Slain black councilwoman remembered during Brazil Carnival

By DIANE JEANTET and MAURICIO SAVARESE
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Samba competition is taking on a political edge in Brazil, with one of Rio's top samba schools and other groups paying tribute to Marielle Franco, an activist for gays and Afro-Brazilian rights who was slain almost a year ago.

Mangueira, one of the oldest samba schools in Rio, included the former city councilwoman in its parade early Tuesday honoring Brazil’s hidden heroes, those who history books often forget or choose not to mention.

Franco and her driver, Anderson Gomes, were shot to death in their car while driving in downtown Rio on March 14, 2018. The killings shocked Brazilians and set off a wave of national demonstrations, but police have never named suspects.

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Conversion Therapy Ban bill moves forward

By Sue O’Connell

A hearing was held on Tuesday, March 5 regarding legislation refied by Rep. Kay Khan to ban sexual orientation conversion therapy for minors. If the bill becomes law, it would make Massachusetts the sixteenth state to ban the conversion therapy.

Multiple reports from social media indicate that the hearing room was packed overwhelmingly with supporters of the ban.

This is the fourth time the legislation has been filed. The ban would prohibit state-licensed health care providers offering conversion therapy for minors.

After the hearing, the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities is set to recommend two bills.

The proposed legislation has 116 co-sponsors in the House and Senate.

"That’s my hope. Better to get it over sooner rather than later, in my opinion, because just having it out there for a long period of time, there are a lot of naysayers out there," Khan said after chairing the hearing on her own bill.

Khan’s bill (H 140) was the subject of a crowded, emotional hearing in front of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities where parents, pastors, lawmakers and members of the LGBTQ community spent hours making their case for and against the bills.

The bill has 116 co-sponsors in the House and Senate, representing more than half of all elected lawmakers.

Conversion therapy attempts to change a person’s sexual or gender identity using psychological or spiritual approaches. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, it’s linked with depression and suicide.

Second man seems to be free of AIDS virus after transplant

By CARLA K. JOHNSON

SEATTLE (AP) — A London man appears to be free of the AIDS virus after a stem cell transplant, the second success including the “Berlin patient,” doctors reported.

"The therapy had an early success"

The therapy had an early success

NewEnglandbriefs

Senate considers bill to address discrimination in schools

By HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A Senate committee considering a bill to prohibit discrimination in public schools heard conflicting opinions Monday on whether the measure is necessary.

The Senate Judiciary Committee held a public hearing Monday on a bill recommended by the Governor’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion, which was created in 2017 following the near hanging of a biracial boy in Claremont and other racial incidents. In more than a dozen listening sessions around the state, the group consistently heard about persistent discrimination in schools— ranging from harassment and bullying to unequal discipline—and complaints about an inadequate resolution and redress process.

"Well, frankly, I’m waiting for someone to accuse me of something. And me wondering if they’re not telling the truth and me having forgotten."

— Sir Ian McKellen muses on the ramifications of the #MeToo movement in a talk at National Student Pride in London.

find Billy Masters on page 6!
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The bill would prohibit discrimination against students in public schools based on age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, marital status, familial status, disability, religion or national origin. Supporters said there is a gap in existing law when it comes to students because while federal anti-discrimination laws apply in schools, the state's new civil rights unit in the attorney general's office does not have jurisdiction over such matters.

"What happens to these targeted kids? They become victims, and they're told to stand up, back up, just put up with this," said Rep. Gerrie Cannon, a Democrat and one of the state's first transgender lawmakers. Cannon, who also serves on the Somersworth School Board, said she has spoken to students who left the district because they didn't feel safe or protected by school officials.

"I'm not sure what is worse, being bullied by someone else or being bullied by an administration," she said.

Barrett Christina, executive of the New Hampshire School Boards Association, spoke against the bill, saying it was unnecessary because he believes students already can seek redress in state court under current law. But Jeanne Hruska of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire said students shouldn't have to rely on piecemeal federal protections. Instead, she argued that students should be provided with the same state-level protections as employees.

Hruska also described the work of the Juvenile Reform Project, which recently reported data from the federal Office of Civil Rights on racial disparities in school discipline. Her organization has been meeting with students across the state, including students of color who feel like second class citizens, she said.

"Young people are really on the front lines of our state's struggle to promote racial justice," she said. "They deserve greater protection."

Maine's chief justice says youth in crisis need help

By MARINA VILLENUVE

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—Maine's top judge called Tuesday for more mental health services and recovery centers for children and youth in crisis.

Chief Justice Leigh Saufley used her State of the Judiciary address to push for more safe housing, transitional advocates, and mental health and addiction recovery services for all Mainers, particularly young people. Before Maine expands specialty courts to tackle the "epidemic of addiction and mental health crises," she said, the state must fund such community-based services.

"There has been an acknowledgement for quite some time that we do not have sufficient place- ment facilities for youth who can't go home," Saufley told reporters. "We haven't found the solution yet. And there's been a lot of conversa- tion about it so far the system has not been augmented."

The state's youth prison, Long Creek Youth Development Center, has faced calls for closure from advocacy groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine. A 16-year-old transgender boy killed himself at Long Creek in 2016, and a 2017 audit found the prison was housing "many youth with profound and complex mental health problems, youth whom the facility is nei- ther designed for nor staffed to manage."

Lawmakers said they were scheduled to meet Monday to consider the facility's future, but she again stressed that Long Creek provides services needed for youths with "very particular circumstances."

"If that setting were no longer available at Long Creek but was available community by commu- nity, that would be fine," she said. "If the setting is no longer available at all, then we will have se- rious concerns in regards to some of the youth, who need very restrictive settings."

In 2017, Maine's former corrections com- misioner said the state was working to develop regional residential facilities for youth. Last year, former GOP Gov. Paul LePage's administration proposed new regulations to launch secure youth residential care facilities to prevent children from receiving treatment outside Maine or at facilities that don't provide needed services.

Maine adopted the regulations last fall, but such a residence can't open until federal regula- tors approve the rules.

The administration of new Democratic Gov. Janet Mills said it is reviewing initiatives to care for youth with significant mental health needs. Last week, the state announced it's seeking a Medicaid waiver for care for children with severe emotional disturbances.

"Providing appropriate levels of behavioral health care to children, adults, and seniors in Maine is a priority for DHHS," said Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Jackie Farwell.

Saufley said the state should move cautiously to ensure its youth get the treatment they need.

She noted that when the state closed the Aus- gusta Mental Health Institute in 2004, officials planned to then create a robust community mental health system. The hospital was the first in the state to serve the mentally ill and was named Augusta Mental Health Institute.

"That did not work as well as we all hoped," she said. "And many people with mental illness are now in our county jails. I would not want to have the state to make the mistake of doing that with its youth."

Democratic Sen. Cathy Breen, who's submitted a bill calling for a statewide plan to treat mental health and substance abuse disorders, said she agrees with Saufley that the justice system "is not the place to address mental health."

"What I think has been missing for many years now is a Department of Health and Human Ser- vices that is invested in high quality community mental health services across our state," Breen said. "I think now we have a great opportunity with a new administration."

California mayor cedes position amid sex harassment claims

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Mayor John Duran announced Monday that he will resign the largely ceremonial position for health reasons amid sexual harassment allegations.

Duran said he will relinquish the title—which is rotated annually among City Council mem- bers—within two months to go but will remain on the council, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Duran was recently hospitalized for a week with blood clots and in a Facebook post cited health issues for his decision to pass the gavel to Buck's current attorney has said the January 2017 incident was an accident.

"I want to reemphasize that exercise is not the only reason for this decision," Duran wrote on Facebook. "I have considered the effect this decision will have on my family."

"It's not that I don't want to be mayor anymore, but I can't do it anymore," he said in the post.

Protesters have been demanding Duran's oust- er in the wake of sexual harassment allegations.

Three current or former members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles have alleged that Duran made crude sexual remarks or touched them inappropriately and three years ago the city paid $500,000 to settle a sexual harassment law- suit brought by Duran's former council deputy.

Duran also has faced criticism for his past work as an attorney for Ed Buck, a prominent Demo- cratic donor who is well-known in LGBTQ po- litical circles. Authorities are investigating the Jan- uary death of a man at Buck's West Hollywood home, which followed the death of another man there in 2017 from a drug overdose.

Buck's current attorney has said the January death was also an accidental drug overdose.

Bid to fortify Utah hate-crimes law passes first Senate vote

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A bid to strengthen the state's hate-crimes law passed its first vote on Monday following an emotionally charged debate over the long-stalled idea that's been gaining steam since the beating of a Latino man in Salt Lake City.

The state has reached a tipping point on the is- sue, said Republican sponsor Sen. Daniel Thatcher.

"I know how many people are counting on us to stand up and make the hard decision and do the right thing," he said.

His measure would allow longer sentences for people convicted of targeting someone because of their sexual orientation, race, religion or other factors. The Senate passed the bill, 19-9.

Supporters argued it would protect civil rights and be an important tool in prosecuting crimes that can strike fear through entire communities.

Opponents, though, worry the measure goes too far in singling out certain groups for protec- tions and stiffer penalties wouldn't solve the problem.

"The reality is, when we’re creating protected classes we pick and choose," said Republican Sen. Jake Anderegg. A bid to add protections for peo- ple targeted because of their political beliefs was voted down, despite lawmakers' concern about recent pushback against conservatives in the U.S.

If the measure passes a second Senate vote it will go to the House of Representatives.

Utah's current hate-crime law doesn't protect specific groups and prosecutors have said it’s es- sentially unusable.

The bill to strengthen it stalled in 2016, and supporters said its prospects were hurt when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints urged lawmakers, many of whom are members, not to upset a balance between religious and LGBT rights.

Church officials clarified this year that they do not oppose the legislation.

A groundswell of support for the idea picked up speed after the November 2018 beating of a Latino man in Salt Lake City who authorities have said was targeted by an attacker who said he wanted to “kill Mexicans.”

Alan Dale Covingtion could not be charged with a hate crime in state court even though he told police he assaulted a father and son with a 3-foot (91-centimeter) metal pole because they were from Mexico, according to court docu- ments. He was instead charged in federal court in connection with a crime that left one man with serious head wounds. His attorney has not returned messages seeking comment.

Democratic Sen. Luz Escamilla said attacks like that rippled through her community.

"I had to explain to my children that they were safe. The irony is I didn’t feel safe myself," she said.

In a separate incident two weeks ago, a video showing a man in Salt Lake City punching a stranger allegedly because he was gay gained widespread attention online.
Gay teen shunned by parents starts college fund for others

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida teen who raised tens of thousands of dollars for college after his parents ostracized him for being gay now wants to pay it forward.

Seth Owen’s story was widely shared after his biology teacher took to the crowdfunding site GoFundMe and raised $140,000. He also got a $25,000 check on Ellen DeGeneres’ TV talk show.

Georgetown University offered the Jacksonville valedictorian a full-ride scholarship, and he told WTLV he used the windfall to start a nonprofit group to help other teenagers in similar circumstances.

The organization Unbroken Horizons Scholarship Foundation will be awarding three scholarships this summer.

Owen’s parents kicked him out a year ago following disagreements over his sexuality and an ultimatum: attend their Southern Baptist church or leave.


Correction: Gay Rights Activist-Fire story

JACKSON, Mich. (AP)—In a story Feb. 26 about a Michigan transgender, gay rights activist charged with arson, The Associated Press reported erroneously that police said the man tried to fabricate a hate crime by setting his home on fire. The FBI initially investigated the arson as a possible hate crime but police have not provided a motive.

A corrected version of the story is below:

Gay rights activist accused of setting own home on fire Michigan police say a transgender, gay rights activist set his own home on fire

JACKSON, Mich. (AP)—Michigan police say a transgender, gay rights activist charged with arson set his home on fire in an incident initially investigated by the FBI as a possible hate crime, but the man’s attorney is questioning the evidence.

Attorney Daniel Barnett said the evidence is circumstantial and doesn’t provide proof beyond a reasonable doubt that Nikki Joly set the August 2017 fire that killed five pets at his home in Jackson.

The 54-year-old Joly was charged last year with first-degree arson. A hearing is scheduled for March 8 in Jackson County Circuit Court, The Detroit News reported.

“We determined it pretty quickly to be an arson,” Eemer Hitt, Jackson’s director of police and fire services, said Monday. “We investigated it over what probably was a year’s time before the prosecutor ended up issuing charges.”

MLive.com obtained the arson investigation report that says gas station surveillance video shows Joly buying gasoline the day of the fire and traces of gasoline were found on his clothes. Phone records and witness statements show Joly was home around the time the fire was set, the report said.

“The timeline shows a window of less than five minutes for another person to enter the residence, splash gasoline around, ignite the fire and then leave without being seen,” police detective Aaron Grove wrote in the report.

Hitt declined to provide a potential motive for the arson. Barnett said the lack of motive causes doubt in the prosecutor’s case.

“It doesn’t make sense,” Barnett said. “(Joly) was citizen of the year.”

A local newspaper selected Joly as Jackson’s citizen of the year in 2018. Joly helped open the city’s first gay community center, organized its first gay pride festival and helped pass a nondiscrimination ordinance.

Chicago police last week charged the black and gay “Empire” actor Jussie Smollett with disorderly conduct for falsely reporting a racist and homophobic attack.

Proposed ban on LGBT conversion therapy getting pushback

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A proposal to ban gay conversion therapy for minors encountered pushback in conservative Utah on Friday as state lawmakers questioned whether it’s too restrictive for therapists talking about sexual orientation with young clients.

Supporters of the measure said it allows discussion about sexuality, as long as there’s no attempt to change orientation or gender identity. Conversion therapy has a history in Utah, including the use of now-outdated physical techniques like electroshock therapy, and is associated with higher rates of depression and suicide attempts, supporters said.

“You provide neutral treatment, that’s all. It’s not a therapist’s role to pass judgment,” said Cliff Rydak, a University of Utah professor who helped draft the plan, which is similar to bans passed in 15 other states and the District of Columbia.

Still, lawmakers had concerns, and Republican Rep. Karin Lianereeson said she wanted to be cautious with the proposal that’s drawn opposition from some Utah therapists.

“It is not a small step for us to take to say this speech, which is still protected even though it’s professional speech, is not allowed,” Republican Rep. Brady Brammer said.

A panel of lawmakers discussed the proposal but didn’t vote on it Friday, though Republican sponsor Rep. Craig Hall expected it to be heard again shortly.

Counselor Joan Landes is opposed to the bill and on Friday wore a piece of tape over her mouth with the word “silenced.” She deals with a number of clients who are “unhappy with some aspect of their same-sex attraction,” and she’s afraid that liability concerns would keep her from taking those clients, she said.

“What about the kids who want to make changes and we have to say, ‘Sorry, it’s hopeless,’” Landes said.

Other therapists saw it differently.

Lisa Tennes Hansen said she supports the ban and has seen people suffering after undergoing verbal conversion therapy. She helps clients explore their feelings about sexuality and how it affects their lives, and teaches skills to be healthy “without talking about what can or can’t be changed,” she said.

Supporters of the measure pushed back against Brammer’s proposal to remove the restrictions on verbal therapy and limit the ban to physical techniques. “Words are just as damaging to children as more physical methods,” supporters said.

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Rosky said.

The proposal is sponsored by two GOP lawmakers and has been gaining momentum since the influential Mormon church said it would not oppose it. Gov. Gary Herbert has also endorsed it, Hall said.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has taken a welcoming stance to the LGBT community in recent years, though the faith remains opposed to marriage and sexual relations between people of the same gender. About two-thirds of residents and a large majority of lawmakers are members.

The measure would apply to state-licensed therapists, not religious leaders or parents, and would allow people to file a complaint against someone practicing conversion therapy.

Woman says church fired her over same-sex relationship

CHAPIN, S.C. (AP)—A South Carolina woman says she was fired from her role as a teacher at a Baptist child development center for her same-sex relationship.

The State reported Wednesday that Skye Moore was fired last week for a “conflict of interest” she says Chapin Baptist Church Pastor Michael Hull explained was her relationship. She says she has been with her fiancee for three years and the relationship wasn’t secret from her supervisors or the pastor.

Several parents told the newspaper they knew about Moore’s relationship and it wasn’t a problem as she was a great and particularly attentive teacher. They also questioned why Moore was fired now, months after Hull started as pastor and five years after she started at the center.

The newspaper says Hull declined to comment.


Posthumous memoir by gay rights pioneer due in October

NEW YORK (AP)—A posthumous memoir by gay rights pioneer Edie Windsor will be released in October.

Windsor’s “A Wild and Precious Life” will draw upon her uncompleted manuscript and other personal papers, St. Martin’s Press announced Thursday. The book was finished by Joshua Lyon, with cooperation from her spouse, Judith Kasen-Windsor. “A Wild and Precious Life” will include everything from her childhood to her coming out as a lesbian to the 2013 Supreme Court ruling she helped bring about that led to same-sex marriage nationwide.

Windsor, who died in 2017, challenged a federal law that would have only granted her an inheritance tax break if she married a man. She was facing a big tax bill after the death of her first wife, Thea Spyer, whom she had married in Canada.
billy masters
Continued from page 1

I recently watched a documentary about the Marx Brothers—now, stay with me. I promise to make this relevant. I was particularly interested in a comment Groucho made well past the brothers’ prime. He said that at least half of their classic films were made because Chico needed money to cover gambling debts. And the brothers needed Groucho for them to be successful (and he could use the money to pay alimony to multiple wives). As it turns out, Harpo was the most stable one with a healthy marriage and personal life. This anecdote came back to me when I heard about this Jonas Brothers reunion. Nick is clearly Groucho—the one you need to get a record deal. And Kevin is probably Harpo. Does that make Joe Chico? To really solidify this connection and make it stick, I still have to calculate how many Marx Brothers would have slept with Taylor Swift.

Now that the dust has settled from the 2019 Oscars, there are a handful of stories which still warrant mentioning. First up is Rami Malek, whose acceptance speech was edited by Chinese censors prior to airing. Any references to “gay men” were changed to “a special group.” I can’t say I’m surprised. Just like I wasn’t surprised that for the upcoming theatrical release of “Bohemian Rhapsody” in China, all homosexuality has been excised from the film. And you know what that means? No Adam Lambert.

Oscars lead to mixed blessings. Sure, Glenn Close lost for the 900th time. But, it may have helped her lock in the lead role in the film adaptation of the musical “Sunset Boulevard”. Filming of the feature will begin in October, and Glenn’s high-profile loss actually clinched her chances at immortalizing her Norma Desmond on the silver screen. Plus, consider her getup—the train, the cape, the gold lamé. That was a woman ready for her close-up. Plus, consider her getup—the train, the cape, the gold lamé. That was a woman ready for her close-up. And then a gay popped up in the strangest place—at a Brigham Young University football game! Charlie Bird is not a football player—he’s the team’s mascot. Or, rather, he was—from 2015 to 2018. He says, “I never planned on coming out as gay. But the evening ended with her acceptance speech.

Lady Gaga won an Oscar, and lost an Oscar. But the evening ended with her canoodling with Madonna—talk about mixed blessings! The two were snapped at Madge’s post-Oscar party—with the two in an embrace while Gaga held her Oscar. Are they friends now? Or did Madonna just wanna finally touch an Oscar?

Lots of people were drooling over Jason Momoa at the Oscars—including the positively lactating Dame Helen Mirren. And you know what would go well with some powdered milk? Girl Scout cookies. And this gave little Jason Momoa from Colorado an idea. The ingenious innovation did a bit of Photoshopping and turned her beloved Samoas into Mo-
Recent Wins for LGBTQ Families
by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

February may be the shortest month, but it is helping March come in like the proverbial lion with a wave of good news for LGBTQ families.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (D) signed a bill February 19 expanding the state’s paid family leave law in a number of ways, including by expanding the definition of “family” to include chosen families and expanding the definition of “parent” to include foster parents and those who become parents via gestational surrogacy.

“New Jersey is now the first state in the nation to offer paid family leave that is inclusive of all families,” according to the Center for American Progress, which also observed in a statement, “Making paid leave available to chosen family is especially important to LGBT individuals and people with disabilities, as they are disproportionately likely to need time off to care for chosen family.”

A bill also passed the New York Assembly Judiciary Committee February 27 that would more likely to need time off to care for chosen family.”

On the federal level, Judge John F. Walter of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California on February 21 recognized the birthright citizenship of Ethan Dvash-Banks, the son of U.S.-citizen Andrew Dvash-Banks and his Israeli husband Elad Dvash-Banks. Two-year-old Ethan was previously denied recognition of his citizenship—even though his twin brother was granted it. Andrew and Elad had met while Andrew was studying in Israel. They could not live together in the U.S. because the Defense of Marriage Act (struck down in 2015) was still in place. Instead, they married and settled in Canada, where they had twin sons through surrogacy. When they sought recognition of the twins’ U.S. citizenship, the State Department demanded DNA tests and other documentation of their biological relationships to the boys, even though, said LGBT rights organization Immigration Equality, the law imposes no biological requirement. Because one child was conceived with the sperm of one father and the other child with the sperm of the other father, however, the State Department said one was a U.S. citizen while the other was not.

Judge Walter, however, ruled that Ethan is indeed a birthright citizen of the U.S. Because this was a clear statutory ruling, however, he did not decide on the constitutional issue the fathers had raised, namely, that the State Department’s policy “violates the due process guarantee of the Fifth Amendment by infringing on the fundamental right of same sex couples to marry.”

That means that at least one other family, that of U.S. citizen Allison Blixt and her spouse Stefania Zaccari, an Italian citizen, must continue to fight for their children’s right to be U.S. citizens. Like the Dvash-Banks’, they married abroad while the Defense of Marriage Act was still in effect, and then had two sons, Lucas and Massi. The U.S. State Department refused to recognize their marriage and said that Massi was Allison’s son because she had given birth to him, but Lucas, who was carried by Stefania, was not. It thus has refused to recognize Lucas’ citizenship. The Dvash-Banks victory is thus a step forward, but not the end of the story.

In news from abroad, France’s National Assembly passed legislation February 19 that will require schools to use “Parent 1” and “Parent 2” on all school forms, instead of “Mother” and “Father,” in order to recognize the variety of families today. Any queer parent (in France or elsewhere) who has had to cross out and write in the appropriate parental titles on a school form will likely applaud the measure.

In business news, mega-corporations Samsung and AT&T in February each unveiled commercials featuring same-sex parents—and in both cases, the parents’ queerness was not the focus of the ad. AT&T’s ad touts the idea that “just OK is not OK” in either babysitters or wireless networks. It shows a two-dad couple realizing that their babysitter’s assertion “I’m pretty okay with children” means she doesn’t really have the childcare skills they want in a sitter. Samsung’s ad, which ran during the Academy Awards, among other times, shows two women, one of whom is pregnant, lying in bed viewing an ultrasound on their phone. It’s part of a longer commercial showing people using Samsung products, which ends by displaying the text “What we create today lets you create the future.” Kudos to both companies for showing that same-sex parents are simply a part of society today.

This flurry of good news should not blind us to the significant challenges that remain for LGBTQ families, but I hope it reminds us that we can still make progress, even in difficult times.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

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Brazil

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“It has been a year since the incident,” Layara Franco, Marielle’s daughter, told The Associated Press hours before Mangueira was to perform. “This Carnival full of tributes stresses we are still in this fight. The case has not been solved.”

Several flags with Franco’s face in green and pink, the Mangueira colors, appeared both in the parade and on the stands.

One giant green flag on the stands also with Franco’s face seemed to send a message to far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who won last year’s elections with a pro-gun message.

“Our weapon is education,” the flag in tribute to Franco read.

Franco’s partner, Monica Benicio, took part in the samba school’s parade in the wee hours of Tuesday at Rio’s Sambadrome wearing a shirt that read “fight like Marielle.”

“Marielle was a woman, a fighter, from the favela, who overcame inequality, went to university, was elected councilwoman, fought for minorities, denounced and investigated public power,” said Deivid Domenico, who co-wrote Mangueira’s samba anthem for this year’s Carnival.

For the composer, the need to write about the slain councilwoman and Brazil’s forgotten history was all the more important this year as Brazil was all the more important this year as Brazil’s forgotten history.

Franco grew up in Rio’s Mare favela and was black and homosexual - a rarity in Brazil’s overwhelmingly white and male political spectrum.

Franco “was not only a human being, it was an idea, a force,” Domenico said. “She became a fighting flag.”

Thomaz Miranda, one of the authors of Mangueira’s samba, also said in his social network channels that the lyrics “are for the memory of Marielle” and “all the struggle that is yet to come.”

While progressives hail Franco as a hero, Rio state lawmaker Rodrigo Amorim, who last year showed off a street sign honoring Franco that he and another candidate had broken, told the newspaper O Globo that he was disappointed the samba school included the councilwoman in its parade.

“Just as universities are absolutely dominated by this cultural dictatorship that the left is trying to impose, unfortunately it has also reached the samba school,” said Amorim, who belongs to Bolsonaro’s PSL party.

During the parade at the sambodrome, Amorim told journalists he was not singing Mangueira’s samba despite being a supporter because he couldn’t memorize the lyrics. Thousands of revelers in the stands, however, found Mangueira’s tune very easy to sing and favored the green and pink samba school to win this year’s parade.

“This is the champion,” they chanted after Mangueira’s performance.

Standing outside a Rio subway station with a sign reading “Who killed Marielle?,” Adelaide Rezende argued that Brazilians needed to keep up the pressure.

“If we don’t forget and keep asking, we might get some answers,” Rezende said, noting that authorities have said they believe the killing was orchestrated by militias, paramilitary-type groups that have close ties to local politicians.

The left-wing local politician was widely commemorated Sunday during Carnival street parties, known in Brazil as “bloco.”

A Sao Paulo-based samba school, Vai-Vai, paraded with Franco’s sister and daughter, while carrying a large photo mosaic of Franco along with the slogan “Marielle present!”

Benicio, Franco’s partner, attended a bloco in Rio wearing a shirt reading “Who killed Marielle?” She also carried a rainbow flag around the Toco-Xona bloco with the face of the murdered councilwoman.

The Ilu Oba de Min bloco in Sao Paulo, which promotes Afro-Brazilian culture, also remembered the councilwoman. “They are not going to silence us!” the female-only bloco sang Sunday.

At Sao Paulo’s Vai Quem Quer bloco, 3,000 people danced as street signs with Franco’s name rose close to the speakers.

Rodrigo Rodrigues, an internet technology student who was one of the revelers, said the bow to Franco comes from her example and from her being a symbol of resistance to the new president.

“Marielle is also a counterpoint to this narrative that Brazil is narrow-minded and hating of minorities. She is celebrated because she is pro-LGBT rights, because she is black and because she comes from a favela,” Rodrigues said. “We are not merely teasing the conservatives that dislike her politics, we are giving praise to a woman that was killed by reactionaries.”

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AIDS

Continued from page 1

with Timothy Ray Brown, a U.S. man treated in Germany who is 12 years post-transplant and still free of HIV. Until now, Brown is the only person thought to have been cured of infection with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Such transplants are dangerous and have failed in other patients. They’re also impractical to try to cure the millions already infected.

The latest case “shows the cure of Timothy Brown was not a fluke and can be recreated,” said Dr. Keith Jerome of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle who had no role. He added that it could lead to a simpler approach that could be used more widely.

The case was published online Monday by the journal Nature and will be presented at an HIV conference in Seattle.

The patient has not been identified. He was diagnosed with HIV in 2003 and started taking drugs to control the infection in 2012. It’s unclear why he waited that long. He developed Hodgkin lymphoma that year and agreed to a stem cell transplant to treat the cancer in 2016.

With the right kind of donor, his doctors figured, the London patient might get a bonus beyond treating his cancer: a possible HIV cure.

Doctors found a donor with a gene mutation that confers natural resistance to HIV. About 1 percent of people descended from northern Europeans have inherited the mutation from both parents and are immune to most HIV. The donor had this double copy of the mutation.

That was “an improbable event,” said lead researcher Ravindra Gupta of University College London. “That’s why this has not been observed more frequently.”

The transplant changed the London patient’s immune system, giving him the donor’s mutation and HIV resistance.

The patient voluntarily stopped taking HIV drugs to see if the virus would come back.

Usually, HIV patients expect to stay on daily pills for life to suppress the virus. When drugs are stopped, the virus roars back, usually in two to three weeks.

That didn’t happen with the London patient. There is still no trace of the virus after 18 months off the drugs.

Brown said he would like to meet the London patient and would encourage him to go public because “it’s been very useful for science and for giving hope to HIV-positive people, to people living with HIV,” he told The Associated Press Monday.

Stem cell transplants typically are harsh procedures which start with radiation or chemotherapy to damage the body’s existing immune system and make room for a new one. There are complications too. Brown had to have a second stem cell transplant when his leukemia returned.

Compared to Brown, the German doctor who treated Brown, called the new case “great news” and “one piece in the HIV cure puzzle.”

AP video journalists Manuel Valdes in Seattle and Havovi Tod in London contributed.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

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Bay Windows welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letters should not be more than 200 words.

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The Middlesex Sheriff’s Office (MSO) is seeking candidates interested in becoming Correction Officers at the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction located in Billerica, Massachusetts. The MSO is offering a Correction Officer entrance exam to those candidates who meet the qualifications set forth below.

**EXAMINATION DATE:** Saturday, March 30, 2019

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION:** Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have graduated from a high school or possess a high school equivalency test certificate issued by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Must have a current/valid motor vehicle operator’s license. Must be a resident of Massachusetts at the time of the exam and for attendance to the Basic Training Academy.

**ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR HIRE:** Will be required to pass a physical fitness standards test (visit the MSO website for the physical fitness test requirements and physician clearance form), participate in an interview process, criminal background check, and a psychological and medical examination. In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification form upon hire. Will be required to attend and complete a twelve week MSO Basic Training Academy which includes written exams, physical fitness tests and firearm qualifications. Bachelor’s degree preferred. Prior law enforcement/security experience preferred.

**HOW TO APPLY:** All applicants must complete the online Correction Officer entrance exam registration form found at www.middlesexsheriff.org. You must complete and submit the online exam registration form by Monday, March 18, 2019 at 1:00 PM in order to sit for the exam and be considered for this position. Those interested candidates that do not register online by the March 18, 2019 deadline will not be allowed to take this exam. Please check the MSO website listed above on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 for more information regarding exam location, testing times and further details regarding the testing process.

**LAST DATE TO APPLY:** Monday, March 18, 2019 at 1:00 PM

**SALARY:** Starting annual salary from $53,02 to $54,557 depending on shift assignment after graduation from the 12 week Basic Training Academy, plus additional monetary benefits covered under the collective bargaining agreement.

For a more detailed job description including Correction Officer duties, working conditions, testing accommodations and the physical fitness test requirements, please visit: www.middlesexsheriff.org

The Middlesex Sheriff’s Office is an equal opportunity employer.

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**Boston Pride**

Boston Pride is seeking submissions for a logo representing this year’s theme, Looking Back, Loving Forward. The theme represents the recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and is meant to encourage the community to reflect back on the many challenges and incredible victories of the LGBTQ+ community in that time. The contest is open to the public and the winner will receive a $500 prize for their design.

The winner will be chosen by community leaders in collaboration with members of the Boston Pride Board and announced on April 9th at the Boston Pride Spring Open House at 6:30pm at the Pride Office, 12 Channel Center Suite 503, Boston, MA.

Submissions are due by 5PM on Monday, March 25th. Register today for the 2019 Boston Pride Parade! With over 55,000 marchers and 750,000 live spectators in 2018, plus broadcasting on local media channels, joining the Boston Pride Parade is sure to bring visibility to your organization and signal the work you do for equality. The Parade will be held on Saturday, June 8.

Register today for the 2019 Boston Pride Festival! Each year the Boston Pride Festival sees over 125,000 visitors and 100+ exhibitors. Whether you are a small non-profit just getting started, a small business selling rainbow merchandise, or a long-standing organization in the LGBTQ community, becoming an exhibitor is a sure way to reach your target audience. The Festival will be held on Saturday, June 8.

Upcoming dates for all public Boston Pride meetings for 2019 are now posted on our website. We encourage attendance and participation by all members of the community. If you have questions, please contact info@bostonpride.org. More information at www.bostonpride.org

**News from...**

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[Advertisements for various services and businesses related to construction, plumbing, and electrical services are also present.]
It's a spoof on the cutthroat world of kiddie beauty pageants, a subject rife for parody. The play milks the premise with over-the-top performances, clever staging, and actors playing numerous roles. Don't even get me started on how they handle the kiddie aspect without actually having kids (for the most part). Are there holes in the show? Absolutely—if you think about it, the entire conceit falls apart, which is unfortunate because these problems could have been solved in the writing. As to the cast, Drew Droege can do virtually anything. Here he is utilized exceptionally well and gives a performance worthy of Charles Busch (whose plays he often stars in). Ms. Wilkas—well, he sure is purty. And he's a good actor. Is purdy or farce his strong suit? Well...be sure is purty. The play runs through March 31st, and I heartily recommend it. At 90 minutes and $25 for tickets, what’s not to like? Grab those tix at CelebrationTheatre.com.

Another gay couple has split up. Zachary Quinto and his boyfriend, model Miles McMillan, have ended their six-year liaison. The couple lived together and had two dogs. According to reports, they split up sometime around the holidays, but the news only got out when each appeared at different Oscar parties. Quinto was at the "Vanity Fair" soiree, while McMillan was said to have "stopped by" Elton John’s shindig. Riddle me this—how does one "stop by" one of the hottest parties of the year? And who was his plus one? That’s what I wanna know.

Could it be that a certain reality star is a bit more experienced than he’s letting on? So says someone from his past who told me he probably hasn’t gone all the way—"with a woman". As to men, all I got was a sly grin.

When our lips are sealed, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. You know where we are less coy? On www.BillyMasters.com—the site that never holds back. If you have a question for me, shoot it over to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before the Jonas Brothers star in a remake of "Duck Soup" (with Taylor Swift in the Margaret Dumont role). So, until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.

Transgender troops tell Congress they excel in military

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Transgender troops testifying for the first time to Congress on Wednesday said transitioning to another sex made them stronger, while Pentagon officials defended the Trump administration’s desire to bar people like them from enlisting in the future.

Army Capt. Alivia Stehlik, an infantry officer and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. and Ranger School, told lawmakers she became a more "effective soldier" after she transitioned from male to female in 2017.

"What is the value of having transgender people in the military? Based on my experience first as a combat arms officer and medical provider, the answer is unequivocally that my transition—and so many others—has dramatically increased the readiness and lethality of every branch of the armed forces," said Stehlik, who returned from a deployment to Afghanistan a month ago where she treated soldiers as a physical therapist.

With the ban now blocked by lawsuits, active-duty transgender service members were invited to testify at the hearing called by Democratic Rep. Jackie Speier, chairwoman of the military personnel subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

Speier said the ban is "discriminatory, unconstitutional and self-defeating" and said the Obama administration’s 2016 lifting of the barrier to allow transgender people to serve has been an "unequivocal success."

She added that barring transgender people again "would cost us recruits at a time when so few Americans are willing to serve." She called the five transgender troops who testified Wednesday "exceptional, but also exceptionally normal."

Retired Air Force Gen. James N. Stewart, who is now performing the duties of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, defended the Trump administration’s policy, which is currently blocked by litigation.

He said current transgender troops will be allowed to continue to serve and other transgender people can join the military if they serve in their biological sex and have not been diagnosed with gender dysphoria, a condition under which people experience distress if they do not identify with their birth gender.

"It’s not a ban on transgender individuals," he insisted.

Stewart added that "special accommodations" cannot be made for people with such a medical condition.

Maryland Democratic Rep. Anthony Brown said the same argument was used to keep blacks from integrating into the Army in 1948 and again in the 1990s to keep gay people from serving openly under the don’t ask, don’t tell policy, which was repealed by Congress in 2010.

He said barring people who have undergone treatment for gender dysphoria and transitioned to another sex is equivalent to banning transgender people.

"You’re transgender and only if you agree not to transition, then you can serve, that’s just like ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’" he said.

In the nearly three years since the U.S. military welcomed transgender people into the armed forces, they have largely served without incident. Some, like Army attack helicopter pilot Lindsey Muller, have earned prestigious medals or received other forms of recognition.

"Once you meet transgender people who have served in the different branches ... it’s really hard to dismiss the fact that you will find Purple Heart recipients, Bronze Star winners, attack aviators, Navy SEALs," said Muller, who did not testify but is a plaintiff in one of four lawsuits challenging the ban. "We’ve been here, and we will continue to be here regardless. In what capacity is up to the administration."

President Donald Trump has argued that their presence is a burden and cited "tremendous medical costs" as a reason for the ban.

According to new data from the Defense Department provided to the House Armed Services Committee ahead of the hearing, the military has spent about $8 million on transgender care since 2016. The military’s annual health care budget tops $50 billion.

An estimated 14,700 troops on active duty and in the Reserves identify as transgender but not all seek treatment.

Military chiefs testified before Congress last year that they found no problems with transgender troops on morale or unit cohesion. The five transgender troops who testified Wednesday said their medical transitions took anywhere from four weeks to four months and they did most of it on their own time. All were fit to return to deploying afterward.

They said recovery from pregnancy and shoulder surgery takes much longer.

The Defense Department treated 1,525 service members between July 1, 2016 and February 1, 2019, who were diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Currently about 1,071 are serving, including 20 senior officers.

The military spent about $8 million on transgender care, including about $5.8 million on psychotherapy and about $2 million on surgeries mostly for breast reductions and hysterectomies. There were about 25,000 psychotherapy visits and about 160 surgeries.

Speier asked Pentagon officials to look into reports that the military requires weekly psychotherapy visits, over prescribing therapy.

Mississippi Rep. Trent Kelly, the committee’s ranking Republican member, said not everyone can join the military because of its “stringent medical and behavioral health standards needed to maintain a ready and resilient force. However, it only makes sense that any individual who can meet these standards and is otherwise qualified should be allowed to serve.”

This story corrects the date to 2017 when Army Capt. Alivia Stehlik transitioned from male to female.
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