

dallasvoice

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a call for JUSTICE

North Texas pastors join Moral Monday rally in El Paso

By David Taffet, Page 8



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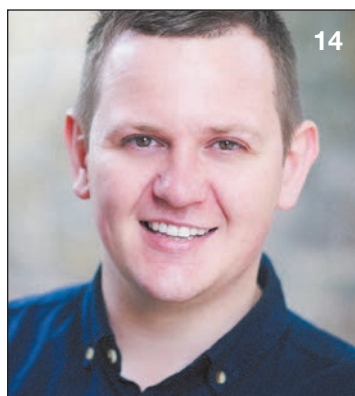
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9



14



19

headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Local pastors join border protest
- 9 Campaign addresses health inequities
- 10 Development in Oak Lawn

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 14 Kalburgi's valentine to Broadway
- 16 TCC announces 'XL' season
- 19 BOOKS: Tan France's 'Naturally'

■ ON THE COVER

Pastors crossing the border at El Paso. Photo courtesy the Rev. Rachel. Baughman. Design by Kevin Thomas.

departments

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 21 | Best Bets |
| 8 | News | 24 | Cassie Nova |
| 13 | Voices | 25 | Scene |
| 14 | Life+Style | 29 | MarketPlace |

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Tickets on sale now for Out In The Park at Six Flags

Six Flags over Texas in Arlington is once again showing its Pride with the newly-rebranded and revamped Out in the Park co-hosted once again this year by Dallas Voice and the Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The event will take place at the theme park at 2201 E. Road to Six Flags St. in Arlington on Sept. 15, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. There is an exciting new addition to the fun this year with an all-you-can-eat catered picnic from 2-4 p.m. at the park's large pavilion located between the Texas Giant and the Titan. The meal will include grilled chicken fillet, potato salad, garden salad, dinner rolls, cookies, Coca-Cola soft drinks and iced tea — in other words, something for everyone.

Tickets are available now online at SixFlags.com/OverTexas. When you get to the home page for Six Flags in Arlington, look in the upper-right corner of the page for the link that says "Enter Promo Code." Click that link and put in the code OutInThePark to get tickets specific to this event at the discounted price of \$48.45 plus tax. That includes parking, entry to the park and the catered picnic. (Kids 2 and under get in free.) You will also need to print out the separate parking voucher available after the purchase of the tickets.

Season pass holders can pay \$24.95 to get the free parking and admission to the picnic.

It is important to remember that there will be no day-of ticket sales, and the sale of the special tickets to Out In The Park ends precisely at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11. So get your tickets early!

— Joshua Kelley

Homeless trans woman stabbed in Austin

A homeless transgender woman in Austin was critically injured in an attack in which she was stabbed multiple times by a homeless man on July 26, according to Austin's Fox 7. Darnel Esco has been arrested for the assault.

The attack happened in an encampment along Waller Creek Trail near The Arch, which is in downtown Austin near I-35 and the Colorado River.

Since 2018, Darnel Esco has been arrested for six aggravated assaults, including two other stabbings. Minutes before attacking the

woman, Esco reportedly told another woman living in the encampment that he was going to stab her friend. A few minutes later, she told police, she heard her friend screaming then found her friend had, indeed, been stabbed.

The victim was left with portions of her intestines hanging outside her body, damage to her spleen that required part of the organ to be removed, and bone fractures to the back of her head.

— David Taffet

Texas LGBT Caucus opposes discriminatory health rule changes



Members of the Texas Legislature's LGBT Caucus sent a letter to Alex Azar, the secretary of the U.S. Department Health and Human Services denouncing plans to remove protections for LGBT people from the Health Care Rights law.

"We stand in strong opposition to rescinding the anti-discrimination protections under the Health Care Rights law," they wrote. "These protections ensure that the LGBTQ+ community and Limited English Proficiency individuals have access to quality health care as well as protect women's access to reproductive health needs."

The Texas lawmakers warned that enacting the proposed rule would negatively impact the LGBT community as well as women and Latinx Texans. LGBT women are almost twice as likely as non-LGBT women not to have a personal doctor because of fear or past experiences of discrimination, they wrote.

The letter is signed by the five LGBT women serving in the Texas House of Representatives as well as 17 caucus members, including Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, who chairs the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus. LGBT caucus founder Mary Gonzalez, D-Clint, co-chairs MALC. Locally, Rep. Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, also signed the letter.

On his Facebook page, Anchia wrote that anyone who would like to make a public comment on the issue should do so at ProtectTransHealth.org.

— David Taffet

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THE GAY AGENDA



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

AUGUST

• Aug. 2: United Court

UCLSE presents Hot Country, benefiting Safe To Be, from 7-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• Aug. 3: Rainbow Salsa classes

Classes offering instruction in Puerto Rican-style salsa basic moves for singles and couples will be from 10 a.m.-noon at Trinity Metropolitan Community Church, 933 E. Ave. J, Grand Prairie. \$35 for four classes. For information visit TrinityMCC.org.

• Aug. 3: Prime Timers

B-A-F at 12:30 p.m. at 2 Guys from Italy, 11637 Webb Chapel Road. RSVP. For information or to RSVP visit PrimeTimersww.net/dfw.

• Aug. 3: Drag Diva Brunch

Doors open at 11 a.m. Show at noon at House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. Tickets at DragDiva.com/dallas-tx.

• Aug. 3: Creating Change volunteer training

Creating Change returns to Dallas in January 2020. This meeting is for people

interested in volunteering and becoming involved with the conference from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For information visit CreatingChange.org.

• Aug. 3: HRC Coast Back in to School

School supply drive benefiting Jonathan's Place from 4-6 p.m. at Thunderbird Roller Rink, 3200 Thunderbird Lane, Plano. For information visit DFWFederalClub.org.

• Aug. 3: Landmark Dinner

The Landmark Dinner, the annual fundraiser for Lambda Legal, honors state Rep. Julie Johnson and is hosted by Steve Noviello at 6 p.m. at The Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce St. Tickets at LambdaLegal.org.

• Aug. 4: NOH8

Cocktails and conversation with Wil supports the NoH8 campaign from 2-4 p.m. in the Great Room on the second floor of W Dallas, 2440 Victory Park Lane.

• Aug. 5: TTSG

Tyler Transgender Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in Genecov Room, Tyler Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler. TylerAreaGays.com.

• Aug. 6: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's,

4617 Maple Ave. For more information visit ClassicChassis.com.

• Aug. 6: Prime Timers

First Tuesday lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane.

• Aug. 6: Oak Lawn Committee meeting

Membership limited to those who live, work or own property in Oak Lawn at 6:30 p.m. at The Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave.

• Aug. 8: Business Connections Mixer

North Texas GLBT Chamber mixer from 5:30-7 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, The Quadrangle, 2800 Routh St. Suite 140. Free to chamber members and guests.

• Aug. 9: DFW Pride Happy Hour

Happy hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mattito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

• Aug. 9-10: Our Stories

Youth First presents Our Stories, a showcase of monologues, poetry, music, dance and more as part of Youth First's Creative Works Summer Program from 7-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Aug. 10: Silver Pride Project

Movie night from 5:30-8 p.m. at Grauwylar Library, 2146 Gilford St. SilverPrideProject.com.



Steve Noviello hosts the annual Landmark Dinner, a fundraiser for Lambda Legal, on Saturday, Aug. 3. See listings for details.

• Aug. 11: Prime Timers

Games hosted in Carrollton by Brian at 2 p.m. Call for directions 214-218-0912.

• Aug. 12: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting

The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guest is counselor Candy Marcum; **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 Grauwylar 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 a.m.-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.; **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; 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; **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 Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Thrive support group** from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625.

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.

• **Aug. 12: Women's dinner**

Tyler Area Gays women's group dinner at 6 p.m. at Chuy's, 5935 S. Broadway, Tyler. TylerAreaGays.com.

• **Aug. 13: Grief group**

Grief group for persons who have lost a same-sex spouse meets the second and fourth Tuesdays each month from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 13: Prime Timers**

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Saltgrass, 13561 N. Central Expressway. RSVP.

• **Aug. 13: East Texas PFLAG**

East Texas PFLAG meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Genecov Room, Tyler Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler. TylerAreaGays.com.

• **Aug. 13: Pathfinders**

Pathfinders group is a community

resource for trans masculine individuals (including non-binary trans masculine people and binary trans men), age 18+ in the North Texas/DFW area. Meets the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Oak Lawn Library Auditorium, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 14: PFLAG Longview**

PFLAG Longview meets from 7-8:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 301 N. Center St., Longview. TylerAreaGays.com.

• **Aug. 15: Rainbow LULAC-BEB school supply drive**

Rainbow LULAC and Congregation Beth El Binah team up once again for a school supply drive for Oak Lawn-area schools. LULAC will also announce its scholarship winners. Drop-off at 7 p.m. at Havana, 4006 Cedar Springs Road.

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Local pastors join Moral Monday protest

500 clergy travel to El Paso to visit children's detention center but are denied entry

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

About 500 clergy marched to the immigrant children's detention center near El Paso, news spread among marchers of a five-year-old boy inside the facility who tried to hang himself with his own shoelaces, according to Congregation Beth El Binah's cantor, Don Croll.

Five groups organized the rally. The Rev. William Barber's group Moral Monday was the principal organizer, and the Border Network for Human Rights and the Poor People's Campaign were among the others.

Croll was one of the representatives of the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism participating in the protest.

"The same forces caging mothers and fathers and making children drink out of the toilet," Barber said, are working against LGBT rights, are supporting tax cuts for the wealthy and are using racism to divide the country.

Several faith leaders, including Barber, RAC President Rabbi Rick Jacobs and Imam Omar Suleiman of Irving, crossed the border to see the dangerous conditions refugees were enduring in Juarez as they wait to enter the U.S. Upon return, only Suleiman was detained. The others waited for him as he was interrogated.

Border patrol agents asked him inane questions like, "Have you heard of ISIS?"

Suleiman is under a fatwa, or death sentence, from ISIS for his peaceful views and his work with other religious groups. So yes, he's more than heard of them.

Agents asked him repeatedly, "Where are you from?" Normally when people tell him to go back where he came from, Suleiman jokes that although he likes



Dallas area clergy joined pastors from around the country to protest at the ICE Detention Center in El Paso

New Orleans, where he was born, he prefers Dallas.

His two-hour detention was no joke, however. But Suleiman, born a U.S. citizen, usually suffers such harassment when he returns to the U.S.

Preparing for Moral Monday and the march of clergy to the ICE Detention Center, Barber sent word to the facility located next to El Paso Airport that clergy have arrived in the city to minister to the children who are being held. They weren't exactly denied entry, Croll said. Their request to visit the children was simply ignored.

Cathedral of Hope's senior pastor, the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas, made his first trip to El Paso for Moral Monday. He said that although he didn't see any children, just seeing the facility was horrifying.

"Seeing the size of the place — in the middle of the desert, the heat, the humidity, no shade," he said. "Children are kept there with no outdoor space."

Cazares-Thomas said he couldn't imagine his 5-year-old daughter being held in such conditions.

"The height of the wall and security



that surrounds it," Cazares-Thomas said, magnified the horror.

The children, he continued, should have been allowed the pastoral care of the 500 clergy standing at the gates. By refusing that, he said, Border Patrol agents were denying the children their constitutional rights.

Clergy of all faiths took part in Moral Monday — and not just those of tra-

ditionally more liberal denominations. Evangelical ministers, usually seen as Trump allies, also were present.

What binds different faiths together is a tradition of social justice, Cazares-Thomas said. "Whether it was the Koran, the Talmud or the Christian Bible, 'Do unto others' was a tenet that united us," he said.

Croll was even more specific. He quoted a commandment from Leviticus: "Do not stand idly by while your neighbor bleeds." That was one of the reasons, he said, that he needed to be in El Paso this week.

Oak Lawn United Methodist Church's pastor, the Rev. Rachel Baughman, has made several trips to the border. She described what she saw in El Paso on Monday as overwhelming and among the most horrifying things she's observed. Mothers with young children would

Butt-oning Up

New awareness campaign highlights healthcare inequities for LGBT people

MATHEW SHAW | Contributing Writer
mathews.yb@gmail.com

It is the summer of booty, and some people are flashing their cakes for other reasons than to beat the heat and catch some eye.

#WeNeedAButton, launched in June, encourages participants to take butt selfies (“belfies”) to bring awareness to healthcare inequities that LGBTQ people often face. The goal is to encourage patient matching sites to create buttons for queer-friendly doctors.

“When we came up with the idea of a button, it had the word ‘butt’ in it,” campaign ambassador Zachary Zane explained. “It’s fun; it’s playful; it has the pun. The butt itself is kind of a symbol of a lot of queer sexual issues.”

Participants take selfies with their rear-end facing the camera — with their clothes on! — and post the picture onto social media with the hashtag “WeNeed-aButton.” Already, Laganja Estranja of *RuPaul’s Drag Race* has tweeted support for the campaign with her own “belfie.”

The campaign launched June 25 at World Pride in New York City, and hundreds of people participated, recalled Lavanya DJ, managing director for Hudson Cutler, a marketing company that develops ideas for business and social challenges.

“We got over 300 pictures, close to 1,000 people who participated,” DJ said.

DJ added that she and Zane are talking to patient matching sites to encourage them to mark queer-friendly doctors with a button.

“We’re asking that all of these places actually have these filters,” she explained. “So if you go to Yelp to look for your doctor or book your doctor, we are able to easily find these doctors.”

According to the campaign’s website, waxoh.com/weneedabutton, LGBT people have no way of knowing if their doctor is LGBT-friendly until they have a negative experience. Part of the catalyst



Laganja Estranja promoted #WeNeedAButton with her own “belfie.”

for the campaign was Zane’s own negative experience with a doctor.

As a bisexual man, Zane said he had a difficult time persuading his doctor to put him on PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, which prevents HIV-negative people from catching the AIDS virus.

“I go in [and] I tell the doctor I want to get on PrEP; he doesn’t even know what that is,” he recalled. “He said he wouldn’t feel comfortable prescribing it. He said, ‘If you’re bisexual, you shouldn’t need this kind of medication. You should only sleep with women.’”

Zane recalled another instance was when he went to an urgent care clinic to get tested for gonorrhea.

“This woman starts berating me,” he said. “She said, ‘Two months ago you were in here with syphilis.’ I said, ‘I didn’t have syphilis, I got tested for syphilis.’ She said, ‘This condom talk is falling on deaf ears.’”

Zane added that he does not use condoms and instead protects himself with PrEP. He said a queer doctor would understand his choice not to use condoms.

“If I had a queer doctor, of course they would push condoms as they should, but also they would understand my choice, my decisions,” he stated. “After this, I’m no longer going to a straight doctor. I’m

BUTT, Page 12

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The Future of Oak Lawn

BY CITIZEN DALLAS

Editor's Note: The following was submitted to Dallas Voice by an Oak Lawn resident and a career professional in urban development. As a member of the Oak Lawn Committee, Citizen Dallas has asked that their identity remain anonymous.

Oak Lawn, like Dallas as a whole, is experiencing a great deal of change. A strong economy and impressive job growth combined with increased demand for urban living has created immense pressure to build new multi-family housing in the core of the city. And much like the neighborhood, the Oak Lawn Committee — the volunteer body created to protect the neighborhood — is also experiencing a sizeable shift. Unable to serve its intended function, the now-bloated, unwieldy organization the neighborhood relies on and so desperately needs is in need of a revitalization of its own.

The future of the neighborhood depends on it.

Due to its central location, numerous amenities and notable cultural history, Oak Lawn has been one of the neighborhoods most dramatically affected by Dallas' urban renaissance. Beginning in the 1960s, the once-sleepy, middle-class, single-family neighborhood south of Highland Park transitioned into a denser multi-family neighborhood, with small apartment buildings and townhomes replacing old craftsman homes.

The last decade has seen a further increase in density. Old multi-family and single-family homes are being torn down to construct multi-story, wood frame multi-family buildings. And most recently, the western side of Oak Lawn Avenue received its first proposal for a concrete-frame high-rise construction in the form of a 240-foot, 21-story apartment tower proposed by Streetlights

Residential.

The pressure for more housing in the city and in Oak Lawn is pushing developers into denser, more expensive products. Calls for affordable housing and concerns about gentrification are addressed with little or no substantive action, with few if any affordable units being created in towering new developments.

As a result, many are growing concerned about losing the neighborhood they have come to know, love and call home.

Development pressure is nothing new for the neighborhood and served as the impetus for the creation of the Oak Lawn Committee in the 1980s. The neighborhood historically served as a buffer between the Park Cities and the predominately black and Hispanic neighborhoods of State-Thomas and Little Mexico (known as Uptown since its rebranding in 1989).

The LGBT culture in Oak Lawn, facilitated by predominantly white-owned, gay-oriented businesses, moved in during the 1960s through the 1980s due to its marginal desirability and affordable rent. As adjacent neighborhoods boomed (through the destruction of mi-

nority neighborhoods), Oak Lawn became more desirable.

The development changes in the neighborhood came to a head in 1983 when a neighborhood landmark, the Esquire Theater then located on the current site of Eatzi's, was torn down. As a result, the Oak Lawn Plan was written, and the Oak Lawn Committee was established to review neighborhood development and ensure its compatibility with the vision of the area.

(For note, the Oak Lawn Plan, known at City Hall as PD 193, is a large geography stretching from Javier's Mexican Restaurant north of Knox Street south to the Perot Museum and west to Inwood Road).

The Oak Lawn Committee, as stated in its by-laws, was established to bring together neighborhood groups and other interests to represent the Oak Lawn community. Anyone who works or lives in the neighborhood can serve on the committee so long as they pay \$50 in annual dues and uphold attendance requirements.

Ultimately, the organization is an advisory panel that simply provides feedback and supports or does not support proposed projects. Their recommendation gets shared with the developers and passed along to City Hall, City Plan Commission and City Council representatives, who take their recommendation under consideration. The organization's decisions have historically been well-respected by elected officials in Oak Lawn.

Recently, due to the aforementioned development pressures in Oak Lawn

and Uptown, the committee has been at the forefront of controversial zoning cases, the most recent being the proposed 21-story tower at the Lemmon/Oak lawn intersection.

The new wave of development in the neighborhood, along with structural changes on the committee, have caused a great deal of change on the Oak Lawn Committee in recent years. What was created to serve as a voice for the neighborhood has morphed into a large and unwieldy neighborhood group with monthly meetings that run two, three, even four hours long, often debating just one or two proposed developments. One notable change has been permitting businesses located in the neighborhood to have a company representative serve on the committee. The result has been that every major developer in the city has placed a member on the committee in order to support all development. The underlying goal being, expanded development rights for one project will help expand development rights for other projects in the neighborhood.

This has resulted in bloated project proposals such as the Lemmon/ Oak Lawn proposed high-rise, which requested twice as much height as allowed by current zoning. The other notable group is a mish-mash of residents who represent a traditional NIMBY (Not-In-My-Backyard) perspective. Everyone wants to see an increase in property value, but no one wants larger, denser development near their home.

These two sides are now butting heads in a futile shooting match certainly audi-



ble outside of the Warwick Hotel, their monthly meeting spot. Their goal is to determine the future of the neighborhood, but both seem blind to more comprehensive solutions that could achieve that vision.

In a recent meeting, one member noted that the members serve on the committee due to their “expertise.” What precisely that expertise is remains to be seen, since anyone can be on the committee, and ultimately the committee is comprised of lawyers, doctors, urban planners, real estate developers and numerous retirees.

The same member also went so far as to fear for the organization’s legitimacy if the current in-fighting continues, expressing concern that smaller geographies within the neighborhood might create their own neighborhood organizations. This was met by some resistance from an urban planner on the committee who expressed the desire to allow smaller neighborhoods to have greater self-determination.

And currently, PD 193 has numerous smaller HOAs, neighborhood groups, and public improvement districts.

Perhaps the most important thing of

note about the Oak Lawn Committee is not the fact that there are two factions waging war, or that greedy developers are stacking the cards in their favor to help each other out, or that a handful of concerned citizens feel entitled to determine the future of a five-square mile geography.

No, it seems the most egregious flaw of the committee is that a room of predominantly white, predominantly wealthy Baby Boomers feel entitled to exert their political will over a neighborhood that bears little resemblance to those that comprise the committee.

Since one may serve on the committee as a person who works in the area, there are many loud voices in the group that live in Preston Hollow and other places around town. Since one must pay \$50 annually to be a member, the room naturally excludes many lower-income persons whose outcomes are typically the most impacted by the development decisions made.

Since one must be willing to give two-to-four hours per month in the evening to attend meetings, it excludes those who work atypical hours or are busy tending

to their many needs at home. And since non-members are only allowed to listen at meetings, community voices — which are so vital to healthy, empowered neighborhood organizing — are silenced.

The result is a sterile committee of old, white, wealthy people whose ultimate goal is to promote their own real estate interest. And, with that, the future of Oak Lawn has already been decided. With every new rainbow crosswalk that gets laid down on Cedar Springs remembering the deep history of a neighborhood that has fought untold struggles, the future gets chipped away, one development at a time.

This is not to say that new development is bad. Oak Lawn is already zoned in many places for denser development and has the capacity to help meet the need for new affordable housing in the city. Additionally, many new projects *are* helping to contribute to the goals of the Oak Lawn Plan by providing active ground-level uses and pedestrian-oriented designs that encourage walkability.

But the desire for developer profit is naturally creating a neighborhood that is increasingly becoming more expensive

to live in for many persons who have helped make the neighborhood great.

The most important lesson that can be learned from the Oak Lawn Committee’s current struggles is that neighborhood empowerment is vital. All voices — not just the voices of those who pay membership dues and attend monthly meetings — are requisite for an engaged neighborhood. When all voices are brought to the table, true neighborhood visioning and change can occur.

New development in the area has the potential to create numerous community benefits aside from just affordable housing. New bike lanes, improved transit and parks, better streetscapes, and community gathering spaces can all be demanded of new developments. These will create development outcomes that improve the lives for everyone in the neighborhood.

It is time for a new Oak Lawn Coalition — a diverse, welcoming, equitable and inclusive coalition — to rise up and lead the way into the future. Only then will the neighborhood that the entire neighborhood desires ultimately be realized. ■

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MORAL MONDAY , From Page 8

only make the journey, she said, if they thought there was something better across the border.

"We're treating children worse than we treat our animals," she said.

Baughman described the setting as bleak and unbelievably hot, adding that it was important for these faith leaders to make the trip to bring a message back to their congregations around the country.

The message, she said, is "That this reality exists on our border is not OK. We have to keep showing up," because once the issue is out of the news, keeping kids in cages becomes normal.

But what can someone interested in better treatment of children do?

"Contact your representatives," Croll said. He also recommended going to see the show *Crossing the Line*, being

performed by Kitchen Dog Theater and Cry Havoc Theatre Co. at Trinity River Arts Center through Aug. 4.

Baughman said people who can't get to El Paso to demonstrate can participate in protests and prayer vigils held at the Dallas ICE Detention Center on Stemmons Freeway, just north of Mockingbird Lane. Or they can attend asylum hearings held in Immigration Court in the Earle Cabell Federal Building on Commerce Street.

She invited people to volunteer with Dallas Responds, a project created by

her church to help people who have been able to cross into the U.S. She said the group needs help with transportation — giving a family a ride to DFW Airport where they'll leave to be reunited with their family. Sorting clothing, providing food or even become a sponsor are other opportunities to help, Baughman suggested. More information is available at DallasResponds.org.

Cazares-Thomas said he was frustrated during his visit, so he did some fact-finding while in El Paso, determined to return to Dallas with something positive he could do for people being held along the border.

And he found that something positive: "There's a small shelter working with LGBT refugees," he said. "My hope is to send a mission trip to the border to help fix it up."

He said the experience Cathedral of Hope members got fixing up its LGBT young adult shelter could be used to help the border facility. Over the next week he's planning to meet with the shelter's rep in Dallas and hopes to send his mission in the next few weeks. ■



BUTT , From Page 8

only going to go to queer doctors."

According to a 2016 article from the Journal of Bioethical Inquiry, LGBTQ patients often feel anxious, unwelcome, ashamed and distrustful in healthcare settings, in spite of the fact that many hospitals and clinics issue diversity training for their staff.

In addition, the Trump administration issued a new rule in May that allows healthcare personnel to deny patients information and treatment based on religious or moral beliefs.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit over that rule a month after it was issued.

"When you're refused treatment, or even if you just had a bad experience in a doctor's setting, that will deter you from going to see a doctor, which is already an issue," Zane said.

He added that gay and bisexual people have higher rates of depression, anxiety and suicidality.

"You don't want to go to a provider that does not want to treat you," he declared. "You don't know what you're signing up for when you just get assigned a random doctor. The need for this, especially when there is so much outright discrimination, is necessary." ■



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Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available: Three months (13 consecutive issues), \$65. Six months (26 consecutive issues), \$85. One year (52 consecutive issues), \$130. Contact Dallas Voice at 214-754-8710 x123.

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Defeating negative thinking

5 easy steps to a more positive outlook

Living with any chronic condition can affect our mental health. The only way to ensure that doesn't happen is to get proactive about it. So, what proactive steps can be taken in order to triumph over the lows so we can spend more time appreciating the highs?

Anyone who knows me knows that I love saying, "Stay positive."

Stay positive, even though you might be living with HIV. You're alive! And being alive is a gift.

But at times, "Stay positive" feels cliché. Sometimes I find myself hating it, the way you sometimes hate reading it, even though we both know there's truth to it.

Life happens, and there are amazing things, terrible things, tragic things and hilarious things that all happen within it.

Maybe a relationship lasts long after it's due to expire. Maybe you're worrying about your kids. Maybe you're lonely and worried you won't meet someone.

Life has its anxieties! So how the heck are you supposed to be able to "stay positive" through all that?

The short answer is: You're not. That would be impossible.

The thing to do is, TRY to "stay positive" by counteracting the negative thoughts. Here are five simple ways to defeat negative thinking:

1. **LAUGH!** Humor is the reason I'm still here today. Literally. Verywell Health reports that "one study suggests that healthy children may laugh as much as 400 times per day, but adults tend to laugh only 15 times per day."

So laugh! Even if it's a bit forced at first. Try and stay connected to humor; it is a great stress-reliever.

2. **COMMUNICATE WITH LOVED ONES...** even when it's hard. And I know how hard it can be to let people around you know that you're not doing well. It can be even harder to say you need their help. But you should know that communicating in and of itself will make you feel a bit better. You will know you're not



Josh Robbins

Contributing Columnist

get your mind off of the negative, and in fact, according to reporting by The Atlantic, "people who volunteer lead longer, healthier lives. Some public-health experts believe the time has come for doctors to recommend it alongside diet and exercise."

4. **GET OUT THERE AGAIN.** Again, when you're ready, remember that you deserve love and partnership if that's what you're looking for. An HIV diag-

nosis does not change that. Check out

3. **GIVE BACK WHEN YOU'RE READY.** After you've gotten yourself to a good place, try volunteering. It'll

DatingPositives.com if you're looking to connect with other people living with HIV.

5. **BE YOU ...** in every sense of the way. You may not be feeling your best on this day. But that's OK. Things always ebb and flow, even when you're in a good place. Stay in touch your favorite parts of yourself. Make sure you have something you're passionate about doing, whether it's working out, crafting, activism, friends and family time, etc. Focusing your energy on positive things in your life will help combat those negative thoughts.

Stay positive!

Josh Robbins is a spokesperson for DatingPositives.com, an award-winning sexual health advocate, and author of the site *imstilljosh.com*. He was nominated for a GLAAD media award in 2017 and recently won the National Lesbian and Gay Journalist Association's Excellence Award in the blogging category.

Summer valentine



After tackling the murder of a trans woman, out playwright Paul Kalburgi returns to Dallas stages with a love letter to musical theater

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The last time we heard from Paul Kalburgi, almost exactly two years ago, he was putting together a “verbatim play” — a sort of theatrical documentary, about the murder of a Dallas trans woman and the serious issue of violence against queer people of color — entitled *In the Tall Grass*. Heady stuff.

So it might strike you as paradoxical (or at least unexpected) that for his next act, Kalburgi is taking a shot at a back-stage musical comedy — a show within

a show about a failing small theater troupe desperately trying to save their company and pay back rent with one final production.

(Think *Noises Off* or even the recent *The Play That Goes Wrong*.)

If that sounds like a big change, well, Kalburgi has undergone some significant changes in recent years. British-born, Kalburgi, his husband and sons moved to Dallas in 2015, then to Madrid in 2017 before a planned move back to Dallas. Then, just this March, they were off to the other side of the planet — the land of orcs and hobbits, aka Auckland, New Zealand.

It’s from there — 17 hours ahead of us — that he chats with us about his latest show, *Broadway or Bust* (being presented by Pegasus Theatre Aug. 8–24 at the Bath House Cultural Center). And that’s how we found out the method to his madness. ■

Dallas Voice: How is life in Hobbiton? Paul Kalburgi: Ha! Actually, I haven’t seen any of the Lord of the Rings movies, although the second you arrive in the airport [there is memorabilia everywhere]. But I’m missing Texas terribly. Our whole time there was just magic.

So, last we talked you were writing about the murder of Shade Schuler. Now this ... Yes, *Broadway or Bust* couldn’t be further from *In the Tall Grass*. But actually, I wrote the first draft [of this] in 2005 when I was working in the box office at one of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s theaters in the West End [in London]. It has been through many titles, guises and revisions since then. But I think every writer has one story in them because they *have* to tell it. This is that kind of story for me. Like *La La Land* is a love letter to Hollywood, *Broadway or Bust* is my love letter to theater.

Although in this case, a pretty unsuccessful and small theater company. Well, most [theaterfolks’] starting point is community theater — that’s where you

first meet the tribe. It was really borne out of my falling in love with the people. But it’s full of affection.

So, you’ve been working on it for 14 years — what took so long? I worked in television for 10 years, and producing and writing more serious plays. It was only when I was teaching one of my theater workshops at Theatre Britain in Dallas that I rediscovered the characters from *Broadway or Bust*. And I realized these themes are present in community theater the world over — whether a small town in the northeast of England or Dallas, Texas. [It’s] that show that’s been itching away, so it was time for it to be reborn, time to dust it off. I decided to [rewrite it and] set it in Dallas, so there are lots of popular cultural references.

So it has evolved a lot over the years. My [theatrical] voice is a very northern-England humor, but it has translated very naturally to Texas. The plot is as woolly as a cardigan. But we did workshops, and I did a table read of a full cast of local



actors in 2018 just before I left Dallas. It's very different from where it was but still is a show with real heart. I even composed four or five new numbers for the show.

Yes, you wrote not just the book but the music and lyrics as well. I didn't train in music, but I get by. I've always written theme tunes for the TV shows I've worked on. I write the melodies then send them to someone I collaborate with who turns them into piano arrangements. But this is the first full-scale musical I've written that has been produced. It really has been a thrill to see this come to life. It harkens back to the golden days of Broadway — the music of *42nd Street*. The entire score is played on an old upright piano.

The theater director in your show-within-a-show has an accident and is unable to direct it and has to rely on virtual strangers to fulfill her vision and almost loses it to them. This is a world premiere, but you moved to New Zealand before rehearsals began. Are you worried about life imitating art? I hadn't

thought of that! It wasn't the plan. When *In the Tall Grass* [was given a Dallas production], I was living in Spain, but I was directing it as well [so I had to come back for several weeks]. So this is the second time. I definitely wish I was there. I can't wait to see the characters get their legs. But I am constantly in contact with [Dallas director] Bruce Coleman and [music director] Mark Miller. And I'll be returning to

Dallas for the final few dress rehearsals. And it's in good hands. We did auditions in March before I left so I could have a handle on it. When

I was in Dallas, I saw [local actress] Mary-Margaret Pyeatt and said, "If we ever get it staged in Dallas, she has to play Celia." And we got her.

Do you have any other projects in the hopper? I always like to have two or three things bubbling away. I'm currently co-writing a musical, with the co-composer of *Taboo*, the musical about Boy George, called *Vegas with a V*, that's sort of a *Showgirls*-Meets-Sinatra.

Wow, that's, super gay.

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'Extra-Large'

Turtle Creek Chorale unveils its 40th season

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Turtle Creek Chorale recently unveiled its "extra-large" 40th season, which will showcase five major performances over the course of 17 months. The season will feature a variety of guest artists as well as three mainstage concerts at Moody Performance Hall and the chorale's return to the Meyerson Symphony Center, after nearly seven years, for two performances.

The XL Season will include two of the chorale's signature holiday concerts — in December 2019 and in December 2020 — concerts at the Meyerson in September 2019 and June 2020, and the regional premiere of a new choral musical by Tony Award-winning composer Andrew Lipka.

TCC Artistic Director Sean Baugh promised that the chorale's "ambitious" 40th season will highlight "everything you love about the Turtle Creek Chorale."

He continued, "I'm particularly excited about our return to the Meyerson Symphony Center for several productions. Putting together this season has been an incredible adventure musically, as we will be presenting so many of the pieces that have made the chorale extraordinary."

"There is so much history in the music we sing, and I'm thrilled to revisit these pieces once again," Baugh added. "But the new music is absolutely extraordinary, and I'm looking forward to continuing our choral-theater presentations that have become our identity the past few years. You won't want to miss any of these diverse, intriguing, and beautiful programs."

The season starts Sept. 29 at the Meyerson with "To All the Women We've



Turtle Creek Chorale's annual holiday concert is always a treat. And in the chorale's 40th season, fans get two of them.

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Loved Before,” a concert designed to “honor all the women in our lives.” It

will feature three of TCC’s favorite leading ladies – Denise Lee, Patty Brecken-

ridge and Jodi Crawford-Wright — along with The Women’s Chorus of Dallas.

He said members of the chorale would be singing with The Women’s Chorus of Dallas again in October for their 30th anniversary concert and was excited about both joint appearances, “because we haven’t sung with them in a very, very long time.”

The season continues with “40 Years of Fa La La” Dec. 13-15 at Moody Performance Hall, with many holiday classics and memorable moments from the past 40 years, as well as new works destined to become classics. Chloe Agnew of *Celtic Woman* will join the men of the TCC for this performance. Baugh said she’s a favorite among pops orchestras around the country.

“If you’ve ever enjoyed our holiday concerts, you’ll love this one,” Baugh said.

TCC is back at Moody Performance Hall March 27-29 for “Unbreakable,” the regional premiere of the new choral musical from Andrew Lipka. It is a powerful and urgent new work that highlights little-known moments in LGBTQ history and gives a voice to LGBTQ Americans whose achievements and contributions have gone unrecognized.

The concert was commissioned by 15 gay men’s choruses around the country. Baugh said TCC is the last of the 15 to perform it, but he wanted to save it for the 40th anniversary season.

The chorale returns to the Meyer-son for a June 28 performance entitled “CLASSIC: The Songs that Made the TCC,” a special anniversary concert featuring many favorite musical moments and memories that have defined the Turtle Creek Chorale combined with newer musical gems.

A few weeks later, they’ll take this performance to the GALA Chorus Festival held every four years. The 2020 event takes place in Minneapolis with about 100 choirs and 6,000 singers expected.

The 40th season concludes with “On this Shining Night,” Dec. 11-13, 2020, at Moody Performance Hall, a concert to warm the heart and bring peace and joy for the holiday season.

Season subscriptions are available now, with prices ranging from \$75 to \$150 per subscription. Seats for the Meyer-son add-on concerts are also available, with prices from \$25 to \$50 per seat. ■

For more information, visit TurtleCreekChorale.com or call 214-526-3214.

By Bekah Brunstetter

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Traveling while *gay*



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MIKEY ROX | The Frivolist

There's more to gay travel than P-Town, Fire Island and Fort Lauderdale. Every state (yep, even the red ones) has something to offer our community, and with the help of LGBTQ-friendly travel site Orbitz, I've narrowed them down to the best of the bunch. Start packing.

1. Camp Wonderful in New York

Leave the glitz and glam of the big city behind and head for the Catskill Mountains where you'll find a camp for grown-ups unlike its competitors. Camp Wonderful at Timber Lake Camp in Shandaken offers an adult summer-camp experience focused on diversity among campers, building meaningful connections, learning new skills (like pickling vegetables, casting spells and stargazing), and having a blast in the great outdoors.

But there's a twist: It's completely alcohol free — because by the time summer closes, we could all stand a detox. Sign up for the "less screen time, more green time" post-Labor Day Weekend session at CampWonderful.com.

2. Cruise Alaska

The Frontier State: So much land, so few people! Lesbian cruise company Olivia offers two Alaska itineraries this summer, while RSVP Vacations (now owned by Atlantis) offers a "Summer in Alaska" ship that hits up places like Juneau and Ketchikan. Also, most mainstream cruise ships offer onboard meetups for queer folk.

3. Gay Rodeo in Arizona

Gay rodeo is a nationwide phenomenon, and Arizona is as good a place as any to squeeze into your tightest pair of Levi jeans and give the Cowboy lifestyle a try. The 34th Annual Arizona Gay Rodeo happens in Phoenix in February 2020; the World Gay Rodeo Finals happen this October in Scottsdale, and then there's queer country-western bars in Phoenix, including Charlie's, the Cash Nightclub and Lounge, and Latin-flavored nightclub Karamba (which hosts occasional cowboy nights).

4. Cocktails in Indiana

Gay bars have the best names (think C.C. Blooms in Edinburgh or Nellie's in Washington, D.C.), but surely the best of the bunch belongs to the Back Door in Bloomington. Hilarious moniker aside, the Back Door is a gay bar *par*

Naturally Tan

Naturally Tan: A Memoir by Tan France, (c.2019, St. Martin's Press)
\$27.99; 288 pages

Casual button-down, or elegant suit?

Jeans or khakis? Shoes or sandals? Whatever the event, your closet's got you covered, packed with every outfit you'll ever need. But what's your style, what makes you confident? How do you know what to wear for the occasion? Read *Naturally Tan* by Tan France and see what fits.

As a young boy growing up in South Yorkshire, England, Tan France was no shrinking violet: he was "weirdly worldly wise" and "definitely the cockiest one of the family." He also knew what he wanted and didn't rest until he got it, and even then he knew that he liked boys better than girls.

That determination didn't make his childhood breezy, though; France was Pakistani in a predominantly-white area, and he grew up with the hum of racism in the background. He was bullied, but still, he says, he "managed to make things work ..."

It helped that his grandfather owned a denim factory and taught France to sew. It was there that he learned the importance of fashion, but that wasn't yet a career; from age 16 to 27, France held more than 30 jobs, most of which he abandoned with little-to-no notice.

He came to realize that he wanted to be an entrepreneur, and everything coalesced after a vacation in Salt Lake City and after he fell in love with a cowboy. By then, France had spotted an opportunity, specifically, with modest swimwear, and his brand firecracked to success literally overnight. Unprepared, France and his new man worked around the clock to accommodate customers and to try to grow the business. Eventually, the stress became too much and France stepped back.

He was not really looking for anything new when, on vacation, he received a call from someone who told him about an opportunity with Netflix and *Queer Eye*, a job he never dreamed

of and was convinced that he'd never land. He wanted it, and he didn't. He needed prodding until he "begrudging-

■ TAN Next Page



READERS VOICE awards

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excellence, located in one of the coolest college towns in America. The crowd is diverse, energetic and friendly as heck; the lineup includes all kinds of crazy cabaret and queer entertainment, and the gay naming even carries over into the drink menu. Boozy Bottom anyone? How about a Citron My Face?

5. Eclectic Nebraska

Omaha is quickly becoming one of the hippest cities in the U.S., and a big part of that is the city's colorful LGBTQ

scene. The city doesn't have a "gay-borhood," per se, but rather its robust gay community is well woven into its tapestry, the most worthy part of which for travelers is festive Flixx Lounge. With weekend performances featuring both drag queens and drag kings in an eclectic range of comedic, dramatic and even burlesque-themed shows, Flixx will shatter the stereotype you probably have of gay life in Nebraska.

6. The Village in Kentucky

No, not the boho-chic Village of NYC fame, but rather a city block that sits in Louisville's Smoketown neighborhood and is formerly home to the legendary queer nightclub and entertainment complex The Connection. The Connection is gone now, but its out owners have kept the block queer by opening Vapor, a men's spa and bathhouse, Vu Guesthouse, an adult-oriented luxury boutique hotel, and The Eatery, its on-site diner. Although LGBTQ nightlife in

Derby City has since moved to Bardstown Road, while catching 40 winks at Vu or making new friends at Vapor, consider the three decades of gay nightlife that happened on this very block. ■

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He spends his time writing from the beach with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @ mikeyrox.

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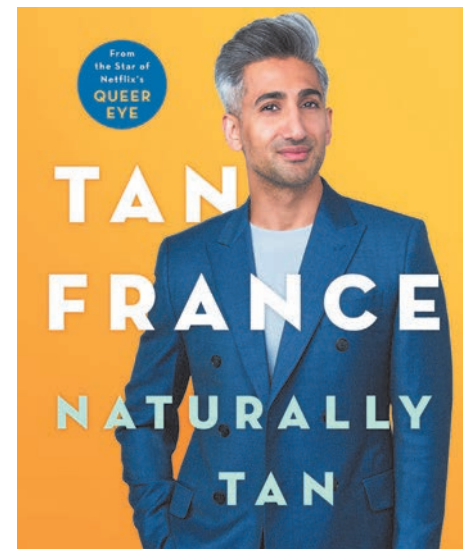

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■ TAN From Previous Page



ly" auditioned...

At its outset, *Naturally Tan* feels like just another gay memoir; stating that he always knew he was gay, author Tan France seems a bit stiff, as though his story needs to stretch and twist before it starts to stride.

Once it takes that next step, though, it's got you.

Like virtually all other gay memoirs, France goes on to tell a story of a childhood of dawning, of bullying, and of learning more about himself. But the uniqueness lies in the cultural differences with which he was raised: he writes of being a Muslim Pakistani in a white world and how this fit with his gayness and his passion for fashion. Between this, and advice he doles out with impunity, France does snark well, which he freely admits. That's entertaining, especially since he appears to be rather nice about it.

In the end, this is a fun book from a star's-eye view, and with useful tips for any reader, gay or not. Pick up a copy of *Naturally Tan* and see if it doesn't suit you. ■

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



Wednesday 08.07 – Sunday 08.18

'Fiddler' comes close to the home we love

Tony-winning director Bartlett Sher brings his adaption of Joseph Stein's famous tale about Jewish family life in Imperial Russia to Dallas Summer Musicals. First released over 50 years ago, *Fiddler on the Roof* is one of the longest-running and most acclaimed masterpieces of Broadway. Now Dallas audiences get a chance to witness stunning choreography set to a powerful story of preserving one's heritage and cultural traditions.

DEETS: Music Hall at Fair Park,
909 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Sunday 08.04

Comedy drag brunch returns to Don't Tell Supper Club

Get ready to have a fabulous brunch with one of Dallas' favorite drag queens, Jenni P. The 2019 Dallas Pride Parade Grand Marshall will be joined by sidekick Krystal Summers to host another Not Your Mama's Drag Brunch. And for \$35, attendees can enjoy a sensational meal with an assortment of cocktails – accompanied with song and laughter.

DEETS: Don't Tell Supper Club,
2026 Commerce St. Seating at noon.
Tickets available at EventBrite.com.



RED

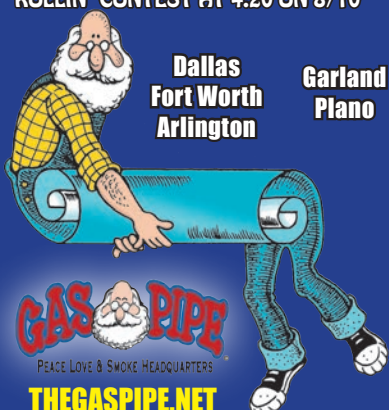
Friday 08.02 – Sunday 09.22

Collaborative showcases conceptual artwork in tandem with Keith Haring exhibit

Almost 30 years ago, beloved NYC-based pop artist Keith Haring died of AIDS-related complications. Now his graffiti-like artwork, which supported HIV and AIDS awareness in the '80s, is featured in the Arlington Museum of Art, where Fort Worth Art Collective's showcase Red – conceptual pieces colored red in solidarity with those living with HIV and AIDS – will coincide. Art enthusiasts should jump on this chance to see both Red and Keith Haring: Against All Odds in the same place.

DEETS: Lower Gallery at Arlington Museum of Art,
201 W. Main St., Arlington. ArlingtonMuseum.org.

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calendar highlights



ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Festival of Independent Theatres. The annual festival of short plays, including this year's substantial LGBTQ-interest productions closes this weekend. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 3. FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org.

Fiddler on the Roof. Joseph Stein's classic tale of Jewish family life set in Imperial Russia. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. Through Aug. 18. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Lungs. A 30-something couple wonder about their future, as they see their entire life cycle play out before them in the regional premiere of this comedy-drama. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 18. StageWest.org.

Mamma Mia! The ABBA musical. Firehouse Theatre, 2535 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. Through Aug. 11. TheFirehouseTheatre.com.

Kentucky. Culture, religion and family collide when an Asian-American woman living in NYC travels to Kentucky to stop her younger sister's wedding. Arts Mission Oak Cliff, 410 S. Windomere Ave. Through Aug. 17. ImprintTheatreWorks.org.

FINE ART

Dior: From Paris to the World. Retrospective of 70 years of the famed French design house. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Sept. 1. DMA.org.

Caravaggio: Martha and Mary Magdalene. A stunning work from 1598, on loan to the DMA through the summer. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through Sept. 22. DMA.org.

Keith Haring: Against All Odds. The influential work of the late NYC pop artist lands in North Texas. Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St., Arlington. Through Sept. 15. ArlingtonMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 08.02

FINE ART

Red. Opening reception for Fort Worth Art Collective's showcase of conceptual pieces colored red in solidarity for people living with HIV/AIDS. Lower Gallery at Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St. 6:30 p.m. ArlingtonMuseum.org.

SATURDAY 08.03

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along Katy Trail.



MONDAY 08.05

CABARET

Mama's Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

TUESDAY 08.06

FILM

She Wore a Yellow Ribbon. A cinematic western genre masterpiece, this film stars John Wayne as a Calvary captain sent to ease tensions between Native tribes before his retirement. 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.

THURSDAY 08.08

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.

FRIDAY 08.09

THEATER

Broadway or Bust. Set in a converted strip-mall carpet store in Dallas, this play presented by Pegasus Theatre details struggling theater company's plan to stage an Off-Off-Broadway flop after their director is replaced. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 24. PegasusTheatre.org.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

How Cassie and Jenna entertained a room full of kids despite the hate from protesters

Hey y'all. These past few weeks have been crazy. As many of you know, Jenna Skyy and I were asked to do Drag Queen Storytime for the Dallas Public Library. It's a great way to teach kids at a young age love, tolerance and acceptance.

We've done it before and it was great. This last time we did it, though, we got a lot of negative push-back.

First we had protesters lined up across the street from the Oak Lawn branch of the library. Bless their hearts; they were a year too late. We had done the Storytime there the year before. The sad thing is that they drove all the way from Louisiana for their protest. Talk about your waste of time.

When we started advertising this latest one, almost immediately, we had threats of protesters. One of those activist mommy Facebookers even started a group to make sure we had plenty of hate and protesters at our event. I had one woman message me and ask if I would kindly not show up to the storytime; she was asking as a good Christian woman.

More and more posts from conservative Christian and hard-core Catholic groups started popping up, encouraging people to help put an end to us corrupting the children of the world. What I don't think they knew was the more hate they put out about us and our little storytime, the more love and positivity we were actually getting.

Every time I got any messages on the negative side, I would immediately send it to our friends at the Dallas Public Library. They let us know that they were taking all of it very seriously and assured us that there would be plenty of security there with us the day of our event.

On a personal note, Jenna and I both started to have a little anxiety over all of this negativity being hurled our way. It's hard not to let yourself start to think of the absolute worst things happening. We were trying to stay positive about the whole situation, but the personal attacks were starting to take their toll on us. We were both losing sleep, and our anxiety was high.

Then we found out that one of the loudest voices speaking against us was a former drag queen. I refuse to say his name or help him spew his hate.

This person, who I will from now on refer to as Dick, did "drag" at one point in his life. I put "drag" in quotes, because I don't think she ever had a real paid booking. Then Dick found God and was born again, stopped doing drag and proceeded to tell all of his drag queen friends how they were going to hell. Then a year later, Dick apologized to all of those friends, claiming to believe in a "live and let live" philosophy.

But apparently, Dick is back on that

self-hating kick and is back to his "I know best because I am a child of God" ways.

Look, I am not reading anyone because of their beliefs. I just don't understand why religious folk can't just accept that not everyone has the same beliefs as them. And when it comes to the drag queen story time, if you don't like it or agree with it, then don't come to it. It is not your business to tell someone else how to parent.

I don't have children, but one thing I know for sure is no parent wants to be told how to parent their own child.

The day of our event, Jenna and I got in drag in some very cute, child-friendly costumes. I wore flames with flaming red, orange and yellow hair. Jenna was a purple-haired cowgirl. We showed up at the library and could see a lot of protesters at the end of the street, in front of the library parking lot. As we got closer, we realized that on the left of the library parking lot entrance were the protestors who were against us — about 20 of them. But on the right side there were counter protesters — 40 — of them, wearing rainbows and cheering for us.

Talk about different energies! Left side — frowns and absolute disgust; right side —

smiles and love. I'm very gay so I also noticed a difference in the colors they wore: Left side — brown, black and starched white shirts; right side — colorful shirts, rainbow tutus and a few fairy wings. It was beautiful.

Then once we were inside the parking lot for the library, there was nothing but calm and an open, welcoming group that worked for the libraries, all with smiling faces.

It turned out to be the biggest drag queen story time we have ever done. I think last count was 148 parents, kids and community members.

We put on a great show for the kids. I let them pick the books they wanted me to read, and they chose a book called *What Color Is Your Underwear?* It's an adorable little book with flip-up pages that show Chris Crocodile wearing yellow, furry underwear and Harry Horse wearing cherry-red boxers. Then the big shocker on the last page is an elephant with a leaf covering his bottom, and when you lift the leaf, you find out the elephant isn't wearing underwear at all, and we all just got mooned by an elephant. The kids cackled and laughed, and that sound of overall joy was exactly why we do the story time.

We each read three different books to the kids. Jenna read — actually sang — a book called *The Soup Opera* that had the whole

room singing, "I CAN'T EAT THE SOUP!" Very interactive and lots of fun. Then we spent the next 45 minutes taking pictures with excited kids and, sometimes, even more excited parents. We felt like rock stars.

When the room began to clear out a little, Jenna pointed out a lady sitting in the front row with two phones videoing us. After we took our last pics with the kids and a few of the warriors that counter protested out in the heat (they were the real rock stars), I walked over to the woman in the front row and asked her if she would like a photo with us. She politely said no and started to leave. I told her I only asked because I wanted everyone who came to feel included — including her. I told her to have a good day; she looked back and said, "You as well."

The day felt like a complete success. My heart was full; my anxiety was gone, and I knew in my heart that we made a difference. Some of the kids remembered us from other story times and called us their friends. We had a former English teacher cry when she hugged us and thanked us for promoting literacy. There were so many gay and straight parents with open minds and open hearts that you couldn't help but feel good. It was a great experience.

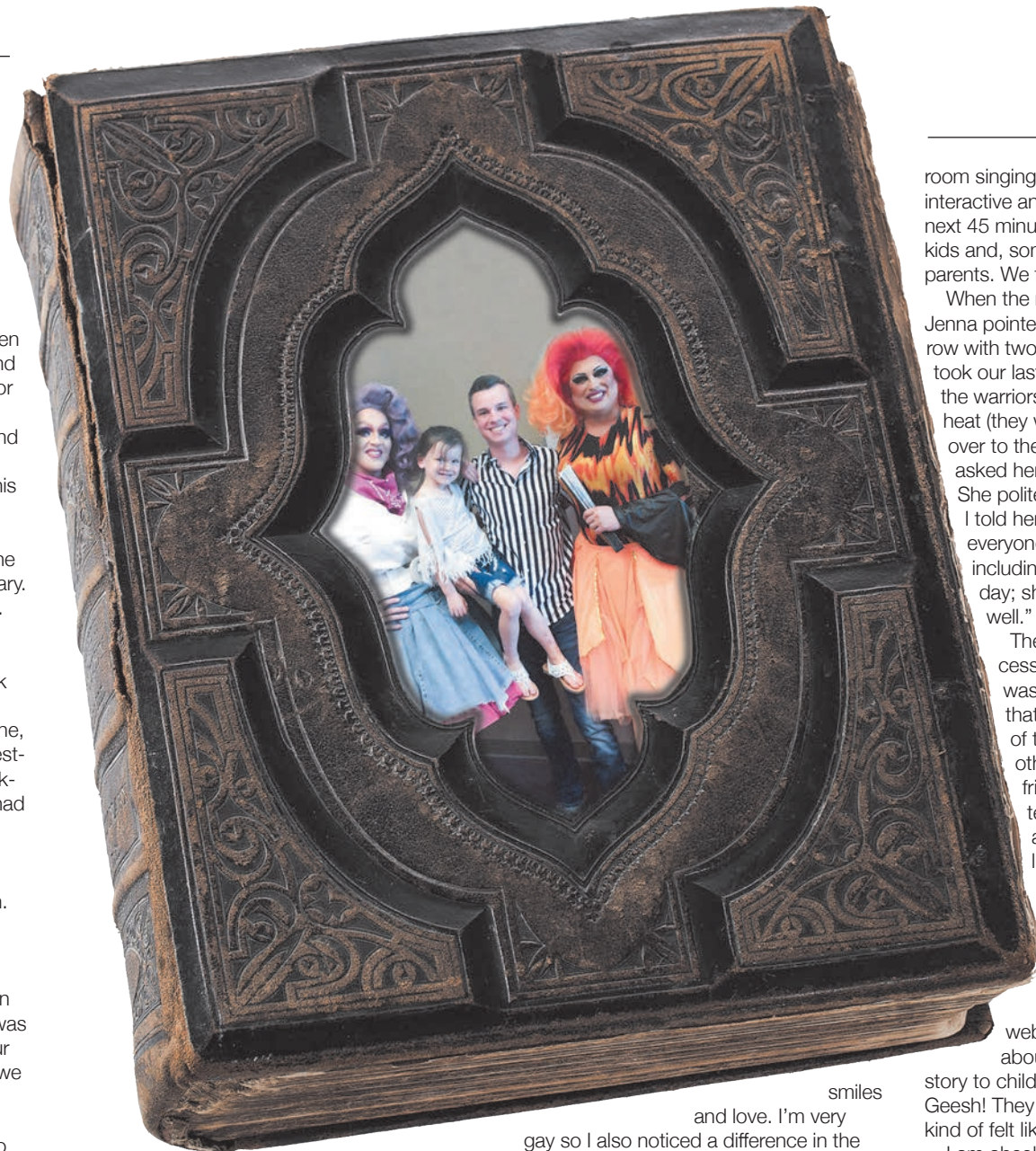
Then a few days later, a few of those alt-right conservative websites started to post stories about a creepy drag queen reading a story to children asking about their underwear. Geesh! They even posted our real names. It kind of felt like a gut punch.

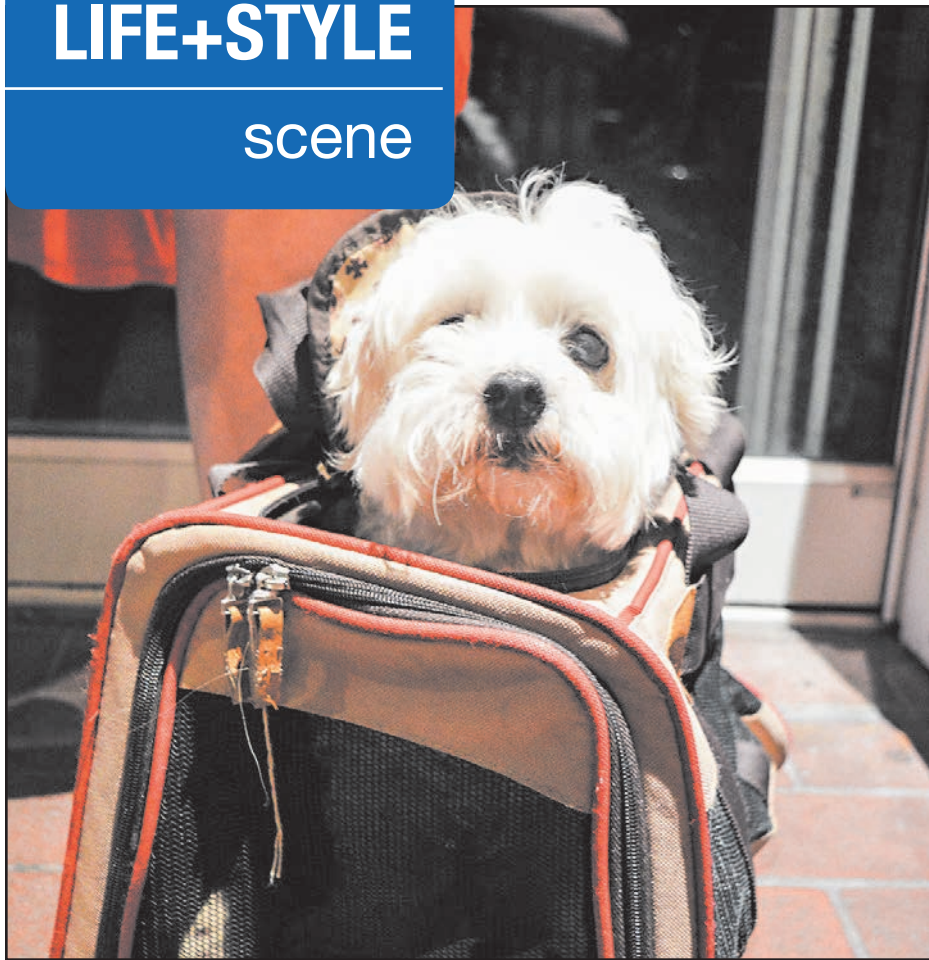
I am absolutely proud of everything we did; I just hate that those crazies now have my name in their mouth. These are scary times, and, in Trump's America, I'm a little more afraid. Since then, Jenna and I have both received horrible messages — one calling us pedophiles and another saying we were grooming future pedophiles and others saying even worse.

But I refuse to live in fear. If the library asks me back, I will absolutely do the drag queen story time again. The truth is, I am really good at it. My talents as an emcee in a drag show helped me to entertain a room full of children and their parents. Sometimes I doubt my abilities; how can I be a foul-mouthed drag queen for a show at a bar and then be wholesome and fun for the kids? It's because I know my audience and adjust my material accordingly. It's called being a professional.

A little fear, I believe, is a good thing. It keeps you on your toes. But counter that with a little confidence in a job well done, and you have a healthy attitude to be a performer. If you are not living your life in a way that makes someone out there hate you, are you even living? I'm gonna stay strong and love more, bitch less and be fabulous!

XOXO, Cassie Nova





Taking advantage of a patio on The Strip



Hats and hair at The Round-Up Saloon

Making the **SCENE** the week of **August 2-8:**

- **Alexandre's:** **Girls Night Out** with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Mescaline Americans** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie Sings Broadway** on Tuesday. **Vero Voz** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Karaoke Open Mic Night** with **Alex Kautz** at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Tucker** hosts **Karaoke** from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court** presents **Hot Country** from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. **Team Friendly** presents **Vaseline** from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. **Purple Party** presents **SCORE!** from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday. **Dallas Diablos** has a **Cookout** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Don't Tell Supper Club:** **Drag Brunch** with **Jenni P** on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** **Miss Leo Pageant** at 6 p.m. on Saturday. Proceeds benefit the **Daire Center**. Fundraiser to help get **The Thunder Kitties** to the **Gay World Series** in Kansas City. **T-Bear Club Night** from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Double Trouble** with **Bleach** and **Raquel Blake** at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Icandy** from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Friday. Free before 11 p.m.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Saloon Star** live singing competition at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. **Lip Sync Battle** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Celebrating Good Times Show** hosted by **Linze Serell** with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday. **Queerdom Open Auditions**. Sign up by 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Sasha Andrews** hosts **Fuego Latin Dance Contest** at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** **Mr. Wet and Wild** wet boxer contest at 3 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Variety Show** at 11 p.m. on Thursday. **Kickball Saturday League** begins Sept. 7. Sign up at VarsityGayLeague.com/Dallas. After parties at Woody's.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**



Mindy at Sue Ellen's



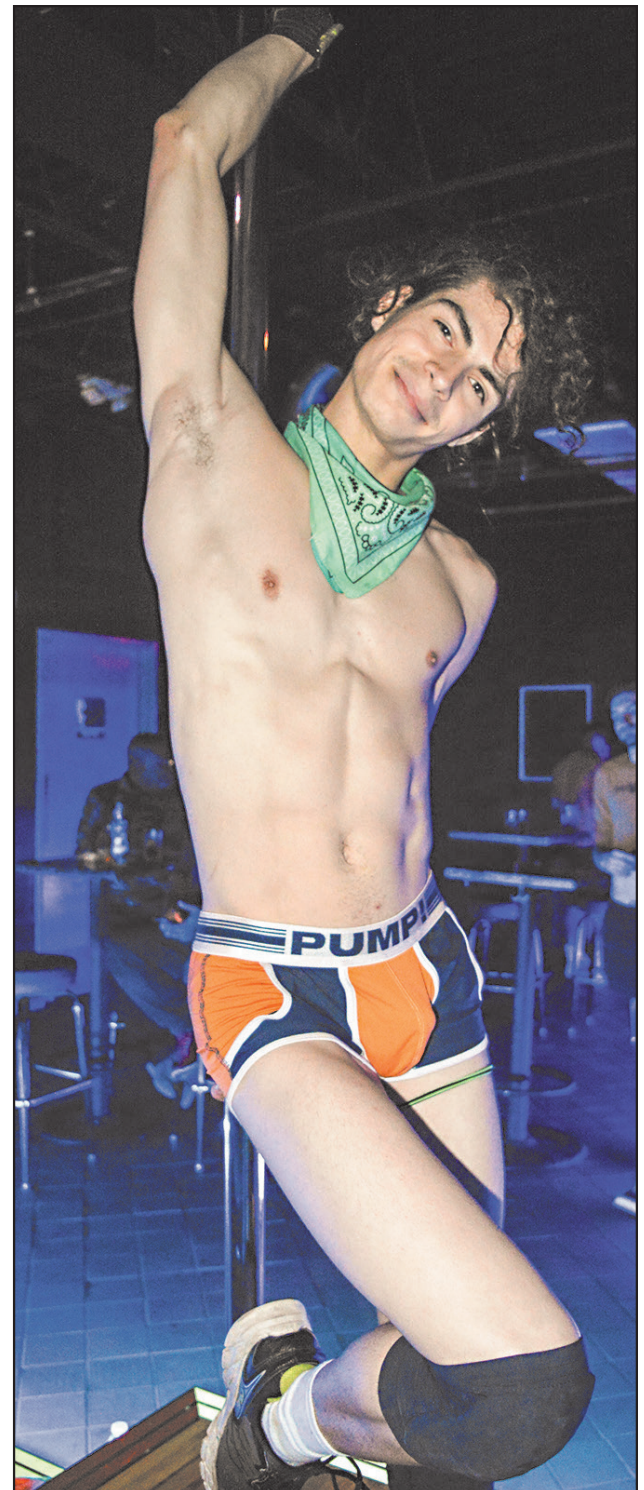
Stefani Graves at Sue Ellen's



Friendly staff at Cedar Springs Tap House



Friends out for fun at JR.'s Bar & Grill



On the pole at TMC: The Mining Company



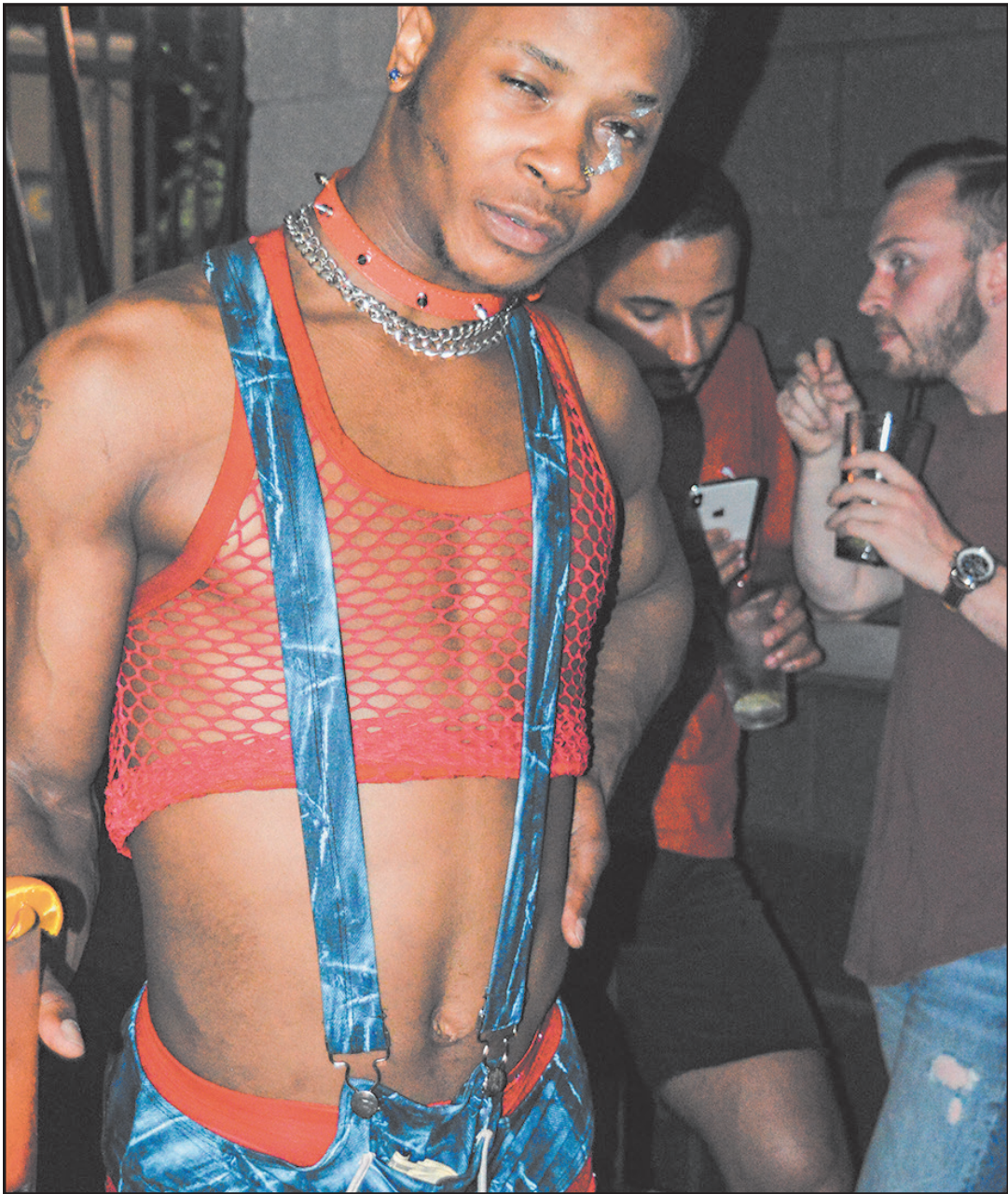
Reading time at Cedar Springs Tap House



Working the Lights at The Round-Up Saloon



Hot staff at TMC: The Mining Company



Hanging out with a beverage at TMC: The Mining Company



Sean the goofball



Door duty at TMC: The Mining Company



Sister Polly Von Acocker won the 2019 Miss LifeWalk pageant



Dallas Voice has fans everywhere

Was LBJ Gay?

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Solution on Page 23

Across

- 1 Lanford Wilson's ____ in Gilead
5 Sports figure?
9 Pirate drink
13 Sailing the South Pacific
14 Skilled worker, briefly
15 Green fruit
16 Story teller
17 Aida solo
18 Trouble spots
19 With 31- and
54-Across, how you know LBJ wasn't gay, per Louis Bayard and Danny Salles
22 Swamps, or what tops want?
23 Protector of k.d. lang et al.
26 Cups and such
30 Cowardly lion actor
31 More of how you know
35 Ready for service
36 "____ first you don't suck seed..."
37 Nixon chief of staff
38 Ejaculation of concern
39 Garr of Tootsie
40 Jackie's designer
41 Mama's boys

- 42 The I in IHOP (abbr.)
44 Borscht veggie
46 B'way hit sign
48 What's cut is in his hand
51 What a man may shoot
54 End of how you know
57 It comes out of your head
58 Horny sound
59 Slightly
60 Diana Rigg's Mrs.
61 Language of Wilde's land
62 Portion (out)
63 Needing BenGay
64 Kind of pressure
65 Lake of Ohio ferries

Down

- 1 Bouncer for Mauresmo
2 Tibet setting
3 Big part
4 Peter Pan portrayal
5 Part of a flight
6 Nero's land
7 Etching fluids
8 Warms to persistent come-ons
9 Museum of Philip Johnson
10 Poet Adrienne

- 11 Old Dodge
12 Bee ____ (disco pioneers)
20 Blow
21 Old nuclear power org.
23 Hit the ground
24 Kind of sex
25 Ben Hur competitor
27 Like three men in a tub
28 Brightly-colored
29 Sounds of "Baby, that was good!"
31 From A to B, to Boulanger
32 Proverb ending
33 Shakespeare's "Phooey!"
34 Whirlybird
43 Cycle beginning
45 Work unit
46 Cut sounds by a barber
47 Brokeback Mountain setting
49 Be nuts over
50 Alice Walker output
52 Valuable strings
53 "Fiddle-____!" (Scarlett saying)
55 In the pink
56 Dick, for one

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