



First Friday News & Views

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

May 2025 | Volume 30 | Issue 5

Next Meeting

**Friday,
May 2
7:00 a.m.**



Location

**Hoyt Sherman
15th & Woodland
Des Moines**



Speaker

Ryan Crane
Executive
Director
NAMI/Iowa



Website

ffbc Iowa.org



A Mental Health Crisis

by Byron Huff, Board President

I hope you can join us Friday, May 2, to hear **Ryan Crane**, Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Iowa.

The United States is facing a mental health crisis that has only intensified in recent years. Rising rates of depression, anxiety, substance use, and suicide are not just statistics—they are daily realities affecting millions of Americans. While this crisis touches every state, Iowa provides a particularly stark example of the systemic challenges and societal consequences tied to inadequate mental health care.

Nationally, **one in five adults experiences mental illness each year**, according to the NAMI. For youth, the numbers are just as alarming—suicide is now the second leading cause of death among those aged 10 to 24. Despite growing awareness, access to quality mental health services remains limited, especially in rural areas where providers are scarce and stigma runs high.

Iowa, a largely rural state, is emblematic of the broader American crisis. The state consistently ranks near the bottom nationally in terms of access to mental health care. According to Mental Health America's 2024 report, **Iowa ranks 45th for overall mental health care access**. Factors contributing to this include a severe shortage of mental health professionals, limited inpatient psychiatric beds, and fragmented service systems.

The state has only 2.2 mental health providers per 1,000 residents, compared to the national average of 3.5. Many counties, especially in the western and northern parts of the state, have no practicing psychiatrists. In emergency situations, patients are often forced to travel hours for treatment or are kept in county jails due to a lack of available beds.

Iowa's hospitals and law enforcement agencies are increasingly bearing the burden of mental healthcare. Emergency rooms are frequently used as default psychiatric facilities, while law enforcement officers, often without specialized training, are tasked with crisis intervention. This misallocation of resources drains public budgets and puts vulnerable people at risk.



[continued on page 2]



Untreated mental illness is one of the leading causes of chronic homelessness. In Iowa, shelters report a significant percentage of their residents struggle with mental health conditions. Without stable housing and supportive services, many individuals fall into a cycle of hospital visits, jail time, and street living.



Mental health issues also affect Iowa's workforce. Individuals unable to access care are more likely to miss work, underperform, or drop out of the labor market entirely. This leads to lost productivity and increased costs for employers and taxpayers alike.

Schools across Iowa are seeing rising rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide attempts among students. Many districts lack enough school counselors or psychologists to meet demand. Early intervention is crucial, but without resources, many young Iowans are slipping through the cracks.

There have been efforts to improve the situation. In 2018, Iowa passed legislation to create a more unified mental health system and expand access to services. Mobile crisis response teams, mental health courts, and telehealth services are growing, particularly in rural areas. However, funding remains inconsistent, and progress has been slow.

The mental health crisis is not just a public health issue; it's a societal one that touches education, law enforcement, housing, and the economy. Iowa's experience underscores the urgent need for comprehensive reform. Without bold action, the human and financial costs will only grow.

Addressing this crisis requires more than policy tweaks. It demands a cultural shift in how mental health is perceived, funded, and prioritized. For Iowa and the nation, it's time to treat mental health with the same urgency and compassion as any other medical condition. Lives depend on it.



Briefs & Shorts



Thanks to **Joe Raetz** for introducing our April speaker, **Brock Konrad**, from Catch Des Moines (who substituted for CEO Greg Edwards). Thanks to **David Wilfahrt** for managing all of FFBC's finances, to **Nicholas Williams** for managing our Microsoft IT infrastructure, and to **Wade Petersen** for his work as our newsletter and website editor. *Thank you to all of the great contributors to our newsletter!*

The **deadline** for the **June newsletter** will be **May 26**.



If you have something that you would like 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 **203** 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**



May Speaker



Ryan Crane

Ryan Crane has more than 15 years of fundraising, advocacy, and nonprofit leadership experience. Prior to accepting the role of Executive Director at NAMI Iowa, he successfully led efforts to raise more than \$3 million for the renovation of the children's theatre at Des Moines Playhouse. He has also worked at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, Planned Parenthood, and One Iowa.

It was at One Iowa, his first job out of college, when Ryan became more aware of the work being done on LGBTQ+ issues in the state. In 2009, he attended his first FFBC meeting, and by 2011 he would be serving as the scholarship committee chair, and soon thereafter as a board member. Ensuring justice, equity, and acceptance for LGTBQ+ folks has been one of Ryan's passions, and FFBC has been one of his favorite organizations for more than a decade.



Before March, we had a good economy. The USA has grown more productively than other industrialized countries, and our economy has grown faster than most countries. Yes, we had a trade deficit, yet foreign money was pouring into the USA to invest here. The dollar was the worldwide currency that gave us the super buying power of foreign goods to benefit American consumers. Unemployment was low, and retirement stock investments saw assets increase. The USA's trading agreements strengthened our military and national security alliances. The one weakness was that the wages of ordinary workers hadn't grown that much, and income inequality was worsening. Now, the red-hat MAGAs are ruining our economy in all ways and weakening our national security.



John Clayton

Welcome to the FFBC Board

Beverly Smith



How We Got Where We Are Part 2: Politicization of the Body Politic

by Jonathan Wilson

Nibble



First Friday Breakfast Club
Founder **Jonathan Wilson**

In last month's article: "Part 1 of How We Got Where We Are," I referenced the Biblical parable about the "good shepherd" who left his herd of sheep to find and recover one sheep that had become lost. My point about the parable had to do with the secondary message about the lost sheep. It didn't just run off and get lost; it nibbled its way until it finally lifted its head and found that it was lost. In Part 1, I documented how we have nibbled our way, over time, to dumbing down the citizens of America, myself included. At the same time that the dumbing-down "nibbling" was going on, there was nibbling going on to exploit that dumbing down.

I start with the Fairness Doctrine, a regulation adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1949. As a condition to be licensed as a news broadcaster, it was required that equal time had to be given to both sides of politically sensitive topics. The regulation was loosely enforced, but the fact that it was there, motivated radio and television broadcasters to provide at least some time to opposing views on sensitive topics. The regulation was abolished entirely in 1987 during the Reagan Administration (Republican). *Nibble, nibble*. Shortly thereafter, Fox "News" came into existence. *Nibble, nibble*. Countless other, highly partisan radio and television broadcasters have been born, and people can now tune in to inputs that merely feed their preconceived notions/biases/prejudices/fears. *Nibble, nibble*.

During that same 40-year time frame, America has been "browning." In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Loving v. Virginia* (appropriately named) that interracial marriage was legal everywhere in the country (SCOTUS Justice Clarence Thomas – one of the most conservative and corrupt justices – is in a marriage that was thus legalized). Literally millions of interracial marriages have ensued, and as they have produced offspring of the usual average of 2.5 children apiece, multimillions of mixed-race citizens have been added to our population. Add to that the rapidly growing numbers of Hispanic and Asian Americans, and even the dumbest, southern redneck has been intuitively able to perceive it and fear that a non-white majority might treat them and their descendants as people of color have been treated in our national history. People hate what they fear. *Nibble, nibble*. People can be

motivated by what they hate. *Nibble, nibble*.

Then came the SCOTUS 2010 decision in *Citizens United* that opened the floodgates for limitless money to be spent in elections, spent appealing to what people fear and hate. *Nibble, nibble*.

Then, during Trump's first term in office, Republican Mitch McConnell orchestrated a change in the Senate rules for confirming nominees to the SCOTUS; no longer was a 60-vote majority required to confirm a nominee – merely a simple (partisan) majority could thereafter confirm a life-time appointment to the Supreme Court. Before that change, nominees needed to be credibly nonpartisan in order to get to the 60-vote threshold for confirmation (i.e., less identifiable as "conservative" or "liberal"). After that change, it has been otherwise, and we now have Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett, creating a heavily partisan, conservative 6-3 SCOTUS majority, for their lifetimes. *Nibble, nibble*.

With, over time, the dumbing down of America (Part 1), coupled with the media feeding prejudices, the fear of a "browning" America, unlimited spending on elections that appeal to those fears, and a partisan SCOTUS, we are where we are.

The
Biblical
parable
should be
renamed
the
Parable
of the
Lost
Sheep.

Nibble Nibble



2024-25
CAPITAL CITY PRIDE
SPEAKER SERIES



THURSDAY, MAY 8, 6-7 P.M.
TEMPLE THEATRE

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED



FLAMY GRANT

Join us for the grand finale of the Capital City Pride Speaker Series as Flamy Grant, the trailblazing drag queen and award-winning singer-songwriter, brings down the house with her soulful, uplifting music and powerful stories of queer resilience!

PRESENTED BY 

Presented by





FLAMY GRANT

LIVE IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 7 P.M.
PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 4126 INGERSOLL AVE.




24/25 Season:



CAPITAL CITY PRIDE

PRIDE BOOK CLUB

May:



WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 6-7 P.M.

BEAVERDALE BOOKS
2629 BEAVER AVE # 51, DES MOINES



"I've got transgender people. I've got gays. I've got lesbians. I've got drunks. I've got drug addicts - all within my own family. I know and love them all, and I do not judge."

Dolly Parton

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

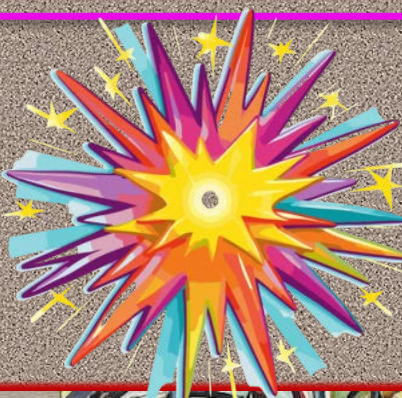




**Board Members,
Joe Raetz and
Phil Williams,
represent FFBC
at the annual
Trans Lives
Festival
on March 29.**

**Central Iowa
Trans Lives Festival**

**Board Member,
Gene Larson, and
David Phelps
represent FFBC
to promote
our LGBTQ+
scholarships
at the Iowa
Safe Schools
Governor's
Conference on
LGBTQ Youth
on April 11.**



**The Annual
Governor's
Conference
ON LGBTQ YOUTH**





Travels with Ken & Wade

by Wade Petersen

Ken Hanson and Wade Petersen spent 2 ½ weeks in Europe last fall, making stops in several countries, to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary (22 years together) and Wade's 60th birthday. Articles in the newsletters have featured their experiences.

Ken and I arrived at our final destination, **Rome**, on my 60th birthday. We took a high-speed train from Florence so the trip only took us 90 minutes. I had booked a four-star hotel for our last stop, and it did not disappoint (and it was our only hotel to provide a complimentary breakfast). The food in Rome is divine!

Since we were very close to the center/hub of the city, we first visited the **Vittoriano** (Altar of the Fatherland). This large national monument (built between 1885 and 1935) is a colossal white marble edifice to honor Italy's first king, Vittorio Emanuele II. Critics of its architecture have nicknamed it "the wedding cake" (its color doesn't exactly match the rest of the city). It also contains Italy's tomb of the unknown soldier. Ken and I marveled at its size. As we climbed the stairs to the upper level, a brief afternoon rainstorm made us take cover in a rooftop café (which wasn't a bad place to get a drink after climbing all those stairs).



Our afternoon next brought us to the famous **Trevi Fountain**. Although the crowds were thick, we managed to get close enough for pictures and, of course, to throw a coin in the fountain. Tossing one coin means you'll return to The Eternal City; tossing two coins means you'll return and fall in love; and tossing three coins means you'll return, find love, and marry. If you are curious, all the coins are regularly removed from the fountain, and the funds are donated to Italian charities!



A short walk then brought us to the famous **Spanish Steps** (FYI...there are 135 marble steps to the top). All the flowers we had seen in photos were missing by this time of year, but it was still an impressive site. A nighttime bus tour ended our first day in Rome and was a relaxing way to see much of the city (Rome really does a great job of lighting up its buildings at night!).

On the first Sunday of each month, many famous monuments are free to visit. Our second day began at the **Colosseum**; unfortunately, the lines were so long to enter (a three to four-hour wait), Ken and I decided to just take pictures of the outside. We then explored Palatine Hill and the ancient ruins of the Roman Forum. The late afternoon brought us to the marvel that is the **Pantheon**; the lines here moved very quickly. This temple to the gods was dedicated in 25-27 BCE. We found the design work amazing, especially the floors (travel tip: always remember to look up and to look down when touring; you'll be impressed by the ceilings and floors!). Our last stop was **Plaza Navona**, a square with restaurants, artists, and musicians. We were a bit disappointed that the Bernini fountains here were drained and being refurbished.

No trip to Rome would be complete without a visit to the Vatican. Ken and I had booked "skip-the-line" tickets and had a great tour guide (I recommend getting a guided tour here). Our tour included the **Vatican**, the **Sistine Chapel**, and then **St. Peter's Basilica and Square**. I had visited the Sistine Chapel in 1986 before it was restored, and I loved seeing its now more vibrant (original) colors (this is the only spot where photos are forbidden). For Ken, the interior of St. Peter's was magnificent. This holiest of Catholic shrines is the largest church in the world. Tradition holds that this is the burial site of St. Peter (his tomb is directly below the high altar, currently being repaired).



In the afternoon of our last day (Monday), we returned to a much less crowded Colosseum and were able to visit the interior. Simply incredible!



Thanks for following us on this wonderful journey. Ken and I hope you enjoyed hearing about our adventures in Europe!





DIG. SET. SLAY.

SPRING SAND VOLLEYBALL
MONDAYS 6-10^{PM} MAY 5 - JUN 30
 no game on Memorial Day
 @ CAMPBELL RECREATION AREA
 12385 WOODLANDS PARKWAY
 CLIVE, IA 50325
\$40 per person
SOCIAL, INTERMEDIATE, & ADVANCED DIVISIONS
[FREE AGENTS AND TEAMS WELCOME]

REGISTER AT LINK IN BIO | SWIPE FOR SIGNUP DETAILS >>>

**"At last came the golden month of
 the wild folk -- honey-sweet May,
 when the birds come back, and
 the flowers come out, and the
 air is full of the sunrise scents
 and songs of the dawning year."**

Samuel Scoville Jr.



**IOWA LGBTQ
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**Iowa LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce is working together
 to advance the common business interests, economic
 growth, and equality in the workplace for Iowa's
 LGBTQ+ business community and its allies.**

iowalgbtqchamber.org

Future Speakers



June 6:

Dr. Ian Roberts

Superintendent
 Des Moines Public Schools

July 19:

**Member/Donor
 Summer Party**

August 1:

Brent Johnson

President, Iowa Farm Bureau

September 5:

Carl Voss

DSM City Council Member

October 3:

TBA

November 7:

Matt Blake

Iowa State Senator



Catching Up with *Catch Des Moines*

by Gary Moore

Brock Konrad, Vice President of Marketing for Catch Des Moines, filled in for Greg Edwards, CEO, who got stuck in Washington, D.C. The Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Des Moines Area Sports & Tourism Commission, collectively known as Catch Des Moines, market the region as a visitor destination, increasing economic growth and enhancing the visitor experience.

Catch Des Moines is an accredited Destinations International organization. As the visitors' and meeting professionals' trusted partner, they are the heart, the soul, and the energy for those finding Des Moines as their destination. Their focus is to drive economic success and enhance the quality of life in the Greater Des Moines municipalities they represent including Des Moines and most of its suburbs.

Catch Des Moines brings visitors to the region through events and leisure travel marketing. That's due in large part to their year-round efforts to bring in events that will attract visitors and make Greater Des Moines a fun place to work, live, and play. They create all those buzzy videos, commercials, blogs, lists, and headlines that paint Des Moines as the cool place to be. They are trusted experts, connecting visitors, locals, planners, and partners to resources with a sincere drive to surpass expectations.

The Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau was founded in 1908. It had been housed in many locations across downtown Des Moines until moving into its current location at Capital Square in 2005. The Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau rebranded to Catch Des Moines and has been operating under that title since 2012. Catch Des Moines currently represents 14 municipalities.

Catch Des Moines is funded by the communities they support. Catch Des Moines receives 2/7th of the hotel/motel tax and is governed by a 27-member board. They generate additional revenue through private sector sponsorships, corporate sponsorships, and marketing advertising opportunities. Even after an event is booked, their job is just getting started. Their Event Experience team works directly with each planner to get them everything they need to ensure an "Iowa Nice" experience that will keep them coming back. From logistics and signage to transportation and event planning. The little touches are a big deal.

Catch Des Moines is always looking for individuals who have enthusiasm for the city and enjoy connecting with people. The organization helps visitors to have a great experience while in Greater Des Moines and find volunteers needed in numerous places and events to greet and man these large events, like the National Senior Games being held here in July of this year or the Ironman 70.3 in June.

With a budget of around \$7 million and a staff of 27, Catch Des Moines helps turn each one of those dollars into 22 for the economy of the Greater Des Moines area. When asked about recent legislative action that seems unwelcoming to the LGBTQ+, Brock noted Catch Des Moines wants all to feel welcome to Des Moines. He noted having worked with Jen Carruthers and Wes Mullins, and Capital City Pride, and their events. The Catch Des Moines website does include a list of gay organizations and events, of which First Friday Breakfast Club is one.

CATCH catchdesmoines.com
DES MOINES



April
Speaker

Brock Konrad

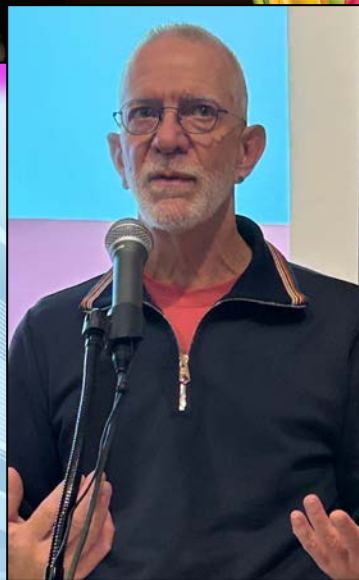
**Catch Des Moines
VP of Marketing**



April Meeting Photo Gallery



Ken Hanson
Newly Elected VP
Substitutes for Byron Huff



David Cotton
Former VP says goodbye as
he is moving to Palm Springs



Joe Raetz
FFBC Secretary
Introduces April Speaker



Sinners

A Movie Review by Mark Turnage

Grand scope is nothing new to director Ryan Coogler. Like his contemporary, Jordan Peele, Coogler has a talent for bringing Black-centered, character-driven stories to life no matter the budget, whether it be an independent analysis of police violence like “Fruitvale Station” or an Afro-futuristic revision of Africa’s political relationship to the West in “Black Panther.” While its supernatural/spiritual elements could be more evenly balanced considering the reverence Coogler invests in them, “Sinners” fuses historical drama and vampire mythology to create a tightly-paced, compelling, and character-driven Southern Gothic commentary on Black culture, history, and musical heritage.

October 1932, Clarksdale, Mississippi: twins Elijah and Elias Moore (Michael B. Jordan in a dual role), known as “Smoke” and “Stack” respectively, return to their hometown from working the Capone racket in Chicago and buy an old saw mill from a racist landowner. Using stolen money and liquor and fresh from unpleasant yet unnamed racist experiences in Chicago, the brothers plan to open a juke joint/blues club for people of color in their hometown and set out to staff it. Both Smoke and Stack have local notoriety and are unintimidated by racism, expert hustlers, and have their own brand of “tough love” for their diverse community. Smoke is the muscle: reserved, stoic, yet also a brutal enforcer escaping tremendous loss; Stack is the con man: silver-tongued, immaculately styled, and oozing confidence, yet not quite over his old flame Mary (Hailee Steinfeld), a mixed-race woman who passes as white, or the social complications she brings with her. Jordan effectively differentiates his performances especially in how they romance their lost loves; Smoke’s is hoodoo healer Annie (a powerful Wunmi Mosaku), whose beliefs Smoke distances himself from but quietly honors. The cast is rounded out by Grace

(Li Jun Li), a headstrong Chinese grocery owner, wily drunk harmonica player Slim (Delroy Lindo), and Sammie “Preacher Boy” (Miles Caton), a young boy with a soulful voice and a supernatural gift for blues music, capable of attracting good and evil alike. The evil appears in the form of Irish vampire Remmick (Jack O’Connell), keen on taking Sammie’s blues music for himself and his kind no matter how much blood ends up being split.

Music plays just as prominent a role in “Sinners” as any of its cast—Ludwig Goransson’s fusion of blues and doom metal lends a uniquely unearthly sound that merges past and present in the same ways Coogler’s scenes do. Some of the most memorable and well-crafted scenes in the film come from Coogler’s idea of literalizing these echoes across time. One of these is a goosebump-inducing long take of the juke joint’s musical number, which draws in the spirits of musical performers from across time—everything from traditional African ceremonial dance to a Prince-coded glam-rock electric guitarist—to drive home the timeless African influence on world musical culture. Yet for those craving “From Dusk Till Dawn” confrontations, you won’t leave the theater disappointed. The film accelerates into tense and bloody action setpieces—and more emotional gutpunches—once it’s laid its character-building first. Yet more attention on the spiritual/supernatural in “Sinners” first half would strengthen the impact of its spiritual themes and provide a more consistent tone.

Coogler waits to introduce the supernatural vampiric elements late in the film in favor of building his setting and human characters—and to emphasize the film’s actual, faceless villain: racism. In another early scene with Delta Slim, he says: “White folks like the blues just fine. They just don’t like the people who make it.” Slim relates a story where his former partner was



lynched, then starts to hum and sing mournfully, then joyously to rise above the painful memory. The scene is itself a brilliant and emotional microcosm of blues culture.

Coogler inverts the mythology of the “crossroads tale”—where a talented musician agrees to sell their soul to the Devil in exchange for fame and fortune—into a historical horror story where a monstrous devil in white skin menaces a gifted Black musician into selling their originality (and their humanity). Perhaps the most unsettling way Coogler makes his vampires creepy is their functioning as part of a hive mind, with each vampire having access to one another’s memories after being turned, but at the absence of their independence. These vampires are folksy, have easy smiles, and insist their motives are rooted in love, common ground, and cultural preservation, but these are all means to an end: in truth, they want these ideals (and Sammie’s musical gifts) at the cost of violent, monstrous assimilation. It’s a timeless cultural warning especially relevant today. With the vampires in “Sinners,” Coogler goes another step further: immortality isn’t worth the price of losing one’s originality and individual voice.

See “Sinners” for a fresh and soulful take on Southern Gothic in theaters now.



National LGBTQ+ Calendar

- First Sunday In May: International Family Equality Day
- May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia
- May 19: National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- May 22: Harvey Milk Day
- May 24: Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day



GLOW

Connect, Protect, Respect

30.00/PERSON



IT'S TIME TO GLOW AT THE NEON LIGHTS PARTY!

DRESS IN YOUR
BRIGHTEST
COLORS!

SATURDAY MAY 14,
8:30 PM
1620 PLEASANT ST.,
DES MOINES, IA
50314

www.desmoinespridecenter.org



TENNIS CLUB

dates	
1 ST TUESDAYS	3 RD TUESDAYS
MAY 6	MAY 20
JUNE 3	JUNE 17*
JULY 1	JULY 15*
AUG 5	AUG 19
SEPT 2	SEPT 16
6-8 PM	7-9 PM

[MARK YOUR CALENDAR!]
Open courts with tournament ladder play
5205 ASHWORTH RD. WEST DES MOINES, IA
REGISTER BY FRIDAY, MAY 2 TO BE ENTERED IN THE INITIAL (SINGLES) LADDER
FREE TO JOIN | CROSSROADS PARK TENNIS COURTS
[all skill levels welcome!]
REGISTER AT LINK IN BIO OR WWW.PRIDESPORTSLEAGUE.ORG/EVENTS



Varsity Cinema Pride Series: On Swift Horses

Opens May 2

Director: Daniel Minahan Run Time: 119 min. Release Year: 2025
 Starring: Daisy Edgar-Jones, Diego Calva, Jacob Elordi, Sasha Calle, Will Poulter

In the 1950s, a seemingly sensible newlywed and her wayward brother-in-law undertake parallel journeys of risk, romance, and self-discovery. How much would you gamble for love?



Planning for Pride

Make plans now for Capital City Pride!



**Get Updates on All
Capital City Pride Events at:**

capitalcitypride.org/pridefest/



JOIN US



Board of Directors

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Scott Kuknyo	David Wilfahrt
Gene Larson	Phil Williams

Jonathan Wilson (Emeritus)

Contact Us: info@ffbc-iowa.org

\$65,000 Grant For Capital City Pride



by Supervisor
Matt McCoy
Polk County, 1st District

POLK COUNTY
Leading the Way



Polk County Board of Supervisors Approves \$65,000 Grant for Capital City Pride Festival, Becomes 2nd Largest Sponsor

The Polk County Board of Supervisors approved a \$65,000 Community Development Grant to support safety and security at the 2025 Capital City Pride Festival this coming June. In year's past, the board has approved grants in the typical range of \$20,000 to \$25,000, but this year, as Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy became chair of the board for this year, he knew the importance of fulfilling the full request of \$65,000 for the festival. This is the largest grant Capital City Pride has received from Polk County and is the second leading sponsor of the weekend. According to Wes Mullins, Executive Director of Capital City Pride, this sponsorship shored up the remaining funds needed to fully ensure that Capital City Pride was fully funded months ahead of the festival.

"Now more than ever when we see the Trump Administration, the GOP, and corporations withdrawing or decreasing their support for DEI or LGBTQ+ festivals, it's important that this funding supports the vital work of inclusivity and connection not only for one weekend a year but year-round events. The phenomenal work of Capital City Pride in creating family-friendly, year-round opportunities for our community demonstrates the power of creating spaces to thrive in an otherwise challenging time," said Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy, District 1.

Officers

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Ken Hanson
Vice President

Joe Raetz
Secretary

David Wilfahrt
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Publication



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