

the "official" dish ...from 4

KCQ VI: The Czarina, the late Christine Cheridon/1999
KCQ VII: Sex Goddess, Stephanie Williams/2000
KCQ VIII: The Peacock Queen, Phyllis Denmark/2001
KCQ IX: The Freedom Queen, Lisa Beaumann/2002
KCQ X: The Voodoo Queen, Teryl-Lynn Foxx/2003
KCQ XII: The Amazon Queen, Savannah DeLorean/2005
KCQ XIII: The Diamond Queen, Raven Kennedy/2006
KCQ XIV: The Fantasy Queen, Princesse Stephaney/2007
KCQ XV: The Fleur de Lis Queen, Marsha Naquin-Delain/2008
KCQ XVI: The Grandee Queen, Tami Tarmac/2009
KCQ XVII: The Parisian Queen, Opal Masters/2010
KCQ XVIII: The Chrysthemum Queen, Rona Conners/2011
KCQ XIX: The Samba Queen, Nicole DuBois/2012
KCQ XX: The Platinum Queen, Dusty Debris/2013
Visit www.GayMardiGras.com/KCQ for additional information.

obituary



Pat "Estelle" Ritter
July 7, 1956-Feb. 19, 2014

Rest in peace Pat "Estelle" Ritter, 2001 Southern Decadence Grand Marshal XXIX who passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 19, 2014. He led the 28th Southern Decadence Parade with Co-Grand Marshals Bianca Del Rio and "Big" Rick Thomas. It was the first and only time three grand marshals have led the parade celebrating their theme - "Menage a Trois;" with colors - purple, pink and red; and "Lady Marmalade" as the chosen song. (Photo courtesy of www.SouthernDecadence.com)
The family is in the process of making arrangements for a memorial and celebration of life to occur after Mardi Gras. **Ambush** will keep you posted.

Gay Mardi Gras Season
in Full Swing

From fabulous balls and parties, to spectacular events, it's here for all to enjoy. All of the balls are by invitation with balcony seats available for purchase when available. (www.GayMardiGras.com)
The remaining schedule includes:
Friday, Feb. 28th ~9pm-12midnight, Friday Night Before Mardi Gras Extravaganza XV, Audubon Tea Room, New Orleans
~9pm-2am, Lords of Leather presents Night of the Black Mask Beer Bust, Phoenix/Eagle, Elysian Fields @ N. Rampart, New Orleans
Saturday, March 1st ~9pm, Krewe of Armeinius Bal Masque XLVI, Frederick J. Sigur Civic Center, Chalmette
Sunday, March 2nd ~8pm, Lords of Leather Bal Masque XXXI, Frederick J. Sigur Civic Center, Chalmette
MARDI GRAS (Fat Tuesday), March 4th ~12noon, 50th Annual Bourbon Street Awards, Oz, Corner of St. Ann at 800 Bourbon St.
~2pm - 27th Annual Official Gay Mardi Gras Bead Toss led by King Cake Queen XXI of Gay Mardi Gras Barbara Ella, Ambush Headquarters Balcony, 828 Bourbon St.

Lambda Legal Files
Federal Lawsuit Against
Louisiana Insurers for
Dumping People with
HIV including BCBS

Lambda Legal filed a federal class action discrimination lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana against BlueCross BlueShield of Louisiana (BCBS), which will no longer accept the federally-funded premium subsidies that enable low-income Louisianans living with HIV to purchase health insurance. Two other insurers included as defendants—Louisiana Health Cooperative and Vantage Health Plan—are also following the lead of Louisiana's largest insurer, BCBS. Lambda Legal is seeking an emergency injunction to force all three defendants to accept the premium payments and to provide health insurance until the lawsuit is heard.

"The situation is urgent. Refusing federal funds that provide life-saving care to people living with HIV could potentially affect thousands of low-income Louisiana residents," said Scott Schoettes, HIV Project Director at Lambda Legal. "This discriminatory policy keeps low-income people living with HIV off of BlueCross BlueShield's insurance rolls, perpetuating the deliberate insurance industry practice of denying coverage to those living with HIV that the Affordable Care Act was designed to reverse. Continuous coverage is critical for people living with

HIV. The health care crisis these insurers have created must be stopped."

Lambda Legal filed today's lawsuit on behalf of John East, a part-time worker in the hospitality industry, and other low-income Louisianans living with HIV. East, a 59-year-old New Orleans man insured by BCBS for nearly 30 years, learned in mid-January that BCBS would no longer accept the federal Ryan White subsidies for which he qualifies. Without the subsidies, East will not be able to afford his medical care and HIV medications. Lambda Legal's lawsuit follows earlier efforts—including complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights—to persuade the insurers to continue accepting federal Ryan White premium subsidies. The New Orleans AIDS Task Force is assisting in this advocacy.

"I couldn't believe it when I was told BCBS would no longer accept my Ryan White insurance subsidies," East said. "What am I supposed to do now? I've been with BCBS for 29 years. I paid my premiums that whole time, and now they are finding a way to dump me just because I'm living with HIV. I need these medications to stay healthy, so that I can continue to work and contribute to my community."

The Louisiana Ryan White Health Insurance Program is a federally-funded program that functions as the payer of last resort, helping low-income individuals living with HIV purchase health insurance they could not otherwise afford. Beginning this month, BCBS of Louisiana abruptly stopped accepting Ryan White premium subsidies, from current policyholders and new enrollees alike. Lambda Legal sent a letter to BCBS of Louisiana on January 27, 2014, asking that the insurance provider reverse its policy change and resume accepting Ryan White premium subsidies or explain the rationale for its abrupt and harmful policy shift. Lambda Legal requested a response by January 30, 2014, but BCBS of Louisiana never responded.

Lambda Legal attorneys Kenneth Upton, Scott Schoettes and Susan Sommer are handling the case, joined by pro-bono co-counsel Jeffrey J. Bushofsky, Timothy R. Farrell, Amanda R. Phillips, and Anthony C. Biagioli of Ropes & Gray LLP; and Harry Rosenberg of Phelps Dunbar LLP. AIDSLaw of Louisiana is also assisting with advocacy in this matter.

The case is *East v. BlueCross BlueShield of Louisiana*.

Hattiesburg Passes
Resolution Recognizing
LGBT Residents

Hattiesburg, Mississippi unanimously passed a resolution recognizing the dignity and worth of all city residents – including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender

(LGBT). Hattiesburg is the second Mississippi municipality to pass such a resolution in the past month, with the city of Starkville taking similar action last month.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin issued the following statement:

"Amid a growing number of victories for equality across the country, city leaders in Hattiesburg tonight chose to send a powerful message to their residents that all people are worthy of dignity and respect. When local leaders like Mayor Johnny DuPree and members of the city council affirm the inherent value of LGBT people, they are affecting profound change that will improve lives. While we still have work ahead of us, there's no question that equality is marching forward and attitudes are changing in Mississippi faster than we've seen ever before."

"Hattiesburg is a community that is strongest when all of our residents feel they can live openly and safely," said Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny DuPree. "We draw our strength from our diversity – our different backgrounds, our different talents, our different passions. I'd like to thank the city council for joining me tonight in making this very important resolution a reality."

Public opinion on equality in Mississippi is far ahead of law in the state. A poll conducted last summer found that nearly 60 percent of Mississippians under the age of 30 support marriage equality, while 64 percent of residents back workplace non-discrimination protections for LGBT employees.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

NFL Draft Prospect
Michael Sam
Announces "He Is Gay"

GLAAD, the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) media advocacy organization, responded to Southeastern Conference (SEC) Division I football player Michael Sam's announcement that he is gay.

"By rewriting the script for countless young athletes, Michael has demonstrated the leadership that, along with his impressive skills on the field, makes him a natural fit for the NFL," said GLAAD President Sarah Kate Ellis. "With acceptance of LGBT people rising across our coasts — in our schools, churches, and workplaces — it's clear that America is ready for an openly gay football star."

Sam was a defensive end for Mizzou

[continued on 18]



OPEN
24 HOURS
7 DAYS

PRIME TIME TRIVIA
WITH Rikki Gee & DJ PING

WED 7:00 - 9:00pm

Decadence

Our New Show! Starts FEB 14
featuring past S.D. Grand Marshals & Special Guests!

FRI 9:00 - 10:30pm

ESPLANADE AVENUE
LIVE MUSIC

SAT 7:30 - 9:30pm

Divas R Us
FEMALE IMPERSONATORS

SAT 10:00 - 11:30pm

JUBILEE!
DRAGGING FOR JESUS

Hosted by Sista Reba Douglas

SUN 5:00 - 6:30pm

SHOW ME SOMETHING MISTER

Take a break from the crowds.
Come get a glassful and an eyeful
at **The Golden Lantern**.

2014 GOAL

\$5000

\$4000

\$3000

\$2000

\$1000

14
Southern
Decadence
FUND

The Golden Lantern was the Largest fundraiser for Southern Decadence in 2013!

The Official Home of Southern Decadence.

THE GOLDEN LANTERN

1239 Royal St. New Orleans • facebook.com/GoldenLanternBar

HAPPY HOUR
8AM - 8PM DAILY

NEVER A COVER AT
THE GOLDEN LANTERN

Open 24/7

THE PHOENIX
New Orleans
 welcomes you to

MARDI GRAS 2014

Weekend Schedule

Friday Night
Night of the Black Mask beer bust
 hosted by the Lords of Leather
9PM until Midnight

Saturday Night
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
 Host a Beer Bust
From 10:30 - 2:00

Sunday Night
THE MYSTIC KREWE OF THE LORDS OF LEATHER
Post Mardi Gras Bal Party

**REAL MEN
 ON SITE
 all weekend**

"Blue Balls"
 shot of Fireball
 & PBR draft
\$7.00

SKYY
 VODKA
 40% ALC/VOL (80 PROOF)

SKYY SIONS
 URAL ORANGE
 40% ALC/VOL (80 PROOF)

**SKYY Infusion
 shots \$3.00**

WILD TURKEY
 81 KENTU
 straight
 BOURBON
 whiskey

**GIVE'EM
 THE BIRD**
 WILD TURKEY
 AMERICAN
 HONEY
 Mixed with
 DRY
 EXCEPTIONALLY SMOOTH
 BOURBON BLEND

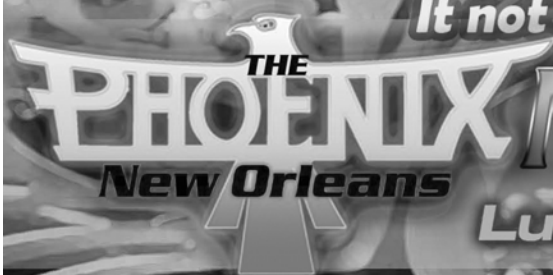
American Honey shots \$4.00
Wild Turkey shots \$5.00

Specials begin on Thurs Feb. 27th and run through Ash Wed March 5th

www.neworleansphoenix.com

www.neworleansphoenix.com

It not just Tuesday, our whole weekend is fat



Mardi Gras 2014

Lundi/Mardi Gras Schedule

Dancers on stage nightly Friday, Saturday and Sunday



Monday

LORDS OF LEATHER hosts a private party

Roman Holiday

A gladiators night out

\$20 upstairs at the Eagle from 6PM until 9PM.

open bar - well drinks and domestic beer

Coat Check Available

RENEGADE BEARS OF LOUISIANA

*hosts a Beer Bust from
9PM until Midnight*

Fat Tuesday

Say Goodbye to Mardi Gras 2014

with a bang! The last dance is

always the best dance!

**Large selection of
water based and
silicone lube**

**Extended hours Friday Feb. 28th - March 4th
store will be open from 1PM until 2AM**



**Leather, Neoprene, Adult Novelties,
Magnetic Post Cleaner, Andrew
Christian, Nasty Pig, Mr. S. Leather
and Oxballs just to name a few.**



The Phoenix - 941 Elysian Fields New Orleans, LA. 70117- 504.945.9264



Krewe of Amon-Ra Mardi Gras Ball XLIX: A Year Through The Eye of Amon-Ra @ Sigur Civic Center ~ Chalmette, LA ~ Photos by Rip Naquin