

The Rainbow Connection

April, 2012

The Rainbow Connection is published by the Prairie Pride Coalition (PPC). Send correspondence to P.O. Box 5048, Bloomington, IL 61702-5048, or e-mail info@achr-il.com

PPC Board: Dave Bentlin; Peggy Burton; Gary Gletty; Margo Mendoza; Donna O'Crowly; Elizabeth Anvick; Suzie Hutton; Olemuel Ashford; Ryan Mishler; Tony Thieman-Somora; Tony Somora

Organization Debuts New Name

ACHR has officially become the Prairie Pride Coalition.

After several months of preparation, leaders of the Advocacy Council for Human Rights have completed the transition from ACHR and have formed a new, not-for-profit organization, the Prairie Pride Coalition.

The new organization's tax exempt status will allow us to apply for grants and foundation awards, which typically are only available to organizations that have a 501(c)3 tax exempt status. This new status will also allow donors to the organization to deduct their contribu-

tions on year-end tax returns, a benefit past donors have not had.

The new organization's name also better describes what we do. The original ACHR was formed primarily to help enact local human rights ordinances that protect gay and lesbian people from discrimination. Education on political issues remains a key to our work, but the new organization name better reflects and incorporates the many other activities we sponsor. These activities include LGBT

community outreach, social activities, education, and public service.

We are still very much in our infancy - we don't yet have a web site - but we will continue to publish our monthly Rainbow Connection newsletter, so

Thank you, ISU PRIDE!

The Prairie Pride Coalition would like to thank ISU PRIDE for selecting our organization as the beneficiary of the proceeds from this year's Charity Drag Show at ISU.

The show was a sell-out and featured many talented performers. The show also provided the coalition with a "kick-off event" to officially introduce the new organization to the community.

Special thanks to Matt Rillie, ISU PRIDE president, Brittany Stokes, PRIDE's advisor, mistress of ceremonies Sharen Sharalike, and all the performers who worked so hard to make the show a success.



Rainbow Connection

14th Annual ISU Pride Drag Show a Hit!



Among the many highlights of the annual show included, clockwise from top, the incomparable Sharon Share-a-like on emcee duties, Devin Graberass entertaining the crowd, and the newly-named Prairie Pride Coalition. Photos courtesy of Gary Gletty.



Law office of
Allison & Mosby-Scott

Michelle Mosby-Scott
Attorney at Law

Caring help when you need it most

Phone: (309) 662-5084 · Cell: (309) 310-1154 · Fax: (309) 662-2994
Michelle@allisonmosby-scott.com · www.allisonmosby-scott.com

TREY POLESKY, MSW, LSW

Individual, Couples, and Family Counseling

2416 E. Washington Street
Suite A2
Bloomington, IL 61704

treypolesky@gmail.com
www.tinyurl.com/counseling1

Phone (773) 819-5428
Fax (206) 426-1837

April, 2012

Make Your Voice Heard on Lobby Day

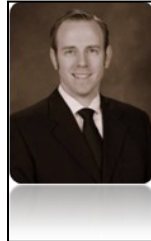
More than 200 citizen lobbyists from all over the state will join the Equality Illinois professional staff in Springfield on Wednesday, April 25 to lobby for a variety of legislative issues.

"We want to impress on the state's leaders, particularly in an election year, the level of passion and commitment that LGBT voters and their allies place on these issues," said Randy Hannig, Director of Public Policy for Equality Illinois. "It is important for officials to hear from their constituents in person and to know that the Equality Illinois citizen lobbyists represent thousands more voices in their districts and throughout Illinois."

Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest LGBT advocacy organization, is following many bills in the legislature, Hannig said, but among the biggest issues is the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, which would create marriage equality in Illinois. "It may take many months to build support for marriage equality, so we have to let legislators

know again and again how important this is," Hannig said.

For more information on lobby day, contact Equality Illinois or visit the organization's web site at www.eqil.org.



Law office of
Allison & Mosby-Scott

Jon D. McLaughlin

Attorney at Law
Caring help when you need it most

Phone: (309) 662-5084 · Cell: (309) 319-6206 · Fax: (309) 662-2994
Jon@allisonmosby-scott.com · www.allisonmosby-scott.com

Anti-Bullying Legislation Passes Illinois House

Anti-bullying Legislation Passes in Illinois House
A bill that would strengthen current state laws that address bullying passed the Illinois House in March.

House Bill 5290 builds on current state law to address bullying. The bill adds new categories of students against whom bullying is prohibited and requires the State Board of Education to develop a template for a model bullying prevention policy that districts can customize to ensure their compliance with the current state law requiring all school districts to have such a policy.

Rep. Dan Brady, who represents Bloomington/Normal and most of McLean County, opposed the bill which passed on a 61-49, mostly party line vote. Area legislators who supported the bill included Rep. Jehan Gordon (Peoria area) and Naomi Jakobsson (Champaign/Urbana area). The bill now moves to the Senate for action.

Gretchen Shelly
Owner

309-661-1726 • 309-661-1729

merry maids®

1702 W. College Ave
Suite A-3
Normal, IL 61761
mmofbn@yahoo.com

ServiceMASTER
BRAND

**Please support our
mission by patronizing
the businesses who
advertise with us!**



The Laramie Project to Play in Decatur

Decatur's Richland Community College Theatre is excited to take up the challenge of The Laramie Project this April. This remarkable theatre work is a storytelling-driven social issues piece that marries a moving narrative with deep thought-provoking questions.

The play features a true ensemble cast, speaking in the authentic voices of over 60 different Laramie,

Wyoming community members. John Poling of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Decatur (GLAD) is one of the play's actors.

The Laramie Project will be performed in Shilling Auditorium at RCC, April 20, 21, 27, 28 at 7:30 and April 22 and 29 at 3pm. Tickets are \$7.00. Seating will be limited to 80 people per performance. Tickets will be available at the door or you can reserve them by calling 21-875-7211 ex 6888. Say "Make it Ten" and the additional \$3.00 will go to the Matthew Shepard Foundation

Calendar

- **Friday, April 6th**—First Fridays, celebrate the end of the week with food, drink, and friends at both Lancaster's Restaurant and the Bistro, both in downtown Bloomington. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. with music by Davenport and Dish at Lancaster's.
- **Monday, April 9**—PFLAG meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Bloomington Unitarian-Universalist Church.
- **Friday, April 13**—Talent Night at the Bistro, hosted by Sharon Share-a-Like.
- **Saturday, April 14**—Springfest at the Bistro with music by Davenport and Friends.
- **Sunday, April 15**—the Female to Male Transgender Group monthly meetings will be held at 1p.m. in downtown Bloomington. Contact trey-polesky@gmail.com for location and more details about the group
- **Friday, April 20**—King Show at the Bistro, hosted by Devin Graberass.
- **Saturday, April 28**—Charity Putt-Putt at the Bistro

Open Worship Church of Hope
An Affirming Church Where ALL Are Welcome !!!



Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
722 W. Chestnut Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

www.owcoh.com / (309) 827-6236

Jeanette L. Roberts

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Psychotherapy for Individuals, Couples, and Groups

200 West Monroe, Suite 305
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

(309) 820-8162



New Covenant Community

An Open and Affirming/More Light congregation which welcomes all persons into full participation in the life of our community, regardless of race, gender, age or sexual orientation.

Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.

Sunday School and childcare provided during worship

Chapel of the Campus Religious Center
210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL 61761 | (309) 454-7362
www.nccnormal.org