OUT ON COAST magazine

Covering Florida's Space and Treasure Coasts



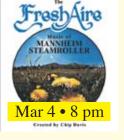
Issue #064, March 2008



Studio

Theatre









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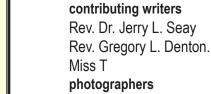
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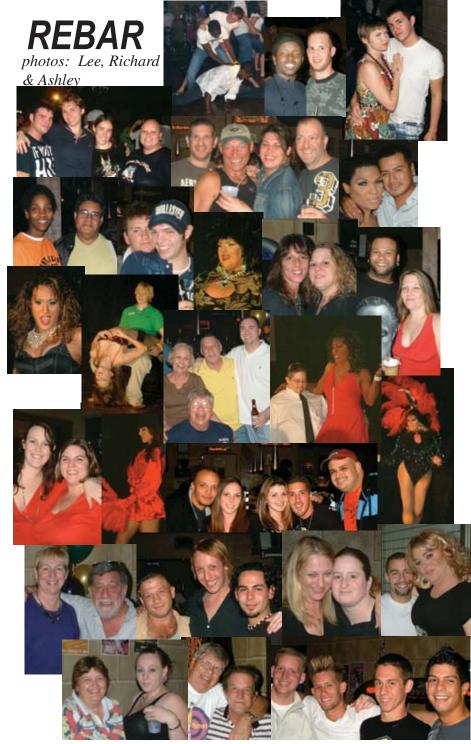
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FRIDAY SHOWTIME 11:30 PLUS CONTESTS WITH CASH & PRIZE GIVEAWAYS!!!

Out on the Coast Magazine Issue #064

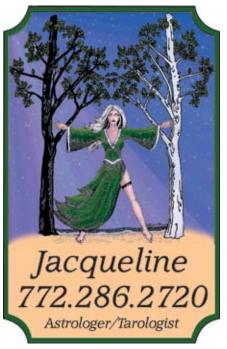


This is definitely a water month! Emotions will flow. Starting with Mars going into Cancer on the 4th, the new moon on the 6th in Pisces. the 12th. Venus moves into Pisces and on the 14th, Mercury follows. This means that we will all be more intuitive, especially with our emotions. It also allows us to look at and see our true spiritual beliefs and learn to follow them. Like the ocean tides, all the water that is coming this month you cannot control, so go with the flow and you'll find this month will be a walk on the beach.

Aries March 23 - April 22 Finally, your second chance has come and is allowing you to take risks completing projects or activities that started in the fall. Use caution as your heightened senses are in full effect in the company of close friends and relatives. Rely on natural ability to live in the moment to move through the emotions.

Taurus April 23 – May 22 With renewed clarity of vision, you can now see what the future has in store for you, plan accordingly. The calm within you that this brings will attract others to you for advice. You have the patience, use it and you'll feel closer to those around you. **Gemini** May 23 – June 22 I'll bet you're glad Mercury is now direct! You'll still find yourself being the mediator, but with Mars going out of your sign as well, you'll find the pressures that were upon you to diminish. Because of feeling this freedom, you may be inclined to spend more than you should. Be conservative and you'll be happier later.

Cancer June 23 – July 22 With the Sun, Venus, Mercury, Uranus, in Pisces and Mars in cancer, you'll





find an empowerment to change or transform your living situation. With all this water, you can make it happen. This is a good time to speak out; others will understand you more than they have in the past.

Leo July 23 – August 22 Courage is in the forefront this month. With all the planets in water and earth, you find yourself mired in the day-to-day dogma more than usual. However, you will be empowered to have the courage to make those emotionally hard decisions and keep to them. Next month with some of the planets going into Aries you'll feel more like your fiery self again!

Virgo August 23 – September 22 You're feeling the urge to make a change however; this is not the time. This is a time for listening, reflecting, and asking questions. As you know haste makes waste and Virgos don't like waste. Ask trusted friends for advice and listen everywhere you go. You'll find the best way to get what you want. **Libra** September 23 - October 22With the new dawn, brings new vision. The projects of the summer are nearing an end. However; before the New Moon on the 7th put out your expectations and desires down in writing, but wait until after the full moon on the 21st to see them truly manifest. Next month you will see the final details and it will be done!

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 With heightened senses this month, you'll find you have a better understanding and sensitivity to others now, especially with your work. Use your perceptiveness to set new goals for yourself and to give insight the one closest to you.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 Fortune and luck are on your side. However, by the middle of the month, when both Mercury and Venus go into Pisces, your luck seems to diminish. Water slows you down, look at what and who in your life are in your best interest. Use this time to clean out the waste out of your life and clear a path for better things to come.

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Capricorn December 23 – January 22 With Mars opposing your sign this month and next, you'll be balancing situations that started last fall. Use this time to redefine and clarify the path you have chosen. Being a mountain goat you know once you've reached the panicle, you'll get your reward.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 Until the 12th, Venus and Mercury will be in your sign. Use this time to express your feelings and others will be attracted to you. Use this time to strengthen the relationships around you. Be ready for the change because the beginning of the month you're the social creature and the second half, you turn quiet.

Pisces February 23 - March 22 Happy Solar return! You start off the month with the new moon on the 6th, Venus on the 12th and Mercury on the 14th all goes into your sign. This means this is your month. Everyone will hear and love you now. Use this time to speak out about your hopes and desires and eventually you're hopes and desires will manifest.

For those who want to know: Since we've just finished a major transformation and change over the last few months, I thought it would be best to tell you about Pluto because it rules transformation and change. Pluto is ruled by Scorpio which is a water sign and whose symbol is the phoenix. In astrology, Pluto is the smallest planet and has the strongest energy. Last year because of its size and movement pattern, astronomers have declassified it as a planet. However you look at it, its energy cannot be denied. Last month Pluto went into Capricorn which means that the changes we have experienced lately are setting a new foundation especially with our emotions.

Monthly horoscopes bv Jacqueline. She is at B&A Flea Market in Stuart every weekend from 10 to 2. For more information on Astrology or for a private reading call: 772.286.2720



Out on the Coast Magazine Issue #064

Sundays at Tonic 2019 14th Ave. Vero Beach

MARCH IS GOING TO BE A BLAST

a DOW

MARCH 2ND Alexi Leigh and Tasha Scott MARCH 9TH Alexi Leigh and Spikey Dyke MARCH 16TH Alexi Leigh and Kelly Randell MARCH 23RD Alexi Leigh and Amber Douglas MARCH 30TH **Roseanne and Miss Devine** www.myspace.com/rainbow tonic Ph (772) 567-7182

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6PM

TO





Alexi Leigh Spikey Dyke

Roseanne

1AM 18 to Party 21 to Drink with Proper ID





Kelly Randell Amber Douglas

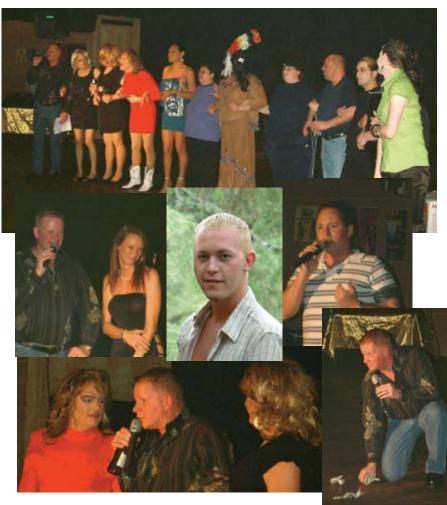
Rainbow Tonic photos: Lee





ĩme R M with Miss T

Hi Matt, your PSL family is here for you! Get better, we miss you. You, dear reader, should have been part of saying that at the **REBAR** turn-about benefit because not only was it a good time for a good cause but there were some incredible auction items and shall we say, unusual sights that ended up raising over \$3,000 for Matt. We'll let the photos speak for themselves (see if you can identify who is who), with just special mention to Vonda for auctioning off herself and John Scott for auctioning the shirt off his back – well since he was in drag.....





My apologies to the performers I missed getting photos of, but this queen was slightly more than fashionably late so she missed the opening numbers (blame those #\$@!ing Sunday snowbirds putting along trying to figure out if they're parked or going somewhere).



by Budweiser. The girls are really ready for the show Velvet and Ivy and guests provides! It's mostly girls, but there are enough boys around to make it interesting for everyone.

And you are ready for April 20, right? You know! Pride of the Treasure Coast celebration at **REBAR**. We hear it's coming together nicely and will benefit **Vero Beach PFLAG** for all the wonderful stuff they do, from scholarships to adopting families at Christmas to their World AIDS day fund just to mention a few highlights. Contact **REBAR** for vendor info.

Space Coast Pride, which will be held on Sunday, May 25, at Wickham Pavilion is shaping up with sponsors, vendors and performers signing on. If you're interested in getting more information or being a vendor go to www.SpaceCoastPride.org for contact info and registration forms. **Space Coast Pride** will need lots of volunteers to staff the event so if you (or your group) are interested in being a part of the event email info@SpaceCoastPride.org. This is going to be an exciting start to Brevard's own Pride Celebration. It certainly won't be competition for Gay Days, but it will be our own event: for us, by us and on our home turf!

The Living Room will be holding a rummage sale on March 15 to sell off the furniture and fixtures (no the library will not be sold, but put in storage for the future). Keep checking their web site at www.TLRbrevard.org for details and a list of items available for pre-sale bidding. And if you have any items you'd like to donate for the sale contact info@TLRbrevard.org.

Now that the board is past the difficult decision and all the details involved with closing the center **The Living Room** will be able to focus on getting back to putting on their popular events like Gay Skate, bowling and the gambling cruise (now that the Sterling is *finally* out of dry dock) and start over again on a building fund. This time they will have enough money in the bank to run a center for at least two years before the doors are opened.

East Coast MCC is close to leasing a new space for their services so check their web site at www.EastCoastMCC.net to keep abreast of their progress. Although the center is closed to the public, **East Coast MCC** will continue to hold their services there through March.

Rainbow Tonic Sunday nights at Tonic nightclub, 2019 14th Ave, in downtown Vero is off to a great start – they even had a nice turn out on Oscar night (quite a feat in our community). The event is now starting at 6 PM with the show starting at 9, so all of you working stiffs can stop by for a fun evening and still get a full night's sleep before heading off to work. And for those

who don't have to get up early, they're open until 1 AM so you can party hearty at **Rainbow Tonic.** DJ Wade has great plans for additional entertainment for all you Vero-ites and nearby folk. Stop in and check it out!

At the **Cold Keg** if you want to participate in the highlight of this month, **Miss Brevard County** pageant on March 10, contact Roseanne DeShanaro at 813-495-4221. You'd better be quick about it too! The pageant promises to be another fantastic show with performers from all over the area competing for the title. The theme this year is St. Patty's Day so there'll be lots of green and someone will walk away with lots of green, too! Registration starts at 2 PM and the show will start at 9 PM. Look forward to performances by DeeRanged, Sassy Devine, Roseanne (of course) and the reigning **Miss Brevard County**, Addison Taylor. It's another **Cold Keg** spectacular.

Last month the highlight was Leigh Shannon's birthday celebration. An amazing lineup from the drag community did a turn on stage to help Leigh celebrate. It made for a great show and show of affection for the **Cold Keg** long-time performer.



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Spiritually Speaking

God says to Adam, "I have some good news and I have some bad news. What do you want to hear first?"

Adam says, "Tell me the good news first." God says, "I'm going to give you a penis and a brain. You'll derive from these great pleasure and great intellect."

Adam replies, "Wonderful! But what's the bad news?" God says, "I'm only going to give you enough blood supply to work one at a time."

According to Christian fundamentalists, the same ones who would like to see all homosexuals simply go away: God created Adam and Eve, NOT Adam and Steve. They advocate marriage as the foundation of society, since only men and women carry on the human species by procreation; and people of the same sex cannot.

But, let us consider this: not all heterosexuals marry. Marie Corelli said: "I never married because I have three pets at home that answer the same purpose as a husband. I have a dog that growls every morning, a parrot that swears all afternoon, and a cat that comes home late at night."

If procreation was the only reason for marriage, then all unmarried people, all infertile and elderly couples who cannot produce offspring, are living outside of the Divine Will and Purpose. How ridiculous! Now, certainly we can all agree that men were created with a penis and women were created with a vagina. But, sexual organs do not define us as people of worth and value, for God does not possesses neither a penis nor a vagina. The Psalmist wrote: (8:4-6)

What is humanity that You are mindful of us, the children of humanity that You care for us? You made us a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned us with glory and honor. You made us ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under our feet:

We as human beings, have been created as responsible stewards of God's handiwork, we are the crowning glory of creation, and in the words of Genesis, only we are "made in God's image and likeness." It is interesting to note that in many ancient manuscripts of Psalm 8, it translates that humanity was made a "little lower than GOD." We are set apart from the rest of the created order, the same created order who procreates by instinct, but who does not share in the Divine nature of the Creator.

In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 10, Jesus referred to the beginning, to creation, to man and woman—all within the context and conversation of marriage and divorce. This text has been traditionally used to clobber gay people over the head since gay and lesbian people cannot produce children, they must be outside of God's natural order. How ridiculous!

As we examine more closely the Gospel text we see that heterosexual marriage is *not* the issue at stake. Jesus is answering a question about how a man should treat his wife, especially in cases of divorce. The whole point of his answer is that the holy union between two people is sacred, because all are created in God's image. The sanctity of life must be



respected. People, especially women, are not disposable property. In Jesus' time, women were seen as property, with no rights or privileges, existing only for the satisfaction and command of the male dominated world in which they had to survive.

The divorce laws allowed for men to divorce their wives for stupid reasons, such as her burning his breakfast or for him simply seeing another beautiful woman and desiring her instead of his wife. Women were traded in like automobiles and Jesus reacts against this blatant disregard for women. He saw the cruelty and injustices of divorce laws, permitted by Moses only because of human failure, as violating God's creative purpose in human relationships. For Jesus, human relationships such as sexual intercourse and marriage were not a matter of whimsical convenience or immoral pleasure, but part of God's holy purpose in the created order of things.

Jesus is speaking in this text to *human dignity*, for immediately following this passage he speaks of the intrinsic worth of children, who in the ancient world were regarded in very negative ways: exploited, enslaved, used, and abused. Jesus lifts the personal value of women and children in spite of the male dominated power of society. When right-wing politics and religious fundamentalists say that gays and lesbians are not worthy of equal rights and the blessings of marriage, they are in essence dehumanizing us as: not worthy, as sub-human, as below God's created order.

Jesus reacted against the intolerance and unmerciful religious fundamentalists of his day, and so must we. The Bible today is being high-jacked by extremists who think they speak for God and who seek to impose their bigoted belief on everyone else. What Jesus is saying, is what we must all put into practice—God's sacredness is all around us and within us, since we are all part and parcel of the sanctity of creation. Life is valuable, let us not waste or degrade it. God's sacredness is all around us and within us...AMEN.

The Reverend Gregory L. Denton is Pastor of New Hope First Community Church, "A church built on love where everyone is welcome," an independent growing congregation that believes in God's allinclusive love. New Hope, celebrating its 11th year in the Palm Beaches, is located at 2929A South Seacrest Blvd. in Boynton Beach, FL. Sunday services are 10:30 am. Discussion Group/Bible Study Thursdays at 7:30 pm. On the web at: www.newhopefla.org

Saturday, March 15 St. Patrick's Day

Party Roxxy DANGERS: Klain & Dalani

WEAR GREEN AND GET A FREE DRINK **3** BUSHMILLS SHOTS *WITH PAID ADMISSION

Monday, March 10: Miss Brevard County Pageant Registration 2 PM; Pageant Starts 9 PM Theme: St. Patrick's Day Hosted by Rosanne Deshanaro with Addison Taylor, DeeRanged and Sassy Devine

Texas Hold 'Em Tuesdays at 7 & Saturdays at 4 Play for \$25 VISA gift cards and bar tabs!

THURSDAY: Trash Night Midnight Strip Contest Hip-Hop by DJ SPIN 3/6: Stephanie Shippae, 3/13: Amber Douglas, 3/20: Kelli Randell, 3/27: Page King www.coldkegnightclub.com www.myspace.com/coldkegnightclub



EVERY FRIDAY: Leigh Shannon & Friends Cabaret DJ SPIN Spinning 80s, 90s and UR FAVS! Show Time 11:00

Mar 7:Rosanne DeShanaroMar. 21:Bridget Galore& FaithMiss Comedy Queen 2006Mar. 14:Shantel RaShaeMar. 28:Roz Russell

SATURDAYS: "GROOVE"

The Hottest Dance Party On The Space Coast

March 1st:Lana Seville with
Dancers Ivy & BillyMarch 8th:Leigh Shannon with
Dancers Poseidon & VitaMarch 15th:St. Patrick's Day Party (see above left)March 22nd:White Party (see above)March 29th:Crystal Chambers with
Dancers Valo & Spikey Dykey4060 W. New Haven, Melbourne(321) 724-1510

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The Cold Keg's Tuesday evening and Saturday afternoon Texas Hold 'em poker continues to be a highlight. There is a nice group of people turning out for the games. Join Mike and Jeff and the staff for a fun evening (or afternoon) of friendly competition with great prizes for the winners.



The Family of God Community Church is continuing with its changes by electing a new board on March 26. The popular organization continues to offer groups and activities for our community in the Cocoa area. This is a wonderful group of people, so if you're looking for something to do or a place to make some friends to hang out with, stop in and check them out. You can reach them at 321- 632-3767 or go to www.familyofgod.org for their complete calendar of activities.

Now you have probably noticed that I've been doing rambling on much longer than usual in this issue. That's because no one submitted anything for the In My Words column. Come on folks! Write your story, tell us about what you think, what you've experienced, what you've created (yes, photo essays will be considered). Here's your chance to get published. Sorry, you won't get dollars but you will get to show all your friends, and if you're in a progressive school we'll work with you to see if you can get credit for it. Just send your submission to editor@ ootcmag.com (if you have a photo submission, please just email first so we can contact you about resolution and format requirements and FTP instructions for sending the files). DO IT NOW! We need to fill that space! Of if you have an idea for a continuing column, write and tell us about it, you may well end up with your very own column!

Gay Rights Tidbit: Tony Sasso won an overwhelming primary victory, carring over 72% of the vote in the Democratic primary. He now faces a well-financed Republican in the special election to replace disgraced State Senator Bob Allen. The special election will take place as this issue is printed but with the endorsement of all major newspapers and despite the TV ads trying to label him as a "tax and spend" Democrat, we all hope he will be victorious.

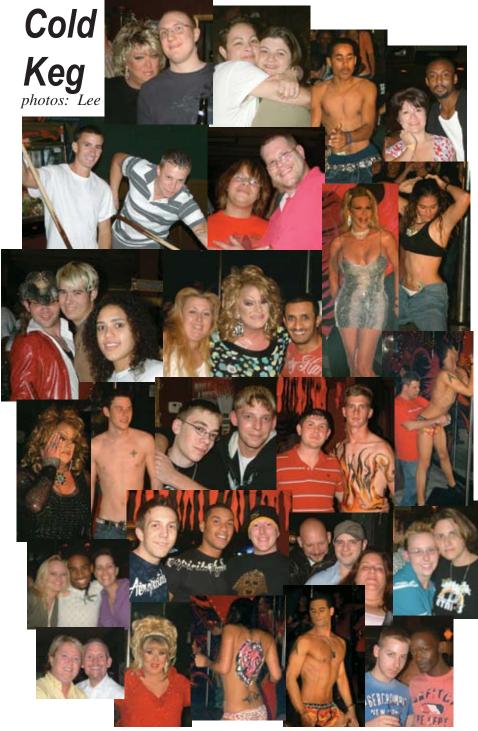
According to Fairness for All Families, the Fairness Campaign's Primary Day of Action was a Tremendous Success! Retirees. Students. Union workers. Straight, Gay, Young, Old. Grandmothers. Single Fathers, More than 500 strong, an army of Fairness for All Families volunteers fanned out across the state to talk to voters coming to cast their ballot at the Jan 29th Presidential Primary. Another 110 generous contributors, who couldn't take the day off, stepped up and sponsored our canvassers with donations that provided water, T-shirts, granola bars, and materials to our volunteers.

stand Out from the crowd...

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continued on page 30



Promoting understanding, equal rights and diversity through support groups, community activities and scholarships. Everyone is welcomel Meetings 7pm:

2nd Monday and 4th Tuesday every month UU Fellowship, 1590 27th Ave www.VeroBeachPFLAG.org PO Box 650533 Vero Beach, FL 32965-0533 772-778-9835





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Out on the Coast Magazine Issue #064

IN THE NEWS

For current headlines see our website: www.ootcmag.com

MELBOURNE—February 15, In downtown Melbourne Adam Hopper, a 28-year-old Indialantic resident, was beaten severely: his right leg was broken in three places, his ankle was shattered and his face was fractured.

Hopper does not clearly recall what happened or who did it. He is hoping that someone who saw the beating will come forward and help police find his attackers.

Hopper and his parents think he might have been attacked because he's gay. People at one bar, he said, were making derogatory remarks about his sexual orientation. But Hopper's lack of recall have stymied the police investigation.

A detective has been assigned to the case and has interviewed people who live in an apartment complex near the parking lot and police have interviewed the employees of all the bars in the area, which has several establishments, two of which have had gay nights but none of which are considered a gay bar but they do have a regular gay clientele.

Ironically, Hopper said he started going to the area because another tavern, the Cold Keg on U.S. 192 in West Melbourne, was getting too rowdy.

He vaguely remembers leaving the bar.

Locals who saw him that night however say that he was quite drunk and think that it is likely that he was walking in a dark parking lot and got hit by a car that didn't see him. None of the people this magazine spoke to saw the event as a hate crime.

After an initial media splash, there has been little follow up. Police presence in the area is significantly increased and they are actively pursuing the investigation.

BROWARD COUNTY—February 12, Broward County became the tenth municipality in Florida to ban discrimination based on gender identity and expression to the Human Rights Ordinance.

This is a huge victory for everyone in Broward County who values diversity and who values Fairness. Today Broward has once again sent a strong message that discrimination will not be tolerated.

The amendment provides vital protections in the workplace, in housing, and in public accommodations for transgender people, one of the most vulnerable and persecuted groups in our community. It also outlaws harassment against people, gay and straight, who do not fit traditional gender stereotypes and as a result may become the victims of harassment and violence.

Ken Keechl, Broward's first openly gay county commissioner, was the lead sponsor of the amendment. "I am proud of my colleagues for once again recognizing that discrimination is always wrong and that the people of Broward county have the freedom to live in a place where their civil rights are protected," said Keechl.

Broward joins nearly a dozen municipalities across Florida that have banned discrimination based on gender identity and expression including Gainesville, Gulfport, Palm Beach, Miami Beach, Key West and others.

WEST PALM BEACH—The Palm Beach County School Board will soon redefine "family" in the School District's Leave of Absence Policy to include employees' domestic partners and their children.

"This pro-family policy recognizing employees' domestic partners and their children is a significant step forward," said Rand Hoch, President of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council.

The Council has been the leading advocate for domestic partner benefits in Palm Beach County for almost twenty years.

The School District of Palm Beach County has recognized domestic partners as family

members since 2005, when the district first offered employees the option of purchasing health insurance for their domestic partners. Currently, 46 employees purchased domestic partner health insurance from the school district.

Although the district offers insurance for domestic partners, it does not allow employees to purchase health insurance coverage for domestic partners' children.

Public employers in Palm Beach County that allow employees to insure domestic partners and domestic partners' children include Palm Beach County, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the Office of the Clerk and Comptroller, the Office of the Tax Collector, the Office of the Property Appraiser, the Office of the Supervisor of Elections, the Office of the Public Defender, the Port of Palm Beach, the Palm Beach County School District, the Solid Waste Authority, Palm Tran, as well as the cities of Delray Beach, Lake Worth, Palm Beach Gardens and West Palm Beach, and the Town of Jupiter.

"The School Board's expanded definition of families gives us hope that it will soon allow district employees to purchase insurance for the children they are raising in their homes," said Hoch.

The School Board will consider the proposed Leave of Absence Policy at its meeting on February 27.

HOLLYWOOD—The Oscar for Best Documentary Short went to Freeheld in an ironic presentation by soldiers in Baghdad. Straight filmmaking duo Cynthia Wade and Vanessa Roth's 36-minute movie tells the story of New Jersey police officer's Laurel Hester's fight to transfer her pensions to her lesbian love, Stacie Andree. Yet the US soldiers who were the presenters for the award are forbidden from being openly gay.

Garden State Equality leader Steve Goldstein, observed, "If only New Jersey could claim - because it would be a heroic coda to a heroic woman's life - that when Laurel Hester died, the state enacted a law granting equality to same-sex couples. But that's not the case. This week, a government commission detailed the failure of the civil union law to provide anything close to the equality that marriage would. "Because of the failure of the civil union law, there are new Laurel Hesters all across New Jersey: Same-sex couples denied equal benefits by employers, struggling to make ends meet, struggling to maintain their dignity, in the face of a civil union law that segregates, discriminates and humiliates."

NEW YORK—TruthWinsOut.org said Ted Haggard's inability to go from gay to straight was no surprise and indicative of these failed programs. Haggard entered an intensive "restoration" process after he was fired from New Life Church and resigned as head of the National Association of Evangelicals in 2006 amid allegations that he had an affair with a male prostitute.

"As far as predictions go, the failure of Haggard's 'ex-gay' program was not exactly like picking the New York Giants over the undefeated New England Patriots in the Super bowl," said TruthWinsOut.org's Executive Director Wayne Besen. "It is pretty much a given that these programs don't work and we hope Haggard comes to a genuine place of love and self-acceptance."

The antigay New Life Church of Colorado Springs announced that the Rev. Ted Haggard had quit the church's five-year "spiritual restoration" process. He agreed to five years of ex-gay rehabilitation in January 2007 — and one of his mentors claimed just three weeks later that Haggard was "completely heterosexual." Haggard then embarrassed New Life leaders when he requested donations while he sought a degree in counseling. The donations were to be collected by Families with a Mission, a Colorado non-profit run by Paul Huberly, a twice-convicted registered sex offender.

On Tuesday, New Life said Haggard will maintain an undefined "accountability relationship" with Phoenix pastor Tommy Barnett, who had already served on the New Life restoration team. Throughout the scandal, New Life has failed to explain how ex-gay prayer or counseling could turn Haggard — or anyone else — straight.

"It is time for conservative churches to admit that their approach to homosexuality is an experiment that has failed," said TWO's Besen. "How many lives will be shattered, families destroyed and careers ruined before



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the religious right accepts gay people for who they are?"

Truth WinsOut.org is a non-profit organization that counters right wing propaganda, exposes the "ex-gay" myth and educates America about gay life. For more information, visit www.TruthWinsOut.org.

WASHINGTON, DC—The Washington Post reported on February 5 that five years after a gay advocacy group was told that it could no longer use the e-mail, bulletin boards and meeting rooms at the Justice Department, Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey has reversed that decision and issued a revised equal-employment-opportunity policy barring discrimination against any group.

Mukasey informed leaders of DOJ Pride last week that the department would give it the same rights as all other DOJ employee organizations. In a statement, Mukasey said the department will "foster an environment in which diversity is valued, understood and sought" and maintain "an environment that's free of discrimination."

DOJ Pride and its 110 members had been barred from holding an annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Month celebration since 2003, when then-Attorney General John D. Ashcroft told the group that the Bush administration observed an unwritten policy of not sponsoring events without a presidential proclamation. The group also was told it could not post notices of general meetings and events on department bulletin boards.

The policy continued under Ashcroft's successor, Alberto R. Gonzales.

Under the Clinton administration, DOJ Pride

had grown accustomed to more freedom, holding its annual pride celebration in the Justice Department's Great Hall. Under the Bush administration, the group was told it would have to pay more than \$2,000 to lease the space, including payments for security. Pride celebrations were instead held in small conference rooms reserved by employees and group members.

After Mukasey took over the department late last year, the group wrote to him to complain about its treatment. Hook said Mukasey met with group leaders, signed the new policy that allowed bulletin board postings, and agreed to host the pride celebration in one of the department's main halls.

SALT LAKE CITY—According to an Associated Press story Affirmation, a group of gay Mormons, is seeking an unprecedented meeting with the new church president and his counselors, hoping to begin a conversation and find ways to address the concerns of its members.

"Although there are many areas of hurt and disagreement that have separated us, there are many more areas on which we can find agreement, and in doing so, become a blessing in the lives of many of the Saints, both straight and gay," the group wrote in its invitation to Thomas S. Monson last week.

Monson assumed leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints following the death of its previous president, Gordon B. Hinckley.

Such a meeting with Monson and his counselors - a triumvirate known as the First Presidency - would be unprecedented, said David W. Melson, the group's assistant executive director.

"This was something we've talked about for a while," Melson said. "With the death of President Hinckley and the installation of new church leadership, it seemed like the appropriate time."

Church teachings consider homosexuality a sin and hold up traditional marriage as an institution ordained by God. In the 1990s, the church was active politically in fighting samesex marriage legislation nationwide. A church official signed a 2006 letter from religious groups asking Congress for a marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Some gays were rejected by their families and excommunicated by the church. Some were counseled that marriage or intensive therapy programs would "cure" their homosexuality.

More recently, church leaders have softened their position, drawing a distinction between the feelings or inclinations of same-gender attraction, as they call it, and actions.

Hinckley, who died Jan. 27 at age 97, had called on the church to reach out to gay members with compassion and love.

Melson said a new approach could prevent Mormon parents from kicking their gay children out of their homes and reduce the number of suicides among young gay men.

"I would like for us never again to have gay individuals, particularly our young people, being told that they are not welcome in the church they grew up in," he said, whose group was founded in 1977 by closeted gay students at the church-owned Brigham Young University.

NEW YORK—LGBT rights groups from Spain, the Netherlands and Brazil have been refused observer status that allows Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to participate in United Nations business.

The UN Committee on NGOs was tied, with Columbia, Dominica, Israel, Peru, Romania, UK and the USA voting yes and Burundi, China, Egypt, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia and Sudan voting no.

Angola, Guinea, India and Turkey abstained while Cuba was not present.

The vote does allow the Spanish Federacion Estatal de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales (FELGTB) to get its application to the next stage: a vote on this recommendation by the full Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which assists the General Assembly.

Philipp Braun, co-secretary general of ILGA, said: "The LGBTI community is clearly gaining ground at the UN as shown by the increased support from countries that before were hostile to LGBTI issues.

In 2005, ILGA began its ECOSOC Campaign, an initiative aimed at allowing LGBTI human rights defenders to address the UN "in their own name", by getting LGBTI groups from diverse countries to apply for ECOSOC status.

In 2006 and 2007, after harsh and lengthy consideration by the ECOSOC, consultative status was granted to five LGBT organizations: ILGA-Europe, the European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, the Danish, Swedish and German national LGBT federations (LBL, LSVD and RFSL) and the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Quebec, CGLQ.

This development has already allowed ILGA members to address the floor of the Human Rights Council (HRC) plenary, which prompted the High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour to state her support for LGBT rights in that international forum.

ILGA has been facilitating the presence of LGBT activists at the United Nations Human Rights Council since 2004.

ISRAEL— February 23, 2008, The attorney general of Israel ruled last week that gay couples will be allowed to jointly adopt children that are not biologically linked to either partner. Menachem Mazuz announced that there was no legal basis for differing treatment of gay couples to straight couples.

His ruling means that gay couples will be entitled to the same rights as adopted parents as straight couples.

"It was decided there is no legal hindrance from approving same-sex couples, or one of the partners, to adopt an unrelated child who is not the child of either partner," the justice ministry said in a statement.

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Family of God in Christ Church	321-632-3767
950 Cocoa Blvd (US 1), Ste. 104, Cocoa	
Maplewood Village Mobile Home Park	321-636-6061
201 Cape Ave, Cocoa	
Showboat Adult World	321-633-5588
1800 King St, Cocoa	

Melbourne & Palm Bay (Brevard County) & Vero Beach (Indian River County)

The Cold Keg Nightclub	321-724-1510
4060 W. New Haven, Melbourne	204 750 5500
East Coast MCC Melbourne:	
165 N. Babcock, Unit B, every Sunday at 6 p.m PO Box 120748. W. Melbourne. FL 32912-0748	
Eclectus	772-567-4962
2045 13th Ave. Vero Beach, FL	
Hot Flixx	321-752-8805
3369 Sarno Rd., Melbourne, FL 32934	
King Center for the Performing Arts	321-242-2219
3865 N Wickham Rd. Melbourne. FL 32935	
Steve Lewis/Leary Hair Design	321-258-8258
4301 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne	
The Living Room of Brevard GLBT CC	321-505-0077
165 N. Babcock, Unit B, Melbourne mailing: PO Box 60910, Palm Bay, FL 32906-0	
PFLAG Melbourne	
Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Riviera United Church of Christ, 451 Riviera Driv	
PFLAG Vero Beach	
PO Box 650533, Vero Beach, FL 32965-0533	
People Care Center	
Riverside Theatre 800-4	445-6754/772-231-6990
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Tan-In Tanning Salon	
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Crystal Tides	
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East Coast MCC	
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741 SE Morningside Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL	
Party Town U.S.A	
829 S. US 1, Port St. Lucie FL	
PFLAG Martin County	
First Monday of every month at 7 pm at Treasure Coast UU, 21 SE Cer	ntral Parkway, Stuart, FL
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JItimate Barbers at Tradition	
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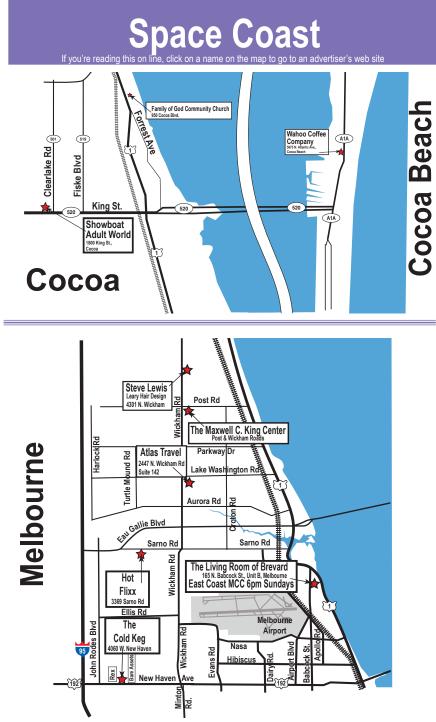
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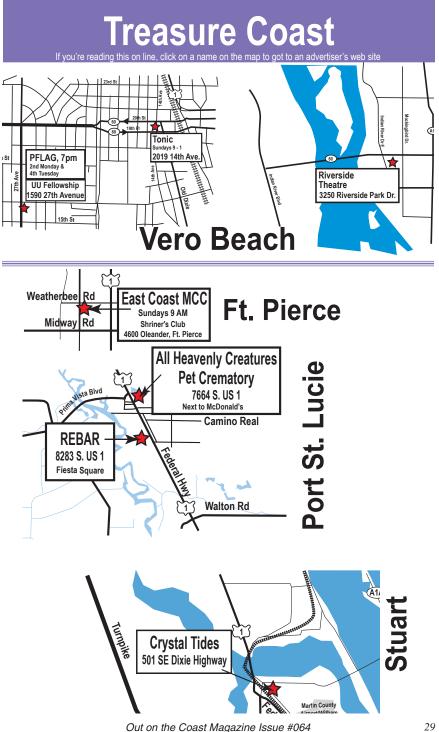
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Drawn from the more than 200 civil rights, faith, senior and campus and community organizations that make up the Fairness for All Families Campaign, these volunteers and donors embody the far ranging impact of the deceptively named "Florida Marriage Protection" amendment.

If passed, it would strip away essential benefits from all unmarried Floridians - blocking the passage of civil unions and repealing existing domestic partnership protections vital to thousands of families.

All around, the "Primary Day of Action" was empowering. But, instead of telling you about that, we thought we'd let our volunteers share their experience with you. Here's just a sample of what some of our poll workers had to say:

"It was a great feeling to go out and partake in such an educational endeavor." - Maria D.

"My daughter and I were at the polls. Once people realized were AGAINST the amendment, they were 100% behind us... One young woman even asked for contact information so a speaker could come speak at a student organization so they could get more involved.

"Over all, a great response. We are glad we could take part." - Deborah

"Thank you for the great coaching up front and kudos to the team at Fairness for all Families. It truly was an amazing day! I even had one spry woman in her mid-80s say "Sign me up. That amendment would be ridiculous and stupid. We shouldn't be taking insurance rights away from anyone." - Harry

"Yes, what a day. What an inspiring and eye-opening experience... I was truly surprised by how many supporters there were out there who did not know how broad-sweeping this legislation is. I really spent my day telling hundreds of people that this amendment is not just about gay people. sigh.

"I must send a special thanks out to the activists from SIEU who were gathering our signatures, wearing our t-shirts and advocating on our behalf throughout the day." - Michael W.

"My day was pretty amazing- I talked to lots of people and most were against the amendment... Thanks for the opportunity to get be a part of this amazing effort! - Lauren

You can be a part of this great organization, contact Fairness for All Families and help fight the good fight against Amendment #2 this fall. If you don't understand the issues, check out the video at www.fairnessforallfamilies.org.

Don't see your event mentioned? Did you tell me about it? I'm a fairy, not a seer, silly! Send your news, gossip and tidbits to MissT@ootcmag.com

Since I have some space left, here's some pics from **Rainbow Tonic** last Sunday. On the left Alexi Leigh is show director with special guest Dominique Golden and right, BFFs and roommates said they never had a pic together, so here is it





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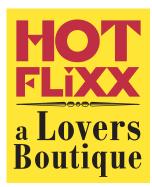
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