their owners love the atmosphere there and rely on the opportunity to make new friends and pet all the dogs.


Homemade for your hound
If you're looking for a shop where you can pamper your pups with the finest treats and toys, check out the Seattle Barkery. Originally a food truck for dogs, it has quickly grown into a must-try for all Pacific Northwest pet owners.

"We've been in business since 2014, and we just recently opened up this location in Shoreline, in September," said owner Ben Ford. "The first location was a mobile doggy-treat truck. That's basically what put us on the map, because it's such a weird idea. But we started driving that around town and built up momentum and got a customer base." It's such a foreign concept that a lot of people are resistant and, like, "What is this?" or confused. So it took a couple of years, honestly, for people to understand what we're doing. We started with a truck, and we're on our fifth location now."

Ben and his wife Dawn started the business as a labor of love, dedicated to all the dogs in their lives. "That was all my wife, Dawn, that was her idea," Ben said. "It was her brainchild, and she did some convincing to me that it was going to work, and here we are!"

Each Seattle Barkery location puts its customers first. The store carries toys, clothes, collars, and plenty of yummy snacks for each pooch who enters the doors.

The Fords, like many Seattleites, treat their dogs like their children and wanted to make sure the food they gave them was the best. "We know how tasty they were spending on our dogs, so we knew we probably weren't giving them the best, so we went to Fords, to try a couple of stores, and got a lot of feedback. So we started a business kind of a reputation, and organization that takes in all the dogs that are healthy and deal with all of this, too."

Creative treats
It's clear, from nose to tail, that everyone at the Seattle Barkery is dedicated to improving the lives of the dogs who love them.

"We've been doing this for many years, and like I was saying before, it was kind of a leap of faith as to whether it would work or not, and I think it taught me that we value our dogs here," Ben said. "Not just in the sense that it's a dog, it's a part of our family. My wife and I are children: we're not going to have kids. So we've put all of that love into our dogs. I realize that there's a market for that here in Seattle, and hopefully, it spreads all over the place."

Pety's favorite part of the store was the "treat crate," a whimsical dispenser that launches a tasty sample to every dog who comes by. His favorite treats were the fresh chicken hearts, perfect bite-sized snacks for dogs of all sizes and a delicious Ben and Dawn make every day. "I make those fresh each morning. We put a little coconut oil in them and air-fry them. Those seem to be everyone's favorite," Ben said.

Pety also enjoyed the cheesy donuts, a freshly baked snack from the downtown location, courtesy of dedicated employee Kenzie, who informed us that the store is getting ready for a seasonal batch of Girl Scout-inspired dog treats. "We have some fun ones coming up with Girl Scout cookies and Easter candy and stuff. We try and do something for the holidays, like Valentine's Day, we did a peanut butter-pumpkin pretzel heart, and then we did little heart-shaped peanut butter-banana bones. It's really fun," she said.

Clean dogs and clean ingredients
If you're seeking a one-stop shopping experience with your dog, look no further than Queen Anne's Wag N' Wash. It offers a unique opportunity to use its in-store grooming equipment to make sure your pet is smell- ing just as good as their groomer treats!

Wag N' Wash offers special grooming opportunities for the hard-on-pet owners, a specialty nail trim service, and best of all, a deluxe pet bakery in the back. The bakery items are made fresh each day by an in-store baker, Peter, who loves to receive feedback from all his happy customers.

Wag N' Wash's most popular pet treats include "Muttballs," "Pet Pies," and special "Pup-Cakes" for all your most festive occasions. The treat is made from the same human-grade ingredients you might find in your birthday cake, except they do not include sugar, which can be harmful to pets.

The treat counter was a must-see for Pety, especially after a quick pedicure with Wag N' Wash's excellent grooming staff. His favorite treats were the Muttballs, a soft bread-like ball he could gobble up in one bite! He couldn't get enough of their soft and easy-to-chew texture and was begging for more as soon as he got home.

Wag N' Wash makes sure to market all its treats at affordable prices so that everyone can get the chance to spoil their pets. The store also carries specialty items for dogs and cats, such as an anxiety CBD and catnip sprays, high-quality organic toys, and plenty of dog raincoats.

Our dogs are more than just pets: they're our babies, our best friends, and sometimes our favorite drug performers. They deserve all the best treats, and thanks to Seattle's dedicated dog-loving business owners, there are plenty of local options to choose from! Pety rates all the treats he tried at Dog Yard Bar, The Seattle Barkery, and Wag N' Wash an 11 out of 10. If my picky Chweswane will eat them, your dog will love these treats too!
West Seattle is so isolated that, despite the bridge being closed for two years, it comes as news to many living elsewhere that the bridge is closed at all. Residents take pride in “never leaving, even if we could.”

Mind you, West Seattle has long been an island of sorts. The hillside of Alki and North Admiral are a quint of single-family homes, with only a few major roads home to businesses and pricey apartment buildings. Plus, there just isn’t the same density of things to do as in other districts.

Fortunately, to sample the menu of Queen-owned A la Mode Pie, those east of the Duwamish need not make the long trek to Phinney Ridge or Ballard. As I did, to take in the atmosphere and a few slices, they can visit A la Mode’s café branch at the Junction (California & Alaska).

Arriving at the place on a dreary Saturday afternoon, after a walk through the neighborhood alleys that run between backyards and garages. Despite the bustle of the street outside, the line was a single couple ahead of me, and nobody was dining in at the time (possibly because of pandemic concerns).

I tried a slice of each of the three pie varieties on the menu. The strawberry rhubarb, a personal favorite, had a melt-in-your-mouth filling with a strong, lasting tartness, fading nicely into its strawberry flavor and finishing with a hint of sweet vinegar.

The banana cream pie, another classic, had good balance of its components. It made a statement without being too rich or too sweet.

A la Mode’s “signature dessert,” the Blue Hawaiian, was a blend of blueberry and pineapple filling, topped with toasted coconut. It had a mellow flavor, with the almost-whole blueberries, pineapple bits, and coconut shavings giving it a landscape of texture that might tempt the eater to chew more thoughtfully and savor the unique taste.

The crust on all three, worthy mentioning on its own, was flavorful yet unobtrusive — firm enough to hold things together and soft enough to be cut with ease.

A la Mode’s menu also includes savory pies, various drinks, ice cream by the scoop or pint, and options for vegans and those allergic to eggs, nuts, or dairy. The price for one regular-sized pie is generally $5.50.

A la Mode can be found at 4225 SW Alaska St. in West Seattle, 5831 Phinney Ave N. near the zoo, or 2034 SW 56th St. in Ballard. Online, go to www.alamodeseattle.com.

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Idaho moves to pass anti-Trans legislation

by Lindsey Anderson
SGN Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, March 9, Idaho House Bill 675 was passed by the state House of Representatives. The legislation, which has been branded the "Genital Mutilation of a Child Bill," will make it a felony for any adult in the state, including parents and doctors, to aid Transgender youth with age-appropriate, medically necessary, gender-affirming care.

The bill prohibits gender-affirming care for children under 18. It also criminalizes parents who take their children across state borders with their child to receive care. The maximum sentence for such actions would be five years in prison.

The bill criminalizes operations such as top surgery or hysterectomy and also goes so far as to outlaw prescription hormones and blockers and HRT.

HB 675 co-cedes with other restrictive proposed legislation by prohibiting discussions of gender identity and sexual orientation in public schools and a ban on transgender athletes in sports.

The proposed law has many questioning the constitutionality of criminalizing the crossing of state lines to receive care that is legal elsewhere. The constitution limits restrictions on interstate travel, so HB 675 would likely face legal challenge on a federal level if it became law.

Idaho Democrats hopeful bill will die in committee

Despite HB 675 passing through the state House of Representatives on strictly along party lines, some members of Idaho’s state legislature are confident the bill will not be allowed to proceed to law.

Rep. John McCreary said the SGN he’s optimistic the bill will not have enough time to be thoroughly considered by the state Senate because he believes the Senate doesn’t even give this horrific bill a hearing. As of today, we’ve only got nine more days of our legislative session, and that’s as long as we need to hold out,” he said. “Let’s cross our fingers this stays a dead bill and doesn’t see the light of day for the rest of the session.”

Rep. John Gannon also believes the bill will not make it past the Senate. “Our Senate isn’t going to consider it. It’s too extreme. Even the Republican-controlled Senate to consider,” he said.

Damage may have already been done

While Rep. McCreary and Gannon are hopeful the bill will not become law, other Idaho representatives say the damage has already been done.

“Just in the weeks since this law has been introduced, there have been three Trans kids in the area that attempted suicide. This risk is very, very real,” Rep. Innis Ritalt said the SGN. “I am scared that this will result in the deaths of Trans youth. This bill is uniquely dangerous in that it [will] silence-sentence fellow [to leave] the state to receive gender-affirming care. It forecloses the options for families living in Idaho to even leave the state,” she said.

Many members of the Idaho state legislature find criminalizing citizens for crossing state borders to be an overly extreme measure. Rep. Colin Nish believes the bill will result in families deciding to leave Idaho permanently in order to support their children’s education.

“I voted against the bill because it will put a damper on any group for evidence-based medical care for Trans youth,” Nish said. “I think it will have negative social impacts for Trans youth who were already at high suicide risk. People will not seek care out of state but move out of state. It will only make people feel they are not trying to do the best they can for their children.”

“I think the whole law will be challenged,” added Ritalt. “I think the whole law runs afoul of the Equal Protection Clause. If it becomes a law, it won’t survive a federal court challenge and will likely be struck down.”

But, frankly, even if it doesn’t become a law, I think a lot of the damage has already been done. Even if it never becomes a law, it is extremely demoralizing to Trans youth and their families to have this kind of hateful legislation progress this far.”

Some representatives’ support of HB 675

I also spoke with representatives in support of the bill. When asked why they favored the harsh legislation, they echoed the rhetoric of Rep. Skag, who introduced the bill to the House.

“If we do not allow minors to get tattoos, smoke cigarettes, and drink alcohol or sign legal contracts,” Skag said to the House on Wednesday, “why would we allow them to make decisions to cut away organs based on their feelings during puberty times?”

Some Republicans in support of the bill projected themselves onto Trans youth. For example, Rep. Ryan Kerby agreed with the harsh punishment of parents who seek to help their children transition because he would not have preferred this treatment in his youth.

“If my parents would have done that to me, they would have deserved to go to prison,” he said. “What he needs to be is deterrent for people who want to do this stuff.”

Rep. Tammy Nichols said she supported the bill because her district voiced its support to her. “I listen to my constituents, because that’s why I represent, and so this is something that was concerning to my constituents, and of course, I am representing them, so that’s my priority [reason for supporting the bill],” Nichols said.

However, her reasons for wanting to support the bill echoed Skag’s. “The second reason was wanting to protect children that are under 18 and still going through puberty. I have heard a lot of testimony on this issue in the past. There have been decisions that have been made while they were young that have not been beneficial for them in the long run,” Nichols said.

“People transition young then work to transition back to their original gender,” she said, “so for me, that’s kind of a pause, and [I’d like to] work with children and get them through puberty before they make major changes to their bodies. In Idaho, you can’t even get a tattoo without a parent’s permit until you’re 18; major changes to your body shouldn’t be something that is [decided] until later on.”

When further questioned about her comparison to tattoos, which Idaho does permit minors to receive as long as they have parental permission, Nichols backtracked. “Of course, a tattoo is something that does do something to your body, but it is not as invasive as taking off parts of your body, is it?” she asked.

“So, while that isn’t equal as far as that goes, it just shows that we’re not allowing children to make these decisions with a tattoo — now with their parent’s permission at 16 — why would we allow them to make major decisions and do things like that when they’re young?”

“No, a tattoo you can get laser treatment to get it removed, and a lot of those procedures that get done are not reversible,” she said.

When asked about her knowledge of hormone blockers, which HB 675 also bans, Nichols responded, “Hormone blockers, you know, they get into your system, and it can take time to get out of your system. My concern is if you give those to young children, what kind of unanticipated consequences can happen when things don’t develop properly because the hormones are being blocked?”

“Well, first of all, puberty blockers are reversible,” countered Rep. Ritalt. “When you stop taking them, puberty hits.” She explained that while some of the procedures the bill bans are irreversible, so is puberty. Forcing Trans kids to experience puberty is not only detrimental to their mental health but also makes transitioning later in life challenging.

Medical opposition to HB 675

“They’re forcing a young person into an irreversible situation and preventing them from taking reversible steps. It is a very difficult decision that is usually made with the family in concert with medical professionals,” Ritalt said of the decision to take hormone blockers.

“I have several friends whose children have gone through gender reassignment as a youth. Those decisions were made after a lifetime of gender dysphoria. These are young people who knew they were in the wrong body since they were toddlers, and they would never make this decision lightly. These decisions are made after many years of deep certainty.”

Idaho Democrats believe that parents and doctors are best suited to make medical decisions about minors. Many choose to oppose the bill because it undermines the expertise of medical professionals.

Rep. Gannon was concerned about the bill’s disregard for medical practice. He said he voted against the bill because it “was too extreme and opposed by Idaho doctors and [the American Medical Association], and it ignored accepted medical practice. This was so extreme that it was dealing with treatment that wasn’t surgical but was way beyond. It even purported to restrain treatment out of state.”

Mental health effects on LGBTQ+ youth

When asked about what the implications this “deterrent” will have on the mental health of LGBTQ+ youth, Rep. Kerby said, “I don’t have a comment at all.”

Other conservatives, such as Rep. Nichols, were willing to consider the mental health impacts anti-Trans legislation has on kids. While she still supports the bill, Nichols did admit that children should have access to mental health resources, especially during puberty.

“I would say on the mental health part of things (that) children, when they’re growing up and going through puberty, are dealing with a lot of things that are transpiring with their bodies and the social aspect of society,” she said.

“Kids and teenagers have a lot of challenges, and there are a lot of issues that come about in the mental health [component], so we want to make sure that these kids are making decisions for themselves and that they are doing things after coming through this awkward time of life. When kids [have] mental health issues, they need to be treated and talk to a therapist. I don’t think this constitutates permanent changes.”

Democrats like Ritalt believe the bill is incredibly detrimental to LGBTQ+ mental health. “I think it is potentially catastrophic; there are situations where young people suffer gender dysphoria and require medical treatment or have a high risk of suicide,” Ritalt said. “One of my colleagues said this bill puts a noose around the neck of Trans youth, and I don’t think he exaggerates.”

“Furthermore, it is outrageous that puberty blockers are included in this bill. Those are reversible, but puberty is not...
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HRC launches Reality Flag campaign to raise Equality Act awareness

by Daniel Lindsey
SGN Contributing Writer

Florida: Disney employees force freeze on donations

Reuters reported on March 11 that Walt Disney Co. will be putting its political donations in Florida, after employees protested the company’s donations to Florida state senators who support the controversial “Don’t Say Gay” bill. The bill, which awaits approval by Gov. Ron DeSantis, would limit discussion of LGBTQ issues in schools.

Chief Executive Bob Chapek announced the decision in a memo to staff. “Speaking to you, reading your messages, and meeting with you have helped me better understand how painful our silence was,” he wrote. “It is clear that this is not just an issue about a bill in Florida but instead another challenge to basic human rights. You needed us to be a stronger ally in the fight for equal rights, and I let you down. I am sorry.”

Disney animation writer Benjamin Siemon, who publicly criticized the company for its donations, said of the announcement, “We have more to do as a company in helping make Disney a place the LGBTQ+ community can be proud of again, but it’s a start.”

Arkansas: Trans models walk runway for rights

On March 14, NBC News put a spotlight on 13 Trans models that walked in a fashion show to protest Arkansas’ recent anti-Trans laws, such as the ban on gender-affirming care for Trans minors (currently blocked by a federal judge), and the law that limits Trans participation in school sports.

Trans activist Lisa Stuart organized the fashion show and participated. “We really want to promote this awareness and this visibility that Trans people are part of the community,” she said, “that we are everywhere, and that we are in every aspect of society, any activity, any occupation.”

Clothes for the fashion show were provided by the Transition Closet, an Arkansas-based nonprofit that provides clothes for the LGBTQ community. The show’s proceeds went to the organization, which was formed in response to the state’s anti-Trans legislation.

“I really think we’re able to make a little less scary for the community,” Transition Closet founder Amaree Rohn said, “because that’s what we truly need right now.”

Photo courtesy of HRC

According to the HRC, about two-thirds of LGBTQ+ people have reported experiencing discrimination.

Millions of LGBTQ+ people in the United States are at risk of being evicted from homes, kicked out of businesses that are open to the public, arrested unnecessarily for goods and services, and in many states, denied medical care, health loans, taxes or any kind of government services.

The Federal Equality Act is federal legislation that would ensure comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people in the United States across key areas of life, including housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service. It was passed by the House of Representatives in February of 2021, but has not yet moved in the Senate.

What is the Reality Flag?

The Reality Flag is an altered version of the American flag, with 29 of the stars removed, which represents each state that lacks comprehensive protections for LGBTQ+ people.

The Human Rights Campaign plans to unveil an 85-foot banner featuring the Reality Flag, which will be placed across the front of the HRC’s headquarters in Washington, DC — six blocks from the White House.

What to expect from the Reality Flag campaign

The Reality Flag campaign will feature content across traditional and social media platforms, including an online video ad and town hall events created by the Emmy Award-winning director, producer, and creator of Anrier’s Transparent, Josh Soloway.

Soloway’s videos will highlight real stories and lived experiences of LGBTQ+ people who have been impacted by discrimination. The vignettes will inspire and move audiences, while showing an urgent need for passing the Equality Act.

“When I was approached about partnering with HRC on this campaign, I jumped at the opportunity and immediately signed on,” said Soloway, “not only because of the important opportunity to help lift up stories and amplify the voices of LGBTQ+ people across the country but because I believe this campaign has the potential to fundamentally shift the conversation around equality in a way that brings more people together than ever before, to ensure we are all equally protected and represented under the law.”

“Just meeting and working with the amazing LGBTQ+ people who shared their stories of discrimination in front of the camera was so moving to so many of us behind the camera — especially since a majority in our production crew identify as LGBTQ+ and could relate to the experiences of the brave storytellers we worked with. It’s an honor to be able to do this work, and to be a part of this important campaign.”

Some of the stories Soloway will introduce through the Reality Flag campaign are:

- Xaci J, a proud Lesbian Navy veteran who was refused medical treatment by a Minnesota doctor because of her sexual orientation.
- Queen, a Transgender woman, who experienced discrimination at the hands of her landlord in North Carolina. When Queen called him a repair, he spotted a Transgender flag in her home. He went on to berate Queen and then threatened to kick her out.
- Soloway’s video vignettes will be highlighted through an advertising campaign that will include partnerships with 20 national media platforms, including TV, print, display, audio, social, search, and video. Over 30 million impressions are expected to be made.

For more information, visit www.hrc.org/campaigns/equality-act.
Pro-LGBTQ bishops should be reprimanded says Cardinal & convicted child molester

by Mike Andrew
SGN Staff Writer

Roman Catholic Cardinal George Pell – convicted in 2017 of molesting altar boys – called on the Vatican to discipline two of Europe’s most senior bishops for violating the Church’s teaching on sex.

In a statement released March 15, Pell asked the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) to “intercede and pronounce judgment” on Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich and Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the German Bishops’ Conference.

Their crime in Pell’s eyes? They both made statements questioning Catholic teaching that same-sex relations are sinful.

Cardinal Hollerich, who presides over the Synod on Synodality that runs until October next year, said last month that Church teaching on same-sex relations was “wrong” and that the “sociological-scientific foundations” of Catholic teaching on what “one formerly considered as sodomy” was “no longer correct.”

Bishop Bätzing, the president of the German Conference of Bishops, said in a March 4 interview that same-sex relationships were permissible and not a sin and that the Catechism should be partially changed to reflect this.

According to Pell, such statements are “erroneous,” because “they not only reject the ancient Judeo-Christian doctrines against homosexuality and molestation and reject the teaching on monogamous marriage, the exclusive union of a man and a woman.”

The CDF is a powerful Vatican institution charged with keeping Church officials and the faithful in line with Catholic dogma. They may censure violators, prohibit them from preaching or publishing texts, or even excommunicate them from the Catholic Church.

The group was once headed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI. During his tenure, the CDF earned a reputation for suppressing progressive Catholic thought — especially on questions of sexual ethics and family relationships.

Pell was arrested for molesting children in 2017 and convicted by an Australian court in 2018. Australia’s High Court overturned the conviction in 2020 on the grounds that the jury “ought to have entertained a doubt” about his guilt.

A Vatican investigation into the charges against him was terminated after the High Court ruling. He was never disciplined by the Church, but the Pope allowed him to retire from his positions, as he was already 78 at the time of his arrest.

McCrory also pointed out the hypocrisy of the Republican-led bill. Over the last two years, Idaho Republicans have advocated for parental rights when it comes to making medical decisions for children, such as choosing not to vaccinate them. Now, they are flipping their stance and criminalizing parents who choose to help their children transition.

“I think we’re putting ourselves at the level the rest of the world is living in, which is great,” McCrory said. “I know our society is very conservative, but I also know we have a promising future as a country.”

Republican president-elect Gabriel Beric, who will take office on March 18, congratulated the couple on Twitter.

Chile: First Gay marriage

Chileans have the right to marry, the court ruled on February 10 that two men in Chile, Javier Silva and Jaime Nazar, have become the first two men in the country’s history to legally marry. A law allowing same-sex marriage that passed in December just came into effect.

Silva and Nazar have two young children, and they have been together for seven years. They had had a civil union for three years before the marriage, which didn’t provide the same benefits.

“Now we have the same rights as other families and they will be able to have, we hope, a better future,” said Nazar. “We hope the court will not be discriminated against for having two parents who love each other.”

Silva told reporters after the civil ceremony.

“I think we’re putting ourselves at the level the rest of the world is living in, which is great,” McCrory said. “I know our society is very conservative, but I also know we have a promising future as a country.”

President-elect Gabriel Beric, who will take office on March 18, congratulated the couple on Twitter.
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For further information, e-mail metno@theabbey.org.

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