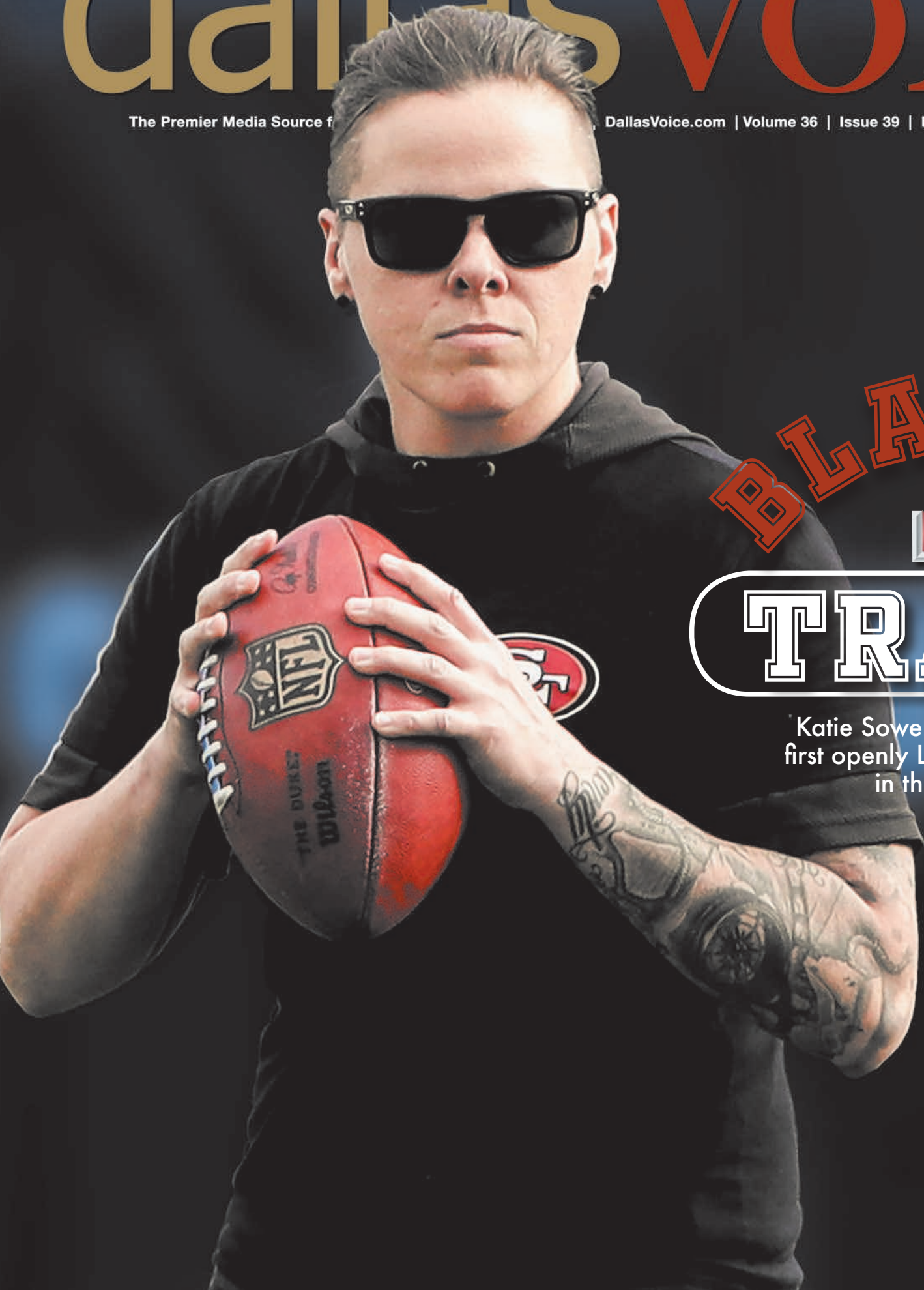


# dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for

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BLAZING  
LIV

## TRAILS

Katie Sowers is the first woman,  
first openly LGBT person to coach  
in the Super Bowl

Page 8

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San Francisco coach Katie Sowers.  
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## instanTEA

[DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea)

### Three special elections; no changes in Texas House

No change in the make-up of the Texas House of Representatives happened as a result of three special elections held on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

In Dallas, Lorraine Birabil drew 66 percent of the vote against a fellow Democrat to fill the District 100 seat left vacant when Eric Johnson was elected Dallas mayor last June. Birabil was the endorsed choice of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

In Houston's District 148, Democrat Anna Eastman won 65 percent of the vote against a Republican challenger. They were running to replace Democrat Jessica Farrar who resigned her seat last fall.

In a second Houston race, Democrat Eliz Markowitz was trying to flip a seat but only received 42 percent of the vote with heavy turnout for a special election runoff. Among those stumping for her were Beto O'Rourke and Michael Bloomberg. The winner is Gary Gates; Gates and Markowitz will face off again in November.

— David Taffet

### Farewell Tribute to Sweet Savage is set

Betty Neal, Michael Lybarger, Howard Okon and Magnum Dallas are coming together to host "Cher's Gypsies: A Farewell Tribute to Sweet Savage," on Monday, Feb. 10, at Magnum Dallas, 1820 W. Mockingbird, Ste. 10.

Sweet Savage of San Antonio, aka Freddie Cortez, was a legendary drag icon in Texas. She passed away Tuesday, Jan. 21, following a lengthy illness. Sweet Savage was known throughout her more-than-30-year career in drag for her impersonations of Cher.

Cher's Gypsies begins with a buffet meal at 6:30 p.m. Show time is 9 p.m. Donations will be accepted to help pay for Sweet Savage's final expenses.

The show will be emceed by Bubblicious and Kelexis Davenport and will feature performances by Shae Shae Lareese, Layla Larue, Sasha Andrews, Tommie Ross, Kennedy Davenport and more performers from across the nation.

— Tammye Nash

### HRC releases new Corporate Equality Index

Human Rights Campaign has released the latest version on its Corporate Equality Index.

The CEI is a great place for people looking for work to find which companies treat their LGBT employees equally. For people already working at any of the 1,059 rated companies, they can see how their company compares to others in its category and see where its policies need improvement.

If you're looking a company with which to do business with, the results are mixed. Surely, if a company treats its employees

equally, they're more likely to do the same for their customers. But if you're looking for which companies support the LGBT community in general, that's not rated.

DFW-area companies that were rated 100 include AT&T, Comerica, Southwest Airlines, American Airlines, Toyota, Ericsson, Fossil, Fujitsu and Celanese. So is McKesson, which recently moved to Las Colinas from San Francisco and achieved a 100 rating for the seventh year in a row.

ExxonMobil gets an 85, up from its perennial minus-20, but it still lags behind Shell, Chevron, BP, ConocoPhillips and Marathon, all of which are rated 100.

Fort Worth-based Burlington Northern gets a miserable 30, but that's a 10-point improvement over last year's 20.

— David Taffet

### Dallas-based ice skaters heading to World Championship

Dallas-based U.S. Figure Skating reigning pairs title-holders Ashley Cain-Gribble and Timothy LeDuc had hoped to continue their forward momentum with top scores in the short program of the 2020 U.S. National Figure Skating Championships, contested Thursday night in Greensboro, N.C. But, man, ice is slippery. An uncharacteristic mistake on a routine "death spiral" left the talented team in third place heading into the final. Out queer athlete LeDuc and Cain-Gribble, his ferocious ally and partner, ended the competition in fourth place, behind gold medalists Alexa Scimeca Knierim and Christopher Knierim, silver medalists Jessica Calalang and Brian Johnson, and bronze medalists Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea.

Part of U.S. Nationals is deciding who qualifies for the world team. Typically, the spots are determined by the top finishers.

But not so fast. That is only a guideline. U.S. Figure Skating (USFS) announced the World Pairs team Sunday evening, and, come March, it turns out Cain-Gribble and LeDuc will indeed be representing the U.S. at the world champions in Montreal. They advanced ahead of the silver and bronze U.S. national medalists — a right fully within the USFS authority.

Theirs wasn't the only happy next chapter. U.S. ladies skater Amber Glenn, who came out last year in an interview with Dallas Voice, went into the final leg of her national competition following a career-defining best performance in the ladies short program.

Standing O? Oh, yes. Free skate? Oh no. She slid into fifth place and off the podium. It seemed her season had abruptly ended.

Again, not so fast. USFS saw Glenn's grit and glamour and advanced her to the U.S. ladies team who will compete at the international 4 Continents Championships in early February in Seoul, South Korea.

Our Dallas-based athletes live to skate another day. What a difference a day makes.

— Coy Covington

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# THE GAY AGENDA



Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com) or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at [taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

## JANUARY

### • Jan. 31: Business and Community Excellence Awards

Awards luncheon from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. [LGBTChamber.com](http://LGBTChamber.com).

## FEBRUARY

### • Feb. 1: PrimeTimers

Potluck from 5-9 p.m. at Sean's in Plano. RSVP and address at 214-218-0912.

### • Feb. 2: Super Bowl LIV

### • Feb. 4: PrimeTimers

First Tuesday lunch at Golden Corral at 11:30 a.m. 3312 Forest Lane. 214-218-0912.

### • Feb. 5: Wine Walk

Monthly first Wednesday wine walk on Cedar Springs Road. Purchase glass outside The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Feb. 6: Casablanca screening

The Texas Theatre presents a pre-Valentine's Day screening of the 1942 Humphrey Bogart-Ingrid Bergman classic Casablanca at 8 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. Tickets at [prekindle.com](http://prekindle.com).

### • Feb. 6: Brewing Up Business

Develop new business relationships from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Crickles, 4000 Cedar Springs Road Suite E. Free to LGBT Chamber members, non-members \$10 in advance, \$20 at the door. [LGBTChamber.com](http://LGBTChamber.com).

### • Feb. 7: Naming the Leper

Christopher Lee Manes, president of Congregation Beth El Binah, reads from his new book of poetry Naming the Leper at 7 p.m. at Half Price Books, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. Free.

### • Feb. 8: Dallas Bears monthly meeting

Monthly membership meeting begins at noon at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Feb. 8: PrimeTimers

Brunch and the Perot Museum at 11 a.m. at Mama's Daughter's Diner, 2014 Irving Blvd. 214-218-0912.

### • Feb. 8: The Main Event

Teen Pride presents Kennedy Davenport at the Peacock Theater in Frisco. An evening of magic, drag and mystery raising money for Teen Pride. \$40. [tinyurl.com/tqevffc](http://tinyurl.com/tqevffc).

### • Feb. 8: Lost Souls Sock collection

Lost Souls Rugby is collecting new socks for the Austin Street Shelter serving men 45 and older and women 18 and older from 1-4 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Feb. 8: DFW Gaymers

Game night for LGBTQ gaymers from 7:30-10:50 p.m. at Common Ground Games, 1328 Inwood Road.

### • Feb. 11: Same-sex partner grief group

Grief group for those who have lost a same-sex partner through death from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Feb. 11: Simply Fondue with the Dallas Bears

A four-course classic from 7-10 p.m. at Simply Fondue, 2108 Greenville Ave.

### • Feb. 12: PrimeTimers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Fly Fishing, 6126 Luther Lane. Info at 214-218-0912.

### • Feb. 12: TWU Drag Show

Texas Women's University drag show with performers including Mustache Envy, Draconis and emcee Landon Cider at 7 p.m. at TWU Student Union at Hubbard Hall, Southwest Ballroom, 1600 N. Bell Ave., Denton. \$5. [TWU.edu](http://TWU.edu).

### • Feb. 13: Business Connections Mixer

The LGBT Chamber hosts its monthly Business Connections Mixer with light bites and drinks from 5:30-7 p.m. at Eating Disorder Solutions, 3300 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 102. [LGBTChamber.com](http://LGBTChamber.com).

### • Feb. 15: Heart On Gaybingo

From 5-9 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. [MyResourceCenter.org](http://MyResourceCenter.org).

### • Feb. 15: Love Equality

An event benefitting Equality Texas is a night of celebration and dancing with drinks and light food from 8-11 p.m. at Seven for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 107. Tickets at [Secure.Everyaction.com](http://Secure.Everyaction.com).

### • Feb. 15: Impulse Group

An Impulse Group five-year celebration with cocktails, music and dancing, dinner and presentation at 7 p.m. at Sixty Five Hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road, #200. [Impulsegrp.org](http://Impulsegrp.org).

### • Feb. 16: Dallas Bears Teddy Bear Auction

Auction benefits AIDS Services Dallas. Item drop off begins at 3 p.m., and auction starts at 7 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Feb. 17: President's Day

Honoring our presidents who haven't been impeached.

### • Feb. 19: PrimeTimers

Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at the Charco Broiler, 413 W. Jefferson Blvd. Info at 214-218-0912.

### • Feb. 21: Toast to Life Sponsor Party

[MyResourceCenter.org](http://MyResourceCenter.org).

### • Feb. 21: LGBTQ Global Symposium on Equality and Human Rights

A coalition of Dallas-based organizations presents a symposium on equality and human rights. A diverse group of LGBTQ and ally presenters

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m.** on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink with this week's guest Erin Moore; **Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors** meets Mondays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road, Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwlyer Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St. Wednesdays for Breakfast Club from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave. and Thursdays for Rainbow Rec from 10 am.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.; **Unwired Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous** meets Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday

and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. First Monday is birthday night at 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or [Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org); **LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com).

com; Dallas Frontrunners meet for a walk or run at Oak Lawn Park, near the intersection of Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Thrive**, program of Resource Center for LGBTQ adults 50+ support group every Monday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by free lunch at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at noon, 6:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 6525 Inwood Road.

Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **DVtV in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

will highlight Dallas' rich history of moving from openly opposing to vocally championing human rights and equality from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Southern Methodist University Tickets at DFWWorld.org.

• **Feb. 22: Turtle Creek Chorale gala**  
Idina Menzel performs at a gala benefiting the Turtle Creek Chorale at 7:30 p.m. at The Statler, 1914 Commerce St. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **Feb. 23: PrimeTimers**  
Games in Plano at 2 p.m. For address and directions call 214-218-0912.

• **Feb. 25: Get Centered tour**  
Tour Resource Center and learn about its programs from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. MyResourceCenter.org.

• **Feb. 25: Steve Grand**  
Steve Grand performs benefiting the Suicide and Crisis Center at 7:30 p.m. at the Bob Hope Theatre, Owen Arts

Center, 6101 Bishop St. \$75-150. Tickets at SteveGrandDallas.com.

• **Feb. 25: Same-sex partner grief group**  
Grief group for those who have lost a same-sex partner through death from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

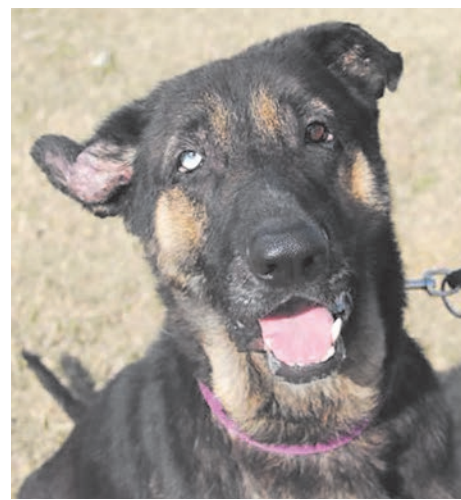
• **Feb. 25: PrimeTimers**  
Dinner at 7 p.m. at Alfonso's Italian, 718 N. Buckner Blvd. #222. Info at 214-218-0912.

• **Feb. 29: Understanding Transgender Identities and Realities**  
Deepen understanding of transgender topics and practice skills to be a great ally from 6-9 p.m. at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 4015 Normandy Ave. \$10. Register at dct.org/andiboi.

#### MARCH

• **March 1: PrimeTimers**  
Games hosted at 2 p.m. in Oak Cliff. For address and directions, call 214-218-0912.

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# Handing out Blessings

DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence welcome volunteers as they prepare for their 10th anniversary

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Always on the lookout for new ways to serve their community, the DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will take to the streets of Oak Lawn, Deep Ellum and the area around the Farmers Market on Saturday, Feb. 8, handing out Blessing Bags to the homeless. And the Sisters are inviting others to participate with them in this mission and others as they gear up for their 10-year anniversary.

Sister Alley Gations, Mistress of Events for the Abby of the Lone Star, said the sisters will be out in full force and in full face for the event. They will be distributing the Blessing Bags — containing things like protein bars and other snacks, toiletries, socks, beanie hats — from about 3-7 p.m. that day. The bags will also include the Sisters' well-known "Bliss Kits," which include condoms, lube, a peppermint and a whole lot of information on topics regarding everything from where to get tested for HIV and where to get treatment to where to find food, shelter and clothing.

Sister Alley said "we came up with the idea" of the Blessing Bags "as a house," and then one of the novice nuns took it on as their "the senior project." Alley said the sisters will be handing out "about 100 bags" over the course of the afternoon and early evening next week-end.

While many of the Sisters' projects and events are specifically aimed at the LGBTQ and/or HIV/AIDS communities, Sister Alley said they are always looking for new communities to help



The DFW Sisters are on a mission. (Photo courtesy Sister Alley Gations)

and new ways to help.

"A lot of the time we [in the LGBTQ] community don't really acknowledge homeless people that we see. A lot of people don't want to associate with homeless people or be around them or interact with them. There's such a stigma behind being homeless, and too often we just ignore them," she said.

"And most of the Sisters' events happen in bars and at other places where homeless people usually aren't welcome," she continued. "So they don't

ever really get to enjoy the things we do for the community. Besides the fact that we wanted to help get them things and information we need, we wanted to also give them a chance to kind of 'bask in the glory' of a Sisters event. We want them to have the same opportunities we have to have fun."

DFW Sisters donate regularly to well-known organizations in the LGBTQ community. Last year, Sister Alley said, they gave about \$3,000 to Resource Center, and a recent event in Fort Worth raised

money for the Office of Veterans Affairs.

"All our events are focused on helping people, raising money for the community, but we try to branch out. One of the things we think about is, who have we not helped? Women's shelters? Veterans Affairs? Trans men? Trans kids? The deaf community?" Sister Alley said. "There are times when we want to make sure that the money we raise is going to a demographic or to an organization we've not worked with before. We want to give



# Oak Lawn Pharmacy drops name-brand HIV meds

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**O**ak Lawn Pharmacy, a company founded to provide name-brand HIV medications, has stopped carrying them, a pharmacy spokesman confirmed this week. Employees at the store are helping its customers transfer their prescriptions to other pharmacies in the area.

Marketing Director Walker Patterson said his company didn't buy enough generic medications to get the discount on all of its HIV meds necessary to continue selling the medications profitably. In order to sell the drugs at a competitive rate, the pharmacy was losing money on each prescription, he said.

Pharmacist Amanda Bui said in order to get a discount to make name-brand HIV meds affordable, they have to purchase a certain quantity of generics as well. She said she thought when Truvada went off-brand this year, that would solve their problem. But manufacturer Gilead changed the formula slightly and replaced Truvada with Descovy, she said.

That resulted in the pharmacy having to make the difficult decision to stop selling the expensive HIV medications.

Patterson said when Oak Lawn Pharmacy first went into business as Pride Pharmacy a number of years ago, there was less competition in the area. CVS and Walgreens weren't as large, and AIDS Healthcare Foundation and Prism Health didn't have pharmacies affiliated with their offices.

But, Patterson stressed, "We're still a full-service pharmacy."

He highlighted the pharmacy's daily pill packs, in which pills are wrapped in a clear package and divided by day or even the time of day each one should be



Walker Patterson

taken. And the pharmacy will deliver the packs.

"We have great prices on ED medication," Patterson continued, explaining that through an online service, they can help with those meds, which they also will deliver for free. He said a customer fills out a medical evaluation, and there's an option to talk to a doctor. The process, he said is safe and discrete.

In discussing how out of control drug pricing has become, Bui mentioned Good Rx. She said pharmacies that accept the app that lowers the price of generic drugs usually start with higher prices.

In the TV ad for Good Rx, a woman walks up to a pharmacist to get a price quote on a drug her child needs and is quoted a price of more than \$60. As the

PHARMACY, Page 12

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# Leading the way

Kansas native Katie Sowers is blazing new trails as she becomes the first woman and the first openly-LGBT person to coach a team in the Super Bowl

DAVE SKRETTA | AP Sports Writer

**H**ESSTON, Kan. — The old downtown strip, like so many in small towns across America, is quiet on a brisk January morning, just a few cars parked at one end in front of The Citizens State Bank and a few more in front of the pharmacy at the other.

Around the corner is an old Texaco station, the pumps long removed and the windows covered up. Nearby, the sign for Weaver's Grocers — "Your local hometown grocers!" — is all that remains from the once-bustling store. Most businesses have moved east toward the main highway, which takes traffic between the cities of Salina and Wichita.

The predominantly Mennonite town of about 3,700 in south-central

Kansas is hardly the kind of place one would expect to produce a trailblazing NFL coach, one that has helped the San Francisco 49ers return to the Super Bowl.

Then again, Katie Sowers had been defying expectations all her life.

When the Niners face the Kansas City Chiefs



49ers Assistant Offensive coach Katie Sowers leads a drill during practice. (Tony Avelar/Associated Press)

on Sunday, Feb. 2, she will become the first female assistant and first openly gay coach to take the sideline in the sport's biggest game.

Her story has spread like a prairie fire thanks in large part to a Microsoft commercial featuring Sowers that ran repeatedly during the recent conference championship games.

It's all a little hard to believe for her family and friends — those who grew up playing tackle football with her in the backyard or coached her in high school basketball or took classes with her at tiny Hesston College.

"People ask me what we did for fun," recalls her twin sister, Liz, "and I don't honestly have an answer. We drove to Wichita? But we always had each other. We were never really looking for things

to do. We always had a best friend.

"But being in a small conservative town was different, especially being gay. But we were lucky to be in the most open-minded family in town. I love everybody knowing everybody, even with all the small-town gossip."

The sisters' dad, Floyd, was a basket-

— win enough championships to fill a trophy case.

"Katie was a competitor, [a] hard worker and didn't like to lose," says their basketball coach, Brennan Torger-son. "She didn't break into the starting lineup as soon as Liz did. Katie's role off the bench was our super sub. When she

ball coach at nearby Bethel College. But the kids always preferred the rough-and-tumble of football, gender norms be damned. Even though they were in the heart of Chiefs country, Katie grew up a Dallas Cowboys fan and Liz a Denver Broncos fan, because those were the uniforms and plastic helmets they got as Christmas gifts one year. One of the neighbor boys that played with them had gotten the Chiefs outfit.

The Sowers kids eventually shelved their football ambitions, though, never thinking at the time that they could continue playing with the boys in high school. Instead, they turned their attention to just about every other sport, whether it was basketball or track and field, helping the Swathers — the nickname coming from a piece of farming machinery common on the Great Plains

came in the pace changed along with the energy level of the team. Her energy and toughness were contagious."

"She was definitely known on campus for her athletic ability," adds Rachel McMaster, who overlapped with Katie for a year at Hesston College, and is now the school's director of marketing and communications.

The Sowers kids never could shake the football bug, though.

After starting at Hesston College where her mother, Bonnie, was the long-time director of nursing, Katie finished her studies at Goshen College in Indiana. She resumed playing football with the West Michigan Mayhem in the Women's Football Alliance and for USA Football's national team. But any thought of ever coaching men was temporarily dashed when Katie was denied a volunteer assis-

- **Katie Sowers**, 33, is from Hesson, Kansas. She has an older sister named Stephanie and a twin sister, Liz, who is also openly LGBTQ. Liz Sowers also played for the Women's Football Alliance, and is now helping establish a new women's pro football team, The Kansas City Glory, in the Women's National Football Conference.
- **Katie Sowers** was a Dallas Cowboys fan when she was growing up. Her sister Liz was a Denver Broncos fan.
- **Katie Sowers'** parents, Floyd and Bonnie Sowers, now live in Kansas City.
- **Katie Sowers** joined the staff of the San Francisco 49ers as an offensive assistant coach in 2017. When she came out publicly before the NFL season started that year, she became the first openly LGBTQ coach in the NFL.
- **Katie Sowers** played football herself in the Women's Football Alliance and for USA Football's national team.
- **In 2016**, before joining the 49ers' staff, Katie Sowers was a training camp coach with the Atlanta Falcons
- **Katie Sowers** has a girlfriend but prefers to keep her name out of the limelight.

## Super Bowl LIV Kansas City Chiefs vs. San Francisco 49ers

5:30 p.m. CST, Sunday, Feb. 2  
At Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens  
Broadcast live in DFW on KDFW Fox 4

**National Anthem:** Demi Lovato

**Halftime show:** Jennifer Lopez, Shakira

### Also of note:

Drag queens and *RuPaul's Drag Race* alumni Miz Cracker and Kim Chi will be featured in an ad for Sabra hummus airing during the Super Bowl. It will be the first time a Super Bowl ad has featured drag queens.

Actor/comedian/TV show host Ellen Degeneres and her wife, actor Portia de Rossi, will be featured in Amazon's Super Bowl ad for devices with Alexa.

*Queer Eye's* Jonathan Van Ness is featured in two Super Bowl commercials for Pop Tarts Pretzels.



tant job at the private liberal arts college.

Injuries eventually took their toll on Katie — a separated shoulder, a torn labrum in her hip. So, with degree in hand, she joined her sister in Kansas City and began working toward her master's degree at Central Missouri.

That is where fate set her on the path toward the NFL sideline.

One of Katie's part-time jobs was coaching a youth basketball team, and one her players happened to be the daughter of former Chiefs general manager Scott Pioli. He soon became a father figure to her, and when Pioli was fired by the Chiefs and hired as the assistant GM in Atlanta, he helped Katie catch on through the Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship.

There, she made such an impression on the Falcons then-offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan that he asked her to follow him to San Francisco when he was hired to coach the Niners.

At first, she helped break down film and work on practice scripts. But over time she was given more responsibility. These days, she works largely with wide receivers alongside offensive coordinators Mike LaFleur and Mike McDaniel,

helping an offense that was second only to the Baltimore Ravens in scoring this season.

Her rapid rise in the cut-throat coaching profession doesn't surprise those who knew her growing up.

"Katie was an amazing teammate and was always willing to do the little things that allow a team to come together and win ball games," says Matthew Richardson, who taught and coached the Sowers sisters in middle school and high school. "Katie wasn't ever concerned with recognition, she only wanted to do her job extremely well so the team could be successful."

It's hard to get much more successful than reaching the Super Bowl.

While Katie's career path led to the NFL, Liz has taken a decidedly different road in the game both love. The women's team on which both sisters once played recently folded, so Liz has been helping establish a new team — the Kansas City Glory — in the Adidas-backed Women's National Football Conference. As Katie breaks ground by proving women can coach football, Liz is breaking ground by providing opportunities for women to actually play it.

"I was asked once if it was a dream of mine to be in the NFL or be in a Super Bowl," Liz says, "and looking back it was like, no, it never crossed my mind. And it's crazy for me to think as much as I loved playing, and it was our favorite sport, I never thought that was an option to somehow be in a Super Bowl. And it pushes me to continue doing and playing football."

"When Katie is walking down the sideline," Liz adds with pride, "she'll have parents shouting that their daughter wants to coach in the NFL, or play in the NFL, and that dream is real now for people, for young girls."

Nobody is more proud of the sisters than their parents, Floyd and Bonnie.

The couple moved to Kansas City about two years ago, after Floyd suffered a major stroke. It left him in a wheelchair, unable to walk or speak, and Liz has taken it upon herself to help her mother care for him. One of their biggest challenges is transportation, and Liz's birthday wish was to raise enough money through a GoFundMe account to purchase a van with wheelchair access.

"He was and still is Katie's biggest fan," Liz explains, "but he was always

so proud to communicate that to everybody, always wore San Francisco gear in public, so people would approach him, and they'd ask about it. So, it's been hard for him since he can't communicate. He can't speak. But I feel like this TV commercial she's now on, telling her story, in a way it speaks for my dad. He's so proud to be able to watch that."

After much discussion, Floyd and Bonnie decided to stay in Kansas City — surrounded by Chiefs fans — to watch the Super Bowl on Sunday. But there will be plenty of family support in Miami: Liz will be there with her girlfriend, and Steph — the twins' older sister — will be there with her husband, who coincidentally grew up cheering for the 'Niners.

Meanwhile, back in Hesston, a few thousand people who usually spend their Sundays cheering for the Chiefs will have to decide where their allegiances lie. Do they root for the local franchise making its first trip to the Super Bowl in 50 years, or do they root for the hometown kid who has proved that women have a place in professional football?

"I'll be cheering for the same team Joe Montana said he's cheering for," Torger-son says with a smile. "The red team." ■



## BLESSINGS, From Page 8

everybody a chance to get a piece of the pie.”

It's a pie that has been baking around the world for about 40 years, and here in Dallas for 10 years. Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence was founded in San Francisco in 1979 as a charitable and activist organization using drag and religious imagery to make its point. According to the organization's website, "The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are a lead-

ing-edge order of queer and trans nuns. We believe all people have a right to express their unique joy and beauty. Since our first appearance in San Francisco on Easter Sunday 1979, the Sisters have devoted ourselves to community service, ministry and outreach to those on the edges, and to promoting human rights, respect for diversity and spiritual enlightenment. We use humor and irreverent wit to expose the forces of bigotry,

complacency and guilt that chain the human spirit." The mission of the Sisters, the website says, is to "promulgate universal joy, expiate stigmatic guilt and serve the community."

There is no single, central authority or seat of power; each House is autonomous, with its own habits, culture and rules. There are 45 houses in 26 U.S. states (and one multi-state order); seven United States Missions, and 22 Houses

and/or Missions outside the U.S.

Three of the Houses are here in Texas; in addition to the DFW Sisters, there are the Weird City Sisters in Houston and The San Antonio Sisters, Abbey of the Alamo. There is also one Mission in Texas — The Houston Sisters — Order of the Bayou City. Sister Alley said there is also a House starting in El Paso.

The DFW Sisters — the largest House in Texas with 25 fully professed members, 15 sisters emeritus, eight novices and two postulants, according to their website — celebrate their 10th anniversary on Easter Sunday this coming April, and Sister Alley said the nuns have a ton of big events planned to mark celebrate their first decade. And while the application process to become an actual Sister takes time, Sister Alley wants people to know that she and the other nuns are always looking for volunteers to help out at all their events. "All you have to do to get involved as a volunteer is go to the website and fill out a form," she said. ■

For more information on volunteering with the Sisters or becoming a Sister, and for a full schedule of upcoming events, visit [DFWSisters.org](http://DFWSisters.org). DFW Sisters membership is open to people of all genders and all orientations.



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## PHARMACY,

From Page 9

woman turns to walk away, the pharmacist stops her and gives her the Good Rx price — 12 bucks.

But, Bui said, Oak Lawn Pharmacy's prices on a range of medications tend to be lower than those of Good Rx, so she doesn't need to play games with pricing apps.

Bui said the pharmacy's change in focus kicked in in January because that's when insurance companies issue new drug prices for their customers and when drug companies raise prices and issue quotas to pharmacies to receive any discounts.

Walker said his pharmacy will continue to carry generic HIV meds and a full range of other drugs, including everything from antibiotics to cholesterol, diabetes, heart and other medications. And, he said, he hopes Oak Lawn Pharmacy will continue to be "your neighborhood drug store." ■



Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America's Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network



Voted 2019 Readers Voice Awards  
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■ commUNITYvoices

The Lone Star Battleground State

Sam Houston once said, “Texas has yet to learn submission to any oppression, come from what source it may.” Great sentiment, Mr. “Raven,” but unfortunately, an abundance of your successors have perpetuated oppression on the people of this state.

Now, however, for the first time in a quarter of a century, Texans are ready to fight. We’re ready to elect people like Jessica Cisneros to unseat a Democrat with an *A rating from the NRA*. We’re, also, eager to banish John Cornyn from the U.S. Senate.

As liberal as Sam Houston was for his time, it wasn’t enough to keep our marginalized communities protected. Slowly, I believe, the teachers and leaders of our communities will embolden us to be more forward-thinking and open-minded. For right now, though, our fight is electoral, and it’s getting very interesting here in the Lone Star State.

So interesting, in fact, the state is ascending into battleground territory at a *coups d’etat* level.

This is important for Texans, because it gives us a sense of voice that, up until recently, we have not felt we had. Everyone just categorizes Texas as a red state without even considering the work Democrats are doing in local organizations and governments. Doing so marginalizes left-wing voices and, with them, the voices of women, POC and LGBTQ+ individuals.

When people say Dallas, some people think conservative white people with big, feathered hair. When I was growing up in New Jersey in the early 2000s, we thought of Dallas as an Old West town, with people riding around on horses. (Yes, in 2004 kids in Jersey really did think everyone rode horses in Texas, and for much longer after that!)

What you don’t think of is the fact that when reviewing voter turnout for Texas and California, considering 2018 vs. 2014, Texas turnout increased by 18 percent and California turnout by 18.8 percent. This means we had the sixth-highest voter turnout increase, just under California, arguably the most liberal state,



was. Democrats at the top of the ballot lost by about 1.25 million votes in 2012 and 2014, then in a sharp change, to only 807,000 in 2016. Then O’Rourke lost by only about 215,000 votes in 2018!

Using figures from the Secretary of State website, there are about 452,000 newly-registered voters since then. If even half of these voters disapprove of President Trump — which, based on national polling they do — we are sprinting toward the reality of flipping Texas blue.

To those distressed about the “Bernie or Bust-ers,” let’s use the national average of 12 percent of Sanders primary voters who voted for Trump. That’s 57,000 here in Texas — a measly amount compared to the number of newly-registered voters here.

We are the second-largest state in the country and so control the second-largest amount of delegates. I won’t even begin to try and comment on the travesty that is the Electoral College, because the reality is, we’ll have to deal with it in 2020. We will just have to bust out enough votes to make it bend to our will.

Because Texas has been such a deeply red state, the 2016 election felt like a loss for most of us before it even happened. However, there is a YUGE chance that we alone could be the electoral elixir this year.

We could have done it in 2016, if we would have swung blue and voted majority Clinton, she would have received exactly the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win. This is not something to scoff at; this is momentous. With mounting Republican retirements and increas-

which was fourth.

So, this Bible Belt state is right on par with a beacon of liberalism.

We cannot discount how close the 2018

ingly-razor-thin winning margins for the GOP, if we do the work, Texas could hoist the country into a new era of liberty and justice.

We can lead our fellow Americans into a better quality of life. This means not only can we speak up and spearhead progress as never before, but it also means we are obliged to do so.

Here is Texas, we have had to deal with our classmates and relatives terrorizing us, calling us “fags” and worse and always having to deal with bigotry and ridicule. We’ve seen Texans of color being murdered in mass shootings, including a 17-month-old Texan being shot in the face in El Paso, an innocent little girl struck by tragedy before she could even understand her own consciousness — thanks to Texas’ incredibly absurd gun laws.

If we as a “conservative stronghold” can show that we abandon tradition and prejudice for an honest investment into the well-being of fellow Americans and their future, we can shepherd United States policy for decades to come. No longer will we be written off as bozos or dismissed as uneducated, something we, the righteous Democrats of Texas, have never been. We have, in fact, been the opposite, standing up for what’s right in the face of a barbarous conservative culture.

And we are not done; we never will be. There is still so much work to do — before November and beyond. I urge you to do what you can to get involved; talk to loved ones and be the transformation. It is not in vain.

We don’t just want to win; we want to dominate! The fact is, voters in Texas have swiftly swung left, and the margin of victory for Republicans has shriveled from 27.2 percent in 2014 to 2.56 percent in 2018. Victory is more than achievable, but we need you to be able to succeed. You are the key. Do not give up. ■

Joey Casiano is a local artist/author working on his first novel. He serves on the Stone-wall Democrats of Dallas executive board and volunteers for the Bernie Sanders campaign.

# Leather unbound

Dave Carranza, left, and Markus serve Dallas' leather community from the Main Street shop.

After 15 years, Leather Masters evolves with the culture it has served

**JOHN CARDER MCCLANAHAN** |  
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In a backroom workshop on a stretch of Main Street in Deep Ellum, Michael Watts fastens shiny steel studs to a cane. A seamstress sits at a sewing machine and holds a black codpiece in place under a needle while another employee weaves threads through a piece of rawhide. The products they fashion might raise some eyebrows, but for those in love with the culture, they are gateways to nirvana.

Many think of leather as an instrument for looking fabulously macho, while others just consider it dead bo-

vine. But say the term "leather community," and you conjure something specific: People who immerse themselves in a taboo world (popularized in recent years by the popularity of *Fifty Shades of Grey*). For much of the gay community, of course, this has been common knowledge. And in North Texas, one reason has been Leather Masters.

For almost 15 years here, founder Dave Carranza sold wares geared for locals involved in leather subculture, which often includes elements of BDSM. Leather Masters has housed a galaxy of pansexual leatherwear — vests, cuffs, collars, masks, codpieces and various sex toys, and will continue to do so. But later this spring, Carranza will retire, and the store will change ownership and move its location.

After the ink dries on the paperwork, Carranza will hand the leash to Markus (he uses a mononym), who plans to

continue diversifying the shop's wares while keeping customer favorites. But more so than selling products for style and pleasure, Markus wants to use Leather Masters to educate the public about BDSM safety and eradicate negative social stigma tied to the lifestyle.

"Right now, we are in the full process of doing a full makeover of Leather Masters, a rejuvenation of it," says Markus. "We teach people about consent and how to follow protocols to make sure you're not offending someone. Not just consent between you and your partner, but also consent for those people that are around you. And we want to teach people how to do things safely to make sure no one's getting hurt. If you don't know what you're doing, someone could get really hurt. But where do you go for education?"

In 1989, Carranza and his partner at the time kickstarted the first Leather

Masters from their garage in San Jose, Calif. During the late '80s and '90s, Carranza was deep into the lifestyle and frequented California's few shops where leathermen could shop for a variety of their apparel.

"We would go into Mr. S and some other stores and say, 'Oh, I can make that,' and 'I can do that much cheaper,'" he says. "I was a stockbroker at the time, and I didn't want to wear a suit and tie to work. I said, 'Hey, let's go into business.' And then we bought a sewing machine."

Carranza operated the business operations, including selling items at community events, while his partner's sister sewed the products. Local leathermen loved the goods, and eventually a friend provided space for the shop in an upstairs room of a nightclub.

They catered the business primarily toward gay men, and after some success

and landing a permanent spot in San Jose, Carranza expanded locations to a storefront in Allentown, Penn., and inside San Antonio's Eagle bar. But wherever he opened a Leather Masters locale, opposition usually sprouted.

"I was in [Allentown] for about four-and-a-half years [before] I got flak from the city and building," Carranza says. "I said, 'OK, if you don't want me here, I'll leave.' At that time Leather by Boots [a leather shop in Dallas] contacted me about buying them out. And since I was going to be closing the store in Allentown and then the same time in San Antonio, I decided to move those two stores into Dallas."

In 2005, he opened North Texas' first Leather Masters. About six years ago, Carranza met Markus, who sold custom toys and engravings at community events, and asked him to join his team. Markus, a leather craftsman, apprenticed under a saddle-maker in his youth, and when he grew older, used his skills to craft floggers and paddles for personal use.

When Carranza opened the Dallas location, some people opposed having a store geared toward BDSM around.

But as tides changed, the establishment became more socially accepted, with more people becoming open to exploring leather culture.

"We're in what I classify as the 'grey' era, since *Fifty Shades of Grey* came out and became more public," Markus says. "It opened up a whole new perspective to a lot of people that were interested in kinky things and either weren't aware of it or didn't know how to express it or didn't know what to call it. So we have a lot of new people coming into this."

Leather Masters sponsors a nonprofit dedicated to providing correct information for people interested in the lifestyle. Markus says they teach everything from the basics to advanced practices both for newcomers and seasoned enthusiasts, holding workshops with guest presenters in-store and at community events away as far as Jamaica and Budapest. But wherever they teach, the masters want to stress the importance of proper communication for those engaging in leather-play or BDSM.

"When you're going to play, whether it's with a flogger or a set of cuffs,

■ UNBOUND Page 20



### May the best hides win

It's probable that over the years, Leather Masters has supplied all or part of the ensemble that has won a few contestants the title of Mr. Texas Leather. We don't know whether this year's winner will be so bedecked, but someone will take the title soon.

On Saturday, Dallas' leather community will assemble to celebrate leather. And once again, leather-lovers have another opportunity to witness the crowning of Mr. and Ms. Texas Leather at Dallas Eagle. Contestants will snap on and zip up their favorite leatherwear to show off in front of a panel of judges, after having conducted private interviews and shown their fundraising skills at this unique pageant. And the contest might be the perfect place to meet the men and women who champion North Texas' leather and BDSM culture.

— John Carder McClanahan

Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Feb. 1.

# Stay Classy Dallas!



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# A Boi's life

World premiere play 'Andi Boi' tackles trans teen issues for a youth audience

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
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**A**ndi has been home-schooled since fifth grade, but now that he's entering high school, he wants a more traditional educational experience — he craves a locker and lunchroom talk and mostly a tribe of friends: Not a huge hurdle for most kids, but the decision is ripe with tension and apprehension for Andi and his mom because Andi is transgender and has never had to “pass” before. So the concept of being outed — as gay and trans — is terrifying for parent and child alike.

That's the premise of *Andi Boi*, a world premiere

**ANDI BOI**  
Rosewood Center  
for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St.  
Feb. 7–16. DCT.org.

play by Dallas playwright and director Bruce Coleman. And while its just a one-act with a brief two-weekend run (beginning on Feb. 7), its journey has been a long, challenging and ultimately gratifying one for all involved — not just Coleman, but actor Zander Pryor and producer Robyn Flatt.

The germ of the play dates back more than two years. Starting about a decade ago, Flatt — founder and artistic director of the Dallas Children's Theater — commissioned a piece for DCT, *The Secret Lives of Girls*, to address the concern of teen bullying. The production was a hit (DCT revived it just last year), and it has gone on to be performed around the country. Knowing she was open to current concepts that speak to minors, Flatt's executive assistant, Coy Covington, made a suggestion for a new play: One about transgender youth.

“At first I was like ‘Whoa!’” Flatt says. “But it fit in with what we have always been doing, which is telling stories about the world as seen from the perspective of a young person.”

Covington recommended Coleman — an experienced theater professional who



Zander Pryor, center, plays a trans kid in the world premiere play for teens 'Andi Boi.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

has acted, directed, written, designed and served in just about every function imaginable in theater — to write the play. At first, the commission intimidated him a little.

“Not being a trans person myself, I really needed to start with people I know [who are],” Coleman says. He reached out for help to Zander Pryor, himself a trans-masculine teenager with a theater background. (“I have basically grown up here [at DCT],” Pryor says.) Coleman sent a questionnaire to Pryor and his mom Wendy to help make himself comfortable with the issues and terminology — about 25 topics he wanted their input on. “Using those answers, I started formulating a play,” Coleman says.

Coleman finished a draft and presented it as part of a small festival being hosted by DCT. He thought that would probably be the end of the project. But everyone knew they had something more.

“We eventually did five developmental readings,” Flatt says — an unusually large number for a new work, especially one aimed at a youth audi-

ence. Throughout the process, the play evolved.

“I had a [trans] friend who said it needed to be darker — it needed to be worse for Andi,” Coleman says. Ultimately, he and Flatt agreed that wasn't the play they wanted.

“I wanted to make it about kindness and understanding, and especially I did not want to make it dark and stay in the dark. We don't shy away [from the serious issues], but there's a lot of humor. Humor allows the audience to step into a room they are familiar with [and engage more with the topic]. We also wanted to keep away from vilifying religion. We want [all audiences] to approach the play [without feeling attacked].”

Part of the challenge was to write in the contemporary vernacular of teens “without it sounding creepy,” Coleman jokes. He works with many young people and had a sense for how teens talk, but Pryor actually assisted in refining some of the dialogue.

“Initially it felt like it was written for

**LIFE+STYLE**  
stage

younger kids,” Pryor says. Coleman teen-i-fied it. And the play used to end with the adults solving problems for the kids, Flatt notes, but “now it's Andi who speaks up at the end.” (“That was so easy to do!” adds Coleman.)

When it came to casting the production, Coleman and Flatt both wanted an actual trans teen and Pryor seemed to be the ideal choice — although, as Coleman stresses, “this is not Zander's story,” despite some surface similarities.

“How is Andi like me?” Pryor ponders. “Definitely the nerdiness. And we are both close to our moms. But when I started transitioning, going stealth was an absurd possibility, though I initially wanted to be stealth. I am definitely more on the Caitlyn Jenner side [of trans] than the Gwen Araujo side. The hardest part has been [me] rationalizing some of the decisions Andi makes.”

But Pryor has taken ownership of the work alongside Coleman — it's the first time in his career he's been on the ground floor of the creative process of

■ LIFE Page 20





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# Hot number

BMW's X2 M35i is a bit intense

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

BMW's are usually delightful cars to drive, but some of the M editions can be a bit intense with their stiff suspensions, tight steering and right-now throttle response. One could argue that's exactly how a performance car should behave, and if you don't like it buy something else. But should a compact crossover be that intense? The 2019 X2 M35i answers the question.

It's a sexy little compact crossover, sports activity coupe or whatever BMW wants to call it. It looks like an X3 was shrunk and squished down over hulking 20-in. wheels. Up front,



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BMW's wide kidney grille is flanked by curve-following LED headlamps. An aero kit, rear spoiler and painted brake calipers bring on the glitzy performance references. In some ways, it's kinda cute, but in others, it looks like it will eat your head off. Seems perfect for a BMW.

Inside, BMW's driver-focused cabin is all business. A thick M leather-wrapped steering wheel falls at hand with large analog gauges behind it. A heads-up display keeps eyes forward. Our car came with M Sport front seats with extendable lower cushions, in Magma Red Dakota leather. The orange-red hue makes a bold statement, especially as it extends to the dash and carpet. I love it.

Sweet Harman/Kardon audio, panoramic sunroof, navigation and automatic climate control also found favor. Connect with Bluetooth, USBs and Apple CarPlay. Safety is enhanced with adaptive cruise, park distance control, lane departure warning and front crash warning. It's a little difficult to see out of this bunker, so the rearview camera



is a must.

Wedged under the low hood is a turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder engine, connected to a paddle-shifted 8-speed automatic transmission that delivers a potent 302 horsepower and 332 lb.-ft. of torque. It all routes to the road through an upgraded xDrive all-wheel-drive system with limited slip differential and launch control. BMW claims 0-60 mph runs of just 4.9 seconds — blitzing fast for a vehicle in this segment. You'll want to stay off the throttle to see 23/29-MPG city/highway.

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>'19 M35i</b><br/> <b>BMW. 302 horsepower 2.0-liter T4.</b><br/> <b>23/29 MPG city/hwy.</b><br/> <b>Base/As-tested price:</b><br/> <b>\$36,400/\$55,020.</b></p> |
|---|

Along with the track-tuned powertrain is a chassis to match. As appropriate, the M35i comes with stiffer spring and damper rates, lower ride height and quicker ratio steering that seems linked to the driver's synapses. While it comes with electronically adjustable dampers, in no mode would you call the ride "comfortable." It's a seriously stiff little whipper, lurching over road bumps. It also takes finesse to keep from lighting off rockets when you touch the throttle. Nothing is subtle, and it's all a bit much for daily commutes.

But on open Interstate and fast tracks, the M35i is an absolute joy. It goes like a kicked jackrabbit and grips corners by their necks. The exterior and interior both look like they came from a concept car. It's a beautiful composition, even if it feels like it is trying too hard to prove its M credentials.

One more area is a bit intense: A base price for the X2 of \$36,400, or \$55,020 as-tested in full M accoutrement. That's fully competitive with the Mercedes-AMG GLA45, Volkswagen Golf R, Cadillac XT4 Sport and Audi Q3 S Line.

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■ UNBOUND From Page 15

you're doing it right and you're doing it with someone who understands what you're doing, everybody is on the up and up. Because it's consensual," Markus says.

"Another part of that too is the space where you're doing it," adds Carranza. "The people at the bar that go have a drink may not want to see that. So, if you're going to be doing a scene, make sure the people around you consent to be there."

Two years ago, Carranza closed the

San Jose shop, leaving Dallas as the last brick-and-mortar way to visit Leather Masters (it also sells widely through its website). Markus says he will expand on the pansexual concept Carranza integrated for items sold both in-store and online. The Deep Ellum store will remain open until the spring when it will move away from the edginess of Deep Ellum to Northwest Highway and 635, on the border of suburban Garland. Along with more space to design works, he says the new location will



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feature 400-square-foot classrooms for the house and similar charities to hold educational workshops.

For the upcoming year, Markus plans trips to Amsterdam to teach classes and partner with Hedonism, a resort club in Jamaica, to host a Pride expo. But most important to Markus is the desire for people to engage in the culture and to feel safe and unjudged wherever they go.

"It's kind of like, go into an ice cream shop, and everybody's ordering strawberry except that one person who orders chocolate," he says. "You can't get pissed off because they ordered chocolate. Just because they don't like strawberry, doesn't make them wrong. If you don't like it then don't be around it. You have that choice."

*Leather Masters, currently at 3000 Main St., will relocate to 12620 E. Northwest Highway in April. LeatherMasters.com.*

■ LIFE From Page 16

show, and of course the topic is near and dear to him. About 40 percent of trans youth have attempted or committed suicide, he notes, and addressing the issues related to being transgender are essential to community-wide understanding of the unique difficulties faced by trans kids.

Pryor admits he's still triggered by "dead naming" — when someone refers to Pryor by his (feminine) birth name, which he closely guards — because it reminds him of who he was, a person who was "mentally ill and miserable. And whatever my issues now," he's finally at home in his own skin.

"[The play] is about a moment of truth in Andi's life," Coleman says. "It's about him finding friends and finding his truth."

That's true for Pryor, too ... and perhaps all of us.



Friday 01.31 – Sunday 02.02

Cometh a Fair Assembly to Verona

Fair Assembly, a new Dallas-based theater company founded by SMU dance, music and theater alums, presents its debut production with *Romeo and Juliet*. After a successful crowdfunding campaign, company founders Emily Ernst (pictured; she also plays Juliet), Joshua L. Peugh (founder and artistic director of Dallas' Dark Circles Contemporary Dance) and Baltimore-based actor Chris Rutherford are codirecting Shakespeare's classic doomed romance with a one-weekend-only run.

**DEETS:** Arts Mission Oak Cliff, 410 S. Windomere Ave. \$15-\$20.

Friday 02.07 – Saturday 02.08

TITAS brings Ballet Biarritz back to Dallas

A few years ago, French dance company Malandain Ballet Biarritz came to Dallas to perform *Cinderella*, but luggage with the sets, props and costumes never made it to town. But even without the stage gear, Ballet Biarritz gave audiences a brilliant performance on the spot. Now the renowned company spins back into Dallas with *everything* to mesmerize North Texans with the complete presentation of *Cinderella/Cendrillon*.

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.



Tuesday 02.04 – Sunday 02.23

'Band's Visit' marches into Winspear

Heralded as one of the best musicals of the 2010s, *The Band's Visit* gave Broadway audiences a taste of authentic Middle Eastern characters void of negative stereotypes in a compelling story of companionship. An Egyptian police orchestra arrives

lost in foreign land — a small town in Israel — but with help from a new acquaintance, the band discovers beauty away from home. Based on the 2007 film of the same name, this winner of 10 Tony Awards, featuring all the musicians onstage, makes its regional debut as a co-production of Dallas Summer Musicals and the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasSummerMusicals.org. ATPAC.org.

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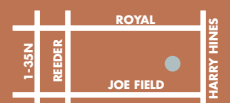
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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Ada and the Engine.** Regional premiere of Lauren Gunderson's play about the real-life woman, daughter of Lord Byron, who in the mid-19th century pioneered the first computer. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 9. StageWest.org.

**One Man, Two Guvnors.** A Mod 1960s farce. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Jan. 31–March 7. CircleTheatre.org.

**Romeo & Juliet.** Presented by a new company, Fair Assembly. Arts Mission Oak Cliff, 410 S. Windomere Ave. Through Feb. 2. ArtsMissionOC.com.

**To Be Young, Gifted and Black.** Just in time for Black History Month, Jubilee Theatre stages this play from the writings of Lorraine Hansberry. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 23. JubileeTheatre.org.

**Zombie Dearest.** One of the camp melodramas at Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Feb. 15. PocketSandwich.com.

#### INSTALLATION

**PY1.** A light and music pop-up installation, with two shows (Through the Echoes and the family-style Stella: The Time Machine Journey) it also becomes a late-night dance club with themes on select weekend nights. 1550 Convention Center Drive, Arlington. Through March 1. Visit PY1.com for details

### FRIDAY 01.31

#### DANCE

**Delfos Danza Contemporanea.** The modern Mexican dance company performs through TITAS/Dance Unbound. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

### MONDAY 02.02

#### CABARET

**Mama's Party.** Amy Stevenson's weekly show featuring talented singers. Mainstage, 222 E. Irving Blvd., Irving. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

### TUESDAY 02.03

#### FILM

**The Women.** One of the only films ever made with an exclusive female cast, this adaptation of Clare Boothe Luce's catty play set the standard for woman empowerment. Stars Norma Shearer ("Jungle red!"), Joan Crawford and Rosalind Russell. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

#### THEATER

**The Band's Visit.** Based on the hit arthouse film, this 10-time Tony Award winner about an Egyptian police band who spend a day stranded in Israel is full of rich music. A co-presentation between Dallas Summer

Musicals and AT&T Performing Arts Center. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Feb. 4–23. DallasSummerMusicals.org. ATPAC.org.

### WEDNESDAY 02.05

#### COMMUNITY

**The Queer Off All Stars: The Winter Games.** Contestants from season 1 and 2 return for this elimination-style talent show for the queer community. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 10:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY 02.06

#### CABARET

**Glitterbomb Denton.** Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

## this week's solution

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**browse**

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

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To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

Friday  
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# Cassie Nova

Going old school when the Wi-Fi goes out

Hello friends and weirdos. I realized something this week: If the terrorists really want to hit us where it counts, all they have to do is take out our Wi-Fi. Then we will be rendered helpless, isolated and confused.

I woke up this past Wednesday morning eager to do a whole lotta nuthin'. I had a complete day off, and all I wanted to do was veg out in front of the TV under a blanket and enjoy the rain. Maybe have a bowl or three of Lucky Charms and snuggle up with the pups till dinner.

That did not happen. I woke up to no wi-fi, no cable, no nuthin'.

I spent a huge part of the morning on the phone with AT&T U-verse trying to figure out why they hated me so much. They don't make the process very easy, either. First you have to yell into the phone an insane bunch of numbers and confirm a thousand things before you ever even get down to business. And, of course, it is all automated — but the second you finally get to talk to a real person, the whole process starts over.

I was like, "Didn't I just tell your automated system all of this information?" And "Brian" says, "Yes ma'am, but I need to verify your information once more, and then we will be on the way to figuring out why your shit ain't working."

I'm paraphrasing a bit.

Then "Brian" tells me, "Unplug some shit, wait 10 seconds and plug said shit in again."

Nothing. Then he says that my router is out, and he's gonna send me one in the next three to five days.

"Three to five days?!" I yell. "Oh hell no! I need this shit fixed a lot sooner. I can't be home alone with just my thoughts that long."

He said he could send out a repair man, but it would cost \$99, and he couldn't be there till tomorrow morning. I said, "That's fine, I guess. I can go old-school for one 24-hour period."

It would be fun, I thought, living like we were in olden times. Watching DVDs (remember them?), talking to my husband — you know, crazy shit like that. Very old school.

I hang up the phone with "Brian" and start my day in a completely different way. I made my lunch and sat quietly as I ate. I then cleaned the house and did laundry. I even got out some paints and did a little art project. I was so fuckin' productive that I was kind of ashamed I don't have that kind of day more often.

Oh, and that was only the first 4 hours of living without Wi-Fi.

Luckily, we had company that evening. Our good friends Tyler and Brandon brought over their new pug puppy to have a play date with our pups. Nothing takes your mind



off of not being able to binge some show like a house full of dogs running around and having a great time. Their puppy, Theo, is adorable and so much fun. Theo and our dogs immediately bonded and played enough to wear everybody out. There is no better dog than a worn out dog; sleepy puppies are the best.

We had dinner, and, after company left, we stepped into the past and plugged in the DVD player. Luckily, we had some DVDs here that we hadn't watched. We have Season 1 of *The Goldbergs* and watched a few episodes of that. Then we watched the director's cut of the '90s horror classic *Nightbreed*. B.T. Dubs, the director's cut added about 30 minutes of extra footage and is worth the viewing if you liked the movie.

The next morning, I get up way earlier

than I ever do to wait for the repair man to come and save me from my thoughts. He gets there, walks in and sees two red blinking lights and says, "Your problem is outside the house." He walks out and drives away; I was like, "What the fuck just happened?!"

He returned about 40 minutes later and told me that the construction crew that is working down the street cut our cable, and he is an inside cable guy, but what I needed was an outside cable guy. Long story short, my Wi-Fi was finally fixed about 5 p.m. that day. Luckily, I didn't have to pay for anything, since it was an "outside" problem. Silver linings, I guess.

I know what you are all thinking: "What an interesting and fabulous life you lead." Sorry, but this is what my week consisted of. Even famous drag queens — known for miles and miles, all over the North Texas area — have

problems too. We really are ... Just Like You.

Ok, now I am just being stupid.

Side note: I finally binged *The Mandalorian*. I loved it, but now I am feeling like I shouldn't have binged it so fast. I should have watched one a week and made it last longer. I hate this feeling. On one hand, I love to binge watch shows. But when they are really great, I am left feeling like I miss it. On the other hand, I don't have the self-control to not binge if it is available.

It's the same feeling I get when I am reading a book that I love, and I start to get near the end. I try to savor the last chapters and even try to read slower to make it last just a little bit longer. It's stupid, I know — the fabulous problems we have when the Wi-Fi is working. Thank you, Baby Yoda.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.



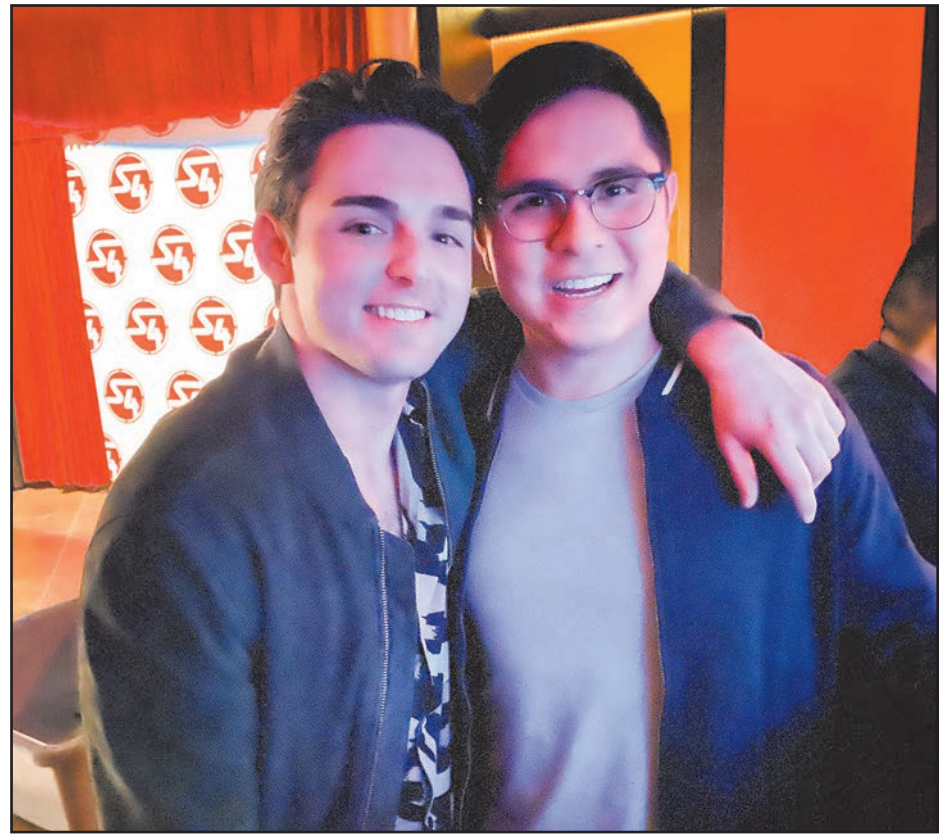


### Making the SCENE the week of Jan. 31–Feb. 6:

- **1851 Club:** Beyonshade Starr, Kristie Davenport and Jaden Davenport on Friday. Candi Carrol, Chanel St. John and Nia Courtland on Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** Super Bowl party with free food beginning at noon on Sunday.
- **Alexandre's:** Vero Voz y Compania on Friday. Stephanie Sallie on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Geeks Who Drink at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Club Changes:** That's the Way Love Goes from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** The Queer Studz Show music at 9 p.m. and show at 11 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Dirty Pop with DJ Drew G starts at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Diablos Cook Out from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Show at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Hidden Door:** Firedancers Annual Soup-R Bowl Cookoff from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday. T-Bear Club Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday. Cher-e-oke from 7-10 on Thursday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show on Monday. Double Trouble on Tuesday. Dream Girls on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Talent night with Chanel Champagne and Sapphire Davenport at 10:15 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Magnum:** Throwback Thursday with DJ Joze at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live:** Miss Wanda from 9 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.
- **Pekers:** Super Bowl party with complimentary hot dogs, chili and all the fixin's starting at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs! with Sassy O'hara at 10 p.m. on Monday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Open mic night with 24 spots and 5-7 minute sets from 8-11 p.m. on Monday. Tuesday Tease at 9:30 p.m. Queer Off at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** Dextaci on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC:** The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesday at TMC.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Super Bowl party with no cover on Sunday. Full sound, half-time with J-Lo and Shakira and super games by Wrecking Crew.

Photos by Chad Mantooth and Nicholas Gonzalez

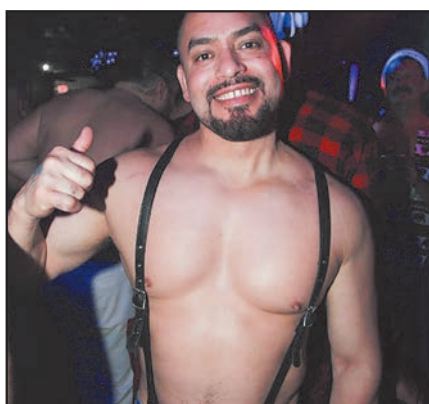
## Seen around The Strip



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## q-puzzle

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Solution on Page 23

Across

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 5 Women live together here  
 10 Sally who rode into space  
 14 Nat. counterpart in MLB  
 15 "Scary Movie" Cheri  
 16 River in Nureyev's homeland  
 17 The first openly transgender person to appear on the cover of *Time*, in 2014  
 19 Where to vote against Trump  
 20 Scene with Mary  
 21 Olympic diver Greg  
 23 Reagon of the Big Lovely band  
 25 Aetna rival, for short  
 26 Thigh-length skirts  
 29 Old Spanish queen  
 31 *Full House* twin name  
 35 Of a rear entrance  
 36 California city  
 38 *In Cold Blood* writer, to pals  
 39 Monae, who came out as pansexual in 2018  
 41 Apple CEO who just came out in 2014  
 43 Xtra's prov.  
 44 Production  
 46 Locale of valuable stones  
 47 Peewee or Della

49 Granola lesbian's bit

- 50 Maupin stories  
 51 Blow away  
 53 Picture puzzle  
 55 Homes of women who don't do guys  
 59 Dwell (on)  
 63 Marlene's role in "Blue Angel"  
 64 She wore a Pride Flag to the Met Gala in 2018  
 66 10 C-notes  
 67 Leave your lover in bed  
 68 Cock's cry  
 69 Strip a fruit  
 70 Push forward  
 71 Game groups, to Billy Jean

Down

- 1 It might go right to the bottom  
 2 Barbra's *Funny Girl* guy  
 3 Campbell of *The Company*  
 4 Type of dysfunction  
 5 Puts an edge on  
 6 Piggied out  
 7 Get ready for sex in an easy chair  
 8 Switch suffix  
 9 Snafu  
 10 Drag queen of *Drag Race* which premiered in 2009  
 11 Branding tool  
 12 Lover of Lorca, perhaps  
 13 Pipe elbows  
 18 Greek consonants  
 22 One who handles your horse  
 24 *From \_\_\_ Eternity*  
 26 Ursa \_\_\_ (nighttime bear)  
 27 Bananas  
 28 "Divine Comedy" poet  
 30 Penetrating  
 32 Seat at the Stonewall Inn  
 33 Lose ground  
 34 Cooks in a hurry  
 36 Sore throat producer  
 37 Mar. basketball tourney  
 40 *My Fair Lady* composer  
 42 *Moby Dick*, et al.  
 45 Edible root  
 48 Dan, cofounder of "It Gets Better" in 2010  
 50 Biggest brass instrument  
 52 Big name in Chinese history  
 54 Something you have when you have guts  
 55 Hoofbeat of a stallion  
 56 Eugene O'Neill's daughter  
 57 NY Met or LA Dodger  
 58 School year division  
 60 Verb of Verlaine  
 61 I \_\_\_ *Andy Warhol*  
 62 Works under Edith Head, perhaps  
 65 Org. for bears

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