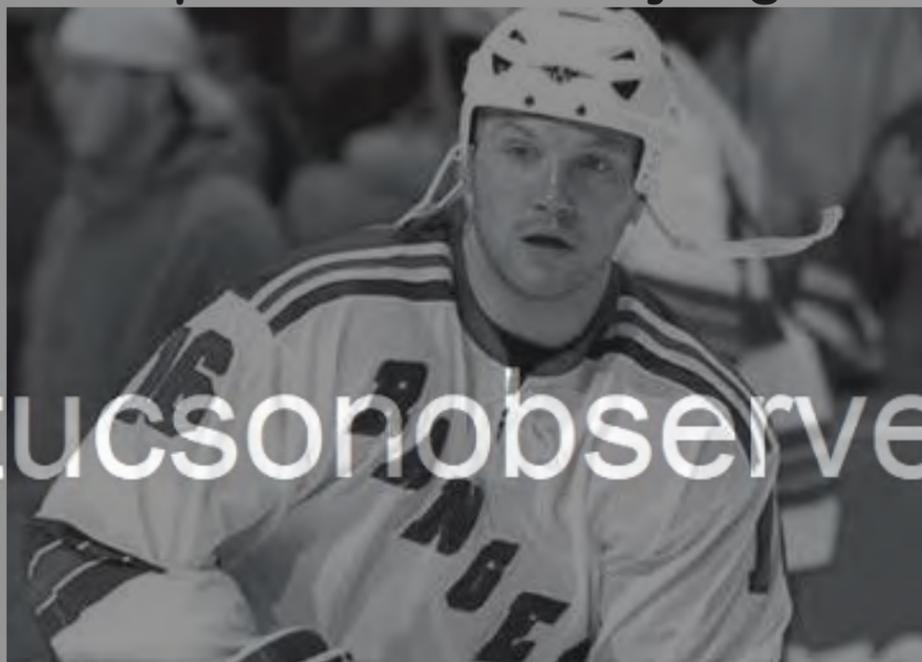


## Tucson Observer Archives

### Hockey Player Speaks Out For Gay Rights



NEW YORK RANGERS HOCKEY STAR SEAN AVERY

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Since September, advocates for same-sex marriage in New York have released 30-second videos of celebrities endorsing their cause. More than 30 have taken part, including the actors Julianne Moore and Sam Waterston, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the former first daughter Barbara Bush. Former President Bill Clinton released a written statement of support, too. Enter Sean Avery, hockey star with the New York Rangers.

In a video that is part of the New Yorkers for Marriage Equality campaign, Avery says, "I treat everyone the way I expect to be treated, and that applies to marriage." Until now, supporters have come mostly from the worlds of politics, entertainment, theater and fashion. One type of New York celebrity was conspicuously absent: the athlete. Enter Rangers forward Sean Avery, reports the New York Times.

He recently recorded a video, becoming one of only a few active athletes in American team sports to voice support for gay rights, and is believed to be the first in New York to publicly advocate for same-sex marriage. No active male player in a major American team sport has declared his homosexuality, and homosexual slurs remain in use to insult opponents and officials.

Avery, a 31-year-old from Pickering, Ontario, has played nine seasons in the N.H.L. Known as a fashion-conscious, on-ice agitator, he has never been afraid of what others think of him. "The places I've played and lived the longest have been in West Hollywood, Calif., when I played for the L.A. Kings, and when I moved to New York, I lived in Chelsea for the first four years," Avery said in a phone interview. "I certainly have been surrounded by the gay community. And living in New York and when you live in L.A., you certainly have a lot of gay friends."

Avery, who lives in the SoHo section of Manhattan and keeps a home in Los Angeles, said some of those friends had wanted to marry, and he saw no reason they should not. "I'm certainly open to it," he said. "Maybe I can help, and I jumped at this opportunity."

The videos are part of the New Yorkers for Marriage Equality campaign, organized by the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay-rights organization. In December 2009, New York lawmakers voted against legalizing gay marriage, but polls show that a majority of people now support it.

"Sean Avery is a true leader on the ice and off," said Brian Ellner, who oversees the same-sex marriage campaign. "His commitment as the first New York professional athlete to campaign for marriage equality is an important step as we grow the majority of New Yorkers who already want all loving and committed New York couples to have the same rights."

Avery's 30-second video opens with a close-up of him looking into the camera.

"I'm Sean Avery, and I'm a New Yorker for marriage equality," he says. "I treat everyone the way I expect to be treated, and that applies to marriage."

That may be a bit of an inside joke. Avery has twice led the N.H.L. in penalty minutes and is known as one of the league's most unpopular antagonists.

Avery is shown in photographs wearing his Rangers uniform as music swells and words appear on the screen.

### Calif. AG: Prop 8 Backers Can't Defend Marriage Ban

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - California's attorney general has again come out against the state's same-sex marriage ban, this time telling the state Supreme Court the proponents of successful ballot initiatives do not have the right to defend their measures in court.

Kamala Harris, a Democrat who succeeded Gov. Jerry Brown in January as attorney general, submitted an amicus brief in the ongoing legal dispute over the voter-approved ban known as Proposition 8.

In it, she argued that only public officials exercising the executive power of government have authority to represent the state when laws passed by voters or the Legislature are challenged.

"California law affords an initiative's proponents no right to defend the validity of a successful initiative measure based only on their role in launching an initiative process," Harris wrote.

The question of where the role of ballot measure backers ends is critical to the legal fight over California's ban on same-sex marriages. Both Brown and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger refused to defend the 2008 constitutional amendment on appeal after a federal judge struck it down last summer as a violation of civil rights.

Proposition 8's sponsors asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to allow them to step in, but

the court punted the question to the California Supreme Court earlier this year, saying it was a matter of state law.

If the sponsors are not permitted to intervene, the lower court ruling overturning Proposition 8 will stand.

Lawyers for the coalition of religious and conservative groups that qualified the gay marriage measure for the ballot and campaigned for its passage have argued that initiative proponents need to be allowed to advocate for laws in court to prevent elected officials from effectively vetoing measures by not defending them in court.

Harris contended in her brief that rather than empowering citizens, granting the sponsors of initiatives the ability to overrule the governor and attorney general's judgment "would rob the electors of power by taking the executive power from elected officials and placing it instead in the hands of a few highly motivated but politically unaccountable individuals."

The California Supreme Court is expected to hold a hearing in the case before the end of the year.

Republican State Sen. Tom Harman of Orange County introduced a bill that would grant ballot measure sponsors the right to represent the state when elected officials refuse to defend enacted laws in court. The Senate Judiciary Committee defeated it on a 3-2 vote.

### 24th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza, May 14

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction is a zany event and SAAF's longest running fundraising event, celebrating it's 24th year this 2011!

This year, they have added two concerts to the Jell-O Wrestling festivities - The post-wrestling concert featuring Pandora Boxx from RuPaul's Drag Race & RuPaul's Drag U, we will also feature a pre-wrestling concert featuring singer-songwriter Josh Zuckerman.

Josh is not your typical rock star. While exemplifying the perfect star quality, he continues to carry a message about being true to one's self. Josh loves the stage and performing in front of a crowd and

proves this with his charismatic stage presence that leaves his audience with a lasting impression, enticing people to come back for more. Come see what everyone is talking about and see Josh in action at this year's Jell-O Wrestling!

This year's event will take place on Saturday, May 14 at Kennedy Fiesta Park. The pre-wrestling concert will start at 3pm and the main event starts at 4pm. Then, stick around after the wrestling and auction for an incredible live performance by Pandora Boxx.

For complete details about this year's event and to purchase tickets, visit the Jell-O website. <http://www.sAAF.org/events.php>.

# UPDATE

## Palm Springs Passes Resolution Supporting Gay Marriage

PALM SPRINGS (Observer Update) - The city of Palm Springs, California on Wednesday approved a resolution in support of gay marriage. The Asheville Citizen Times reported.

On Top Magazine reported that the city's unanimously approved resolution states that it supports the "right to full civil marriage equality for all residents of Palm Springs who wish to be married regardless of gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation." The resolution is only symbolic; California voters in 2008 approved Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a heterosexual union. Proposition 8 overturned a state Supreme Court decision legalizing gay marriage in the state.

Openly gay Mayor Steve Pougnet urged councilors to "do the right thing."

"I just could not believe it," said Sherry Fulton, who has been with her partner, Ruth Debra, for 20 years. "It means full recognition. It means acceptance. Living in an openly, accepting community is so important." Opponents of the measure said it would drive out heterosexual families.

"If you want this whole place to look like Arenas - the whole city - that's what it's going to be," said Owen Mangan, referring to a gay-friendly block in downtown Palm Springs. Mangan attended the meeting wearing a black t-shirt that read, "Leviticus 20:13 Ever Read It?"

Palm Springs is the only city in the Coachella Valley to adopt such a measure, according to Equality California.

## Clovis School District Approves Application For Gay-Straight Alliance Club

CLOVIS, N.M. - Clovis Municipal Schools has approved an application for a gay-straight alliance club. The Clovis News Journal reports a high school senior first applied for permission to form the club in late February.

The application was delayed by the district. The American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico stepped in and issued a letter demanding the club be allowed to form.

A law firm representing the school district issued a letter granting permission for the club to begin holding meetings after school.

An ACLU official say they will continue to keep a close eye to ensure the newly-approved gay-straight alliance is afforded the same treatment and access that any other non-curricular club enjoys.

## Reveille Men's Chorus Spring Concert May 21-22

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "From Out of the West We Come", a BBQ flavored concert with all the fixins.

Reveille takes on western Americana and makes it our own. Load up the wagons and get ready to travel down the ol' Chisom trail for a Reveille style hoedown!

Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$15 for seniors and advance sales, \$10 for students with I.D. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.reveillemenschorus.org](http://www.reveillemenschorus.org), by calling the Reveille line at 304-1758, at Antigone Books or from any Reveille member.

## Writer & Sex Educator Susie Bright Will Speak At Pima County Public Library's Annual GLBT Author Event In June

In celebration of Gay Pride Month, the Pima County Public Library's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Services Committee will host an evening with one of the country's foremost sex educators, activists, and writers; Susie Bright, author of *Big Sex Little Death: A Memoir*.

Susie Bright is the author of the national bestsellers *Full Exposure* and *The Sexual State of the Union*, as well as *The Best American Erotica* and *Herotica* series, which ushered in women's erotic publishing. She also co-founded and edited *On Our Backs* magazine.

This talk and reading will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 15 at The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Bright will remain to sign books following the presentation, and her books will be available for sale.

The event is free and open to the public and is made possible through generous funding from the Friends of the Pima County Public Library. For additional information please check the Library's website at [www.library.pima.gov](http://www.library.pima.gov) or call 791-4010.

From the book jacket of *Big Sex Little Death: A Memoir*:

"Susie Bright's real life is just as compelling—more compelling—than her sex life. And that's saying something."  
—Dan Savage

"I have a very scary feeling Susie Bright is not making any of this up."

Guns, drugs, threesomes, socialist factionalism, a stabbing . . . all before she got her G.E.D.?"

—Alison Bechdel, author of *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*

"Susie Bright is a one-woman counterculture, a teenaged socialist revolutionary turned Reagan-era sexual freedom fighter. In this bittersweet memoir, she recounts a life full of political and erotic adventures and betrayals, a life at once deeply subversive and totally American." — Tom Perrotta, author of *Little Children* and *The Abstinence Teacher*

## Man In Critical Condition After Attack Outside Of Gay Club In Texas

EL PASO (Observer Update) - A 22-year-old man is in critical condition after a brutal attack outside of a gay nightclub in downtown El Paso. San Diego Gay & Lesbian News is reporting the incident as a likely gay bashing because the victim was waiting outside of the club for a ride, reported [towleroad.com](http://towleroad.com).

From KVIA's report: Police said the victim, only described as a 22-year-old Hispanic man, was involved in a verbal confrontation with six other men. The fight escalated to punching and kicking and police said one of the six men even used a bat to hit the victim. A friend of the victim tried to intervene, but was stopped by one of the six men when he struck her Jeep with a bat and damaged the windshield, according to police. The victim was transported to University Medical Center in critical condition.

The club, The Old Plantation, is known locally as "The OP." The six men reportedly drove away in a van. Anyone with tips on the identity of the suspects is encouraged to call the El Paso Police Department at (915) 832-4400.

## Barbara Lenk Becomes First Openly Lesbian Mass. High Court Justice

BOSTON (Observer Update) - The Massachusetts Governor's Council has confirmed Governor Deval Patrick's pick for the state's Supreme Judicial Court, Barbara Lenk, The Boston Globe reported.

On Top Magazine reports that the 60-year-old Lenk, a veteran Appeals Court judge, becomes the first openly gay judge to serve on the state's highest court. The council confirmed Lenk with a 5-3 vote.

Lenk also makes history as the first justice able to marry her spouse as a result of the court's groundbreaking 2003 ruling that brought gay marriage to Massachusetts the following year, making it the first state in the nation to do so. Social conservatives opposed Lenk's appointment to the SJC, arguing that it would lead to a greater number of children being indoctrinated into the "homosexual lifestyle."

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Informing the Community  
**The Observer**

# Get Your Tickets To The Prom

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Ready to have a different Prom experience? Come to the Time of My Life Prom on May 21st at 8:00 pm! The event will feature music and refreshments in the beautifully remodeled One Toole building in downtown Tucson. Music and decorations will

visit and celebrate the 6 previous decades.

The night promises to be the most fabulous prom for adults of the season! The dress code is BE YOURSELF! From traditional formal attire to garments that express your unique personality and identities, all

are welcome and encouraged!

Guests are invited to send in electronic copies of their prom or high school graduation pictures to be used in event promotion and for decorations. Tickets are \$25 per person for the 21+ prom. Tickets are for sale at the center (430 East 7th

Street) Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Electronic pictures for event decorations and promotion can be sent to [ojimenez@wingspan.org](mailto:ojimenez@wingspan.org).



## Hockey Player

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

"New Yorkers support full marriage equality," they read. "Do you?"

Avery ends the video by saying, "Committed couples should be able to marry the person they love. Join me in supporting marriage equality."

Avery has long been viewed as someone unafraid to set off on his own. In the past few years, he has worked as an intern at Vogue magazine and been voted "most hated" player in the N.H.L. In the 2008 playoffs, he gained notoriety for waving his arms and stick in the face of Devils goalie Martin Brodeur. That tactic, which made hockey purists cringe, was quickly banned by the league.

Avery joins a short list of active athletes showing support of gay rights. Among them, Brendon Ayanbadejo, a linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, recorded a video statement for Equality Maryland earlier this year.

Grant Hill and Jared Dudley of the N.B.A.'s Phoenix Suns recently recorded a public-service announcement for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network to

combat antigay language in sports. It is expected to be broadcast during the conference finals. In April, the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant used a slur against an official and was fined \$100,000 by the league.

Avery said such slurs remain in wide use in hockey, too. He suspects they may be used against him even more now that he is speaking out on behalf of same-sex marriage.

"People have been calling me names for 10 years just because I like to wear nice suits," he said. "It's going to take a lot to get me upset or to get under my skin. I'm O.K."



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# Attorney General Holder Vacates Immigration Decision Based On DOMA



ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER

NATION1398-4

Attorney General Holder Vacates Immigration Decision Based on DOMA

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Attorney General Eric Holder today filed a very rare decision, vacating a decision by the Board of Immigration Appeals related to the application of Paul Wilson Dorman, in which the BIA applied Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act to his pending case.

Holder writes: Pursuant to my authority set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(h)(1)(i), I order that the decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals ("Board") in this case applying Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act ("DOMA"), 1 U.S.C. § 7, be vacated, and that this matter be referred to me for review.

Saying the attorney general "has taken [an] extraordinary step" with the decision, attorney Eric Berndt - the supervising attorney for the National Asylum Partnership on Sexual Minorities at the National Immigrant Justice Center - tells Metro Weekly, "It adds some heft to our requests for prosecutorial discretion in individual cases in which the foreign partner" of a same-sex bi-national couple is seeking a green card because of his or her citizen same-sex partner.

Attorney Lavi Soloway, a co-founder of Immigration Equality, has been one of the leading attorney-advocates on the issue of asking the government - the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security and White House - to exercise that discretion. Soloway tells Metro Weekly in an email, "This development could be a sign that the Obama administration is looking for a way to protect gay and lesbian bi-national couples who are currently barred from the regular marriage-based immigration process by the Defense of Marriage Act.

Immigration Equality's communications director, Steve Ralls, writes, "This seems to be a step in the right direction. I have little doubt that the recent, significant Congressional pressure on DOJ, led by Senator Kerry and Congresswoman Lofgren, played a key role in Holder's decision."

Deportations, Soloway says, "This is precisely why we must continue to advocate for the executive branch to implement administrative remedies to keep couples from being torn apart, remedies which include instituting a moratorium on deportations."

In Holder's decision, he goes on to state four questions that he directs the BIA to consider: In the exercise of my review authority under that regulation, and upon consideration of the record in this case, I direct that the order of the Board be vacated and that this matter be remanded to the Board to make such findings as may be necessary to determine whether and how the constitutionality of DOMA is presented in this case, including, but not limited to: 1) whether respondent's same-sex partnership or civil union qualifies him to be considered a "spouse" under New Jersey law; 2) whether, absent the requirements of DOMA, respondent's same-sex partnership or civil union would qualify him to be considered a "spouse" under the Immigration and Nationality Act; 3) what, if any, impact the timing of respondent's civil union should have on his request for that discretionary relief; and 4) whether, if he had a "qualifying relative," the respondent would be able to satisfy the exceptional and unusual hardship requirement for cancellation of removal.

Unlike in other cases in which Soloway has pressed this issue, this case appears to involve a couple who have a civil union in New Jersey - and not a marriage license in one of the jurisdictions that permits same-sex marriages.

## Delaware Governor Signs Civil Unions Bill

DOVER (Observer Update) - Delaware Governor Jack Markell signed civil unions bill into law on Wednesday, May 11. The law gives gay and lesbian couples most of the legal protections of marriage.

Markell signed the landmark legislation approved by lawmakers last month at the Queen Theatre located on Market Street in Wilmington.

A champagne "thank-you" toast to the governor, legislators and community, a performance by the Rainbow Chorale of Delaware and a dessert reception was also featured at the event, the gay rights group Equality Delaware announced.

Delaware lawmakers made quick work of the bill, going from introduction to passage in the Legislature in just over 3 weeks. By contrast, similar recent victories in Hawaii and Illinois took years to accomplish. And New Jersey adopted civil unions only after a mandate from the state's highest court.

Delaware's civil unions law will take effect on January 1, 2012.



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## High Court Declines Catholic Suit

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a case in which a group of Catholics accused the city of San Francisco of anti-Catholic stances that violated the constitutional mandate of government neutrality toward religion.

At issue was a nonbinding resolution passed by the city's board of supervisors in 2006 that condemned a church policy preventing Catholic-affiliated social service agencies from placing adoptive children with gay couples, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. Cardinal William Levada (pictured, right), the former archbishop of San Francisco and head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, issued a decree prohibiting such placements by Catholic Charities. He said that allowing same-sex couples to adopt children "would actually mean doing violence to these children."

In response, the board passed a resolution, sponsored by then-supervisor Tom Ammiano (pictured, left), himself Catholic and gay, calling the order "hateful and discriminatory" as well as urging the local Catholic Charities branch and Levada's successor as San Francisco

archbishop, George Niederauer, to disregard it. Catholic Charities, however, stopped providing adoption services altogether.

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, headed by William Donohue, and several individual Catholics filed a federal lawsuit calling on the city to repeal the resolution, which they said violated the U.S. Constitution's neutrality requirement. The ninth circuit U.S. court of appeals rejected the suit last year, and the Supreme Court declined Monday, without comment, to hear a further appeal.

Ammiano, now a California state assemblyman, told the Chronicle the resolution targeted not the church in general but "statements that are ignorant, particularly when it comes to the lesbian [and] gay community and children." Donohue, meanwhile, said the suit, though dismissed, had the effect of lowering the "level of vitriol and hostile remarks from the board of supervisors," whom he described as "notorious anti-Catholic bigots."

## R.I. Civil Unions Bill Introduced

PROVIDENCE (Observer Update) - Rhode Island Representative Peter Petrarca introduced a civil unions bill on Tuesday angering gay marriage supporters, the AP reported. Petrarca's proposed legislation would give gay and lesbian couples the same rights as marriage in the state. However, such unions receive no federal recognition.

On Top Magazine reported While the government's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) bans federal agencies from recognizing the marriages of gay and lesbian couples, federal judges in at least two challenges now on appeal have declared portions of the law unconstitutional. If DOMA were overturned - or, less likely, repealed by Congress - then the relationships of gay couples in civil unions would not be recognized by the federal government.

"Some sort of progress is better than nothing," Petrarca, who supports gay marriage, said.

Gay marriage supporters gathered at the Statehouse to protest the move. The more than 200 protesters, led by Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI), vented their anger at House Speaker Gordon Fox, who last week announced the gay marriage proposal has "no realistic chance" of being approved in the General Assembly this session. Fox, who is gay and backs marriage equality, said he would shift away from marriage and toward civil unions for gay couples.

Angry protesters insisted separate is never equal and vowed to force a vote on marriage.

Democratic Representative Arthur Handy, the sponsor of the gay marriage bill, said he would introduce an amendment to Petrarca's civil union bill, thus forcing a House vote this year on the issue. Many supporters believe Handy's bill would have cleared the House. Less likely is the Senate, where Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed has said she supports civil unions but not marriage for gay couples.

Fox responded that such a move would jeopardize the civil unions bill. "The result ... would be to kill the civil unions bill, thus denying long-overdue rights to same-

## Pat Quinn To Attend Inaugural Civil Unions Ceremonies

SPRINGFIELD (Observer Update) - Illinois Governor Pat Quinn will attend a June 2 event celebrating the civil unions of 30 gay and lesbian couples.

Illinois' new civil unions law comes into force on June 1, but a one-day waiting period makes Thursday, June 2 the first day couples can exchange vows. The state's law gives gay couples most of the benefits of marriage.

The mass ceremony will take place in Chicago's downtown Millennium Park and is being hosted by the city's Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Lawmakers approved the legislation in December and Quinn

signed the bill into law in January. The 30 couples will apply for their civil unions licenses from the Cook County clerk's office on Wednesday, June 1 and tie the knot the following day.

At the start of 2010, only New Jersey offered the union after New Hampshire and Vermont upgraded gay couples to marriage. Illinois, Hawaii and Delaware have since joined in legalizing the union. A similar bill in Colorado died in committee.

Gay marriage advocates in Rhode Island are fuming over House Speaker Gordon Fox's recent decision to back civil unions legislation over marriage for gay couples. Washington, California, Nevada and Oregon grant similar benefits to gay couples with domestic partnerships.

## Brazil High Court OKs Gay Unions

SAO PAULO (Observer Update) - Brazil's high court has ruled in favor of civil partnerships for gay and lesbian couples, Reuters reported.

In a ruling handed down, 10 judges of the Federal Supreme Court decided that gay couples have the right to form a civil partnership. An eleventh judge, Jose Antonio Dias Toffoli, recused himself from the case. Toffoli had worked on the case as attorney general.

"The freedom to pursue one's own sexuality is part of an individual's freedom of expression," said Justice Carlos Ayres Britto, the ruling's author.

The union allows gay couples in Latin American's largest country access to pension benefits, inheritance and possibly the right to adopt children. The challenge was filed by the governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Sergio Cabral. Rio recognizes gay couples with civil unions.

An effort to make Brazil the

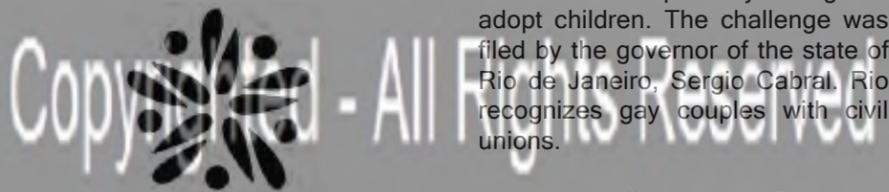
second Latin American country behind Argentina to legalize gay marriage was introduced in March by Representative Jean Wyllys. Gay marriage is also legal in the self-governing city-state of Mexico City, and the nation's highest court has ruled that all states must recognize such marriages. Uruguay lawmakers are also considering a gay marriage bill.



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# Adam Pally, Max Greenfield Kiss On 'Happy Ending'



LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Another gay kiss, another controversy? After the Fox musical-comedy hit Glee aired a kiss between Blaine (played by Darren Criss) and Kurt (Chris Colfer), social conservatives - including Glenn Beck - suggested the show was pushing a gay agenda. Now comes word that an ABC comedy will broadcast a kiss between two men.

kissing Ian, played by Max Greenfield.

According to the episode's description, Max and Ian are dating: "Max decides to organize a small business protest when a big coffee chain moves next to Alex's shop, not realizing that the new place is owned by Ian (Max Greenfield), the cute new guy he just started dating."

Greenfield played Michael, a gay student, on the ABC Family sitcom Greek. The Greek episode Tale of Two Parties featured the network's first gay kiss between Michael and Calvin, played by Paul James.

In the Happy Endings episode, titled You've Got Male, a big coffee chain threatens Alex's business. In a photograph released by the network, Pally's character is seen

## Minnesota Will Vote On Gay Marriage Ban

ST. PAUL (Observer Update) - A state Senate committee passed a bill setting a statewide vote next year on banning gay marriage in the Minnesota Constitution, a goal that eluded conservative activists for years but got sudden new life this week with Republicans now in control of the Legislature, reports advocate.com.

both chambers, meaning voters in 2012 would be asked to enshrine in Minnesota's Constitution a prohibition on same-sex marriage that already exists in state law.

Supporters said the constitutional definition of marriage is important enough to give the final say to voters, rather than elected officials or judges. Critics said the bill reflects a narrow religious agenda that doesn't belong in the state Constitution and that a months-long, divisive debate will distract from more important issues facing the state.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved the bill 8-4, with all Republicans in favor and all Democrats opposed. Passage by the full Senate and the House appears likely with solid Republican majorities in

## Deportation Of Partner In Same-Sex Couple Halted

NEWARK (Observer Update) - A Venezuelan salsa dancer who legally married an American man in a same-sex ceremony last year has had his deportation placed on hold.

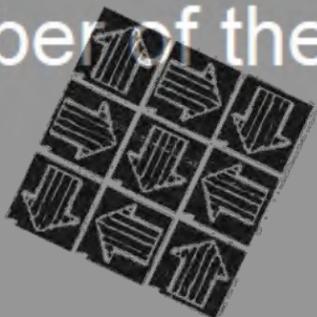
At issue is who can be considered a spouse under federal law.

Velandia is a 27-year-old professional salsa dancer and Vandiver is a 29-year-old graduate student at Princeton University. They were married last year in Connecticut, where same-sex marriage is legal.

The decision comes one day after U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder set aside a Board of Immigration Appeals ruling in a similar case.

Henry Velandia, who faces deportation to Venezuela, is petitioning to be allowed to remain in the U.S. as the spouse of U.S. citizen Josh Vandiver.

Judge Alberto Riefkohl granted an adjournment of the case Friday in a Newark immigration court.



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# Gay Marriage Foe Steps Down From Olympic Post

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Peter Vidmar resigned from his appointment as chef de mission for the 2012 U.S. Olympic team after it was brought to light that he attended two anti-gay marriage rallies in 2008. The two-time Olympic gold medalist and chairman of USA Gymnastics was appointed to the post by the U.S. Olympic Committee. His position, which he was to share with Aimee Mullins, was to provide overall leadership to Team USA, reports On Top Magazine.

Response to reports that Vidmar supported passage of Proposition 8, California's gay marriage ban, with a \$2,000 donation was mostly negative. The 49-year-old told the Chicago Tribune

that his views on gay marriage would not affect how he treated gay athletes. "I fully respect the rights of everyone to have the relationships they want to have," Vidmar said. "I respect the rights of all our athletes, regardless of their race, their religion or their sexual orientation. I will cheer and do all I can, passionately, for every athlete on the U.S. Olympic team."

Two-time Olympian and three-time U.S. National Figure Skating champion John G. "Johnny" Weir, who came out gay in his memoir Welcome to my World, called Vidmar's appointment "wrong."

"It's wrong," Weir said. "I certainly wouldn't want to be represented by someone who is anti gay marriage. It isn't just about marriage, it is being allowed equal rights as Americans."

"The fact this man who is very publicly against something that may be represented on the American team is disgraceful," he added.

Vidmar said in a statement that he was sorry that his personal religious beliefs had become a distraction. "I have dedicated my life to the Olympic movement and the ideals of excellence, friendship and respect. I wish that my personal religious beliefs would not have become a distraction from the amazing things that are happening in the Olympic movement in the United States. I simply cannot have my presence become a detriment to the U.S. Olympic family. I hope that by stepping aside, the athletes and their stories will rightly take center stage," Vidmar said.

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## HITHER AND YON



## Law Firm Fighting For DOMA Faces Backlash From Legal Groups, Colleges

WASHINGTON, DC - Members of the LGBT legal community are seriously considering breaking ties with the firm King & Spalding in light of this week's news that one of its partners, former Bush Solicitor General Paul Clement, has signed on to defend the federal ban on same-sex marriage on behalf of House Republicans, reported the Huffington Post.

Despite the firm priding itself on creating a diverse and welcoming workplace, leaders of gay and lesbian legal groups already predict a backlash against the firm that is poised to rake in up to \$500,000 in taxpayer dollars to support the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines federal marriage as between one man and one woman. Jon Davidson, legal director of Lambda Legal, the nation's oldest and largest legal organization working for LGBT equality, had one word on the firm's decision to take the case: "Depressing." "I think it's going to hurt them in their recruiting of future lawyers," he told The Huffington Post.

King & Spalding has touted its ties to Lambda Legal in recent years. In 2006, the firm announced it was a national sponsor of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. In its 2007 "Achievements in Diversity" report, the firm boasted, "Among other programs aimed at diverse law students, King & Spalding is a national sponsor of Lambda Legal, provides pro bono work for Lambda, and sponsors the organization in New York and Atlanta."

Davidson said in light of the DOMA announcement, he is no longer comfortable working with King & Spalding on cases. "As legal director, I would take the position that we should not use them as cooperating attorneys with us - that is, people who work with us on a pro bono basis in cases," said Davidson. "I wouldn't want to team with them, so long as they're actively harming our community by defending DOMA."

D'Arcy Kemnitz, the executive director of the National LGBT Bar Association, an affiliate of the American Bar Association, said the group has been hosting a career fair for law students to connect with law firms and other potential employers for nearly a decade. King & Spalding has attended the event annually - a fact it boasts on its "LGBT Lawyers" website. But now, says Kemnitz, the association may evaluate whether to change that relationship moving forward. "That would be a policy decision that would be coming from our board of directors," she said. "That would be something that decision-makers would decide between now and Sept. 8. That decision has not yet been made. If and when it is made, we will send out a note to everybody so they know."

What troubles Kemnitz the most, however, is not King & Spalding taking up the case, but a provision of the contract between the firm and the House Republicans that left sexual orientation and gender identity out of its nondiscrimination clause. That provision sends a starkly different message than the language on the firm's website about its efforts to appeal to LGBT students: King & Spalding actively recruits LGBT law students and seeks opportunities to partner with LGBT student organizations to help their members successfully navigate the process of moving from law

student to lawyer. The firm annually attends Lavender Law, the National LGBT Bar Association's conference and career fair. Recently, an LGBT Summer Associate received the King & Spalding Diversity Fellowship, which provides \$10,000 in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and leadership to candidates from a diverse background.

Administrators at some of Washington, D.C.'s top law schools said it is too early to tell whether King & Spalding's role in defending DOMA will sour students from potentially joining the firm; they also couldn't say whether anything could change with their university's recruitment practices. But they did say they take the concerns voiced by their student bodies very seriously.

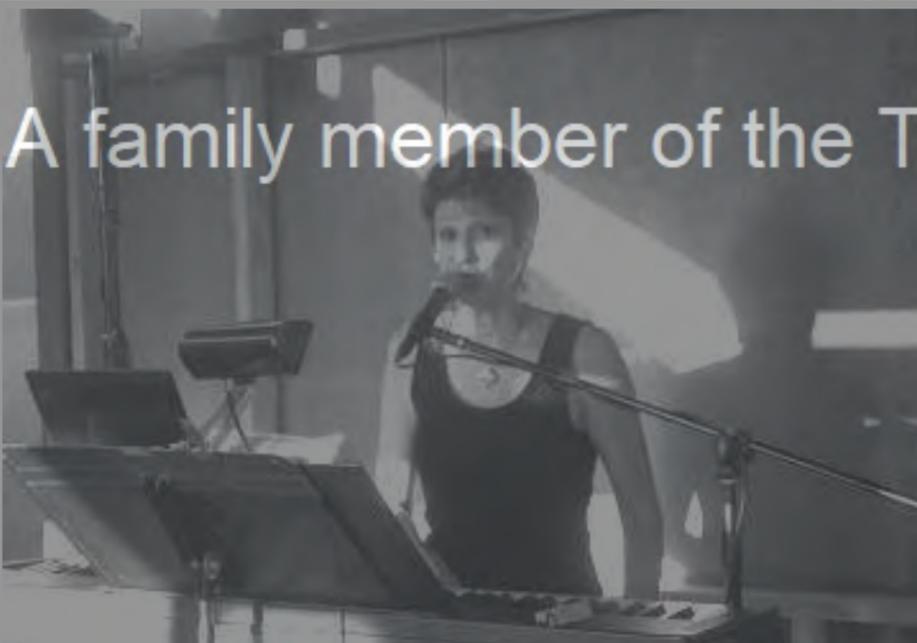
Tedi Mason, the recruitment coordinator for American University's Washington School of Law, said the school's gay and lesbian student group Lambda Law Society is "very active" on campus and if they brought complaints, the administration "would certainly consider" what they had to say. She predicted protests and student groups "putting up a big to-do" if and when the firm comes to the campus to recruit students.

Gihan Fernando, Assistant Dean for Career Services at Georgetown Law, said King & Spalding has been recruiting at the university for years and said he expects more recruiting in the future. But if students are upset about their presence and want to air complaints to the administration, he said the school is welcome to hear them.

"We always try to be responsive to students," Fernando said. "It doesn't mean we always do what they want us to do. But there will clearly be a process through which we could go to listen to their concerns."

The George Washington University Law School's career services office declined to comment following repeated requests, citing an ongoing review of the matter. Though King & Spalding doesn't have a large number of LGBT attorneys, the firm does have a non-discrimination policy that "prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity" and offers benefits to same-sex partners. The Human Rights Campaign has given King & Spalding a rating of 95 out of 100 on its Corporate Equality Index.

Not that anyone at King & Spalding is coming forward to tout that record: The Huffington Post put out more than a dozen calls to attorneys at the firm—some of whom are openly gay, some of whom sit on the firm's Diversity Committee—and none were returned, save one, which ended abruptly when the lawyer learned whose call she was returning.



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# Poet's Corner

WORDS

by Ron Rose. Tucson

At 75, they started to flow  
 Words over the dam, to the paper below  
 Gushing and rushing, most of the time  
 On search of a word, in search of a rhyme.  
 Like crystal clear water, or just plain old mud  
 Words flow over the dam, part of the flood  
 Reaching the banks, and filling the streams,  
 I go back to my bed and return to my dreams.



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# Tucson Observer Archives

## The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark



NOTE: Before his untimely death, Gary Clark had worked on this newspaper for nearly 40 years as graphic artist and Entertainment Editor. Part of his heritage was producing a weekly humorous drawing of life 'as he saw it'. It is amazing that most of these drawings are as funny and entertaining today as they were in past years. We have decided to open the 'vaults' on these faultless viewpoints. Enjoy!

## Denver Lesbian Wins City Council Race



DENVER (Observer Update) - Out politician Robin Kniech will become the first openly LGBT member of Denver's city council.

In the election, which featured all mail-in ballots, Kniech was among five candidates vying for one of two at-large seats. She placed second.

"I ran to work for all Denver families," Kniech said Tuesday, "but I know this is a meaningful day for our LGBT community. We were happy to earn so many important endorsements, but I'm especially grateful to the Victory Fund for everything they did for our campaign."

Victory Fund president and CEO Chuck Wolfe hailed Kniech's election as an "important milestone for the city. We are very proud of Robin and her campaign team, and we're excited that the LGBT community in Denver will now have an authentic voice with a vote in city government."

## Arthur Laurents Dies At 93



NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Arthur Laurents, a truly legendary figure of the American theater, has died at 93 from complications of pneumonia, reports The New York Times.

The Los Angeles Times reports that Jonathan Lomma, Laurents' agent at William Morris Endeavor, confirmed his death Thursday, saying that "he died earlier this evening, peacefully in his sleep, at his home in New York City, after a short illness."

Laurentis was an award-winning director, playwright, and screenwriter, who was perhaps best-known for writing the books to two milestones in musical theater, West Side Story and Gypsy. Laurentis would eventually direct revivals of two shows - Gypsy in 1974 and again in 1989 and 2008, and West Side Story in 2009. He won the Tony for best direction for the 1983 Broadway musical La Cage aux Folles, reports advocate.com.

As a screenwriter, he wrote several classic films revered by gay audiences, including the 1949 Hitchcock homoerotic suspense classic Rope, the 1973 star-crossed romance The Way We Were, and the 1977 ballet drama The Turning Point.

Laurentis published his memoir Original Story By in 2001, which candidly documented his gay encounters in the Army, as well as his relationships with actor Farley Granger and his partner of 52 years, Tom Hatcher, who preceded him in death in 2006.

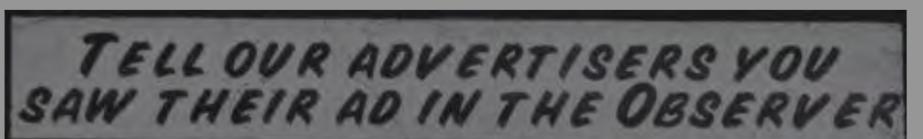
Laurentis most recently made news due to an on-again, off-again film adaptation of Gypsy to star Barbra Streisand.

## Unmarried Partners Make Up 6% Of U.S. Households

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - According to data collected from the 2010 census, nearly 6.5 million unmarried partners live together in the United States - roughly 6% of the population, reports advocate.com.

That number isn't specific to gay couples - more information on unmarried partners will be released in June, followed by statistics specifically on same-sex couples in November.

The latest round of findings from the census also shows that Washington, D.C., has the greatest number of same-sex, unmarried partner households per capita at 2%.



# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday  
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Burger BBQ 5-8pm + \$1 pint draft. 9pm-close Karaoke inside with Troy & \$1.50 Well or Domestic Beer, \$2.50 Call or Premium Beer. DJ Hurricane on the Patio.  
 PULSE - Happy Hour 3-7pm. 8pm Talent Show 7 Contest Night benefiting local non-profits, causes & events.  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Beer specials and Trailer Trash Martini's All Day. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

## MONDAY

THE BIZ - Closed  
 BRODIES - Open 10am-2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close \$5 Scratch Long Island Varieties. 9pm-close DJ Hurricane with "All Request Music".  
 PULSE - Closed Mondays  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Service Industry Night - Employee prices all day..

## TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Tuesdays  
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ Q 9pm-close.  
 PULSE - Happy Hour 3-8pm. Ladies poker night with Happy Hour Karaoke.  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am- 2am. 2-4-1 Night

## WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9pm (2 for 1). College Night 18 & Over. Drink & Shot specials every half hour.  
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic.. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour".  
 PULSE - Happy Hour 3-8pm. Employee Appreciation Night featuring games. 10pm Retro Night: 70s & 80s dance Music.  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour Prices all day.

## THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9pm. 2 for 1 All Night Long. Karaoke 9pm. Come out and play.  
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 10pm-close "Boyz Nite Out" w/Bartenders in their underwear. DJ Hurricane spinning Top 40 & DJ Mike Lopez on the patio. \$1.75 Long Island, \$1.50 Tequila Shots, \$3 Skyy Cape Cods and \$4 Skyy Cosmos.  
 PULSE - Happy Hour 3-8pm. Karaoke. Special events benefiting local non-profits, causes and events.  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Free pool and Happy Hour prices all day.

## FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9 pm (2 for 1) Latino Night. \$2 Tequila, \$1.50 Tecate, \$5 Buckets of Beer.  
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm. Karaoke 9pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.  
 PULSE - Happy Hour 3-6pm. 8pm Reflections-Celebrity impersonation Extravaganza  
 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 vocals and piano styling of Susan Artemis 6-9pm. Tori Steele Show 10pm



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## SATURDAY

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 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio \$1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starrlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".  
 PULSE - Happy Hour 3-6pm. The Amazing Glamazons drag and comedy spectacular  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm. .



# Molly Wei Enters Plea Deal In Tyler Clementi Webcam Spying Case

nity service, undergo counseling on cyberbullying and take classes on dealing with people of alternative lifestyles.

went to Wei's dorm room and used Skype on her laptop to activate the webcam, prosecutors say.

If she violates the terms of the three-year intervention program, prosecutors said the charges will not be dismissed and Wei could be subject to further court action. The Clementi family says they have no problem with the deal, reports the Daily News.

In April, Ravi was indicted by a New Jersey grand jury on 15 counts—including hate crime charges. The indictments charge Ravi with attempting to "cover up the crime by deleting text messages from his phone and changing an incriminating post about the webcam on his Twitter account. He also allegedly tried to persuade friends not to testify against him, authorities have said," reports the Star-Ledger.

Ravi is accused of using a hidden webcam to surreptitiously record and transmit Clementi and another man on September 19. Ravi

## Gay Basher's Execution Put On Hold

HARRISBURG (Observer Update) - The scheduled execution of Richard Laird, who was twice convicted of the 1987 murder of gay artist Anthony Milano, has been put on hold, reports advocate.com.

granted a stay.

The murder of Milano — who reportedly met Laird and Chester in a bar and was later found dead along a road, beaten and with his throat slashed so severely that his spinal cord was severed — was one of the state's first widely publicized gay bashings.

Laird, along with his drinking buddy Frank Chester, was found guilty in 1988 of the brutal slaying, which occurred in Bucks County, Pa. While Chester's conviction was recently overturned, Gov. Tom Corbett signed a death warrant for Laird March 14, calling for him to be put to death this month.

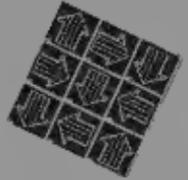
After Laird's original conviction was overturned by a judge in 2001, he was retried for the murder six years later, convicted a second time, and again sentenced to death.

In April a Bucks County judge granted Laird a stay of execution while his attorneys pursued appeals, giving them until June 17 to file an amended petition, according to ThePhiladelphia Inquirer. The following day a U.S. district court judge also



NEWARK (Observer Update) - The former Rutgers University student accused in the secret recording and live-streaming of Tyler Clementi's sexual encounter with another man has entered a plea deal. The deal requires 19-year-old Molly Wei to testify against Dharun Ravi, the roommate of Clementi, who jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after learning that he had been spied upon, reports Reuters.

Wei pleaded not guilty in Middlesex County Superior Court on Friday to watching the webcast with Ravi and a judge accepted her application into a pretrial intervention program that could drop the two counts of invasion of privacy against her. In exchange for dismissing the charges, Wei must testify against Ravi, complete 300 hours of commu-



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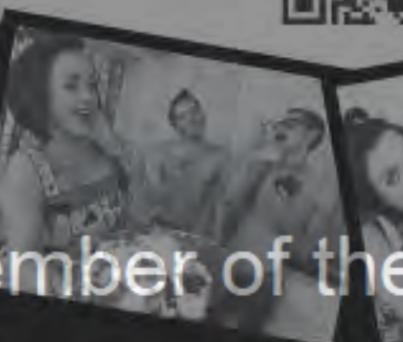
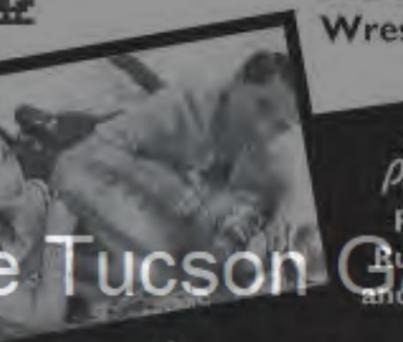
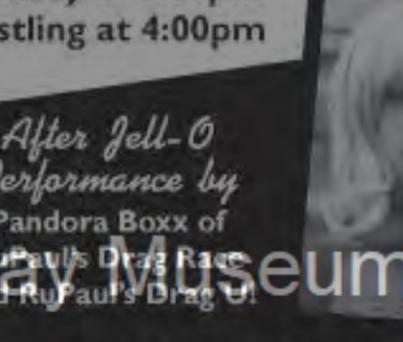
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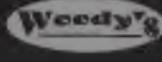
Cruiserweight

Wrestling Mania

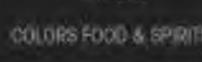
Fans

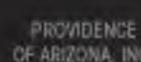
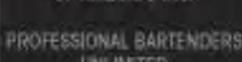
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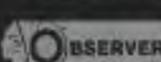


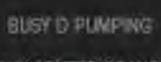
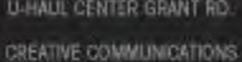









All proceeds benefit the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation 