



First Friday

News & Views



Iowa's LGBTQ+ Newsletter of the First Friday Breakfast Club

September 2024 | Volume 29 | Issue 9

Next Meeting

Friday,
September 6
7:00 a.m.



Location

Hoyt Sherman
15th & Woodland
Des Moines



Speaker

Connie
Boesen

Mayor of
Des Moines



Website

ffbc Iowa.org



Happy Trails

by Byron Huff, Board President

Jim and I frequently camp in Woodward at a small campground next to the trailhead to the High Trestle Trail. On Saturday, August 17, I rode up to Bouton from Woodward (about five miles) to experience the new connection that links the High Trestle Trail with the Raccoon River Valley Trail; the project to connect the two trails has been in the works since the 1980s.

I rode with another friend because Jim was not feeling up for a ride that far since he is recovering from a broken arm. As we approached Bouton, a large number of people were congregating at the trail preparing for the ribbon cutting to commemorate the completion of the new trail connection!



What an amazing experience to see so many bikers celebrating this momentous occasion! Following the ribbon cutting, we went into town where a large number of bikers were celebrating with food and drink stands set up near the only bar in town; Bouton is so tiny this group likely doubled the population.

Luke Hoffman, the Executive Director of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition, said that the trail system in Iowa contributes millions of dollars to the economy. "We have an economic impact study that we are working on to see what the impact is of cycling and trails across the whole state and we did this back in 2012. Back then it was \$364 million so we expect that number to be much larger," Hoffman said.

The completion of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's (INHF) "Let's Connect" project marks a significant milestone in Iowa's recreational and environmental landscape. This ambitious initiative has successfully linked the High Trestle Trail with the Raccoon River Valley Trail, creating a 120-mile loop of continuous paved bike trails that is poised to offer numerous benefits to the region. From boosting local economies to promoting outdoor recreation and conservation, the impact of this project will be felt across various sectors.

The creation of the 120-mile loop presents a unique opportunity to boost local economies along the trail. Cyclists, hikers, and tourists from across the country are drawn to such expansive trails, spending money on lodging, dining, and local attractions. Towns and cities along the route, such as Perry, Woodward, and Adel, are likely to see increased business activity as visitors flock to the area to experience the loop.



[continued on page 2]



["Happy Trails" continued from page 1]

Trails like this often become destinations in their own right, attracting events such as bike races, charity rides, and festivals that further contribute to economic development. The influx of visitors not only supports existing businesses but also encourages the establishment of new ones, including bike shops, cafes, and rental services.

One of the core missions of the INHF is environmental conservation, and the "Let's Connect" project aligns perfectly with this goal. By connecting two major trails, the project not only preserves green spaces but also promotes the appreciation and understanding of Iowa's natural heritage.

Perhaps one of the most significant benefits of the "Let's Connect" project is the sense of community it fosters. Trails like these become communal spaces where people from different backgrounds can interact, share experiences, and build connections. The loop links multiple towns and communities, creating a network of shared spaces that strengthen social bonds and enhance the quality of life.

The "Let's Connect" project exemplifies sustainable development by balancing economic, social, and environmental considerations. The trail is a long-term investment in the region's future, with benefits that will continue to accrue over time. As the trail gains popularity, it is likely to attract further investment in infrastructure, such as trailheads, rest areas, and interpretive centers, enhancing its utility and appeal.

The completion of the "Let's Connect" project is a triumph for Iowa's natural heritage, offering a wide array of benefits that extend beyond the 120-mile loop itself. From economic growth and improved health outcomes to environmental conservation and enhanced community ties, the project stands as a testament to the power of connectivity—both in terms of infrastructure and the human spirit. As Iowans and visitors alike take to the trail, the true impact of this visionary project will be realized, enriching the state's cultural and natural landscape for generations to come.

To learn more about the "Let's Connect" project visit the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's website.



A picture from the High Trestle Trail bridge between Woodward and Madrid; what an amazing view!



Thanks to **David Cotton** for leading the August meeting and for introducing our August speaker, **Dr. Daniel Zinnel**. Thanks to **David Cotton** for managing our website, to **Nicholas Williams** for managing our Microsoft IT infrastructure, and to **David Wilfahrt** for managing FFBC's finances. Thanks to **Wade Petersen** for his work as our newsletter editor. *Thank you to all our newsletter contributors!*

The **early deadline** for the **October newsletter** will be **September 9**. If you have something on your mind to share, type it up and email it to Wade (wadecpetersen@gmail.com) by the deadline.



Fundraising efforts are ongoing to fund our scholarship program. To date we have awarded over **\$495,000** for scholarships to Iowa high school seniors who have done remarkable, courageous things to reduce homophobia and teach about LGBTQ issues in their schools and communities. Please consider a tax-deductible **contribution** online or by sending a check.



A special **thank-you** to those FFBC members and friends who have chosen to designate FFBC through the **Donor Direct** program of **United Way**. Contributions through United Way are tax deductible. Those who have chosen this means of supporting FFBC have gone to the trouble of completing their United Way campaign worksheet by designating FFBC as the beneficiary of their generosity. FFBC is an eligible recipient of such funding designations.



United Way





The Browning of America

by Jonathan Wilson

We know that Kamala Harris is mixed-race, black and dot-Indian. Former, currently felonious, President Trump recently raised the issue of her blackness in his appearance before the National Association of Black Journalists. Trump suggested that Harris has changed her racial identification for political expedience. If that were true (which it isn't) what difference would it make?

Harris graduated from Brown University (a historically "black" university), was president of her "black" college sorority, and, when elected to Congress, she joined the "black" caucus. Despite those bona fides, Trump made a lame attempt to suggest that she's somehow not *really* black. Weird. It's interesting that her "black" identification is now perceived by Trump at least as a political *advantage*. We've come a long way to get to this point.

That political evolution should not be a surprise. Currently, in the United States, 15.1% of new marriages are interracial, and, today, one out of six married people is married to a person of a different race or ethnicity. In 2015 (now almost 10 years ago), there were about 11,000,000 interracial marriages in the U.S. If those marriages were to produce, on average, 2.5 children (which is the statistical norm), we're talking about 27,500,000 additional mixed-race citizens in a single generation. And, no matter who those offspring marry, it will be a mixed-race marriage, and their children and grandchildren will be mixed-race.

I am a gay grandpa with five grandchildren; I was married to a wonderful woman for 25 years. She is still a wonderful woman. Two of our grandchildren are mixed-race. We are happily *living* the demographic statistics I've shared.

There was a day when those opposed to equal civil rights for gay people argued that being gay was a choice, "not like race," and, therefore, it should not be a protected characteristic. That argument didn't make sense then (after-all, being a Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, or Presbyterian is clearly a choice, but that fact didn't, shouldn't, and doesn't, forfeit chosen religion's protected status). Today, even that lame argument is erased as America browns and racial identification increasingly becomes a matter of choice.



First Friday Breakfast Club
Founder **Jonathan Wilson**

The law in many states defined who was and was not "black." In 1822, the law in Virginia, for example, established that a person with 1/4 African heritage was to be considered "black" (the equivalent of one "black" grandparent). That definition lasted until 1910, when it became 1/16; if one's heritage were at or above that threshold, they were considered "colored." Finally, in *Loving v. Virginia*, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1967 that any couple could marry, regardless of race (thus clearing the way for the mixed-race marriage of U.S. Associate Justice Clarence Thomas in 1987).

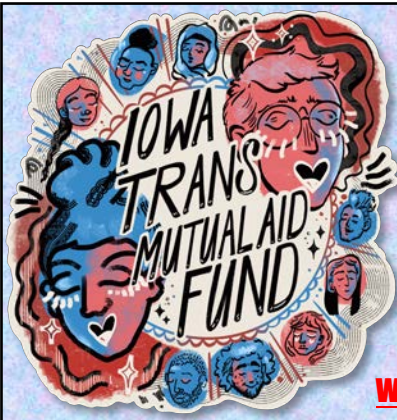
America is browning, inexorably. The writing is clearly on the wall. Whether articulated or not, many "white" people intuitively recognize this phenomenon and feel a certain level of angst, fearing that a "black" majority will treat them and their progeny as their ancestors treated people of color.



The U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 decided in *Brown v. Board of Education* (a ruling already made by the Iowa Supreme Court in 1868), that racially identifiable public schools are inherently, unavoidably, unequal. That launched the slow motion of an Americanized form of South African apartheid. If you don't believe me, read *Savage Inequality* by Jonathan Kozol.

The *Brown* and *Loving* decisions (both fittingly named, paradoxically), helped set in motion the browning of America and the growing irrelevance of the choice a person makes regarding their racial identification. It isn't, and shouldn't be, relevant to the equality of opportunity in this country regardless of racial identification, including the opportunity to be President of the United States.





We believe that every **Trans**, **Nonbinary**, and **Gender Diverse** Iowan should have access to gender-affirming care.

Donate at:
www.iowatransmutualaidfund.org/

FFBC Membership

FFBC membership is open to all members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.

We welcome EVERYONE, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Meetings are held the first Friday of every month at Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines.

Membership Rates

The following rates help us to cover food and facility costs:

Annual Rate: \$180
(12 consecutive meetings)

Quarterly Rate: \$48
(3 consecutive meetings)

Month-by-Month: \$18

First-Time or One-Time Attendee: \$15

Full-Time Student: \$8

No charge to attend via Zoom

Payment Options

We accept cash, checks, or **credit cards** at the meeting.



Meeting Schedule

6:30 a.m. - Doors open
6:45 a.m. - Breakfast service begins
7:00 a.m. - Meeting begins



LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY EVENTS



CALENDAR

Sponsored by: 

calendar.capitalcitypride.org



Camp with Pride

LGBTQ+ FAMILIES

- ✓ LGBTQ+ AFFIRMING MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS
- ✓ FISHING, PADDLING, HIKEING, ARCHERY, & MORE
- ✓ LED BY EXPERIENCED NATURALISTS
- ✓ BREAKFAST AND DINNER PROVIDED

SEPT 7-8

JESTER PARK
COST: \$10 PER FAMILY

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:
WWW.TINYURL.COM/CAMPWITHPRIDE



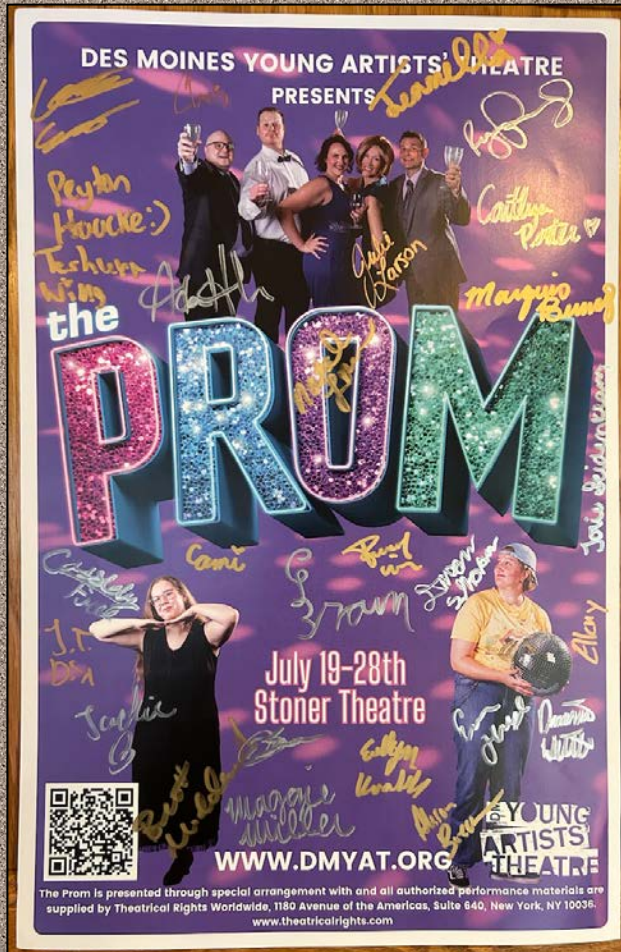




Board Members **Ken Hanson** and **Wade Petersen** represented FFBC at **"The Prom"** presented by the **Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre** at the **Stoner Theater**.



Ken Hanson gives an introduction to the audience promoting FFBC and its scholarship program before the show. A different local LGBTQ+ organization was invited to promote its mission before each performance of this LGBTQ+ themed comedy/musical.



"Thank you for joining Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre at 'The Prom'! Your support means the world to them!"



oneiowa
**NEW ONE IOWA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Congrats!

Max Mowitz

One Iowa is thrilled to announce **Max Mowitz** as the new Executive Director of One Iowa and One Iowa Action! After a thorough search with over 50 applicants, Max was the standout candidate to lead One Iowa's nearly 20-year-old organization. He has been a dedicated member of One Iowa's team for more than five years, serving as Program Director and overseeing its organizational programming, direct services, and community education.

Their deep understanding of One Iowa's mission, combined with their proven leadership and commitment to advancing LGBTQ+ rights, made them the ideal choice for this pivotal role. In their new role, they will focus on expanding programs, strengthening community partnerships, and continuing to advocate for policies that promote equity and liberation for LGBTQ+ individuals across the state.

Join us in welcoming Max and supporting their vision for equity and liberation in Iowa!

FALL SOFTBALL
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
9/11 - 10/23
Campbell Rec Area

PRIDE SPORTS LEAGUE OF CENTRAL IOWA

Accept Decline

www.pridesportsleague.org



Vice President Kamala Harris has selected Minnesota **Gov. Tim Walz** as her Democratic running mate for the 2024 presidential election. Walz, a 60-year-old military veteran who grew up in Nebraska, has drawn praise for his LGBTQ record dating back several decades.

In 1999, when he was serving as a teacher and football coach at Mankato West High School in Minnesota, **he stepped up to become an advisor for the school's gay-straight alliance.** That was the same year he led his school's football team to the state championship.

iowa safe schools **COINS for a CAUSE**

ALL TOKEN SALES BENEFIT LGBTQ STUDENTS

UP DOWN
9.04.23 5PM-10PM
500 E Locust

Sunrise at Broadlawns Medical Center

By Dave Miglin, Chair of the Broadlawns Board of Trustees



NOTE: This message represents the personal views of Dave Miglin only and is not an official document nor necessarily represents the views of Broadlawns Medical Center or its staff.

On July 15, 2024, a new chapter began in the 100-year-old history of Broadlawns Medical Center. Following a thorough, national search during which over 100 candidates applied to become Broadlawns' next CEO, the Board of Trustees selected Iowa's own **Proctor Lureman** to lead this vital organization forward. Every FFBC member and Polk County resident can be proud of this selection and take pride in the direction that Broadlawns is heading. Proctor has the moral character, professional experience, proven leadership skills, intelligence, temperament, and compassion to lead Broadlawns. We have every confidence that he will continue to fulfill its mission to build a healthy community in which there is accessible, cost-effective, and high-quality patient care for all.

The good news is that, despite the pressures resulting from the most consequential healthcare crisis in our lifetime (COVID-19), Proctor Lureman joins Broadlawns at an amazingly hopeful time. We've made important investments in our facilities and staff, along with the advancement of meaningful programs, that are already making a positive impact in the lives of Iowa citizens. Among those advances are:

- **The CARE Program** which was championed by AMOS and established in collaboration with local law enforcement. This program places Broadlawns-managed mental health support for adults and youths inside 9-1-1 dispatch with a mobile crisis response team when called upon. In the first year of implementation (2023), we responded to over 1,500 mental health calls that would have otherwise likely resulted in incarceration.
- **New clinics at Drake University** with plans for clinic expansions on the west, south, and east sides of our county.
- **Upgraded facilities and equipment;** Broadlawns invested millions to update our orthopedic robotic surgical equipment, MRIs, inpatient beds, pediatrics clinic, parking lots, HVAC systems, and much more.

- **Tackling our healthcare workforce shortage** through our TECH & TEACH program, fellowship opportunities, and the accelerated nursing program launching this fall in collaboration with Drake University.
- **Finding new ways to help those who are struggling with alcohol and drug addiction** through a collaboration with Polk County and St. Vincent de Paul that will result in a new sobering center opening in October.

It's also worth noting that Broadlawns has accomplished all these things and more using approximately 25% less of our share of the property tax levy generously provided by the Polk County taxpayers. This is what good governance looks like. When state legislators enter session in January 2025, we may need to remind some people of this fact to ensure that Broadlawns and the patients served there do not become the next victim of a misguided political agenda.

Indeed, it feels very much like the sun is rising at Broadlawns, and we want to keep the momentum going! In November's general election, two Trustee seats will be open and on the ballot; mine and Dr. Andy McGuire's. After careful consideration, Andy McGuire has opted not to run again due to other commitments, but **I have decided to seek another term.** I'm proud to share that so many of our community leaders have endorsed my bid for another term, including Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy, DSM City Councilman Mike Simonson, State Senator Janet Petersen, community activist Connie Ryan, and local businessperson Chris Diebel (to name only a few).

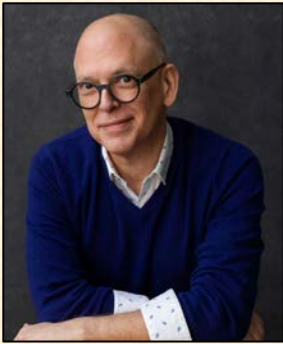
Our new CEO will need a capable and experienced Board for guidance and support in the years ahead. The people of Polk County know that I'm committed to a strong Broadlawns and ensuring quality healthcare to all in need. As Vice President Kamala Harris recently noted, there is more hard work to do, but I am not afraid of hard work!





Speaker Series

September 5 / 6:00 P.M. / Temple Theater



Jim Obergefell

Join Capital City Pride for the launch of the 2024-2025 Capital City Pride Speaker Series where they will have an eye-opening conversation with **Jim Obergefell**, the famous plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court Marriage Equality case.

Jim will draw from his unique experience at the heart of the Supreme Court marriage equality ruling to move and empower us to stand by our beliefs—and prove that love always wins. A self-described accidental activist, Jim found himself in the role of caregiver for his partner of more than 20 years, John, as he neared the end of his life due to ALS. An unexpected series of events led to their decision to marry, eventually taking Jim to the Supreme Court and the landmark decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that resulted in victory for marriage equality.

Jim and co-author, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Debbie Cenziper, captured Jim and John’s story, as well as the stories of others involved in this case in the book *Love Wins: The Lovers and Lawyers Who Fought the Landmark Case for Marriage Equality*.

Now a self-described purposeful activist, Jim is dedicated to the fight for equality not just for the LGBTQ+ community, but for civil rights for all. In his moving story of love, loss, dedication, and commitment, Jim will bring us along on his emotional and empowering journey and his continued efforts fighting for human rights.

[Tickets are free, but you must register online.]

Future Speakers



October 4:

Coming Out Panel

Various Speakers

November 1:

John & Terri Hale

The Hale Group
Advocates Working
for Better Lives for Iowans

December 6:

Kennetha Bingham-Tsai

Iowa UMC Conference Bishop

“IN OUR OLYMPIC WORLD, WE ALL BELONG.”

- International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach

The Paris Olympics broke a record by having **193** openly LGBTQ+ athletes competing, according to the website *Outsports*.



September Speaker



Connie Boesen



Connie Boesen is the mayor of Des Moines. Boesen is from Des Moines, Iowa. Her father, Ken Fulk, managed the Iowa State Fair. She graduated from East High School in Des Moines, Iowa. She attended Des Moines Area Community College and Grand View University. She worked for Younkers as a buyer for 34 years. In 1988, she founded a concessions company, Applishus.

Boesen served on the Des Moines School Board from 2003 to 2017. She was elected to the Des Moines City Council as an at-large member in 2017 and reelected in 2021. Boesen announced her candidacy for mayor in the 2023 election in March 2023. She defeated fellow councilmember Josh Mandelbaum in the runoff election. She assumed office on January 2, 2024.



CITY OF **DES MOINES**

oneiowa
LGBTQ
HEALTH AND
WELLNESS
CONFERENCE

September 23rd | Iowa City

Presented by UnityPoint Health

The **One Iowa Midwest LGBTQ Health and Wellness Conference** is dedicated to the holistic health of LGBTQ+ individuals in the Midwest. This inclusive event welcomes all those involved in LGBTQ health, including healthcare professionals, mental health practitioners, and healthcare support staff. Physicians, therapists, social workers, dentists, physical therapists, community health workers, and medical students are all invited to participate.

The 2024 conference will be held in person on Monday, September 23rd, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Courtyard Marriott in University Heights, Iowa City.

Focused on navigating the interlocking systems of care for LGBTQ+ community members and addressing associated barriers, the conference prioritizes submissions that emphasize intersectionality and the liberation of all LGBTQ+ people. Sessions that tackle issues such as racism, ableism, xenophobia, rurality, fatphobia, and classism are highly valued in the selection process.

Tickets:

oneiowa.org/event/hw24

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Presented by

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Loren Schechter
 Surgeon at RUSH Chicago

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Presented by

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Charlie Adams
 Transgender medical student at Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Proteus Helping the Farm Worker

by Gary Moore

For our First Friday Breakfast Club gathering in August, an increasingly diverse and younger crowd of over 40 listened to Daniel Zinnel, CEO of Proteus, a group that provides services to empower farmworkers, the unsung heroes of our food systems. Typically those workers are different from farmers who have ownership or are managing the business operation of a farm. Farmworkers are hired by farmers or farm managers to help support farm operations.

Farm workers are often seasonal workers with limited access to healthcare or workplace benefits. Farmwork is one of the most dangerous occupations with a higher fatality rate than construction and oil workers. Most of their work is done in rural communities where there is less access to support services and resources. Many face challenges such as job insecurity, unpredictable income, and educational barriers. They are essential for our food production and the work they do feeds our communities as well as our animals.

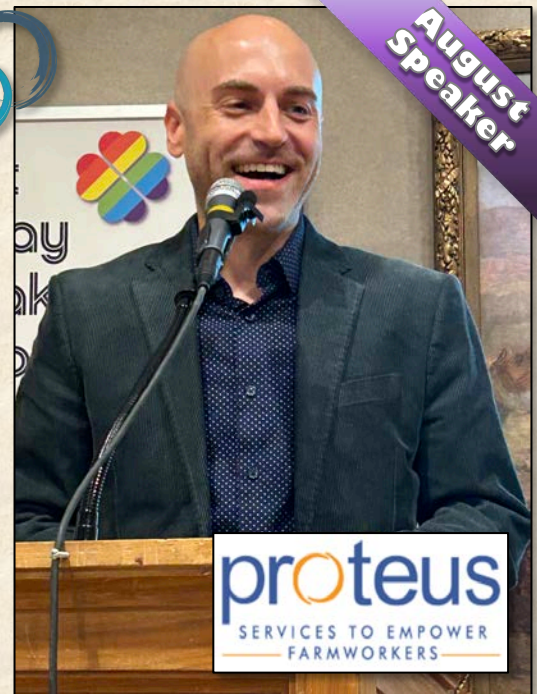
By and large, farm workers work sunrise to sunset, seven days a week; are insured less; have less access to benefits; and face barriers to education, medical, and most social services. Proteus provides agricultural workers and their families with affordable health care, education assistance, and job training. Proteus started its work in Iowa in 1979 and has expanded its work to include Nebraska and Indiana. “It’s providing the opportunity to individuals who just need a lift up to provide for themselves and their families and create that opportunity to develop generational wealth, create self-sufficiency.”

There are over 2,160 farms in Iowa. That number is continuing to decrease as we see the change in corporate ties in agriculture across the country. An employer has to do their due diligence in trying to hire local folks, and needs to demonstrate that they cannot find (local) workers willing to do the work; the employer can then reach out to the state, which then reaches out to the federal government. But the National Farmworker Jobs Program, for farmworkers through government programs, is but a small part of the immigration workers across the nation.

Proteus, with a budget of approximately seven million (funded primarily through federal programs), tries to lessen dependency on federal funding. Through a series of programs, Proteus seeks to accomplish its mission.

- **National Farmworkers Job program:** This program supports the response to chronic seasonal unemployment and underemployment experienced by agricultural workers, by offering educational assistance, short-term certification programs, job training, and/or career placements. The program helps farmworkers cover costs related to career and training programs such as; tuition, books, tools/equipment, or provides a stipend for class attendance.
- **Agricultural Health Program:** This program provides agricultural workers and anyone in their household with access to affordable health care. Farmworkers perform difficult labor and are in the fields from early morning until late evening, sometimes seven days a week. Such a schedule does not facilitate access to health care services. There are also language barriers and transportation issues.
- **Health and Safety Training Program** This program provides farmworkers with life-saving information about pesticide exposure, heatstroke/heat stress prevention, and COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies.
- **Food Security Program:** Individuals can access Proteus’ food pantry at the Des Moines office. The pantry is open Monday – Wednesday during business hours, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM.
- **Farmworker Youth Leadership Program** The FYLD program is a 10-week online course designed specifically for youth who have either done farmwork themselves or are children of farmworkers. Proteus’ goal is to empower its participants with the skills, support, and mentorship they require to become future professionals and community leaders.
- **Financial Empowerment for Farm and Meat Processing Workers:** By connecting workers with key resources, they can take charge of their financial futures. This leads to lasting stability, growth, and intergenerational wealth.

There is no doubt Proteus has their work cut out for them and undertakes a lot with a limited budget.



August Speaker

Proteus CEO
Dr. Daniel Zinnel



August Meeting Photo Gallery



(left) **Beth Barnhill**, representing District 3 congressional candidate Lanon Baccam, addresses the August attendees.



(right) **David Cotton**, FFBC Vice President, presides over the August meeting and introduces the speaker, Dr. Daniel Zinnel.

DSM Magazine 2024 LGBTQ+ Legacy Leader Awards



Photo from *DSM Magazine*



2024 Honorees:

(pictured above from left to right)



Shea Daniels is the Emerging LGBTQ Legacy Leader. She is an engineering manager at Dwolla and its first openly trans employee.

MD Isley is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Des Moines Area Community College and was the first executive director of Bravo Greater Des Moines.

Dan Jansen helped found the Iowa LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce and recently chaired the board of Capital City Pride.

Erin Sheriff is a senior actuary for Principal Financial Group, where she leads its efforts for nonbinary gender inclusion.

Daniel Zinnel is the CEO of Proteus and formerly served as executive director of One Iowa.

Natali Justiniano Pahl is this year's Ally honoree. She is an executive coach and longtime advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion with experience at EMC Insurance Companies, Principal Financial Group, and Wells Fargo.

dsm magazine, along with presenting sponsor Capital City Pride, is proud to present its annual LGBTQ+ Legacy Leader Awards, now in its sixth year. They will recognize a slate of LGBTQ+ Legacy Leaders who have demonstrated a lifetime of achievement and commitment to the LGBTQ+ community. We'll celebrate the honorees at a special event on **September 12** at the **River Center**. They will also recognize an ally of the LGBTQ+ community, someone whose contributions to equality and justice have helped ensure that gender and sexual orientation must not be stigmatized or marginalized in the culture of Iowa.

To register, go to dsmmagazine.com/lgbtq-legacyawards-2024/



Trap

A Movie Review by Mark Turnage

For any screenwriter, suspension of disbelief--the audience's willingness to "buy in" to a movie's plot, characters, or choices--can be a double-edged sword. Preserving suspension of disbelief can ground a film's narrative in context and plausibility, but potentially slow down pacing with more exposition and greater predictability. Challenging suspension of disbelief (often in the form of a "twist") can result in bold and exciting cinematic moments, but can risk losing an audience's faith in a film's story when twists are implausible, or worse, when the same surprise repeats itself too often. Director M. Night Shyamalan is certainly infamous for big twists, but also mixed payoff. Shyamalan's *Trap* is a fun, suspenseful premise with good pacing and a charismatic lead performance, but becomes ensnared by a plot more in service to its conceit than its characters.

In modern-day Philadelphia, doting dad Cooper (Josh Hartnett) takes his daughter Riley (Ariel Donoghue) to the stadium concert of her favorite popstar, Lady Raven (Saleka Shyamalan). Once inside the stadium, Cooper observes a massive, militaristic police/SWAT presence (which, strangely, no one else at the concert questions). Cooper's doting dad persona starts to slip when he learns from a talkative merchandise vendor and a police radio the entire concert is a trap, engineered by legendary FBI profiler Dr. Josephine

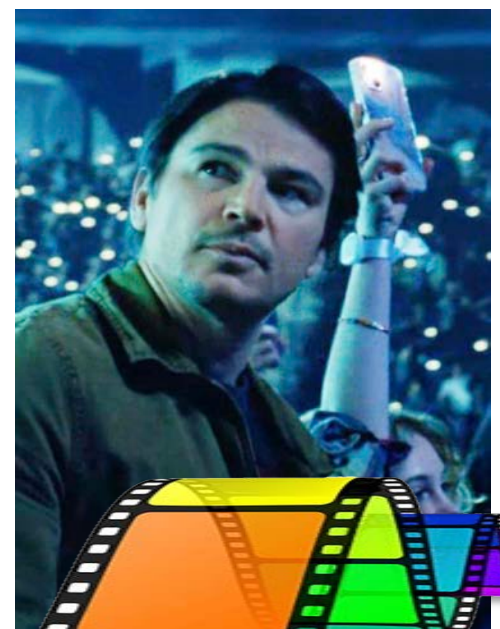
Grant (Hayley Mills) to catch a notorious local serial killer, "The Butcher," who law enforcement is positive will be in attendance. Excusing himself to the restroom, the film unveils its Shyamalan twist early—one intentionally revealed by the film's trailers: dad Cooper is The Butcher, who coldly checks in on his own trapped victim remotely by phone before returning to his seat, cheerfully asking his daughter how the concert is and privately fuming in rage as he forms a plan to escape the concert undetected with his daughter in tow.

Josh Hartnett is a fun Butcher who mines the rich dark comedy moments that arise from the film's premise. It's great seeing him play dad and be bad—one of the film's best scenes is Cooper struggling to keep his "dad mask" on when a pushy PTA mom surprises him at the concert. She (incorrectly) dresses him down for being an uninvolved parent, an irony that succeeds in adding depth to Cooper's dichotomy between his monstrosity and his humanity. Hartnett is a master of the placating, falsely warm smile that doesn't quite reach the coldness in his eyes. There are some superficial "Dexter" comparisons, but Shyamalan prefers a stripped-down, impulsive thriller here, and his knee-jerk character choices could be more intriguing like the earlier seasons of *Dexter* if the film honored character depth more than advancing the plot. Substance is light with *Trap*: we get



barely any details on the crimes Cooper has committed, or even about his nemesis Dr. Grant, who's consistently filmed from behind to frame her as an imposing, implacable force.

Like the apartment in Hitchcock's *Rope*, the Poseidon in *The Poseidon Adventure*, or the jury room in *12 Angry Men*, *Trap* is an example of a film with a limited (contained) setting: its stadium. The concept (which itself requires some significant suspension of disbelief) is explored, but not to its fullest potential. Unfortunately, once the film escapes its limited setting, its stakes, plausibility and suspense begin to escape, too. See it if your suspense doesn't depend on asking too many questions about this Trap.



2024 Spirit Awards

HOSTED BY
DIXIE
LONGATE

REGISTER
NOW!



HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR LGBTQ YOUTH IN IOWA!



OCTOBER 4
6 PM

CAPITAL SQUARE
DES MOINES, IA

Iowa Safe Schools invites *you* to the Spirit Awards on **Friday, October 4th!** Join them for an evening of celebration of the lifesaving work being done at Iowa Safe Schools.

The **Spirit Awards**, introduced in 2009 and held annually, raises critical funds to support life-saving work that empowers LGBTQ youth across the state.

This year, we're beyond excited to have the Tupperware queen herself, *Dixie Longate*, hosting this year's event!

Dixie Longate, everyone's favorite Alabama redhead, has been touring the world with her award winning off-Broadway show, "Dixie's Tupperware Party" since 2008, making it one of the longest-running off-Broadway tours in American theater history. She recently finished season 16 of the tour at the historic Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. She'll be joining Iowa Safe Schools to share some stories, fill some hearts, and send you off into the world feeling a little more empowered than when you started your day!

This event is *vital* to continuing our work serving LGBTQ youth in all 99 counties of Iowa - and fighting for them at the state capitol next session. Please [join us](#) to support our students (and for a fabulous evening)!



LET'S BOWL

NO MATTER HOW YOU ROLL IT



LGBTQA Bowling League bowls on Wednesdays at 7 PM, Gameday Lanes, in the lower level of **Merle Hay Mall**. First night of league play is **Wednesday, September 4**. There will be a short meeting at 6:30 to get teams registered, followed by a 10-minute practice session and then right into night 1 of the season!



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Iowa Voucher Plan Hurts Education



by Supervisor Matt McCoy
Polk County, 1st District



The Iowa voucher program known as Student First Act has siphoned hundreds of millions of dollars out of Iowa public schools. Each voucher represents roughly \$7,826 per child. The debacle continues to unfold with estimates of expenditures off by more than \$30 million in the first year. As we enter another school year, over 30,000 applications were approved for the second of her taxpayer-funded private school tuition program. These applications represent a cost total of \$234,780 of taxpayer dollars for the second year of the program. The legislature only allocated \$180 million in the state budget for the 24/25 school year, and this projection is more than \$50 million higher than that amount. The way the law was written, the appropriation is a standing unlimited, so when the \$180 million gets exceeded, the remainder is transferred out of the general fund.

The voucher program raised income levels to 400% of the Federal Poverty rate in year two to qualify for the voucher. In year three, there are no income limits. Each day as a county supervisor, I'm reviewing requests from Des Moines Public Schools to help fund infrastructure projects at the schools; success coaches for vulnerable students; and extracurricular activities including sports, drama, band for uniforms and healthy food for teams. The thought of my tax dollars being siphoned out of public education absolutely infuriates me when the needs of public schools have never been greater. I continue to believe wealthy families will be the overwhelming recipients of school voucher tax credits and my fear is that the only ones that are going to stay in the public school system are those that can't afford the full tuition at these private institutions. This will create a generational inequity that will forever change the fabric of our state as our once prized education system is being dismantled by Reynolds and the Republican-dominated legislature.

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