Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Armistead Maupin To Visit Tucson July 25

Armistead Maupin

TUCSON - A visit with Armistead Maupin, acclaimed author of "Tales Of The City" series and "Michael Tolliver Lives", will speak about and read from his books on Wednesday, June 25 at the Loft Theatre, 3233 East Speedway. The 7:00 p.m. event is presented by Pima County Public Library GLBT Committee. Admission is free. Seating is limited to availability. No advance tickets. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Maupin, among the first openly Gay authors, has longstanding appeal as a storyteller - his "Tales of the City" series grew from a newspaper serial to six internationally best-selling novels. The first three books in the "Tales" series have also been adapted into three popular televsion miniseries starring Laura Linney and Olympia Dukakis, the first airing on PBS and the latter two on Showtime.

At this event, Maupin will celebrate the paperback release of his new novel "Michael Tolliver Lives", and discuss and read from his work, with a book sale and signing to follow.

The first of these San Francisco-set "Tales" was published in 1978. Five more followed in the 80s, ending with the last book "Sure Of You", in 1989. The seventh (and latest) novel published in 2007 "Michael Tolliver Lives", continues the colorful story of some of the series' most memorable characters, including the eccentric, marijuana-smoking, fifty-something landlady Anna Madrigal, the sweet ingenue Mary Ann Singleton, and of course, our hero Michael Tolliver, gay man nicknamed "Mouse". In this newly-published paperback edition of the novel, Maupin allows the 55-year-old Mouse to tell his own story, via Maupin's uniquely humorous and touching prose, of having survived the AIDS epidemic that took so many of his friends and lovers. Of the autobiographical nature of the characters, Maupin says, "I've always been all of the characters in one way or another.

Prior to the Loft event, on Saturday June 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the Pima County Public Library will host a free screening of the original TV miniseries, "Tales of the City, at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 North Stone Avenue in downtown Tucson. Free popcorn for everyone!

G/L Couples Finding Marriage A Mixed Bag

"There are no role models for gay marriage," said Jacob Venter of Boston, right, with his husband of four years, Billy Boney.

BOSTON, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - Four years after Massachusetts became the first state to allow Gay couples to marry, there have been blissful unions, painful divorces and everything in between, reported the New York Times. Some same-sex couples say being married has made a big difference, and some say it has made no difference at all. There are devoted couples who have decided marriage is not for them, couples whose lawyers or accountants advised them against marrying, and couples in which one partner wants to marry but the other does not.

But as same-sex marriage begins in California, Massachusetts's experience may offer hints of what is to come. For example, after an initial euphoric rush to the altar, the number of Gay weddings here fell sharply and has declined each year since. Of the more than 10,500 same-sex couples married here since May 17, 2004, 6,121 wed in the first six months. There were 2,060 weddings in 2005; 1,442 in 2006; and 867 in the first eight months of 2007, the most recent data show.

Gay men and Lesbians say the early wave of weddings reflected "pent-up demand" from longstanding couples. The subsequent numbers indicate that "marriage isn't for everybody," said Mary L. Bonauto, a lawyer who argued the case that led to same-sex marriage being legalized here. And, Ms. Bonauto said, "there's only so many Gay people in Massachusetts." The Census Bureau recorded 23,655 same-sex households in Massachusetts in 2006.

Nearly two-thirds of the weddings have been Lesbian marriages, including one between two women named Melissa McCarthy. And while nearly half of straight people marrying are under 30, more same-sex married couples of both sexes are older – nearly a third are in their 40s. Lawyers say same-sex couples are more likely to draw up prenuptial agreements than straight couples are. For some, the marriage learning curve is steep.

"It's been a mixed bag," said Jacob Venter, a 44-year-old child psychiatrist who married Billy Boney, a 36-year-old hairdresser, a month after it became legal to do so. They have disagreements over money, the in-laws and whether to adopt children or have their own. "Nothing turns out the way you imagine," Mr. Venter said. "There are no role models for Gay marriage."

Unlike California, Massachusetts has a residency requirement for marriage. Some couples have moved here to marry, including Lisa Forest and Ann Marie Willer, who came from Texas. "Without having that legal recognition, we felt very vulnerable," Ms. Forest said. "We wanted the psychological security of knowing that we're protected if one of us were to become sick, that we would be able to transfer our assets, at least on the state level, without incurring taxes, that we'll be able to stay together if we're old and not able to care for ourselves."

For many, the biggest advantages are less quantifiable. "I feel totally different inside my skin," said Linda Bailey-Davies, 62, who married her longtime partner, Gloria Bailey-Davies, 67. With marriage, she said, "I felt legitimate in the world."

Heather and Adrienne Walker believe people better understand the seriousness of their relationship, recognition that is especially valuable to them as mothers of four children in suburban Natick. "Before marriage was legal, if I called Adrienne my wife, people would say 'Your what?' " Heather Walker said. "But if you say partner, they're thinking business partner. The knowledge that we are legally married, that they can't play a semantics game, is very freeing. There's none of that, 'but we really need to talk to the actual parents.' "

Still, some couples find few significant advantages. Many employers offered health insurance to domestic partners. State taxes can be higher for some couples, and the lack of federal recognition of Gay marriage makes lucrative benefits – Social Security, federal tax breaks – off limits. "I can't say

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Is Army Changing Its Attitude?

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Bleu Copas, 24, was a model soldier. Recruited in 2002, he transferred to Fort Bragg, N.C., two years later and became part of the renowned 82nd Airborne division. Fit, well-educated, and patriotic, he had only one obstacle to overcome. He was Gay, reported the Orlando Sentinel.

Though the military has operated on a "don't ask, don't tell" policy since 1993, Copas, from Johnson City, Tenn., says his sexual orientation was never an issue. "Throughout my whole time in the military, my colleagues realized my orientation, but it was never a problem," he says. He even says half the residents of his barracks in Monterey, Calif., seemed to be Gay. "There are several that I know serving openly in the desert right now."

And, although Copas was honorably discharged two years ago with full health benefits as a result of a particularly vicious e-mail campaign to out him, Copas views his discharge as increasingly archaic. "I think, ironically, everything now is falling into place regarding discrimination against homosexuals. I was the victim of a very aggressive campaign. I would have been fine otherwise," he says.

Newly released figures, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, might just support his belief. In 2001, 640 soldiers were discharged for homosexuality. In 2006, the number dropped to 282 – a 56 percent reduction. "I think that people will look at Afghanistan and Iraq as the moment when Lesbian and Gay service members prove themselves to be part of military," says Victor Maldonado, a spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an organization that campaigns against military discrimination against Gay and Lesbian military personnel. "More and more service members are serving openly and having no repercussions. They simply are Gay, and it evidently does not affect their relationship with their colleagues or command."

Gays are not the only minority groups benefiting from a new wave of military tolerance. Overweight soldiers and those with alcohol and drug issues have also been granted a reprieve of sorts. The new army statistics show that discharges for these transgressions have also fallen precipitously. Surprisingly, the Bush administration has become the toast of a number of minority advocacy groups. In 1998, 2,224 soldiers were discharged from the army for not meeting body fat standards. In 2006

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UPDATE

California Marriages And Their Impact On Arizona

PHOENIX (Observer Update) -In an E-mail, Equality Arizona the statewide LGBT rights organization wrote that Equality Arizona has been fielding calls and emails from community members who want to know what their legal rights are if they get married, and what impact this will have in Arizona.

Together with national and local partners, including Wingspan, Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and many others, they are inviting the public to join in a statewide town hall-style conversation to discuss the history behind the California ruling, the legal implications and limitations for Arizona couples who marry in California, and the efforts to secure basic rights (i.e. hospital visitation, funeral and burial rights, medical decision-making, inheritance) for LGBT families in Arizona.

Details will follow about the Town Hall expected to take place in July. In the meantime, we encourage community members to read a joint advisory issued by four LGBT legal organizations and five other leading national LGBT advocacy groups titled Make Change, Not Lawsuits. You can access the file at eqfed.org/ct/c7MA4p11ymYX/. Call Equality Arizona at (602) 650-0900 for more information, online at equalityarizona.org.

Record Your Story For KXCI Stonewall Day

TUCSON (Observer Update) - KXCI will commemorate Stonewall Day on Friday, June 27 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with eclectic blend of music, stories, commentaries, and announcements highlighting the LGBTQ experience.

Help build and strengthen community with your LGBTQ story, coming out experience, or information about your organization. Share news about important legislative issues. Invite the listeners to your upcoming events. Segments shoud be about 90 seconds to about 3 minutes and will be prerecorded in the KXCI studios at a time that is convenient for you. Allow about a half hour for your recording session. The following times are available (additional times may be scheduled by request):

Thursday, June 19, 9 a.m. - noon. Friday, June 20, 9 a.m. - noon. Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. - noon. Monday, June 23, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. To schedule a recording session, contact Amanda Shauger at (520) 623-1000, extension 17 or via Email at amandas1@mindspring.com.

AIDSWALK 2008 Call For Quilt Panel Requests

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Each year at the annual AIDSWALK Tucson, the opening of quilt panels at sunrise evokes many emotions and touches the hearts of those in attendance. The quilt panels come from The AIDS Memorial Quilt, which began in 1987 as a response to the AIDS crisis, and continues to today, as there still is no cure for HIV.

Twelve quilt blocks (made up of 8 individual 3' x 6' panels) are requested, displayed and lovingly packed and returned, by AIDSWALK committee members, Deb Van Sant and Greg Rogan. Their requests to the Names Project are directed by families, friends and loved ones who wish to see a panel for a particular person displayed. This year on Sunday, October 19, 2008 at The University of Arizona® campus, panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will again be on display and over 6,000 people attending AIDSWALK will turn out to see them, as well as to walk and raise funds to support the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

SAAF invites the public to submit their request for a panel to be shown at AIDSWALK. Requests must be made by July 1, by calling the SAAF office at (520) 628-7223 and asking for Mae, or via email to mkrueger@saaf.org with 'Quilt Panel' in the subject. Provide as much information as you can about the panel you are requesting, including the name of the person, and if you know it, the particular block number. In addition, community members are invited to submit a panel in honor of those lost to HIV/AIDS, at AIDSWALK. There are detailed instructions on the www.aidsquilt.org website for how to create a panel, or call the SAAF offices if you need assistance, at (520) 628-7223.

The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation provides care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in southern Arizona, including case management, housing, transportation, a food pantry and a mobile meals program, medical and dental assistance and support groups. Equally important, SAAF provides outreach to groups at high risk of HIV/AIDS through seven different culturally targeted prevention programs as well as general community education to help reduce the risk of HIV.

For more information on AIDSWALK 2008, or submitting or requesting a quilt panel from the AIDS Memorial Quilt, please visit AIDS Walk Tucson's website or call the AIDSWALK hotline at (520)791-WALK (9255).

Like A Good Neighbor

TUCSON (Observer Update) - In a recent edition of this publication, a story ran about the State Farm Insurance Company was reaching out to the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) communities through outreach and its LGBT employee resource group which surprisingly most of its members are not LGBT. One of which is Dan Kalm, who is the one of the new agents for the Tucson area.

Dan grew up in New Jersey and has worked in Southern New Jersey, Pennsylvania in Ohio in addition to helping State Farm Insured's recover from catastrophe claims in Texas and Florida. When asked why market to the LGBT community, Dan candidly replied, "When my daughter was very ill and hospitalized for three months in Pittsburgh back in 1995, a Lutheran Church with a large LGBT community basically adopted my wife and daughter while I commuted back and forth from Dayton, Ohio where we lived on the weekends. The experience and exposure to the LGBT community was enlightening and powerful. My wife and I agree that without their friendship and prayers, a difficult time would have been impossible. Now its my turn, there are insurance issues that impact LGBT partners that my experience in insurance can really benefit."

On July 1, Dan and his staff will open their office at 2632 North Campbell. If you have questions E-mail dan at dan@dankalm.com or call (520) 795-0231. Dan and his staff will be answering various questions about insurance in future editions of the Observer, as well as advertising in Tucson and Southern Arizona's LGBT weekly newspaper.

Outspoken Families Training June 29

PHOENIX - OUTSpoken Families, the national speakers' bureau for Family Equality Council, is loud and strong!

LGBTQ parents, extended family members and caring allies have all committed to being a part of this groundbreaking and very powerful ensemble. Over 1,000 people in 39 states, the District of Columbia, one U.S. territory and three countries have signed on to be OUTSpoken. Equality Arizona has partnered with the Family Equality Council to bring OUTSpoken to Phoenix. You're invited to take part in this training, to be held Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1407 N 2nd St., in Phoenix.

Child care will be available on site. To register visit eqfed.org/ct/27MA4p11UmGD/. Fore more information about the Family Equality Council, visit eqfed.org/ct/wdMA4p11UmGV/.

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Around The Old Pueblo

TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) is seeking a diverse group of volunteers that represent a cross section of our community to join existing volunteers in meeting the program and service needs of our CarePartners, people living with HIV/AIDS. TIHAN's goal is to have our Volunteers reflect the ethnic diversity of the people we serve, our CarePartners. With your help, we will continue to grow – not to become bigger, but as a result of getting better. TIHAN has have a variety of Volunteer opportunities that will allow you to give as much, or as little as time will allow (quarterly, monthly, or weekly). TIHAN has a daytime Orientation scheduled for Tuesday, July 8 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and an evening Orientation on Thursday, September 11, 5:15 - 9:15 p.m. Please call the TIHAN office to sign up for our next Orientation today, (520) 299-6647. For information about Volunteer opportunities, email our Volunteer Coordinator, Kim Talerico, kim@tihan.org.

Help your community by attending a free volunteer training for Wingspan's Anti-Violence Project, Friday June 27, 6 - 9:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, June 28-29, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and learn how to advocate for individuals and communities impacted by violence. This training is a great opportunity for social work students, social workers, social service providers, and generally anyone who is interested in learning more about the effects of violence within and against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community. The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project provides 24-hour advocacy, crisis intervention, and referral services to LGBT survivors and their allies who are affected by violence and discrimination. Everyone can take part in the training plus you don't have to commit to volunteering with the program. Lunch and snacks will be provided. For more information and to reserve your spot, contact Madeline Porta, mporta@wingpan.org or (520) 624-1779 x128.

Join Senior Pride for Coffee Tawk at the Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse, 606 N. Fourth Avenue Tuesday, June 24, 11:00 a.m., just down the street from Wingspan, for some late morning social time. Drinking coffee is not mandatory; you could opt for iced tea or Italian sodas or pass if you choose. If we have a good time and find it valuable, we'll set it up as a regular event. Your input is important!

BaldwinPredicts Next Year Easier To Pass LGBT Bills

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The only open lesbian in the U.S. House of Representatives is predicting that in the next session of Congress, bills related to employment non-discrimination and hate crimes will be more successful than legislation aimed at repealing the Defense of Marriage Act and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) made the comments at a Center for American Progress forum geared toward highlighting the importance of the Domestic Partner Benefits and Obligations Act, which would grant the partners of gay federal employees the same benefits that are available to the spouses of straight counterparts.

Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) joined Baldwin in the panel discussion. Baldwin said she is "very optimistic" that ENDA and a hate crimes measure would pass Congress next session, particularly if Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama, who has supported these initiatives, take the White House.

COMMENTARY. . . .

by Deb Price

BOSTON, Massachusetts - Last year, a young African-American told her parents something that can't go unspoken for long in a close-knit family: "I'm a Lesbian." Her father immediately responded, "We love you," and her mother felt a relief rush because she'd feared bad news. The family hugged. "It was the easiest coming out experience that anyone could possibly have," the Lesbian teen later recalled. "... I've been closer to my parents since coming out...."

Her story might not seem remarkable in a world where millions of heterosexual women comfortably spend their TV time with funny gal Ellen DeGeneres and personal finance wiz Suze Orman, both openly Gay.

But this coming-out story took place in one of America's most prominent black political families. Deval Patrick, the dad, is governor of Massachusetts. The mom is Diane. And the daughter is 18-year-old Katherine. The Patricks recently told their beautiful family story of truth and joyful consequences to Bay Windows, a Gay newspaper in their state.

It's a story with the power to blow off closet doors in countless African-American homes, says Mandy Carter, a longtime black Lesbian activist who attributes much of the unease of African-Americans toward the Gay rights movement to the mistaken notion that it's "about giving more to already privileged, rich, white Gay men."

Something very powerful and special is happening within the black community to counterbalance the often unaccepting messages from the black church:

A few weeks ago, on the front page of the New York Times, the nation's other black governor, New York's David Paterson, talked about "Uncle Stanley" and "Uncle Ronald," the Harlem Gay couple who were close to his family and helped him with his spelling when he was a boy.

Paterson reminisced about his "uncles" in explaining why he directed state agencies to recognize out-of-state Gay marriages: "People who live together for a long time would like to be married – as far as I'm concerned, I think it's beautiful."

Like Paterson, Patrick supports Gay marriage, which started in 2004 in his state.

Meanwhile, Barack Obama, who'll be the first African-American presidential nominee of a major party, advocates civil unions (not marriage) for Gay couples, giving married Gays federal benefits and getting rid of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"I can't tell you how amazed I am," Carter says of the influential trio of Gay-friendly black politicians. "We've never seen anything like this."

Recent polls underscore the significance of these role models by showing that black voters tend to be less supportive of Gay couples. Pew Research found whites opposed to Gay marriage by 49 percent to 40 percent; blacks were 56 percent opposed and 26 percent in favor. Quinnipiac University found something wonderful in polling New Yorkers on Paterson's decision to recognize out-of-state Gay marriages. By 54-40 percent, whites approved. Most black voters, who tend to be big Paterson fans, did too, 47-41 percent.

Gov. Patrick told Bay Windows his daughter's coming out was "just no biggie," sweetly adding he's happy he can imagine her marrying another woman.

Then, showing what America's Gay-friendly future sounds like, Patrick joked that thinking of Katherine's wedding he can also imagine "how much it's gonna cost."

(Deb Price is a columnist for the Detroit News, from which this is reprinted.)

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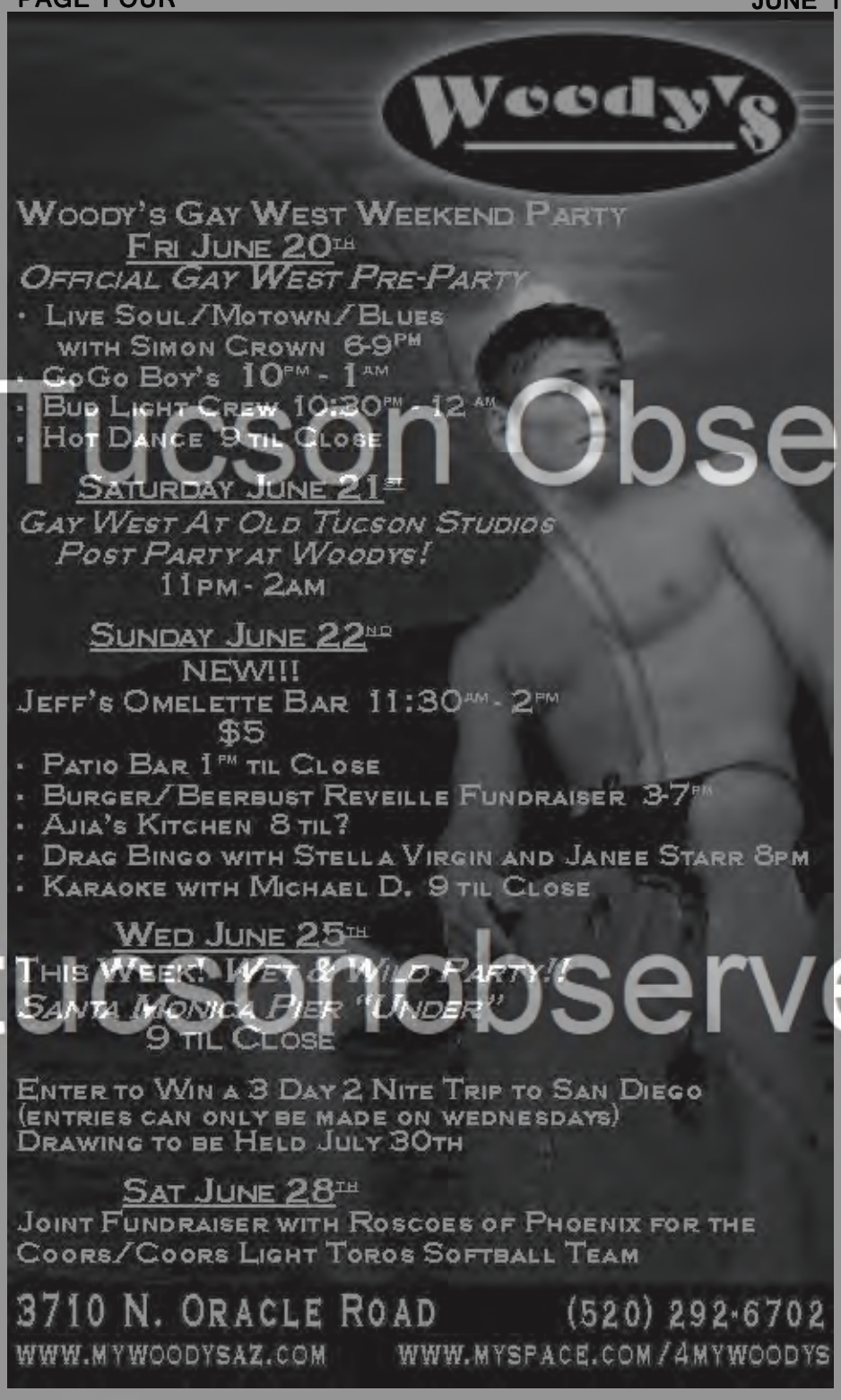

G/L Couples Finding Marriage A Mixed Bag

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that anything has changed for us personally," said David Eppley, who married Chad Garner in 2004. What has changed for Gay couples is that marriage is part of the dating landscape, adding tension or romance, pressure or excitement.

"It makes me completely think differently about the relationship," said Lance Collins, 38, a colorist at a Boston hair salon. He envisions his perfect wedding (grooms in jeans and T-shirts), but his partner does not want to marry. "I know he cares about me quite a bit," Mr. Collins said. "I just think he doesn't want to." Mr. Collins believes his partner is his ideal match because he "gets as excited about seeing me as I get about seeing him," because "sometimes he'll do my laundry and fold it the way I like it," and because "he makes my coffee really well – one Equal with just a tablespoon of fat-free half-and-half."

But their marriage chasm worries him. "Maybe I should move out and maybe that will make him appreciate me," Mr. Collins said. "I've gone so far as looking for an apartment." While many couples want conventional marriages, some are drawing on a creative definition of family forged while living "outside mainstream society," said Joyce Kauffman, a family lawyer and Gay activist. "They've incorporated whatever's outside the box into their marriage."

Eric Erbelding and his husband, Michael Peck, both 44, see each other only every other weekend because Mr. Peck works in Pittsburgh. So, Mr. Erbelding said, "Our rule is you can play around because, you know, you have to be practical." Mr. Erbelding, a decorative painter in Boston, said: "I think men view sex very differently than women. Men are pigs, they know that each other are pigs, so they can operate accordingly. It doesn't mean anything." Still, Mr. Erbelding said, most married Gay couples he knows are "for the most part monogamous, but for maybe a casual three-way."

Some same-sex spouses have split up, including Julie and Hillary Goodridge, the lead plaintiffs in the case that paved the way for same-sex marriage in the state. "Lesbian and Gay couples get divorced for the same reasons that heterosexual couples do," Ms. Kauffman said. "Honestly the only thing that is different is that some people rushed to get married without thinking it through just because they could. It was an incredibly heady historical moment, and some people probably made the decision hastily."

Rick Bettencourt, 41, married his partner of 12 years in July 2005, but by September they had broken up, and his partner is now married to another man, he said. "I knew there was an issue with us prior to the marriage," Mr. Bettencourt said, "but we thought maybe this is the thing that will help us stay together. Stupid, obviously. It was almost like I needed the marriage in order to consummate the relationship in order to break it up."

Amy Bullock married in 2004 after her partner of nine years said "we've got to quick do it because maybe they'll reverse" the law, Ms. Bullock recalled. They had a child and were considering having another. But five months after the wedding, "she decides she is straight," Ms. Bullock said. "Maybe being married triggered those feelings," she said. "I didn't see it coming."

Chris Burgess, pregnant when she wed her partner in June 2004, severed the marriage in 2006 when past problems resurfaced, she said. Divorce was more complicated than "in most of our relationships, where you say, 'O.K., you get these CDs,' " Ms. Burgess said. Her partner needed to adopt their son before divorcing to retain parental rights. Now, Ms. Burgess lives with another woman and they wear rings and want children, but she says she will not marry unless federal recognition makes it economically irresistible. "I'm kind of fine with the 'Brad Pitt-Angelina Jolie, all right we're committed, we don't need to get married,' " she said.

Ms. Bullock, who is dating another woman, is buying a duplex with her former wife so both can see their son daily. She is wary of remarrying in general, though she says marriage may have made separation more equitable.

Mr. Bettencourt and his current partner, Chris Weaver, just bought a house, but he played down a ring he gave Mr. Weaver for Valentine's Day, telling him, he says, "I don't want you to get concerned that I'm pushing marriage or anything."

Some couples, including longtime partners and those with children, have rejected marriage for economic, philosophical or cultural reasons.

"I just don't really see the point in it," said Michelle Smith, 51, of Truro, who has two children with Terri Humes, 51, her partner of 27 years. "I don't need that paper for any type of validation. I know what her and I have."

Ms. Kauffman considers marriage a "patriarchal institution" that "politically, kind of makes me queasy."

To Clint Wolbert, 28, marriage is too "assimilative." Being Gay is like belonging to an "exclusive club," Mr. Wolbert said. "I just worry that the drive to marry will end up kind of chipping away at the culture."

Some couples are advised not to marry for financial reasons or if they want to adopt children from foreign countries, most of which would not place children with a same-sex married couple.

Bill Brandon, a doctor who will soon marry Tedd Elison, waited several years because Mr. Elison's job as a disc jockey seemed too unstable until he also began running a hair salon. "I wasn't going to go through this unless he was – I don't want to say having a real job, but more of a profession," Dr. Brandon said.

Same-sex married couples report widespread acceptance in Massachusetts, but not necessarily out of state. At a Disney World hotel, "I got the third degree – who is Heather, is she your sister?" Adrienne Walker said.

An Atlanta pharmacy argued when Mr. Boney, filling a prescription, said that as a husband, he was covered by Mr. Venter's insurance.

The Bailey-Davieses are so nervous about being separated if one gets sick that they rejected spending the winter in Florida. "I don't feel safe," Linda said. "I'd rather freeze my butt off and be with my honey."

Jodi Sperber, who moved with her wife, Pippa Shulman, to New Hampshire, said a handyman there "could not bring himself to talk about Pippa as anything other than my associate." But over all, Ms. Sperber said, their religion probably draws "stranger questions: 'Why don't you have a Christmas tree? Is it the Jewish thing?' "

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Saving Our History Since 1997

Pride Marked In Tucson And Arizona

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Celebrations and commemorations continue as the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) communities in Arizona mark the 39th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the birth of the modern LGBT rights movement.

Tucson Pride and Wingspan's Reel Pride joins up to present A Four Letter Word on June 20, 7:45 p.m., at the Loft, 3233 East Speedway. Casper Andreas's sexy comic follow-up to Slutty Summer nabbed the Grand Jury Award for Best Screenplay at L.A. Outfest.

Get ready to experience a little romantic profanity with a Four Letter Word (from Casper Andreas, acclaimed writer/director of Slutty Summer), a sexy, raunchy and sweetly-satisfying comedy that proves love in the 21st century isn't as easy as it looks.

"A Four Letter Word coasts on a good-natured raunchiness that's explicit but never sleazy ... its a surprisingly endearing romantic comedy that explores gay relationships with low-budget verve. As for the male nudity, well, you won't hear any complaints from me." - Jeannette Catsoulis, the New York Times. For more information go online to loftcinema.org.

On Saturday, June 21, slap on your spurs and saddle up for Gay West '08 on June 21 at Old Tucson Studios. Gay West is a western-themed festive fundraising event that benefits Wingspan, Tucson and Southern Arizona's LGBT Community Center, located at 425 E. 7th St.

Hold on to your hat because this year's event features an exclusive Old Tucson Studios performance by Grammy legend Thelma Houston to perform her #1 Dance/Pop hit, Don't Leave Me This Way and songs from her newest CD "A Woman's Touch." Great food and drink with Famous Jakes BBQ / Chuck Wagon Grill, inside and outside bars all over the park. Ride the Sabino Canyon Train, tour the Haunted Mine, pan for gold, drive the famous antique cars, and ride on the carousel. Test your skill on the Mechanical Bull, Quick Draw, Rope-A-Steer and many other great western games. Enjoy Miss Kitty and her Girls in an all new musical revue at the Grand Palace Hotel & Saloon! Someone is looking to rob the bank in town square, and you'd better keep an eye out for the bad guys! Enjoy high-flying stunts with pyrotechnics at the Three Amigos mission set.

Later in the in evening join Lucinda Holliday for the Lipstick and Lashes show as well as Tucson's own great talents. Grand Palace: Dance Mix with DJ Blade and Ken Carr. Dance the night away with the best club mix in town. After the concert, Lucinda Holliday hosts Madonna, Cher, Beyonce, Michael Jackson! Who else will show up?

Tickets for Gay West are less than $20 a person. Special VIP meet and greet with diva Legend Thelma Houston (VIP Tickets on sale now at Woody's) Reception with hors d'oeuvres and bar, autographed photo and her new CD "A Woman's Touch" Special VIP seating for concert and more! Visit Old Tucson's website, oldtucson.com, for tickets.

In Flagstaff, the Northern Arizona's Pride Association (NAPA) will be presenting the 2008 Pride in the Pines, June 20 - 22, the twelfth annual event.

Organizers have expanded their "kids" area so that more families will be able to partake in our celebration. There will be plenty of food, clothing, arts and crafts and LOTS of entertainment.

Ce-Ce Peniston, Frenchie Davis and Jason and DeMarco will headline the entertainment at Wheeler Park in downtown Flagstaff. For more information, go online to the NAPA website at flagstaffpride.org/.

In anticipation of author Armistead Maupin's visit to the Loft on June 25, come enjoy a free screening, Saturday June 21, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at the Joel Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone in the Lower Level Meeting Room, of the original TV miniseries Tales of the City based on his work. Free popcorn will be provided.

Rainbow Planet, located at 606 N. Fourth Avenue in Tucson, will be hosting two Pride events on Sunday, June 22 and Monday, June 23. On Sunday, enjoy the musical stylings of local Tucson musician Daryl Shawn and on Monday, join Tucson Pride for Craft Night. For more information, call (520) 620-1770 or go online to theplanetcoffeehouse.com.

For the younger set, ages 13-23, EON Youth Lounge will be hosting a dinner and movie, Tuesday, June 24, call EON at (520) 620-6245 for directions.

Bear night will take place Wednesday, June 25 at the Rainbow Planet, call (520) 620-1770 for details.

Wingspan, Wednesday, June 25, will be hosting the Pima Community Access Program Day, with an ice cream social, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call (520) 624-1779 or go online to wingspan.org for more information.

Also on Wednesday, June 25, 7:00 p.m. at the Loft Cinema, 3233 East Speedway, join the Pima County Public Library and the Library's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Committee in welcoming Armistead Maupin, author of Tales of the City, The Night Listener, and Michael Tolliver Lives to Tucson. Maupin will talk about and read from his books. A book sale and signing will follow. For more information go online to library.pima.gov/spotlight/maupin/ or loftcinema.com/node/299.

Desert Girls will be performing on Thursday, June 26, at the Rainbow Planet, call (520) 620-1770 for more information or go online to the planetcoffeehouse.com.

Also on Thursday, IBT's, located at 616 N. Fourth Avenue, will be hosting a "Fireman's Party," from 10:00 p.m. till closing, with drink specials, a sexiest Fireman Contest and other wonderful surprises. Go online to idkex.com for details.

Boy's R Us will be performing at Club Congress, 311 East Congress, 6:00 p.m, Friday, June 27, so come celebrate Pride Week at Club Congress with Mistress of Affairs Janee' Starr. Pre-show featuring Human Project, performances by EON youth group and all your favorite Gender Benders. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., showtime at 6:30 p.m. $5 for 18 and under, $7 general admission, $10 limited seating at the door. Parental advisory warning for content and subject matter, ages 14 and up. For more information on upcoming shows please call (520) 304-2155 or visit myspace.com/tucsondragkings.

SAAF (Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation), online at saaf.org, will be offering free and confidential HIV testing at their offices, 375 S. Euclid and other locations around Tucson for National HIV Testing Day, Friday, June 27. For additional locations or information, call Dave at (520) 628-7223. Know your status, get tested.

Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street will be hosting, Friday, June 27, their Front Porch Music Series, with details online at wingspan.org,

On Saturday June 28, MSHAPE Sunset BBQ & Volleyball will take place at De Anza Park (Located at the southeast corner of Speedway and Stone), 4 to 8:00 p.m. MSHAPE invites you to come play volleyball, eat some barbequed hamburgers & hot dogs and hang out.

Last but not least, Out Loud and Queer Open Mic. will take place at Rainbow Planet. Join Tucson Pride and show off your vocal abilities for Out Loud and Queer Open Mic. at Rainbow Planet. For more information, contact Rainbow Planet at (520) 620-1770 or online at theplanetcoffeehouse.com.

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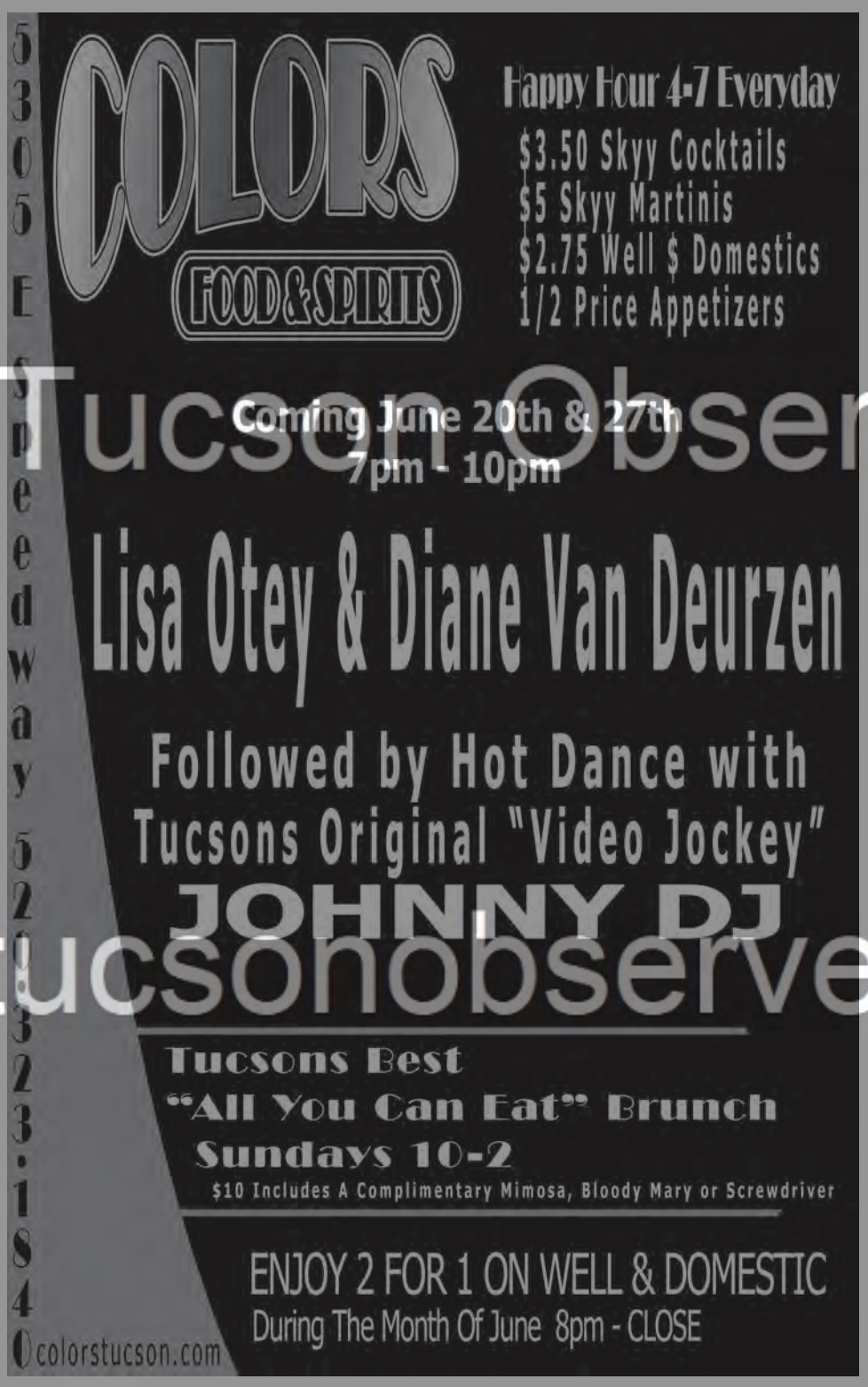

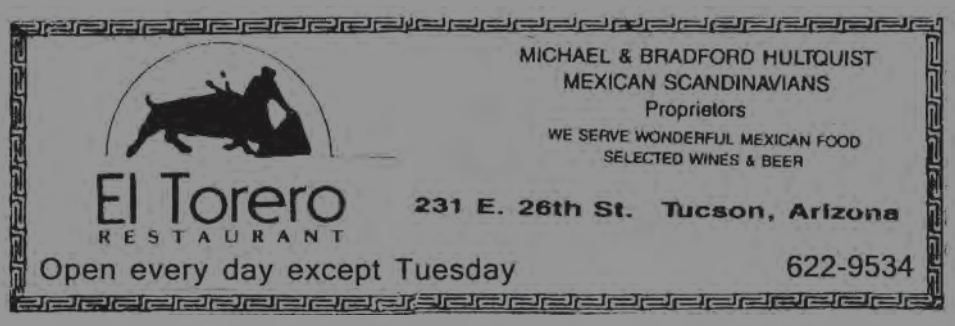

Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

The American Dream

Ask anybody what they would do if they won the lottery.

Chances are the answers you get will be variations on the same theme: not much, as little as possible and nothing.

The American dream has morphed from freedom to do whatever one wants to getting to do nothing. The people who "have" to do the least are considered the most successful.

There was a time when it meant that you could follow your dreams, make your own way and have an interesting and inventive life. People dreamed of airplanes, rockets, presidencies, light bulbs and all sorts of improbable things and then they tried to make them, live them.

The problem with dreams that is tough to get around is that they sound like dreams. It is easy for other people to make dreams sound silly, unrealistic, too little, too big, impossible and so on, simply because dreams are what they are. They are things that don't exist in the real world. Often, they sound absurd.

Dreams are often not big enough. Taught, as the Western child is, to honor only the most grand schemes, little dreams of commoners (like JP and maybe you) are easily sneered at. Of course, the sneering usually aspire to the Great Nothing. They want to Travel, See Shows, etc....generally things that are simply entertaining, but not accomplishing. These are the Dead. They died long ago and want everything else dead, so they sneer at little ideas, and laugh at grand ones as well. After all, who do you think you are, to do something grand?

So we retreat, join the ranks of the Living Dead, and long for the day when we can do nothing much. We become what the British call Wankers.

Crude, these Brits, but telling.

So what?

Well....here is a little thing I want to share.....I have lots of dreams. Most.... I will probably run out of time before I get to them. Some will be started but not come to fruition. All are fun, or hard, or impossible.

I thought that there had to be a litmus test, that a dream had to be "worthy" before I could allow myself to spend time on it. I also thought that I had to be reasonably sure of being able to do "it" well.

Now I am sure it is exactly otherwise. It is not the thing itself, but the journey, and once started, we will go where we go and end up wherever we end up...the "thing" we try is just an avenue, a catalyst. It is the bridge to what we can never guess without the going.

I want to say that I am doing a lot of things that I want to do.....this is just one that I cannot justify; it isn't properly constructive, safe or worhwhile. In fact, it may be another kind of "wankerism". I can't tell. All I know is I really, really want to do it.

So, I am going to do something that appears frivolous. Something that appears silly, dangerous and pointless. Just because I want to.

Here it is.

The chicken coop was moved to make way for my own little boatyard.

The usual boat didn't make the cut; I am ordering materials to build a little "torpedo" with a flexible steel sail the size of a small umbrella. The seas it is going to sail in are the seas that sink boats. It is a storm sailer.

I thought I was designing a lifeboat. Really. But then, I forget who I am.

So begins a long, silly project, one that will be popular with young men and women who need to do things like climb mountains and jump out of airplanes. Extreme wankers, perhaps...perhaps not.

It will take at least a year. It may be a waste of time and money. Then again, it is a dream....just one of those shapeless, formless, meaningless things that populate the minds of the living.

Imagine; fifty foot waves, sixty knot winds, dark green seas boiling all around you, flying off the tops of waves in a little torpedo on your way to nowhere. Just alive, in a place that under most other circumstances is deadly. Why? I don't know, really....and I don't care. I'll keep you posted.

What are you doing this summer?

Ellen and Her Wedding Pictures

Ellen and Portia

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Ellen DeGeneres does some things conventionally (launch a mega-hit daytime talk show) and some things unconventionally (announce she's Lesbian on her own sitcom). Thanks to California's OK-ing of gay marriage, she's about to do something else quite conventional: get married, to partner Portia de Ross, Jossip.com reported. But here's the unconventional part: She won't be selling the pics, Jossip hears.

While plenty of magazines would love to get their hands on the exclusive pics of her big day – since it'll really be the first celebrity wedding of its kind, with that whole Gay thing – most of them will find themselves in another situation: with pics, but without exclusivity. That's because the talk show host plans to distribute multiple sets of pics a single photo to scores of media outlets, we're told, while avoiding certain places she's at odds with (among them, American Media's titles) (a well-placed insider says the photo will be available to everyone who asks). DeGeneres is said to be one of very few celebs who refuses to accept payouts from the media in exchange for access. And especially with the wedding, she wants to get as much exposure for it as possible, which would help normalize the idea of Gay marriage, which she's spoken endlessly about on her show. The more press with the photos, the more blanket the coverage. (Though without giving any magazine exclusive shots, she may lose out on major play on the covers.)

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June 20-29 Pride Week

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Friday, June 20

Tucson Pride hosts Reel Pride - The Loft Cinema
3233 East Speedway Boulevard • A Four Letter Word- Get ready to experience a little romantic profanity with *A FOUR LETTER WORD* (from Casper Andreas, acclaimed writer/director of Slutty Summer).
www.loftcinema.com

Saturday, June 21

Gay West - Old Tucson Studios
201 South Kinney Road • 6:00pm • This year's event features an exclusive Old Tucson Studios performance by Grammy legend Thelma Houston.
www.wingspan.org • www.oldtucson.com/events

Saturday, June 21

Pride in the Pines - Flagstaff
Wheeler Park - 212 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ • 11:00am-8:00pm
Mark your calendars for an entire weekend of Pride celebrations and activities for the entire Northern Arizona community!
www.flagstaffpride.org

Sunday, June 22

Daryl Shawn - Rainbow Planet
606 North 4th Avenue • 4:00pm • Join TPI and enjoy the musical stylings of musician Daryl Shawn. For more information: (520) 620-1770
www.theplanetcoffeehouse.com

Monday, June 23

Craft Night - Rainbow Planet
606 North 4th Avenue • 7:00pm-10:00pm • Join TPI at Rainbow Planet for Craft Night. For more information: (520) 620-1770
www.theplanetcoffeehouse.com

Tuesday, June 24

Eon Youth Lounge - Dinner and a Movie
Call (520) 620-6245 for directions • Dinner and a movie for youth ages 13-23. • Must be between 13-23 to attend. • www.eonyouth.org

Wednesday, June 25

Bear Night - Rainbow Planet
606 North 4th Avenue • All Night • For more information: (520) 620-1770
www.theplanetcoffeehouse.com

Wednesday, June 25

Pima Community Access Program (PCAP) Day - Wingspan
425 East Seventh Street • 11:30am-5:00pm • Join us to find out more about PCAP and for an ice cream social. • www.pcap.cc

Thursday, June 26

Fireman's Party - IBT's
616 North 4th Avenue10:00 pm- Close • Join Tucson Pride and Title Sponsor Bud Light at IBT's for the Fireman's Party. Drink specials, go-go boys, and a Sexiest Fireman Contest will definitely make this a Pride Week event to remember! • www.myspace.com/ibtstucson

Thursday, June 26

Desert Girls - Rainbow Planet
606 North 4th Avenue • ALL Night • For more information: (520) 620-1770 • www.theplanetcoffeehouse.com

Friday, June 27

Front Porch Music Series - Wingspan
425 East Seventh Street • Artist(s) and times: To be announced
www.wingspan.org

Friday, June 27

National HIV Testing Day - Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
375 South Euclid Avenue • 8:00am-8:00pm • Free & confidential HIV testing. For additional locations or information, call Dave at (520) 628-7223.
www.SAAF.org

Saturday, June 28

MSHAPE Sunset BBQ & Volleyball - De Anza Park
Southeast corner of Speedway and Stone • 4:00pm to 8:00pm
MSHAPE invites you to come play volleyball, eat some barbequed hamburgers & hot dogs and hang out with us!
www.SAAF.org

Saturday, June 28

Out Loud and Queer Open Mic - Rainbow Planet
606 North 4th Avenue • 7:00pm • Join TPI and show off your vocal abilities for Out Loud and Queer Open Mic at Rainbow Planet.
For more information: (520) 620-1770
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for a complete listing of tucson's pride week events visit our website:

www.tucsonpride.org

Saving Our History Since 1967

Tony Awards Make A Nod To The Past and Future

Lily Tomlin Whoopi Goldberg Liza Minelli

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Broadway looked to the future – and to its past – at the 2008 Tony Awards with In the Heights, the best musical winner, and August: Osage County, the best play, sharing the spotlight with a nearly 60-year-old South Pacific, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. Both Heights, a salsa and rap-flavored look at the Latino immigrant experience in Upper Manhattan, and August, a brutal dissection of a backbiting Oklahoma family, were written by artists making their Broadway debuts.

Yet it was Lincoln Center Theater's lush, lavish revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic that took more awards – seven – than any other show Sunday at Radio City Music Hall. Besides winning the musical-revival prize, it collected awards for debonair leading man Paulo Szot, who plays the French plantation owner Emile de Becque; director Bartlett Sher; and the designers of its sets, costumes, lighting, and sound. Sher, in his acceptance speech, thanked not only the men who wrote the show's music and lyrics, but its original director, Joshua Logan, and James Michener, who wrote the World War II short stories on which the musical (which won nine Tonys back in 1950) is based. "They were kind of incredible men, because they seem to teach me particularly that in a way I wasn't only an artist but I was also a citizen," Sher said. "And the work that we do in these musicals or in any of these plays is not only important in terms of entertaining people, but that our country was really a pretty great place, and that perhaps it could be a little better, and perhaps, in fact, we could change."

Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the Tony-winning score for In the Heights, rapped his acceptance speech and later proclaimed, "It is like the best prom ever, dude. I have several more musicals inside my head, and I want to write them." The show, which was first seen off-Broadway last season before moving to Broadway this year, also won awards for choreography and orchestrations. August playwright Tracy Letts, whose previous work in New York was seen only off-Broadway, said, "Writing is better than acting. You get to use your words and you don't need to be there eight days a week." And in thanking his producers, Letts took a swipe at Broadway shows that cast movie stars and winners from TV reality shows by saying, "They did an amazing thing: They decided to produce an American play on Broadway with theater actors."

Two of his August actors, Deanna Dunagan and Rondi Reed, and the play's director, Anna D. Shapiro, also won Tonys for their work in the show, which began life last summer at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company. Said Dunagan, who portrays the bilious matriarch in the play: "This is so overwhelming. This whole year has been entirely unexpected and astonishing. ... After 34 years in regional theater, I never thought about it [the Tonys]. I watched it on television like everybody else."

Despite losing the musical revival prize to South Pacific, Gypsy monopolized the musical performance prizes, taking three of the four awards. The most dramatic was Patti LuPone's win for her portrayal of Rose, the ultimate stage mother. Her rendition of "Everything's Coming Up Roses" during the show got the cheering audience to its feet. "It's such a wonderful gift to be an actor who makes her living on the Broadway stage and then every 30 years or so picks up one of these," said an exuberant LuPone, who last won a Tony in 1980 for Evita. "I was afraid to write a speech, because I had written a couple before and they never made it out of my purse. So I'm going to use one of the old ones and add a few names." Her costar Boyd Gaines did even better. He collected his fourth Tony, winning for his portrayal of Rose's gentlemanly candy-salesman suitor, Herbie. And Laura Benanti, who plays the ugly duckling daughter who blossoms into Gypsy Rose Lee in the show, received the featured-actress award.

Boeing-Boeing, a 1960s sex farce awash in slammed doors and split-second timing, took the play revival prize. Its lead, Mark Rylance, who portrays a nerdy visitor to Paris, won the top acting prize. He gave the night's most bewildering acceptance speech, riffing about wearing clothing appropriate to your vocation or avocation. "Otherwise, it might appear that you don't know what you're doing, that you're just wandering the earth, no particular reason for being here, no particular place to go," he said. "Thanks very much for this."

Passing Strange, which had been expected to give In the Heights the stiffest competition, managed to take only one award – book of a musical – for its star and creator, Stew, another Broadway newcomer. He said the intention of Passing Strange, a young black man's journey through sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, was to stay "true to the music that people actually listen to ... on subways or when they're at home getting stoned or when they're at parties."

Stephen Sondheim, two of whose shows – "Gypsy" and "Sunday in the Park With George" – were competing for best musical revival this year, received a lifetime achievement award.

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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

More Than A Vice Chair

In less than two weeks, Arizona's government will shut down, thanks to the Republicans who control both chambers of Arizona's Legislature and their unwillingness to reach a consensus or compromise with each entire body in the chambers to craft a budget for the next fiscal year.

Republicans are saying the negotiating with other Legislative Republicans to get a majority for a budget that Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano could sign.

Napolitano's office has said they don't want a last-minute deal sent over and are willing to communicate for the good of the state but are the Republicans?

They're just following the same pattern Newt Gingrich and his elephantine minions did in Washington D.C. in 1995 and 1996 and the result was the federal government was shut down, twice!

So are the citizens of Arizona ready to deal with the shutdown of the state and county governments?

It would be both since the county government is just an extension of the state government.

Essential services, such as law enforcement and the prison system would still operate but not much more.

Road construction projects, such as the I-10 work that has tied Tucson in knots would stop;

Health programs and services through the auspices of the county and state would cease;

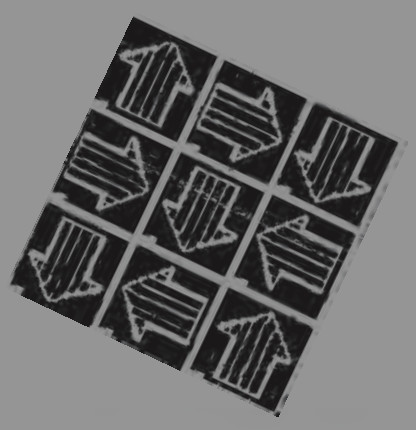
Sewer and water systems would stop flowing with the shutdown of the government and

Arizona's educational system, kindergarten through high school, community college through the state's three Universities wouldn't be able to open a book, citing a few of the many examples how the lives of Arizonans will be affected by the elephantine behavior being exhibited at the Arizona Legislature, resulting in no budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

To Arizona House Speaker James Weiers and Arizona Senate President Tim Bee, who represent all the people, not just 33 state Representatives and 17 Senators, its time to live up to and affirm the oath you took in January 2007.

Governor Napolitano submitted a proposed budget in January of this year for the upcoming fiscal year that starts July 1 but Weiers and Bee are still holding meetings with other Republicans to draw up a "fair" budget while Napolitano's solid plan draws dust on the "legislative shelf." While the elephantine posturing continues, the Legislature continues its session, voting on nonsensical measures, drawing a paycheck as many Arizonans continue to lose their jobs and livelihood.

Enough is enough. Arizona's Legislature has met or been scheduled to be off thanks to Weiers and Bee, for more than 150 days of their "100 day" session. It's time to end it by voting or Napolitano's plan and calling it "Sine Die."



Is Army Changing Its Attitude?

Continued from Page One

that figure had fallen to 589 – a 74 percent drop in eight years.

"These statistics should be seen against the background of the Army trying very hard to maintain its overall numbers," says Dr. Russell Pate, professor of health sciences at the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina and a military adviser on obesity. In his opinion: "They've been granting waivers to the weight-exclusion program in the interest of meeting targets."

Nathan M. Banks Sr., spokesman for the Department of the Army, dismisses such charges. "Soldiers realize how important it is to stay in shape. Especially in time of war, the heat in Iraq can get up in the 100s; soldiers carry body armor that weighs over 60 pounds."

Whatever the reason, Lynn McAfee, of the Council on Size and Weight Discrimination, is ecstatic. "I think it's great that they finally understand our value in society," she says. "Now they finally understand that everyone can play a part in defending our country.

Recently $6 million of federal money was granted to the Troop Recruit Improvement (TRIM) program run by the Nutrition Research Council, which hopes to "improve recruit readiness and fitness by determining and combating the causes of childhood and adolescent obesity."

Others who have found stronger footing in the military are those who have struggled with alcohol and drugs. Failure in the drug-rehabilitation program resulting in discharge has fallen from 164 in 2002, during the first full year of war, to a mere 51 in 2006, though the rate of failure was not available. Failure in the alcoholism-rehabilitation program has fallen from 271 in 2002 to 143 in 2006.

Robert J. Lindsey, of the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, thinks this is a welcome progression. "Military discrimination against alcohol and drugs users has certainly been an issue of huge concern in the past," he says. "There is absolutely no question that addiction to alcohol and drugs should be treated as a health problem not as a disciplinary one. "It's encouraging to see the numbers declining," he says. "We hope that means more people are getting help." Although, he added, "It could mean they are more desperate for troops."

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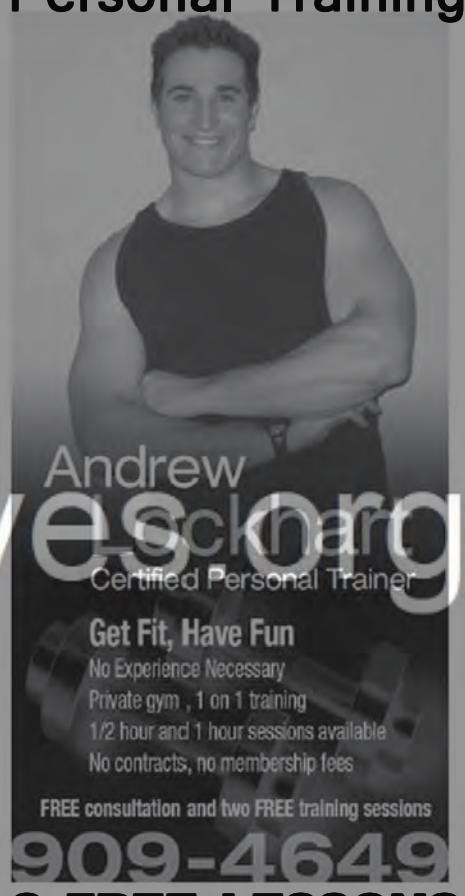
Personal Training



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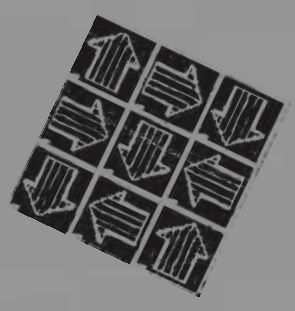

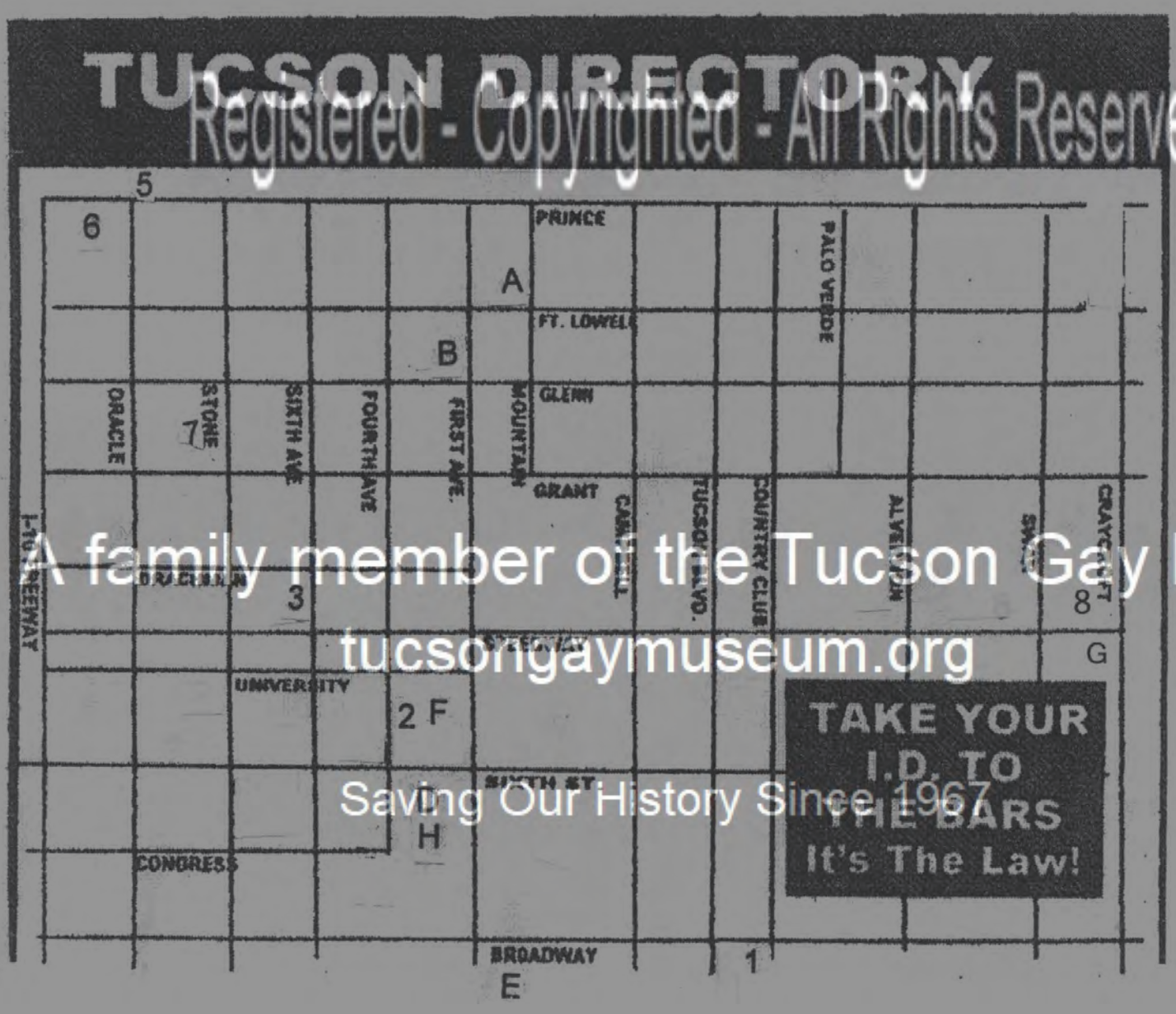

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3. VENTURE-N
   1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S
   3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON
   915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. YARD DOG SALOON
   2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
   5305 E. Speedway 323-1840

Organizations

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3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151

B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626

D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779

E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223

F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770

G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
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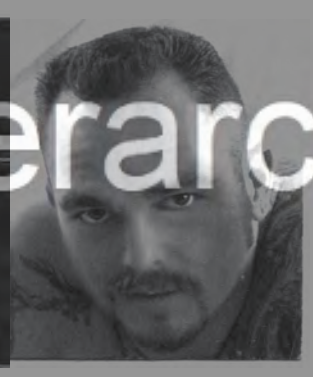

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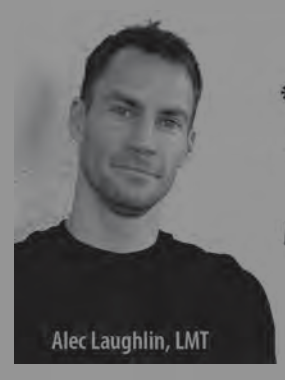

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HOROSCOPES

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Venus enters Cancer and infuses our hearts with mushy thoughts of love. But don't lie back and wait for a delivery. Our ardor has new zing. So let's set our sights on the highest brass ring as we ride this crazy carousel. Grab for it.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Proud Rams make great headway in any home related project. You can pour on the charm in any particularly irksome family issue and make things go your way, at least for a while. Provide some creative approaches to your home design to freshen things up. Then invite kindred souls over to add to the festive decor. If they cook for you, all the better!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls turn up the volume on their communication. While you are naturally sociable you can now better exploit your talents and charm the pants off just about anybody. (Choose wisely...) But why waste all that brain power on aiming for easy targets? Consider tackling some of your latent long range goals by going on a political offensive without being offensive.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pink Twins find themselves counting their pennies and finding a few dollars in the bunch. Finances sit up, roll over but refuse to play dead. Good thing too: Why not start to plan for an early retirement? Venus in Cancer enables you to get even the most recalcitrant advisors to give you a piece of their golden minds. Grab a nugget or two and invest it.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Is there anyone who can match the energy and charisma of the Gay Crab when Venus enters their own sign? No one! You have a limited window of opportunity to strut and fret your hour upon on the stage.And your adoring audience will beg for more. It's time for a lot of new starts without the fits. Anything dream is attainable now so set sail. Well hello sailor!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Proud Lions are given an incentive to show off their best assets without fear of ridicule. Toss out anything in your life that is holding you back from success. Secrets and fears that hold power over you lose their psychological grip. Who can resist doing a good deed or two? Not you! Volunteering brings about immediate rewards. Well, maybe not monetary...

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

You are especially charming and attractive this week. Why ask why? Don't waste a second. Get into the center of the group dynamic and become a dynamo. Queer Virgos can be sociable and diplomatic when they choose to be. Put your talents to work in balancing the requests of pals with your internal needs and desires. Balance in this life is everything.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Venus in Cancer opens the door of opportunity in any professional endeavor. Careers can be made or laid right now if you decide to accept the challenge and agree to make a few compromises. Remember to be charming and benevolent both up and down the ladder. Fates and fortunes may change but a good corporate deed has lasting benefits .... or so they say.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Queer Scorps are in for a treat this week. It's an excellent time to plan a grand scale adventure and explore faraway vistas if you can. You have international impact and will enjoy every minute of it. Of course those poor wage hounds who can't afford to break away now will have opportunities to entertain exotically closer to home. Maybe by being creative with your leftovers...?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers go from cool to piping hot as Venus enters Cancer and pokes the flames of passion. Start cooking on a high flame immediately and enjoy this tasty interlude while it lasts. There's more than one way to heat the coals. Plant a few delightful seeds of ideas in your love life and watch them sprout and grow. Will they become weeds or flowers...?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Relationships are highlighted this week. Pink Caps lust for commitment ... and may just find it. Seek and you shall find, especially if you improve your packaging. If you are in a relationship, try to teach an old dog new tricks. Cook up new, romantic recipes that will be surprisingly piquant. That is unless you decide to add baked beans to the love stew.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Leave it to Aqueerians to find a ray of hopeful light at work. If you've been asked to handle a particularly onerous task, Venus paves the way to easy success. If you have a secret admirer in accounting, the fates see to it that it adds up correctly. Maybe it's time to revamp that exercise regime so you can vamp your stuff with a particular pencil pusher. Ahem.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies charm the stars from the sky with Venus in Cancer. Your creative juices flow so go with that flow. It's time to test your artistic capabilities by taking to the stage, writing, painting, photographing or planning a fabulous party. Whatever you do, do it with style. Turn on the juice and make any great Gay effort a great Gay masterpiece. What will you concoct?

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LGBT Latino Group Wins Texas Award

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Observer Update) - The nation's first and only LGBT chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens was honored in Texas on June 7 with the statewide Council of the Year award, beating out an estimated 200 other LULAC chapters, advocate.com reported. The Dallas Rainbow Council, as the chapter is called, takes LULAC's focus on advancing Hispanic civil rights one step further by adding Gay rights to the list. "It started with the intention of bridge-building for Gay and Lesbian communities and the Hispanic community," said council president Jesse Garcia.

Garcia and others founded the Rainbow Council in 2006 because they wanted to recognize the "people who have always served in LULAC quietly, without being out," Garcia explains. "It was time to recognize our brothers and sisters." Along with LGBT Latinos, the council's membership includes people of varying ethnic groups, sexual orientations, and political views. "We even have a Republican!" he boasted. The Rainbow Council works to create dialogue between Hispanic and LGBT populations in Texas, but that's not the only reason it won the Council of the Year award. The Rainbow Council hosted voter registrations, encouraged the local government to hire more Hispanic employees, and organized antiviolence marches. "We're just like any other council that stepped up to the plate to fight locally," Garcia said. "Basically, the council went above and beyond to promote the ideas of LULAC."

While Rainbow Council members, including Garcia, have had their fair share of challenges – reaching out to older members and defeating the taboo many of them have toward LGBT rights – Garcia said the support of the community and other LULAC chapters has proven to be constant. In his award acceptance speech, he thanked LULAC by saying, "LULAC is truly a civil rights organization, because it knows that discrimination of any type is wrong." The Dallas Rainbow Council is now one of approximately 50 councils that will be eligible for LULAC's national Council of the Year award, which will be announced during the national convention in Washington, D.C., taking place July 8-12. Garcia said the fact that they come from Texas, which has the largest number of LULAC councils, gives the Rainbow Council an advantage. "This is our year, and I don't think we'll be able to do it again," he said. "We have a very, very good chance of winning if we step up our game and highlight our events and the people we've helped."

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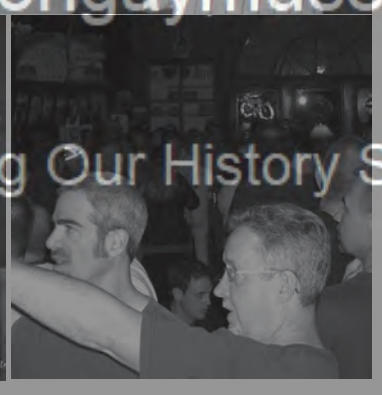

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Arraignment In Oxnard Scool Shooting Postponed

OXNARD, CA (Observer Update) - An arraignment in the case of Brandon David McInerney, an Oxnard teen accused of fatally shooting a classmate, was postponed Thursday (June 12), officials said. Where McInerney will be tried is at the heart of the delays, as prosecutors want it moved from juvenile court into the criminal courts system.

Public defender Willy Quest said if his client, McInerney, would be tried as an adult, it would be a violation of the boy's Eighth Amendment guarantee against "cruel and unusual" punishment. "If he's convicted of the charges, he could be sent to 51 years to life in prison," Quest said. McInerney's family was at the Ventura Courthouse Thursday, but did not comment to reporters.

McInerney is charged with shooting 15-year-old Lawrence King in February. Reports later surfaced that an alleged hate crime may have occurred, as witnesses at EO Green Junior High School said King had told friends he was Gay and often wore lipstick and feminine clothing to school. Quest said that some of the case might revolve around his client's response to King's behavior, which he said was the response of an immature teen. McInerney's behavior was that of a typical 14-year-old, immature and impulsive, Quest said. The case has generated nationwide attention, as an example of schoolyard anti-Gay bullying which led to a violent and tragic conclusion.

Barack Obama Issues Proclamation For Pride

By Mark R. Kerr

CHICAGO, Illinois (Observer Update) - U.S. Senator Barack Obama, (D-IL), the presumptive nominee for the presidential nomination of the Democratic party in this year's election has released a statement commemorating Pride Month.

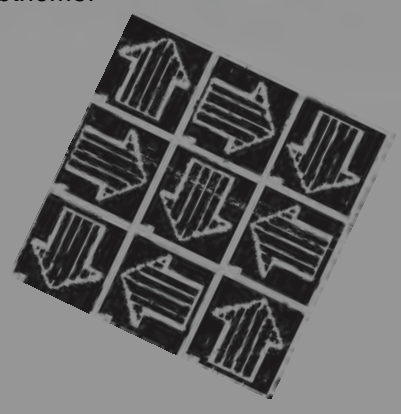
"I am proud to join with our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered brothers and sisters in celebrating the accomplishments, the lives, and the families of all LGBT people during this Pride season. Too often, the issue of LGBT rights is exploited by those seeking to divide us. But at its core, this issue is about who we are as Americans."

"It's time to live up to our founding promise of equality by treating all our citizens with dignity and respect. Let's enact federal civil rights legislation to outlaw hate crimes and protect workers against discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Let's repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell and demonstrate that the most effective and professional military in the world is open to all Americans who are ready and willing to serve our country. Let's treat the relationships and the families of LGBT Americans with full equality under the law."

"We are ready to accomplish these goals because of the courage and persistence of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people who have are working every day to achieve equal rights. The Gay couple who demand equal treatment in our family laws as they raise their children; the Lesbian soldier who wants nothing more than to serve her country openly and honestly; the Transgendered

workers who asks for the simple dignity of being judged by the quality of their work. Generations of LGBT Americans, at once ordinary and extraordinary, have made possible this moment in our history. With leadership and hard work, we can fulfill the promise of equality for all."

The Obama for America campaign is proud to be actively participating in over 60 local and state wide Pride events over the summer. To find the events nearest you please visit pride.barackobama.com/pridemonth. For more information, go online to barackobama.com/page/content/lgbthome.



NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 18th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Jack at 887-3736.

Thursday, June 19th
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for time.

#2 Men's Social Network. Mexican Dominoes. Open to men of all ages. 6:30pm. Call Tom at 591-2828 for directions.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to Bowling at 1:30PM Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 West Miracle Mile. www.tucsonprimetimers.com

Friday June 20th
Tucson Pride and Wingspan's Reel Pride join up to present "A Four Letter Word" at the Loft. Come out with the community to enjoy 'A Four Letter Word' and give Pride Week and great start. For more info go online to loftcinema.com/node/288

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. MSN Pizza Night! Did you phone in your reservation on time? Then join Tom for a great MSN Pizza Night! You need to call Tom at 744-9036 by Thursday for reservations.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly "Bar hopping around Tucson Cocktail Mixer" 5PM. This week: Javelina Cantina at The Double Tree Inn, 445 South Alvernon www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Saturday June 21st
Gay West '08 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Old Tucson Studios. Thelma Houston will be performing. Gay West is a western-themed festive fundraising event for Wingspan. Tickets $16 online before June 18. Special VIP tickets $100 includes all-access pass to event activities, transportation VIP seating at concert, etc.. For more info go online to oldtucson.com/events/summer/Gay_West_2008.htm

In anticipation of author Armistead Maupin's visit to the Loft on June 25, come enjoy a free screening today 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Joel Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone in the Lower Level Meeting Room, of the original TV mini-series "Tales Of The City" based on his work.

#1 Men's Social Network. Coffee at the Crave Coffee Shop 4530 E Broadway at 1pm.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Steve at 664-2076.

Tucson Prime Timers 6PM Meet us for drinks & Grub at Woody's Bar, 3710 N Oracle

Sunday, June 22nd
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Dinner Out at Golden Corral. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com. Please contact Thom by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under $10. Check the Yahoo MSN online calendar for the scheduled place.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our Weekly Sunday Brunch. This week at 11:30AM, Ghini's French Café, 1803 E Prince Rd. RSVP 8851270 or website:wwwtucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, June 23rd
Men's Social Network 7:00p.m.Newsletter Night & Movie! Help us bend, fold, spindle, mutilate, and mail the MSN Newsletter, and enjoy snacks and this month's movie. For more information contact Arlan at 323-7414.

Monday, June 23
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes Visitors to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM
The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone. www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Wednesday, June 25th
Armistead Maupin, author of Tales of the City, etc. 7:00 p.m. at the Loft Cinema, Free admission. Maupin will talk about and read from his books. Join the Pima County Public Library and the Library's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Committee in Welcoming Maupin. A book sale and signing will follow. For more info go on line to library.pima.gov/spotlight/maupin/ or loftcinema.com/node/299

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Tucson Prime Timers hosts a "Brown Bag" picnic & tour of magnificent Madera Canyon. Beverages provided. R/T transportation $22/ RSVP 885-1270 pr website www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Thursday, June 26th
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times

#2 Men's Social Network Bridge generally played on the second and fourth Thursdays. Call Dick at 298-4392.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to Bowling - 1:30 p.m. at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile.

Friday, June 27
Celebrate Pride with Boys R Us at Club Congress, 311 E. Congress with Mistress of Affairs Janee Starr. Doors open a t 6pm $5 for 18 an under, $7 general admission. $10 limited seating at the door! Go online at myspace.com/tucsonsdragkings

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly "Bar Hopping around Tucson Cocktail Mixer" 5 p.m.. This week: La Cocina in the Catalina Courtyard, 201 Court Street at Congress.

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? MSHAPE - The Men's Sexual Health and Personal Empowerment project (formerly GMHP), needs people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call 628_7223. http://www.mshape.org

Tucson Knight Owls (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 am., Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at the Yard Dog, followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

Start getting more out of life with TUCSON PRIME TIMERS. We're the local chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, the preeminent social organization for mature gay and bi men as well as younger (21+) men who enjoy their company. Each month we sponsor a wide range of dining events, cultural enrichment activities, parties, meetings, bowling, day trips, picnics, tours and much more. Visitors are always welcome. For info call our message phone 520 731-3485. Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 325-2111 - 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message. TucsonSources@aol.com

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO – a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay Square Dance Club, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7943.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 19 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7th Street. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 207-5336 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson, Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

THIS WAY OUT, 1/2 hour national GLBT show. 4:30 p.m. on Sundays only on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

THEATER / DINNER / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

DESERT DOMINION, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site http://www.desertdominion.org or call (520)792-6424

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. 743-4800.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current information.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED – Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

REVEILLE MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5th Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 for more info.

LGBT Buddhist Meditation Group. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist Spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10-11:30AM at 3 Jewels, 314 E. 6th St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

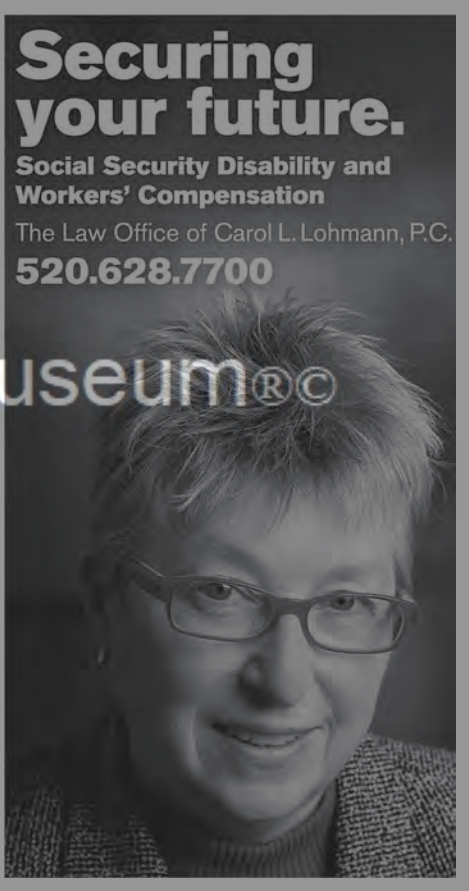
LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go to SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. See you on the trails.

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion,org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

THE BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

NA MEETING WITH GLBT FOCUS meets Mondays, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.: 406-0740



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am; Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Sports on all day!!! MLB; WNBA; You call it!! Music with DJ/Hill starts at 9pm.

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10;m. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - $1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; $2 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes. SIN Nite - drink discounts for Service Industry employees

IBT's -Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. $2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7.Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. $3 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Drink specials every hour.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Bucket o" Beer - $10.00 Domestic, $12.00 Imports (5 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Guinness excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am $1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. $2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8pm..

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am--8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open 11am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Drink specials every hour.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Alaskan Amber). Ladies Only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:00 p.m.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays $2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month $2.00).

WOODY'S - Open 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price Happy Hour til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays. DJHill Spins til 2am. This is an 18 and over event..

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Texas Hold-'Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu& Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. $2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - $1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with $1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Karaoke starts @9:30pm. With 2 for 1 starting after the first singer! (Poker Pub will resume in the Fall).

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.. .

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Bicardi Thursdays - $2.50 Bicardi Rum. July 3rd Karaoke's back 8-10:30pm

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request $1.75 Long Islands and $1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. $3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (3rd Thursday during summer). Bring your own or get it here $6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl Spec Events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close. Cheap Party Day **FREE POOL**, $1.00 PBR Longnecks, $2.00 Tecate Longnecks. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm - close..

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm..

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. With incredible Happy Hour pricing from 5-8pm. Noche de calor w/DJ Hill jugando la mejor en musicia latino! Todos los viernes por la noche, la musica comienza a las 9. Shot specials cada nora!!

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis $5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 Sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.25 All Mexican Beers. Free Dance Lessons at 7:30 p.m. Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Raynman spinning club music inside.9pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month. YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. Patio opens @9pm. BEER PONG tournament on the patio every Saturday night!! DJ Hill 9pm. Don't forget to catch the WNBA games every Sat on our 51" flat screens!!

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke & Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu or Janee Starr. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside & Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

YARD DOG - Open 8am-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18
VENTURE-N - Cowboy Week - Chuckwagon Bar-B-Que 6 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19
VENTURE-N - Cowboy Week - Steak Nite from 6 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
COLORS - Special performance by Lisa Otey and Diana Van Deurzen from 7 to 10 p.m.

WOODY'S - Official Gay West Pre-Party with Simon Crown from 6-9 p.m. Go Go Boys 10pm - 1am. Bud Light Crew 10:30 - Midnight. Hot Dance 9pm until close.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
THE BIZ - Battle of the Dance Crews and Gender Bender Ball.

WOODY'S - Post Gay West Party 11pm - 2am.

YARD DOG SALOON - Tasty, fresh, delicious meal prepared by Shawn 5-8 p.m. Marinated Steak and Hawaiian Shrimp. Ask your bartender for tickets.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
WOODY'S - Joint Fund Raiser with Roscoe's of Phoenix for the Coors/Coors Light Toros Softball Team.

THURSDAY, JULY 3
HOWL AT THE MOON - Karaoke is back at the Moon every Thursday . The howling begins at 8:00 p.m. and goes until 10:30 p.m. Come sing your favorite songs. Your host is Johnny Knight.

SATURDAY, JULY 5
HOWL AT THE MOON - Too Much Information is back LIVE! Sve the date.

Gay Couples Finding Marriage A Mixed Bag

Continued from Page Four

Many couples said marriage had made relatives more comfortable with their relationships. Mr. Boney, who is black, was surprised that his "very conservative, very Bible Belt" family in North Carolina welcomed Mr. Venter, a white South African, so warmly. And when his nieces and nephews say "Uncle Jacob," he said, it "almost brings a tear to my eye; and honey, it takes a lot to bring a tear to my eye."

Mr. Boney and Mr. Venter remain committed to marriage despite their conflicts. "It's a hard commitment to make," Mr. Venter said. But they try to settle their disagreements. "I'm more willing to figure it out," he said. "In the past I might have just ended the relationship."

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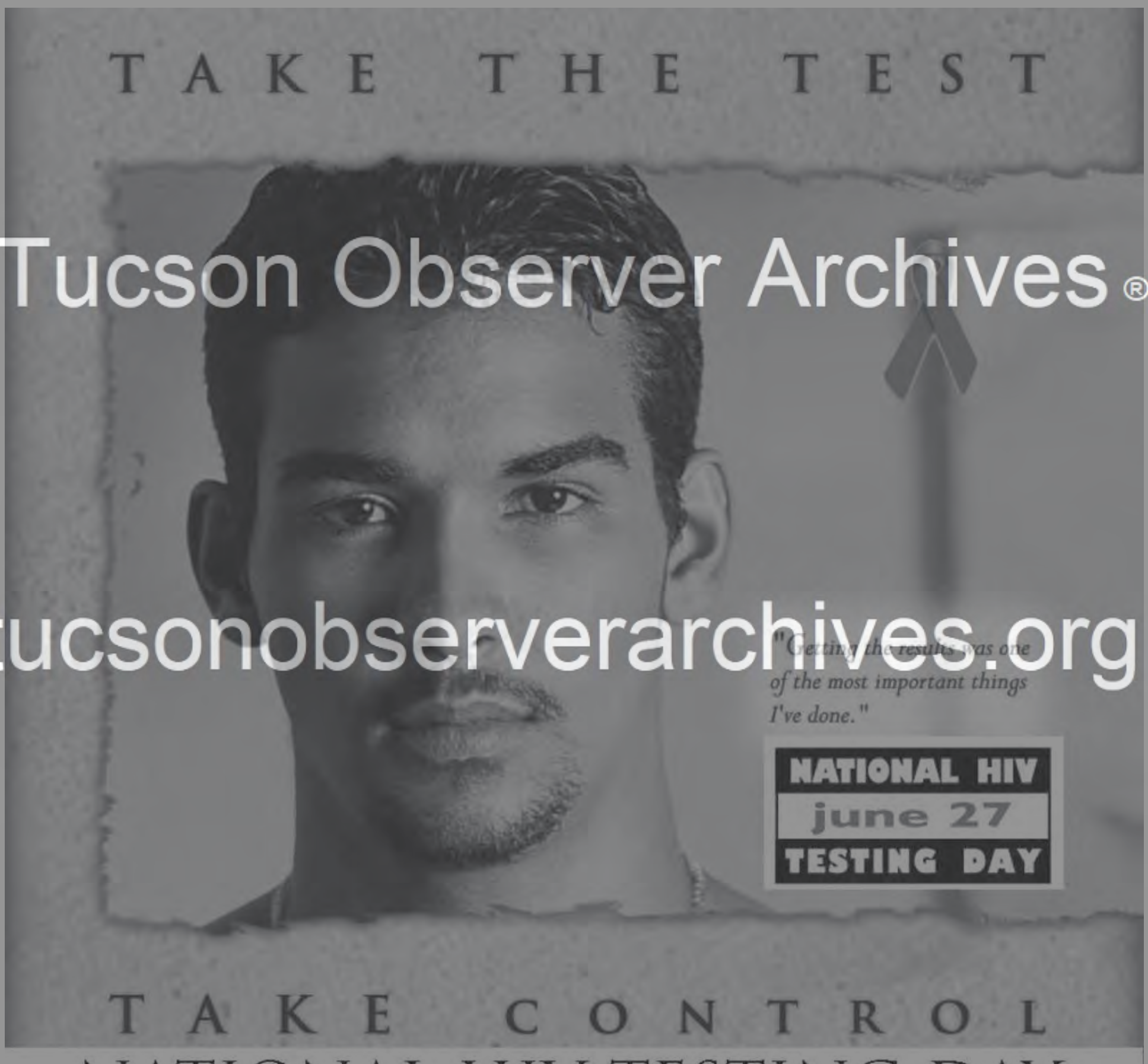

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

FRIDAY JUNE 27TH

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Native Images
3045 N. 1st Ave # A
(520) 882-6120
8am-6pm

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
375 S. Euclid Ave
(520) 628-7223
8am-8pm

Luz Southside Coalition
3819 S. Evans, Ste 304
(520) 388-4572
5-8pm

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In collaboration with

Pima County Health Department

COPE Community Services
101 S. Stone Ave
(520) 798-1772
8am-8pm

New Life Worship Center
2568 E. Menor Stravenue
(520) 623-0583
5-8pm

Saving Our History Since 1967