

Bob Williams and Stephen Heavner are serving as the DFF Honorary Co-Chairs for 2009. Williams is the co-owner of Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, and Heavner is the bookkeeper for the well-known furniture company.

Club Cabaret will host the afterparty, themed "A New Way of Living." All attendees to ALFA's Pr[EVENT] will receive free admittance to this afterparty by showing their Pr[EVENT] ticket stub. Funds raised during the afterparty will be donated back to ALFA's mission.

For more information, call 828-322-1447 ext. 224, email alfadirect@charter.net or visit www.alfainfo.org.

Ten-minute test now available

HICKORY — During the week of June 22, ALFA will be providing free, confidential door-to-door and walk-in HIV testing to the general public. ALFA's rapid HIV test is 99.7 percent accurate and provides results in 10 minutes. These events are in observance of National HIV Testing Day, an annual campaign that encourages individuals to receive voluntary HIV counseling and testing. By providing this service, ALFA is able to reduce the spread of HIV and combat the negative stigma surrounding the issue of HIV/AIDS. This is achieved by allowing individuals to know their status, connecting those who test positive with the necessary medical care and providing accurate and up-to-date HIV/AIDS education.

Walk-in testing will be available at ALFA, located at 1120 Fairgrove Church Rd. SE, Suite 28, on June 22-25 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and June 26 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Walk-in testing

will also be available at Slades Chapel AME Zion Church, located at 306 Bouchelle St. (Morganton) on June 24 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. For those who are unable to make it the week of June 22, call ALFA at 828-322-1447, ext. 232 to schedule an appointment for a free test.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.alfainfo.org.

STATEWIDE

Blogger digs in for long haul

STATEWIDE — North Carolina's own Pam

Spaulding has been getting a bit of press lately. According to gaynewsblog.net's Jose Antonio Vargas, the voice behind one of the most respected gay political blogosphere sites, Pam's House Blend, has given rise to a particular growing political influence.

North Carolina is the only state in the south that has not banned same-sex marriage.

An IT manager by day and a 24/7/365 blogger, Spaulding said that "all eyes are on North Carolina now." Florida, Arizona and California in November passed marriage amendments.

Vargas said in late May/early June, "after reports that groups such as NC4Marriage and Christian Action League are organizing a rally in Raleigh to support 'traditional marriage,' Spaulding wrote on her blog: 'As predicted, the professional anti-gay forces plan to descend on NC.'"



"What she doesn't write is that, so long as she's blogging, what happens in North Carolina won't stay in the Tar Heel State," Vargas continued.

The blogging community has been responsible for staging Join the Impact rallies and other successful initiatives across the country to bring attention to the injustices toward the LGBT community.

"In the past, someone like Spaulding would have been relegated to the sidelines. She doesn't work for national gay rights organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign or

the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. She lives with her partner, Kate, an audiologist, in Durham, far from San Francisco, New York or Washington, where gay activism has been historically based. But now she's helping shape the agenda, one voice in a chorus of sometimes dissonant, sometimes harmonious, often in-your-face voices that is pushing established gay

groups and redefining the meaning of grassroots action in this new media age," Vargas concluded.

Joe Solmonese, HRC's president, reads Spaulding's blog regularly.

To read the entire story, visit gaynewsblog.net/2009/06/gay-bloggers-voices-rise-in-chorus-of.html.

info: Announce your community event in NC News Notes. email: editor@q-notes.com.



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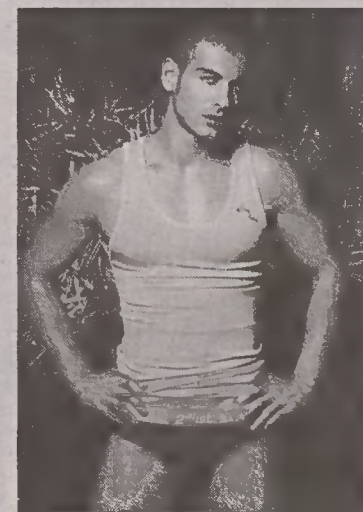


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