



MIDWEST RAINBOW NEWS



APRIL 2023

VOL. 3 ISSUE 4

• ***"Who you are authentically is alright. The shame is what kills you. Believing you are unworthy of love and belonging — that who you are authentically is a sin or is wrong — is deadly. Who you are is beautiful and amazing."***

• ***— Laverne Cox***

HOUSEKEEPING

DISCLAIMER

The ideas and opinions in the Midwest Rainbow News are solely those of our contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Midwest Rainbow News.

The Midwest Rainbow News makes no representations as to the accuracy of statements made by individual authors, including but not limited to legal and medical information.

By sending submissions to the Midwest Rainbow News, you are agreeing to have your submission published. We may edit submissions to fit our anti-oppression values and/or our own editing guidelines.

Missing your copy?

Although things seem to be improving in terms of uniform delivery of the newsletter, please reach out if you do not receive your copy for more than one month in a row. Thank you!

Midwest Rainbow News
PO Box 81624
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

MAMA SAYS

I hope everyone is enjoying the new format of our little newsletter. We are happy to report the censorship issue we had been experiencing seems to be a thing of the past, largely due to our change in content. We would also like to give a big thank you to Dylan and Cassandra with Liberation Lit for all their hard work, in making sure the issue makes it to the mail.

I know there are a lot of changes coming through Centurion, some of which seem concerning to many. We hope to get confirmation as to their actual protocols, putting rumors and false information to rest. As soon as we get anything we will publish the protocols for all to read.

I know many of you are also concerned by the politicians and their anti-LBGTQ+ legislation. Take comfort in knowing that our community has a lot of friends, and they have been working overtime. One bill in the Missouri Senate was debated late into the night before a compromise was reached and a vote was had. The bill is now so watered down that even IF it makes it to the house of representatives, it is doubtful it would pass without further changes. Remember, we need only hold them off until May 12th, the date any bills not sent to the Governor are done and they have to wait until 2024 to start all over! Keep watching our new bill tracker for future updates. We have included a bill tracker for our Kansas readers as well. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and invite you to write to us with any interests or requests for information. We are a small newsletter, but you are a part of our family now, and we will try to include information of interest to you.

Hopefully, April will bring more nice weather, but you know the old saying April showers bring May flowers!! :-)) So get outside and enjoy the early start of summer! Be sure to use moisturizers and keep your skin healthy.

With a Mothers Love,
Patricia

THE PRISON JOURNALISM PROJECT

The Prison Journalism Project is a great place for any prisoner to express their views while working to establish themselves as a credible writer and journalist. Many first time authors have been published on the Prison Journalism website. It only takes imagination and willingness to write your story. It is 100% free, costs you only time and dedication. Ask about their writing program and upcoming correspondence-based classes. For more information on how to get started, contact them at:

Prison Journalism Project
2093 Philadelphia Pike #1054
Claymont, DE 19703



TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD

LGBTQ+ TikTok stars have raised a staggering \$2.25 million for a trans charity during a 32-hour live stream.

Trans social media stars Mercury Stardust and Jory raised the money as part of a Trans Day of Visibility stream on TikTok for the LGBTQ+ charity Point of Pride.

The Thursday (30 March) broadcast, which ran throughout Friday's Trans Day of Visibility, saw Mercury and Jory hosting games, chats and a musical performance, with a number of guests joining in during the show.

It culminated in a rightly deserved celebration at 11 pm on Friday after the pair had raised more than \$2,250,000.

Mercury Stardust is primarily a home technician who goes by the nickname "handy ma'am". She uses her TikTok account, which has over 2.3 million followers, to give handiwork and DIY tips while promoting trans rights. Meanwhile, Jory, better known as Alluring Skull, has 160,000 followers on Instagram and uses her platform to promote trans rights.

"Trans people are extremely talented at persevering through a society that tries to push you down," Mercury told viewers before announcing the fundraising total.

"All we hear about is negative things about us in the press, but we know who we are." The first \$2 million of the money will go towards funding free chest binders and femme shapewear, access to hair removal and hormone replacement therapy services, and gender-affirming surgery for trans adults.

The final \$200,000 is to go towards Mercury and Jory's respective gender-affirming care and providing "staffing and infrastructure support to Point of Pride".

Over 57,500 donors gave towards the cause, and Point of Pride thanked them in a message following the end of the stream. The LGBTQ+ charity said it was "overwhelmed" at the amount raised, which doubled the original goal of \$1 million.

"We showed our collective strength and our boundless love for, and pride in, each other and ourselves," a statement read.

"When we stand together, we are more than resilient – we are powerful. "We're changing the course of history, of trans futures, together – as a community, supporting each other in a world that so often doesn't support us."

Point of Pride CEOs Jeff Main and Aydian Dowling said that "lives will be changed" by the incredible sum of money, adding that many "will be saved".

Mercury Stardust held a similar event in 2022, aiming to raise \$24,000 in 24 hours, but the fundraiser culminated in a whopping \$120,000 sum that went towards gender-affirming care.

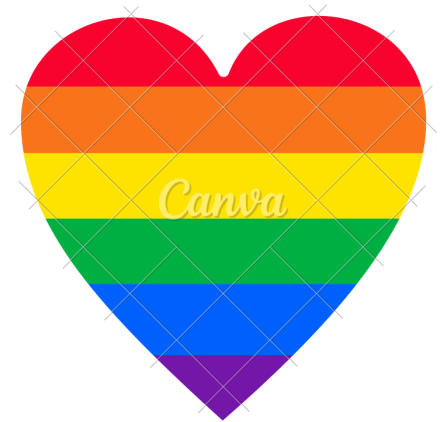
The trans home maintenance technician said that the fundraiser was something she'd definitely repeat.

"We're going to do it every year that we can," she said as Jory cheered behind her. "We want to say thank you to Point of Pride and everyone who was involved. "Thank you so much, we did so good."

Source: Amelia Hansford for Pink News

BETTERING OURSELVES

Good Morning Sisters and Brothers I'm just checking up on you all! and giving you, updates on what's going on in Jeff City. We just had a meeting in N.A.A.C.P. with the warden and made a list for us to go to housing unit 7 to clean the black mold of the showers! That's a step to getting things straightened up for us so we can help each other in times of need! As I said before we have to start from within to better one another in here! People can open their eyes to life in here and have better things for us. Well I'm doing my part, so I hope we have sisters and brothers in other camps doing the same to better our situation inside these walls!!!!!! Love Your Brother Mylowe.



WRITE FOR US!

We are actively seeking material from our readers to publish in future issues. We will no longer publish messages from one reader to another.

We are looking for:

- Articles with accurate information about relevant policies, legal developments, and current affairs (cite your sources!)
- Tips, life-hacks, and how-to articles that our readers would find useful
- Media recommendations – books, authors, podcasts, tv, movies etc. Preference given to free things. Write a little bit about why you're recommending it and/or what you got from it.
- Personal essays on topics relevant to our community, including but not limited to: mental health, personal growth, what sucks about being LGBTQ in prison, what's cool about being LGBTQ in prison, pride, shame, self-acceptance, friendship, liberation from oppression, dealing with difficult family relationships, etc.
- Good news – if you have something to celebrate!
- Reports from your camp on conditions for LGBTQ prisoners
- Responses – If you have something constructive to add to a particular conversation, you can write a response to a previously published piece

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO OUR PO BOX OR THE BLACK-PINK GAZETTE TABLET CONTACT

IF YOU'RE A NEW SUBSCRIBER AND DON'T HAVE THE CONTACT ON YOUR TABLET YET, PLEASE BE PATIENT. IF YOU'RE STILL MISSING THE CONTACT AFTER A COUPLE WEEKS, WRITE TO OUR PO BOX.



ON OUR HEARTS AND MINDS



NO M.O. LAWS

Has anyone seen my US Constitutional Rights? I seem to. have. misplaced. them... Oh, yeah that's right I completely forgot! While the US Constitution itself says "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any state to the Contrary notwithstanding" the Right-wing wackos somehow get the idea that their anti-transgender laws can ignore our due process rights afforded to us under State and US Constitutions. Here's your sign.

S49 Missouri SAFE violates §565.023RSMo which is voluntary manslaughter including "knowingly assisting another in the commission of self-murder" law could turn trans youth to suicide.

Sports ban: This is illogical. 1973 cisgender female Billie Jean King defeats cisgender male Bobby Riggs in the Battle of The Sexes tennis match.

Don't say gay bill: Violates free speech under MO/US Constitutions.

S410/H489 violates Title VI of 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX.

H419 see *Hicklin v Precythe*.

Missouri Constitution Art. 1 Section 2: "That all constitutional government is intended to promote the general welfare of the people that ALL PERSONS have a natural right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Missouri Constitution Art. 1 Sec. 8: "That NO law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech, no matter by what means communicated: that EVERY PERSON shall be free to say, write, or publish." Again, here's your sign!

Spread the word and remember #LoveWins

Auntie Amber

SCARED BUT STRONG

I've been wanting to say something for a while now...I wanted to say that I am scared...Lately all I have been seeing on the news is all this anti-lgbtqia+ stuff...especially anti transgender...It is a scary time to be part of the rainbow tribe...I literally cry every time I see all the hate people are spreading...My question to these people is this...Why? Why can't you see that we are human just like you, why can't you see that love is love, no matter what shape it takes? Why do you care if I want to change my body to better fit how I feel inside? Why do you constantly hate on us!? We have done nothing to you, we have only wanted the same rights and respect you get! You hate us and persecute us as if we are monsters! Why!? Why!? Why!? We are beautiful, unique, resilient, strong, brave, and amazing! We have culture, we have history. My, how we have fought, and how we continue to fight! I may be scared, my brothers and sisters, but I am NEVER going to give up, I will never break, we are kings, queens and everything between, we are warriors, so never give up fighting!

Vanessa

REFLECTIONS ON VISIBILITY

March 2023 was the best rainbow newsletter ever! I am so sad about Amber! R.I.P Amber! That was my sister y'all.....we spent a lot of time together acting a plum fool at Potosi..... I never thought Scott would become Amber.....happy travels bish. Yall I learned so much this month I was like a sponge soaking up the knowledge. I'm so thankful to have a resource like this to read, it made me proud to be a transgender woman! This publication is empowering! Keep up the good work y'all, we love this newsletter.

Please keep the hope alive...We need to know on the inside that our lives matter, the hate they give hurts! But we gonna make it! Even though they are making laws to keep us down we will still rise! Ain't no power on earth that can weigh us down! We are not the laws that attack us. We are the stitch that holds together the fabric of the world. We are somebody! Especially my Friends in these walls!

In other news, I really enjoyed everybody's comments and especially the information on the laws and trans history! In compliance and unity for the day of trans visibility, I am going to have a bad bitch champagne brunch at thick thirty...Lol....!m so for real...!m going to the store and buy me some food yall! I will have me some spicy Bacon, chilli cheeseburgers, with some bad bitch nachos, orange juice mixed with a 7-up soda (champagne), chilli, pop tarts, and hopefully some eggs with bell peppers and onions (but tell nobody), I am going to gather up my sisters and we gone pray, eat, be visible and cute. Visibility is important, people remember you by what they see, so let's make sure they see greatness! As for me, I'm going to be the best version of me possible! When they see me I want to represent greatness, because that is who I am and that's who we are..FYI..If you are transforming, you're not the man you use to be! You're starting over now...you write, direct, and act out the script for your own life's movies so get your EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony). Channel your inner Laverne Cox or Billy Porter... it's a life choice so choose today...transform.....!m changing my appearance, behavior, my outlook, and the direction of my life. I aim to be the change I want to see in the world. I want to show everyone that trans lives have value and we matter. We have to set the tone we have to teach others how to treat us, to accept us, and to peacefully coexist with us. They are afraid of our greatness... but that's okay..be afraid but don't hurt me no more.#canshelive!

Don't discriminate on my health care, transformation, my entertainment and employment, or my civil and human rights! Trans lives matter! Stand up for your rights family! Please stop allowing staff and fellow inmates to treat you like your 3\5 of a human being.....I am tired of seeing me and my sisters struggle.....don't put out until you're taken care of and pick and choose who you love wisely.....don't be abused physically or financially..... refrain from being a pushover for stafffile, complain and let your voice be heard in a positive light.....until we meet again may the grace and tender mercy of your God and our creator, rest, rule and abide in your souls!

Summer Breeze a.k.a Mama Tee

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON LGBTQ BILLS

MISSOURI



CURRENT AS OF 4/5/23

This is a scary time for LGBTQ people living in any of the many states where Republican lawmakers are stoking the flames of moral panic to target LGBTQ people, especially trans people. Unfortunately, there are too many anti-LGBTQ bills under consideration to list all of them here, so this list prioritizes those that seem to be moving through the legislative process the fastest.

There are also a number of positive bills that have been introduced to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination, but most have not moved beyond simply being introduced.

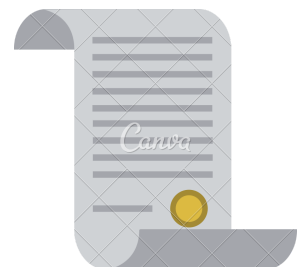
How a bill becomes a law in Missouri:

1. Bill is introduced in either the Senate or House
2. Bill is read twice.
3. Referred to a relevant committee
4. Committee hearing and vote -- the committee either votes to pass it, amend it, substitute it with another bill, return it without recommendation, or reject it.
5. If it passes, it goes on the perfection calendar and is debated and maybe amended. Then they vote to see if the bill moves on from this stage.
6. Third read
7. Final vote
8. Bill is sent to the other legislative body, where it starts in committee and goes through the same process.
9. If it passes both House and Senate, it goes to the Gov. to sign or veto.

The speaker of the house or president of the senate gets to decide whether a bill is referred to committee and where it goes on the perfection calendar if it passes committee, which is why those positions are so powerful. If they don't like a bill, they don't move it through the process. The speaker and the president always come from the majority party.

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| S.49 - Establishes the "Missouri Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act" | Bans gender affirming care for trans youth | Passed the senate Sent to house, referred to committee - 3/28/23 |
| S.39 - Establishes guidelines for student participation in athletic contests organized by sex | Bans trans youth from participating in sports with their peers | Passed senate, sent to house, referred to committee- 3/24/23 |
| S.390/H.634 - classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in certain grade levels | Missouri's "Don't Say Gay" - No classroom discussion of sexuality or gender in public school | Senate: Referred to committee - 3/2/23 House: Passed committee 10 to 7 vote - 3/28/23 |
| S. 410/H.489 - "Do No Harm Act" | Bans gender affirming care for youth | Senate: Hearing conducted 3/28/23 House: Passed committee - 3/28/23 |
| S.285 - Prohibiting certain mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy with minors | Bans conversion therapy | Referred to committee - 2/23/23 |
| H.419 - provisions to gender transition procedures | Bans gender affirming care for minors and people in the custody of DOC | On informal perfection calendar - 3/22/23 |
| S.14 - Modifies provisions relating to amending birth certificates | Bans minors from changing the sex on their birth certificate, requires adults to have had bottom surgery to change birth certificate | Passed committee - 2/20/23 |
| H.494 -Creates the offense of engaging in an adult cabaret performance | Criminalizes drag performances | Committee hearing completed, no vote yet - 1/24/23 |
| S.60/H.384 - Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity | Missouri nondiscrimination act | Senate: Hearing conducted 3/29/23 House: read twice - 1/5/23 |

LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS 5/12/23



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON LGBTQ BILLS

KANSAS



This is a scary time for LGBTQ people living in any of the many states where Republican lawmakers are stoking the flames of moral panic to target LGBTQ people, especially trans people. Unfortunately, there are too many anti-LGBTQ bills under consideration to list all of them here, so this list prioritizes those that seem to be moving through the legislative process the fastest.

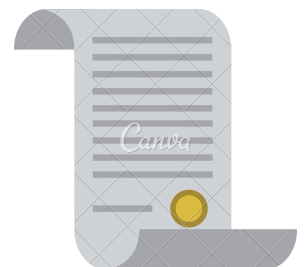
CURRENT AS OF 3/5/23

How a bill becomes a law in Kansas:

1. Bill is introduced in either the Senate or House
2. Referred to a relevant committee
3. Committee hearing and vote -- the committee either votes to pass it, amend it, substitute it with another bill, return it without recommendation, or reject it.
4. If it passes, it goes back to the whole body for discussion and possible amendment
5. Vote to pass or reject
6. If passes, bill is sent to the other legislative body, where it starts in committee and goes through the same process.
7. If the two bodies pass different versions of the same bill, they have to conference and reach an agreement.
8. If it passes both House and Senate, it goes to the Gov. to sign or veto.

The speaker of the house or president of the senate gets to decide whether a bill is referred to committee and committee chairs decide whether bills referred to them get hearings, which is why those positions are so powerful. If they don't like a bill, they don't move it through the process. The speaker and the president always come from the majority party.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| H.2238 - Fairness in women's sports act | Bans trans girls from participating in school athletic teams with their peers | Passed house and senate, vetoed by gov, returned to house - 3/17/23 |
| S.180 - Establishing the women's bill of rights | gives non-scientific definition of sex designed explicitly to exclude transgender people across Kansas law | Passed the Senate and house, sent to gov - 3/29/23 |
| S.233 - Banning trans care for minors | Bans gender-affirming care for minors | Passed the Senate, referred to House committee - 3/1/23 |
| S.255/H.2427 - Separating students by sex | Requiring school districts to provide separate accommodations for students of each biological sex on overnight school sponsored trips. | Senate committee hearing - 3/22/23 House passed committee - 3/27/23 |
| S.12 - Banning trans care for minors | Bans gender-affirming care for minors | Committee hearing completed 2/14/23, no vote yet |
| S.241 - related to juvenile justice | Requiring certain records and files to be automatically expunged from a juvenile's record. | Referred to committee - 2/13/23 |
| H.2355 - removing consensual sodomy from criminal code | Removing sodomy between consenting members of the same sex from the crime of criminal sodomy. | Referred to committee - 2/8/23 |
| H.2178 - Nondiscrimination act | Amending the Kansas act against discrimination to include sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and status as a veteran. | Referred to committee - 1/25/23 |





**Reach us at:
Midwest Rainbow News
PO Box 81624
Pittsburgh, PA 15217**

LEGAL/ADVOCACY

NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH

Lambda Legal
C/O Help Desk
4221 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Missouri Cure
P.O. Box 28931
St.Louis,MO 63132

Liberation Lit (inquire for free books)
P.O. Box 45071
Kansas City, MO 64171

ACLU
906 Olive St., Suite 1130
St. Louis, Mo. 63101

LAGAI (Ultraviolet)
3543 18th St #26
San Francisco,CA 94110

Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20540-4660

Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services
925 S. Country Club Dr.
Jeff City, Mo. 66109-4510

Black and Pink
6223 Maple St., #4600
Omaha NE 68104

Centurion
1400 Edgewood Drive
Jefferson City, Mo. 63109

Transgender Law Center
P.O. Box 70976
Oakland, CA 94612

Prison Health News
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143



National Center for Transgender Equality
1032 15th St NW
Suite # 199
Washington, D.C. 20005

Slingshot (quarterly radical newspaper)
3124 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705



GLAAD
18 Tremont St Suite # 950
Boston, MA 02108

Prisoner Express (twice a year)
Prisoner Express
PO Box #6556
Ithaca, NY 14851



TGI Justice Project
370 Turk St # 370
San Francisco, CA 94102

LEGAL/ADVOCACY



Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL. 36104

The Midwest Innocence Project
3619 Broadway Blvd., Suite 2
Kansas City, MO 64111



MacArthur Justice Center
906 Olive Street, Suite 420
St. Louis, MO 63101

National Lawyers Guild
PO Box 1266
New York, NY 10009-8941

