

dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Volume 36 | Issue 21 | FREE | Friday, September 27, 2019



Walking for Life

by Tammye Nash, Page 8

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headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 9 Collin College ignores plea for change
- 10 Gay teen finds his forever home
- 12 LGBTQ Presidential Forum recap
- 14 Conversion therapy ban stands

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 18 The masked man of country music
- 20 Turbo Mustang is retro cool
- 22 REVIEW: Zellweger elevates 'Judy'
- 24 Ty Herndon is coming home

■ ON THE COVER

PHNT's LifeWalk event.
Photo by Chuck Marcelo.
Design by Kevin Thomas.

departments

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 27 | Best Bets |
| 8 | News | 31 | Cassie Nova |
| 16 | Voices | 32 | Scene |
| 18 | Life+Style | 38 | MarketPlace |

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Suspect arrest in shooting of Dallas trans woman



Dallas police have arrested Domingo Ramirez-Cayente, 29, and charged him with aggravated assault in the Sept. 20 shooting of transgender woman Rony Calderon, 35, in the 11000 block of Dennis Road.

According to the arrest warrant, Calderon was walking along Dennis Road when Ramirez-Cayente drove up next to her and began shouting anti-LGBT insults at her. Calderon walked away from the truck and over to a bus stop, waiting for the bus to arrive so she could leave the location. Ramirez-Cayente then pulled his truck up to the curb near her and shot her several times with a handgun.

Calderon was taken to the hospital where she underwent surgery for her injuries. She was able to speak to investigators on Sunday, Sept. 22.

Ramirez-Cayente's truck was captured on video by nearby security cameras, and using those videos detectives on Tuesday, Sept. 24, were able to identify the vehicle. The arrested Ramirez-Cayente on traffic warrants and while interviewing him at DPD headquarters, he admitted to shooting Calderon.

As of Wednesday morning, Sept. 25, Ramirez-Cayente remained in the Dallas County Jail on charges of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury and three minor traffic violations. Bond on the assault charge has been set at \$25,000. But as of noon Thursday, Sept. 26, he was not listed as an inmate at the Dallas County Jail.

— Tammye Nash

Doc on Texas trans child, mom wins Emmy

The short documentary *Trans In America: Texas Strong* — created by ACLU and Little By Little Films and broadcast by them./Conde Nast Entertainment — won Outstanding Short Documentary at the 40th Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards, held Tuesday night, Sept. 24.

The short documentary tells the story of



8-year-old transgender child Kai Shappley and her mom, Kimberly Shappley, “a conservative Christian mother in Houston who has to reject her community’s beliefs when her 7-year-old daughter Kai comes out as transgender,” according to a press release from Little By Little Films. “Meanwhile, Kai has to navigate life at school where she’s been banned from the girls’ bathroom.”

The film premiered at South By Southwest (SXSW) 2019, won a Webby Award and a Webby People’s Voice Award in May 2019 and is now available to stream on Condé Nast’s platform “them” (www.them.us).

Kai and Kimberly Shappley travelled to New York City to attend the News and Documentary Emmy Awards ceremony at Lincoln Center with the film’s director, producers and others. Kai, who the team behind the film believes is the first trans child ever to attend the News & Doc Emmy Awards, made an acceptance speech on-stage with the filmmaking team.

And for the record, Kai believes she was the

best-dressed person at the awards, bar none.
— Tammye Nash

Suspect arrested in 2018 murder of Florida trans woman

Sean Bernard Phoenix, 21, has been arrested and charged with murder in the February 2018 shooting death of transgender woman Erika Walker, also known as Celine, at a Jacksonville, Fla. hotel, according to WJXT News4Jax.

Walker, 36, was the first of three transgender women murdered in the Jacksonville area last year. This is the first arrest connected to investigations into those killings.

JSO Chief of Investigations T.K. Waters said Phoenix and Walker “had a previous relationship,” but would not go into detail about that relationship.

Phoenix has also been charged with tampering with evidence.

— Tammye Nash

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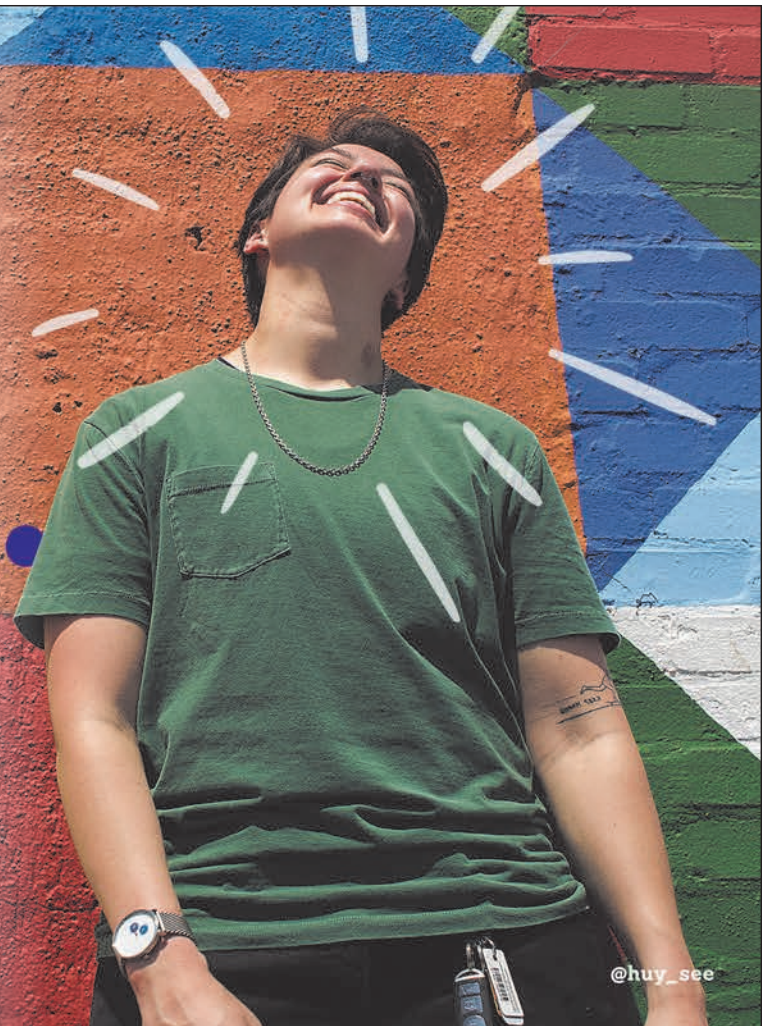
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THE GAY AGENDA



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.

SEPTEMBER

• Sept. 27-29: Dallas Southern Pride

The 22nd annual Black Gay Pride weekend in Dallas that includes the lesbian and transgender communities with a variety of events. For more information visit DallasSouthernPride.com

• Sept. 27-Oct. 20: State Fair of Texas

The State Fair of Texas comes around again, go out and have some fun. For more information visit BigTex.com.

• Sept. 28: Unleashed LGBTQ Expo

Businesses exhibiting new and innovative products and services with the LGBT community in mind from 2-11:30 p.m. at Market Hall, 2200 Stemmons Freeway. \$25-899. Tickets at [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite.com).

• Sept. 28: Red Star Space Oddity

Red Party XI with live entertainment, silent auction, costumes encouraged from 8-11 p.m. at The Empire Room 1225 North Riverfront Blvd.

• Sept. 28: DFW Sisters Blue Ball

Blue Ball takes place from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. at Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave.

• Sept. 28: Trans/SOFFA support group

An open group for those who identify as other than their assigned birth gender, significant others, friends, family and allies at 5 p.m. at Heart of the Matter Healing Center, 2060 N. Collins Blvd., Richardson.

• Sept. 28: Fall Into Pride

Dallas Black Pride presents Sonya Renee Taylor at 7 p.m. at 211 N. Ervay St. \$25.

• Sept. 28: LifeWalk Karaoke

Pay to perform, to make someone else perform or to get out of performing karaoke benefits LifeWalk from 9:30 p.m.-midnight at Barbara's Pavilion, 325 Centre St.

• Sept. 29: Rosh Hashanah eve

• Sept. 29: Turtle Creek Chorale To All the Women We've Loved Before featuring Denise Lee, Patty Breckenridge and Jodi Crawford Wright kicks off season 40 for the Turtle Creek Chorale at 8 p.m. at the Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. For information and tickets visit TurtleCreekChorale.com. \$25-50.

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.

OBITUARY



Philip Johnson, a Dallas legend known as the official historian of the Dallas LGBT community, passed away Monday, Sept. 23, at 1 a.m. at Landmark of Plano retirement Home, at the age of 94.

Philip was born May 1, 1925, in Dallas to Easter Lily Young Johnson and Francis Xavier Johnson. He attended Woodrow Wilson High School and served in the U.S. Army during World War II, reaching the rank of T/5, Charlie Company (those reach the rank "technician fifth grade" were addressed as corporal or tech corporal and had specialized skills that merited a higher pay grade).

After the Army, Johnson was a professional ballet dancer and once owned a dance studio. He was also an activist — he danced with Frank Kameny at the American Psychiatric Association's conference in Dallas in 1972, the year that Kameny and Barbara Gittings first petitioned the APA to remove homosexuality from its list of mental diseases and the year before APA made that change — and an avid history buff. He compiled an extensive history of the Dallas LGBT community in the 20th century, later donating his collection to Resource Center, which then created the Phil Johnson Historic Archives and Library. That collection has since been donated to the University of North Texas Archives to create the Resource Center Dallas LGBT Collection.

Watch for a complete obituary and more on Philip Johnson's life in the Oct. 4 issue of Dallas Voice.

• Sept. 29: Comedy for a Cause K-Von, David Jessup, Carmella Dubuque, Sable Alexander and Angela K Alexander perform to benefit Tucket's Gift at 5:30 p.m. in The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• Sept. 30-31: Rosh Hashanah

• Sept. 30-Oct. 10: Connections exhibit at Resource Center

A unique multimedia exhibit featuring the work of Dallas artist Michael

Duncan, showcasing distinctive wood and wire sculptures and vivid oil and acrylic paintings, with an artist's reception Saturday, Oct. 5, from 3-5 p.m., all at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. The exhibit is on view free of charge from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays from Sept. 30-Oct. 10. The works will also be for sale, and proceeds will benefit Resource Center. For information visit MyResourceCenter.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 Museum of HIV/AIDS Art founder Alexander Deets; **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 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.; **Unwired Group of**

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 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 Illument** 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.

OCTOBER

• Oct. 1: 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.

• Oct. 1: Oak Lawn Committee meeting

Meetings of the organization that weighs in on development in Oak Lawn are open to the public at 6:30 p.m. at Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave.

• Oct. 1: Prime Timers

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

• Oct. 2: Teen Pride Steering Committee

Teen Pride is looking for volunteers to join the steering committee. Meet with board members from 6-9 p.m. at Meadows Conference Center, 2900 Live Oak St.

• Oct. 3: GLFD at In the Heights

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas night at Dallas Theater Center production of *In the Heights*. Tickets purchased by GLFD members include pre-show reception. Tickets at DallasTheaterCenter.org.

• Oct. 3: Brewing Up Business

Develop new business relationships by giving your 30-second elevator speech, exchange business cards and learn more about this month's sponsor at 8:30 a.m. at Crickles and Co., 4000 Cedar Springs Road, Suite E. \$10 in advance. \$20 at the door. Free to LGBT Chamber members. For information visit LGBTChamber.com.

• Oct. 5: Tarrant County Pride Parade and Festival

The Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association's annual Pride parade begins at 11 a.m. in downtown Fort

AGENDA, Page 15

pet of the week / GEORGE



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Walking toward a common goal

29th annual LifeWalk event is Oct. 6

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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The 29th annual LifeWalk event, supporting Prism Health North Texas, steps off Sunday, Oct. 6, at 1 p.m. from Turtle Creek Park, but organizers noted that the fun starts that morning at 11 a.m. with a festival in the park featuring food trucks, dog rescue groups, LifeWalk team booths, organizational booths and other vendors. There will also be a memorial banner that visitors can sign in honor of someone living with HIV/

and development officer, and PHNT Event Coordinator Terry Walker said earlier this week that nearly 600 people had already registered online to participate in LifeWalk, and they expect about



AIDS or in memory of someone who has died of HIV/AIDS.

DJ Enrique will be spinning the tunes to help people get in the festive mood.

Partner agencies for the 2019 LifeWalk event are the Greg Dolgener Memorial AIDS Fund, Tucker's Gift, AIDS Services of Dallas, Dallas Hope Charities, Dogs Matter and the Turtle Creek Chorale.

Free HIV testing will also be offered at the park, and everyone who gets tested receives a free "clack" fan while supplies last. Hobbs and Walker noted that the fans go fast, so if you want one you should get over to be tested early.

Tori Hobbs, PHNT's chief marketing

and development officer, and PHNT Event Coordinator Terry Walker said earlier this week that nearly 600 people had already registered online to participate in LifeWalk, and they expect about 1,200 people — including volunteers and walkers — to be in the park on the day of the walk. They also stressed that online registration is still open and that walkers can register in person at Turtle Creek Park, right up until the walk steps off.

Where similar events require participants to pay a registration fee and/or raise a certain amount of money in donations, LifeWalk has no such requirements.

"There is no fee to register, although you do have the option to make a donation when you register online," Hobbs said. "The donation isn't mandatory, although we do encourage people to raise donations and donate themselves when



Photos Courtesy Marcelo Media

Walker, will be Connect to the Cause, "an education and interaction space where can learn more about what HIV is, how it is transmitted, what we are doing to combat HIV and the range of services we offer."

Hobbs explained that the Connect to the Cause area will include six different tables, each one featuring educational information on HIV and how PHNT serves those who have HIV or are at risk of contracting the virus.

"Each person who visits the space gets a little passport, and as they visit each of the six tables, they get their passport stamped. Everyone who gets their passport stamped at each station is entered into a drawing for a \$100 Target gift card," Hobbs said.

The LifeWalk route starts at Turtle Creek Park then winds through the Turtle Creek and Uptown neighborhoods to wind up back at the park. Walker noted that there will be plenty of water available, with hydration stations for both people and pups scattered along the walk route.

Those who participate in LifeWalk have various reasons for doing so. But they all have a common goal: "There is a clear call to action in participating in the LifeWalk event," Walker said. "When you register for LifeWalk, you become an advocate for fight against HIV. When you invite others to participate with you, you become an ambassador."

Hobbs added, "Coming and participating in the LifeWalk event helps ensure that those who need HIV medical care and prevention measures, like PrEP, receive those services. And you become part of helping to end HIV in North Texas.

"That's our goal — to end HIV in North Texas," she concluded. "And with the help of people who participate in the LifeWalk event, we can reach that goal."

Unprotected

Collin College offers no protections for LGBTQ students, employees

TAMMY NASH | Managing Editor
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After a student at Collin College in August demanded that the school board implement new policies, including protections for LGBTQ students and employees, Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell has taken up the effort to get the school to adopt those protections.

But as of this week, both Vasquez and McDonnell say they have gotten no response at all from school officials. "Total radio silence from them," McDonnell said.

Saying that Collin College student Chris Vasquez had approached him for

help in advocating for changes in the school's policies, McDonnell noted this week that he has "sent a letter to the administrators and every board member explaining what they need to change to be inclusive." That letter, he added, is based on knowledge he has accrued over the years in advocating for such policies not just in community colleges and public schools but also with Dallas County commissioners, the DART board, the North Texas Tollway Authority and others.

The letter, McDonnell said, included clear and simple information explaining that the Collin College board need only amend its equal employment opportunity statement and two board-level policies to protect LGBTQ employees and students. He also included research he compiled when he spoke at the Texas transgender Nondiscrimination Summit regarding discrimination and violence against trans people.

The Collin College policies are "not specifically inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression," McDonnell said. "My concern is they are taking no action because there is language in another policy about gender-based discrimination, and they think

that covers [LGBTQ people]," because the Texas Association of School Boards has told public school districts that such language, provided under Title IX protects on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation, too, since directives issued under the Obama administration interpreted Title IX that way.

But, McDonnell said, there is a new administration in control in Washington, D.C., these days that does not support that interpretation, and a lawsuit revolving around whether similar language federal law's Title VII protects LGBTQ people from employment discrimination.

"If we get a bad ruling from SCOTUS on Title VII and employment, then opponents of equality will go after Title IX," McDonnell said. "That's why we are asking this school — and others — to make those protections explicit in their EEO statements and their policies.

For Vasquez, the issue is personal. He is currently enrolled in his sophomore year at Collin College, and plans to get his four-year degree from the University of Texas at Arlington before heading to the UT School of Law in Austin.

He said that he has challenged the Collin College board "on several occasions" on various issues, most recently at the



Rafael McDonnell

Aug. 27 board meeting where he and other advocates focused on three specific issues.

"We had 100 to 150 people attend the school board meeting," Vasquez said. "This was the board's first meeting since the shooting at the Walmart in El Paso. That shooter attended our school last semester. Within that context, we felt the board should do the right thing and take measures to address the safety concerns and protect students from discrimination."

UNPROTECTED Page 14

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Finally, really — home

After 7 years in the foster system, a gay teen finds his forever home

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Barbara Rosenberg adopted her foster son, Mason, on Sept. 6, after Mason had spent seven years in the foster system. Most people who know them, though, would agree: Mason actually adopted Barbara.

Rosenberg said she only began thinking about becoming a foster parent when Josh Cogan, president and CEO of Outlast Youth, spoke to Congregation Beth El Binah. One thing he said stuck in her mind: There are lots of homeless LGBT teens.

She said the 2016 election had just passed, and she knew she needed to do something to make a difference.

So, she began to explore the idea of fostering. She learned that Jonathan's Place in Garland offers the classes needed to become a certified foster parent, and they welcome LGBT foster parents. Even more important to Rosenberg, the agency was looking for "homes for children of all sexual orientations."

She began her classes over that summer.

Part of the process of becoming a foster parent is going through home inspections. Rosenberg explained that some of the rules may seem arbitrary, but there's probably a good reason behind each of them. In her house, she said, she had to replace a freestanding fireplace grate with one that was attached to the bricks.

People who had participated in the foster program came to speak. They described their experiences — both good and bad. Most talked of having as many as 10 children in and out of their care over a two-year period. Some were placed for weeks before they reconciled with their parents or other family members. Some stayed months.

But there was lots of turnover.

Before children are placed, foster par-



Barbara and Mason Rosenberg, above. Barbara and Mason with Judge Bonnie Goldstein, right.

ents discuss with a caseworker what children they're looking for. Most are looking for babies they plan to eventually adopt. Some are comfortable caring for special needs children, while others are not. Rosenberg wanted an LGBT teen.

In spring 2018, Rosenberg completed her certification and a week later a caseworker called to say that Mason needed a home.

He arrived with very little, although a few boxes of his things showed up a few weeks later. Rosenberg said she had three days to get him glasses — which had been broken in his last home — buy him school uniforms and register him for school.

She has since retired, but at the time Rosenberg was still working. For the last 15 years, she worked at Dallas City Hall in the city attorney's office, but she's best known for her judicial career. In January 1992, Gov. Ann Richards appointed Rosenberg to fill a vacant seat on the Dallas Court of Appeals. She had to run that November to finish the last two years of the unexpired term, and she faced Judge Jack Hampton, famous for giving a lighter sentence in 1988 to a Mesquite man convicted of killing two gay men because, Hampton said, "I don't care much for queers." Rosenberg won.

But despite her years of legal experience, being responsible for another person was a completely new experience for Rosenberg. She noted she was required

to take more hours of continuing education to be a foster parent than she had to take to practice law.

From most of the stories she'd heard from other foster parents, Rosenberg expected a revolving door: Mason would be in school, and then a family member would take him in, and she'd get another child. But when school ended, Mason was still there, and Rosenberg found there aren't as many options for teens as there are for younger children in terms of day care.

She registered him in a program at the Y, but that didn't run until the new school year began again in August. Friends offered to take care of Mason on days she was working, but that wasn't an option. The caregiver has to be certified to give day care, as well.

So on days when she didn't have any place to leave Mason, she brought him to City Hall. But then two friends stepped in, including former state Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt, took the classes necessary and became certified to help care for Mason.

In October 2018, when Rosenberg retired from the city, it appeared Mason would be with her for a while.

Mason originally was removed from his parents when a teacher reported suspected abuse. Since then, he'd been in about six homes over the years. He became a good advocate for himself, and when he had problems, he called his caseworker.

"I'd tell them about it if I was having



issues with the other kids," he said.

He said his caseworker would open an investigation and remove him from the house. He described very generally what happened in some of his foster homes: "Parents were too strict or not taking care of me enough," he said, describing his experiences as stressful because he doesn't like new surroundings, and moving to a new family usually meant changing schools.

Mason said he didn't think being a gay kid was the reason for abuse at home or not getting along with his foster families or other foster children. Coming out was never an issue, he explained, because he never came out. He's always just been gay.

When Mason met Rosenberg, he said he thought she was nice. She was, he said, "loving."

Mason said he doesn't like crowds, but he makes friends easily. He comes across as a sweet kid who's relieved he's found a permanent home.

But underneath is evidence of what the foster system has done to him. "You have to protect yourself," he said. "I have a big mouth when needed."

His toughness comes across when he talked about seeing his birth mother on his birthday more than a year ago. The visit went well, he said. But does he want to see her again? "She has my number," he replied.

For her part, Rosenberg said, "I try to be a gentle parent." Mason likes to spend time by himself in his room, and "I let him do that," she said.

Among the foster requirements are posting house rules. Rosenberg has three simple simple rules: Be respectful. Have healthy and clean habits. Work together.

Under each are some suggestions, like "Ask any questions" and "Talk about any problems."

Rosenberg said soon after moving in, Mason began redecorating his room. Any mess, she said, he keeps in his room. "He has a lot of life skills," she added. Having been in the foster system so long, Mason had learned to cook for himself

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What they said

10 Democratic presidential hopefuls participated last week in an LGBTQ forum. Here's what they said on the issues

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

Several Democratic candidates seemed to throw President Barack Obama under the metaphorical bus on Sept. 20 as they sought to illustrate how they didn't take as long as other Democrats to "evolve" on LGBT issues. Former Vice President Joe Biden was taken to task for having characterized Vice President Mike Pence as a "decent guy." And U.S. senators Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris were grilled over their early opposition to gender transition surgery for prison inmates.

But nobody asked South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg about his recent attack on "LGBT media," which he has claimed criticizes him for being either too gay or not gay enough — a claim he later backed away from.

Such was the first national presidential forum devoted to LGBT issues for the 2020 presidential campaign. The forum was live-streamed from Coe College in Cedar

Rapids, Iowa, and was sponsored by the statewide LGBT group One Iowa, the national LGBT media group GLAAD, The Advocate LGBT newsmagazine and the local Cedar Rapids newspaper The Gazette.

Transgender actress and businesswoman Angelica Ross emceed the event, which gave 10 Democratic presidential candidates — including four of the top five polling candidates — 10 minutes each on stage. During that time, they were each asked to say what they would do on LGBT issues during their first 100 days as president and then answer two to three additional questions from a representative of one of the event's sponsors: Gazette columnist Lyz Lenz, One Iowa Policy Director Keenan Crow and Advocate Editor-in-Chief Zach Stafford.

Three of the top-polling Democratic candidates did not show up: Sen. Bernie Sanders, former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, and businessman Andrew Yang.

Sanders was in the middle of a four-day tour of college campuses in the Carolinas and spent Friday evening at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C. Erica Barz, communications director for One Iowa, said O'Rourke and Yang did not give any specific reason when they declined to participate.

Openly-gay presidential hopeful Pete Buttigieg got a loud and prolonged standing ovation when he was called to the stage, seventh in the line of 10 candidates. Buttigieg's appearance at the LGBT forum came just two days after he told a SiriusXM host, "I can't even read the LGBT media anymore, because it's all, 'He's too gay, not gay enough, wrong kind of gay.'" Buttigieg did not specify which LGBT media outlets he believed expressed such criticism, and many LGBT media outlets were quick to point out that it has been mainstream media that have questioned Buttigieg's expres-

sion of his being gay.

Most notorious of the mainstream media articles was one published by the New Republic magazine. The article, which has since been removed from the magazine's website, was a commentary by gay writer Dale Peck who referred to Buttigieg as "Mary Pete" and said the only difference between Buttigieg and all other white men running for president is "what he does with his dick (and possibly his ass...)." During his opening remark, Buttigieg criticized U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson for referring to transgender women as "big hairy men" trying to get into homeless shelters for women. Buttigieg said that, if anyone in his administration spoke the way Carson did about transgender people, they would be fired.

The Advocate's Stafford asked Buttigieg how he would feel as president knowing he could still not make a blood donation because of the Food and Drug Administration's restrictions on gay men giving blood. Buttigieg lamented that the FDA policy is not "medically informed." Stafford also asked Buttigieg how he would handle religious exemptions from non-discrimination laws. Buttigieg said he thinks it is an "insult to religion" when such exemptions are sought.

The second strongest applause from the live audience Friday night came in a boisterous standing ovation for Sen. Warren, who was slated ninth out of the 10 candidates. Warren ignored the directive to say what she would do in her first 100 days as president. Instead, with her voice sounding gripped with emotion, she read the names of 18 transgender women of color who have been victims of hate crimes in 2019.

"Equality is far off for many people in this country," said Warren, "but the cost

of inequality for transgender people, particularly transgender women of color, is now a moment of crisis ..."

Warren, who has become well known for having articulated "a plan" to fix many of the nation's problems, said President Trump "has a plan" also — to turn "people against people, white against black, turn straight against gay and trans, turn Christian against Muslim ..." Trump's strategy, she said, is to have these conflicts distract the nation so people "won't notice that Donald Trump and his buddies are robbing the rest of this country of its wealth and its dignity."

Gazette columnist Lyz Lenz noted that in 2012 Warren didn't support transition surgery for inmates, but that she had changed her mind this year. She asked how to get others on board. Warren replied, "Fight for it."

When Lenz asked Warren to discuss what being "moral" means to her, Warren cited a biblical passage, Matthew 25, in which giving food and solace to a stranger is equated to giving food and solace to the lord. The story, she said, illustrated two things for her: "There is god or goodness or power in every single human being. And we are not called on to have a good heart and smile and open mind ... We are called on to act ... and that is what we will do."

Asked what she would do if the U.S. Supreme Court rules against including LGBT people from protection of Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Law, Warren said, "We have a Congress we can hold accountable, and Congress can decide we all are equal. That is the fight I am ready to lead."

Struggling for ground

Applause for little-known candidate Joe Sestak, a former admiral and U.S.

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representative, was light, as it was for long-shot author Marianne Williamson and for U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard. While Gabbard reminded the audience she earned a 100 percent positive voting record in Congress from the Human Rights Campaign during the most recent session, she was gently prodded to address the fact that, in the early 2000s, she worked against marriage equality in Hawaii. A question submitted by an audience member asked Gabbard "How can LGBT people trust you?"

Gabbard said her record in Congress "speaks for itself." She noted that, when she served in the military, she served alongside LGBT Americans, "got to know them in the most extreme circumstances . . . We had each other's backs."

In addition to Warren and Gabbard, others had to account for their past votes against LGBT interests. Lenz asked Sen. Harris how she expects transgender people to trust her given that, as California's attorney general, she submitted a brief in support of denying transgender surgery to prison inmates. Harris said that, as attorney general, she had to represent the state agencies. But she said that later, "when I learned what they were doing, behind the scenes I had them change the policies."

Lenz went after Biden, too, noting that as a senator in the 1990s, he voted for the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy banning LGBT people from serving openly in the military and the "Defense of Marriage Act" that barred federal recognition of marriages between same-sex couples. She noted he later voted to repeal both those laws but that he recently referred to Vice President Mike Pence as a "decent guy."

"You're a lovely person," quipped Biden, who seemed thrown off balance by the questions.

"I'm just asking the questions people want to know," Lenz said, to which

Biden replied, "Fire away."

Lenz continued, saying that Pence has a well-established reputation of being opposed to equal rights for LGBT people, so "How can [LGBT people] trust you won't compromise on issues that put them at risk in order to compromise with people like Pence?"

Biden reminded the audience that he "didn't have to go through any period of adjustment" to support marriage equality for same-sex couples: "I didn't have to evolve," he said.

The word "evolve" became a politically loaded term during the early years of the Obama administration as then-President Obama was initially reluctant to support marriage equality. But by the start of his second term, Obama expressed support for allowing same-sex couples to marry.

His widely-publicized statement in support of marriage equality came just days after Biden gave an interview saying he was "absolutely comfortable" with marriage equality.

Biden said his reference to Pence as "decent" was "just a way to speak" when you have to work with someone. But he added, "I don't think Trump is all that decent."

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker was quick to point out that he supported LGBT equality from the start of his political career "before a lot of national leaders had evolved." He demonstrated a deep familiarity with LGBT institutions and history, referring to the work of the Hetrick-Martin Institute in New York that helps LGBT youth; referring by name to Ja'leyah-Jamar, a black transgender woman in Kansas City who became the 18th transgender woman of color to be killed by a hate crime this year and noting that 30 percent of LGBT youth report missing school out of fear for their safety.

Booker also noted that he stood up for

marriage equality at a time when few others in public office had. As mayor of Newark, for instance, he refused to preside over male-female marriage ceremonies until same-sex couples could also marry.

Booker said he was "a life-long ally on these issues" and, as president, would have a "comprehensive agenda on Day One."

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who like Booker, has been polling in the low single digits, seemed to make a warm impression on the audience, even though her initial comments were interrupted by someone shouting from the back of the audience. When a member of the audience who had been in the Orlando LGBT nightclub Pulse in June 2016 when a gunman killed 49 people and injured 53 asked about gun control, Klobuchar beckoned him to the stage and gave him a hug.

"I'm proud of how the LGBT community has stood with other groups to get gun legislation passed," said Klobuchar, adding that she "would not fold" to the National Rifle Association in her efforts to pass gun control.

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, the last of the 10 candidates heard at the forum, said he found Carson's remark about transgender women "disgusting" and said Carson should "step down" from his position.

At one point during the forum, one of the moderators announced that the LGBT Forum was trending at the top of social media, although they did not identify which media.

According to Twitter, #LGBTQforum got 31,200 Twitter posts, putting it in fourth place behind #StormingArea51, a hashtag for people interested in a mass trespassing event at a Nevada Air Force testing range associated with reports of UFO activity. That issue drew 73,000 posts.

The next national LGBT forum for



Elizabeth Warren, top, Pete Buttigieg, above

presidential candidates will be broadcast live by CNN. The forum, co-sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, will take place on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. Nine candidates have confirmed participation so far: Biden, Booker, Buttigieg, Castro, Harris, Klobuchar, O'Rourke, businessman Tom Steyer and Warren.

CNN reports that both Sanders and Yang have said scheduling conflicts prevent them from participating.

Moderators will include Anderson Cooper, Don Lemon, Dana Bash, and Chris Cuomo.

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Maryland conversion therapy ban stands

Judge said law does not violate free speech rights; plaintiff vows to appeal

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN | Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — A federal judge has thrown out a psychotherapist's lawsuit challenging Maryland's ban on treating minors with conversion therapy, the practice of trying to change a client's sexual orientation from gay to straight.

U.S. District Judge Deborah Chasanow's ruling on Sept. 20 rejected Christopher Doyle's claims that the state law violates his First Amendment rights to free speech and religious freedom. The judge said prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy on minors doesn't prevent licensed therapists from expressing their personal views about conversion therapy to minor clients.

Roger Gannam, one of Doyle's attorneys, said Monday, Sept. 23, that they will appeal the judge's decision. Doyle is represented by lawyers from Liberty Counsel, a Christian legal advocacy organization based in Orlando, Florida.

Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican,



signed the measure into law in May 2018. The law, which took effect in October 2018, made Maryland the 11th state to enact legislation against conversion therapy for minors.

In her 25-page ruling, Chasanow said the legislation is supported by research and findings of professional organizations that demonstrate conversion therapy is likely harmful to minors.

"These sources indicate that conducting conversion therapy on minors could potentially harm their emotional and physical well-being and, thus, prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy on minors would abate the harmful outcomes caused by conversion therapy," she said.

The law only prohibits conversion therapy when it is conducted by licensed

practitioners on minors and prohibits only speech "uttered in the process of conducting conversion therapy," the judge noted.

During a hearing, Doyle's attorneys argued the law doesn't distinguish between voluntary and forced change efforts.

"However, children under the age of 16 do not have capacity to consent to psychological treatment," the judge wrote, saying Doyle hasn't offered a viable alternative "that would achieve the narrowing effect he desires."

Gannam said plaintiffs' attorneys disagree with the judge's analysis of the case and the standard that she applied in evaluating their First Amendment arguments.

"The mistake is treating the speech of professionals like Mr. Doyle differently from other constitutionally protected speech," he said.

Doyle also argued that the ban violated his clients' First Amendment right to receive information. However, Chasanow ruled in August that Doyle couldn't bring claims on his clients' behalf.

Doyle's lawsuit, filed in January, named Hogan and state Attorney General Brian Frosh, a Democrat, as defendants. Raquel Coombs, a spokeswoman for Frosh's office said, conversion therapy "relies on the false premise that an LGBTQ individual is broken and must be fixed."

"Advocates of this type of therapy are selling something that doesn't make people's lives better, [but] rather, as the court agreed, is actually harmful to minors," Coombs said in a statement.

Doyle is a mental health therapist at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, Virginia, and is executive director of the Institute for Healthy Families in the Washington, D.C., area. ■



COLLIN From Page 9

While Vasquez and the others also asked the board to end Collin College's "marshal program" which encourages the goal of arming more staff members and teachers on campus, and to set the minimum wage for school employees at \$15, protecting LGBTQ staff and students from discrimination was at the top of the list.

"White supremacists like the El Paso shooter are often not just racist but also homophobic and transphobic," Vasquez told Dallas Voice. "It would be hypocritical for the school board to say they disavowed all types of discrimination and

don't have a culture of discrimination in our school when we still don't have protections for the LGBTQ community because our school board has ignored calls for that clause to be included.

"No one should be fired or lose opportunities at our school because of who they love or what gender they identify as," Vasquez added. "It's 2019; we shouldn't have to be pressuring them to do the humane thing."

But as of Wednesday, Sept. 25, Vasquez said he has gotten no response from the board.

"I plan to reach out to the board by

messaging them again, and if they don't respond, we'll bring more people to the next meeting in October," he declared. "Their silence is deafening, and their state of inaction is sickening. ... It is 2019, and the school board should without a doubt have an LGBTQ protections clause and should not be putting more guns on campus [with the marshal program], especially since we were the school with a mass shooter."

McDonnell noted that he has called the school "a couple of times" since sending his letter the day after Labor Day, and so far has gotten "zero response. They have

no written or called me back. So I have no idea where they might stand on this."

McDonnell also noted that of the 40 community college districts in the state of Texas, 13 include specific protections for LGBT students and employees. Collin College, he said, is not the only such school in North Texas not to have those protections, but it appears to be the largest district with no LGBTQ protections at all. The Dallas County college district has comprehensive protections, but Tarrant County College, he said, does not include specific protections based on gender identity and gender expression. ■



HOME From Page 10

and do his own laundry.

Monthly visits by the caseworkers, CASA volunteer and therapist are part of fostering. Court appearances are required to assess the foster child's status. At one hearing, Rosenberg said she was surprised when Mason told the judge he wanted Rosenberg to adopt him. They talked about it at home.

"What surprised me the most was when he asked, 'Can I change my name to your name?'" she said.

At his adoption in Judge Bonnie Goldstein's court earlier this month, about 25 friends gathered to watch Mason and Rosenberg legally become a family. After swearing them in, the judge asked Rosenberg for documents, including papers showing that Mason's birth parents had signed away parental rights.

Then Goldstein asked Mason to state his name for the record, he proudly said, "Mason Rosenberg."

"Not yet," the judge said, smiling. He looked deflated. She asked him a few questions to make sure that adoption was what he wanted and that he fully understood what it meant. And when she finally declared him to legally be Mason Rosenberg, everyone in the courtroom began crying and applauding.

Mason has settled in as a student at Woodrow Wilson High School. He's proud that as a junior, he already has some college credit under his belt. Last year he took AP Art, and this year he's taking 2D Design.

Does he have plans for his future? "I'm still figuring it out," he said, but he'd like to major in graphic design, fashion or cinematography. He wants to take classes in each to see where he best fits.

Mason does know that he'd like to go to UNT or Texas State because both have good art programs. To Rosenberg's relief, the state covers tuition at a state school for foster children. Rosenberg noted that although it's available, most foster kids can't take advantage of the opportunity, since most who age out of the system are out on the street on their 18th birthday.

Happily Mason's only problem is to decide which school he'll attend.

So now that Mason's a Rosenberg, how are things going? "Too smooth," Mason said, still not quite believing he's finally really home. ■

Information on fostering is available from Jonathan's Place at JPKids.org.



AGENDA From Page 7

Worth, stepping off south down Commerce Street from Weatherford Street. The parade disbands at Commerce and Lancaster Avenue, near the entrance to the Festival at Fort Worth Water Gardens at end of parade route. There is a nominal admission fee to the festival. For more information visit TCGPWA.org.

• Oct. 5: Pet Palooza

Northaven UMC and Friends of the Northaven Trail host Pet Palooza including costume contest. Grand prize is an oil painting by local pet artist Renee Robison. Parade of pets up and down the new Northaven Trail followed by blessing of the pets by Northaven staff from 10-11:30 p.m. Parking at Northaven Church, 11211 Preston Road.

• Oct. 5: Texas Latino Pride

Live music festival from 2-10 p.m. at Longhorn Ballroom, 216 Corinth St. Info at Facebook.com/TexasLatinoPride.

• Oct. 5: Opening Arts Reception

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How I contracted HIV is none of your damn business

How I contracted HIV is none of your damn business. I'm going to tell you what happened, but not because I owe you an explanation. Here goes.

My friend with benefits at the time casually suggested that he should get tested, because he knew that he "messed around with several different people." As he made this suggestion, it forced me to think on the last time that I was tested for HIV, which was a shaky "a year and some months ago."

The fact that I could not pinpoint the exact date of my last negative test result really bothered me, and the butterflies in my stomach began to swirl around like a storm. If thunder strikes, I thought, the lightning should be obvious to see. After all, I knew that with this particular partner, we always used a condom, and I couldn't recall a "slip-up" of raw sex with any other partner within the last year within my memory.

My body count (the number of partners a person has had sex with) was "average" in my opinion, based on a review of my peers' social media posts that included both personal anecdotes and barebacking escapades with people they met online.

The friend with benefits, however, unintentionally saved my life.

"Your diagnosis is HIV positive" were the only words that resonated within me – everything else was a blur. I felt overwhelming relief and pain; I knew that something did not feel right with my body, but apprehension about knowing my health status with certainty manifested into feelings of silent despair.

I had to be honest with myself. I knew that I was not proactively visiting health care providers to receive routine check-ups or following up with comprehensive services. I did not prioritize HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing every three months, because as long as I used a condom most of the time, I felt content. Even though I did not engage in any other behaviors like injecting drugs, there were some symptoms that I tried to overlook but could no longer.



Toraje Heyward
Positive Thoughts

My first defining moment was when I visited a female barber in Hampton, Ga. While she was shaving the hair under my neck, she touched a swollen lymph node on my chin, and then my Adam's apple. And then she felt it again. It was extremely tender to the touch. I felt and saw her facial expression change, as if she knew something that I didn't.

"You need to go get that checked" were the words that followed as she continued to cut my hair.

I thought back to when I was hospitalized for proctitis, and the excruciating pain that felt like a thousand knives stabbing me in the stomach from every direction. Could the swollen lymph nodes have been related somehow? Some weeks after, I noticed that I also had swollen lymph nodes under my armpits, but that was dismissed as an adverse reaction to chemicals in the deodorant that I was using.

These all were thoughts that raced through my head; I wanted to replay the situation in which the scenario could have resulted in a negative status instead.

The next day, I accepted my fate and my status. I took a photo of my results and threw the testing kit in the trash. At that moment, I chose life over death.

So, when I tell you how I contracted HIV is none of your damn business, I don't come from a place of arrogance or



conceit. The disclosure of one's health status is a privilege for some, and depending on what state you live in, can be a legal matter that brings jail time if someone says you didn't disclose. Even if there are no official laws criminalizing HIV non-disclosure, people still face stigma and discrimination that can make it nearly impossible to talk about.

Instead of focusing on the policing of marginalized bodies and values, efforts should be directed toward education, increasing access to health care for vulnerable communities, and eliminating problematic beliefs and stereotypes surrounding the HIV virus itself as well as the people living with it.

You shouldn't feel compelled to ask someone living with HIV how they contracted the virus. If you are unaware of the various routes of transmission, a simple Google search can provide you with answers. If I have no intentions of being in a relationship with you, or if I do not have any inclinations to have sex with you, then why should my health status be any of your business? Would you ever

BUSINESS, Next Page

Sticks, stones and broken bones

Dave Chappelle thinks he's just being funny. But his jokes about trans people miss that mark

The term “political correctness” is described as language, policies or measures that intentionally avoid offense or disadvantage to marginalized groups in society. Since when did that become a bad thing?

President Trump has been a vocal critic of political correctness, and the whip-lash effect is being felt in society at large.

Comedians are railing against “call out culture” or “cancel culture,” where a celebrity (most often, comedians) are boycotted for a comment or behavior that is perceived to be offensive and are called out on social media or “cancelled” by the boycott of their shows or programs. Think Louis C.K. or Kevin Hart or Roseann.

Comedian Dave Chappelle is firing back against this phenomenon with a Netflix Special called *Sticks and Stones*. Chappelle has taken grief from the LGBTQ community for comments he has made, and continues to make, in his shows. He most often targets the transgender community, and this special was no exception — though I didn't find anything in there I found to be hateful or over the line; it was just garden-variety ignorance.



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

Chappelle views himself as the victim because, he doesn't believe he deserves the criticism, though he profits from the

attention.

I really have mixed thoughts on this subject. Chappelle complains that being held accountable for a comment made two decades ago is not fair. Maybe — we all said some stupid shit when we were younger; I, for one, am super glad Twitter wasn't around when I was 17. So, he has a point.

Most of us aren't the same people we were 20 years ago, and we should get credit for growing and being the people we are now.

In case you haven't seen the special — and maybe don't intend to — I'll share what he said about trans people:

Chappelle says he has LGB friends but no T friends. He says he doesn't blame trans people, because he can't stop telling jokes about us.

Chappelle says *we* need to take respon-

sibility for his jokes: “[Trans people] have to admit, being born in the wrong body is a hilarious predicament. If it happened to me, you'd laugh.”

He's only partially right. I have a broad and sometimes dark sense of humor. I can laugh at myself, and do! In quiet moments, I have laughed at the prank God played on me.

But for the vast majority of us, dealing with gender dysphoria is no laughing matter.

Having one of the best-known comedians in the world telling jokes about trans people, while we may not like being the butt of these observations, is evidence that we are becoming more mainstream. Comedians on Netflix don't do inside humor that only a few people “get;” they joke about cultural touchstones that everyone is aware of.

Ten years ago, we were on nobody's radar. So that visibility is the good news.

But the troubling part is that with that attention has come the kind of institutional oppression that has been reserved for groups that are reviled by the ruling class.

Transgender people have no state or federal employment protections and no housing protections. We can be refused care by doctors, and we can't join the military. Soon it may be legally acceptable to exclude us from homeless shelters, and violence against us is a daily occurrence. Just last week, a trans woman was walking in North Dallas when a man in a red truck pulled alongside her and, according to police, yelled gender-related slurs at her before shooting her several times in the arm and chest. (The suspect in that attack has been identified and arrested, and he has confessed to the shooting.)

Chappelle goes on: “LGBT — all those letters aren't in the same movement; they just travel in the same car together. G is driving. White men are the G. L in passenger seat. Everyone likes L except the Gs. B breaks tension in the back seat. L and G agree that Bs are gross. The Ts in the backseat by themselves. Everyone respects but resents the Ts because [they] are making the trip take longer. Everything the Ts say pisses everyone else off. ‘I need to use the restroom.’ Shut up! There isn't a restroom for you for four states!”

What Chappelle conveniently ignores is that this same joke could have been made about him up until 1965. Jim Crow laws made it difficult for African-Americans to find a bathroom too. Would that have been funny?

In my previous life, I worked as a smart-aleck morning show jock on radio stations in Sacramento, Vegas, Houston and elsewhere. I tried to be funny, but occasionally would hear from someone whose feelings I had hurt. That bothered me.

I never wanted to hurt anyone; quite the opposite, I wanted to make them laugh. Sometimes I missed the mark.

What Chappelle and others who pick on the trans community need to understand is that when that audience leaves the “Chuckle Hut” and heads home, their only impression of trans people might be the caricature he left in their minds that we are not people, and our lives are not worth respect.

That's when words can become as harmful as sticks and stones. ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemcchelle44.wordpress.com.



BUSINESS

From Previous Page

ask a cancer survivor, “Did you get cancer from smoking too many cigarettes?”

From my experience, many people honestly feel that HIV is something that only promiscuous people receive as a punishment for their actions. Many people feel that if they live a “righteous” lifestyle, then they will be excused from becoming a host to the virus. Many people feel as long as they're not one of those people — gay, transgender, promiscuous, etc. — they will be safe.

You see, HIV does not define my dignity or character. HIV does not distinguish my humanity, nor can it verify the

expression of my gender or sexuality. HIV is a virus that invades my immune cells in order to survive.

But with the help of HIV treatment, I know that I can be a winner every day. I owe it to my loved ones, who are counting on me to thrive. I owe it to you, as you continue to live your story. You have a right to comprehensive care and education, but you are not entitled to the same access to my personal health.

If you are HIV positive, strive to find comprehensive care that suits your needs and identity, which includes antiretroviral therapy and mental health and any

other related services needed to suppress your viral load and increase immune system health. Advocate for those who don't have the same health care access, regardless of your status.

If you are HIV negative, discuss options and talk to your health care provider about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily pill taken to prevent and control the spread of HIV.

If you are reading this and are still unaware of your HIV status, go get tested now.

Whatever you do after reading this, don't ask the next person you meet who

is living with HIV to tell you how they contracted it.

Toraje Howard is a contributing writer for TheBody and a member of Engaging Communities Around HIV Organizing (ECHO), a leadership development program established by the sexual health advocacy organization Advocates for Youth. This column is a project of TheBody, Plus, Positively Aware, POZ and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites — TheBody.com, HIVPlusmag.com, PositivelyAware.com and Poz.com — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS. ■

Who is that masked man?



Out mystery musician Orville Peck brings country music to its knees

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
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As any *Drag Race* fan knows, among RuPaul's best-known catchphrases is that "we're all born naked and the rest is drag." It's easy to wrap our minds around that when it comes to Dolly Parton's wigs, Porter Waggoner's rhinestones and Johnny Cash's all-black ensembles. Indeed, country music may be the most drag-alicious genre of music out there.

That is, according to Orville Peck, the Canadian-born gay crooner who is currently on fire with his debut album *Pony*, a slew of sold out shows and his recent *British GQ* cover. And he takes the drag aspect to a whole different level

with his now-signature fringe masks. (You can see just how in person on Tuesday, when he brings his looks — and more importantly his music — to South Side Music Hall for his initial Dallas engagement.)

On initial impression, Peck's get-up may appear to be a gimmick — a way to set himself apart as the Lone Ranger of the Airwaves (with a little bit of flamboyance to boot): The fringe masks, the gauzy country-and-western shirts, the colorful boots ... together, they paint a striking and even somewhat fetishy portrait, but he's also quite serious about it all.

"That's just a part of who I am," Peck says by phone. "To me, it makes sense within the history of the music that I make. There's this misconception that I'm playing a character and it's not that way at all. I am Orville Peck. But I love the theatrical background and

the drama of the music, and I'm telling my stories that are heartbreaking and difficult."

Which presents a strange dichotomy, being that his music is so emotional and heartfelt, yet we can't see it in his face. But Peck is fine with that. And he'll even say that it's the opposite that happens. Either way, it all works.

"The masks play an important role in connecting me to the audience," he says. "It's in the voice, it's in the body language and I'd say we connect deeper and more emotionally. They don't need to see my nose!" (Imagine, music that's centered on the voice... they should make a reality competition series about that!) "My only agenda is to be sincere and we seem to be at this time in music to be sincere, you can't be bold and colorful and creative."

With just the one album under his

western belt and accompany buckle, Peck has become a music darling — an It Boy capturing eyes and ears with his lush sounds ("Queen of the Rodeo") and gorgeous videos ("Hope to Die"). That has struck a chord with audiences who run the gamut at his shows. And especially in the often insular world of country music, where out artists are few and far between (see our interview with Ty Herndon, Page 24), his visibility and popularity make for an important combination.

"I have such a diverse crowd there, from straight frat boys to 70-something Hank Williams fans to drag queens," he says. He's discovered a special attachment to his queer fans. In some ways, he represents a beacon of sorts for some.

"I have some fans who grew up in the South, in that ranching lifestyle and they had to push that part of their lives aside. They didn't feel welcome in their own culture," he says. "I represent a door-

ORVILLE PECK

South Side Music Hall,
1135 S. Lamar St. Oct. 1, 8 p.m.
\$20-\$25. GilleysDallas.com.



way back into that I think. What more could you ask for?"

To add to his mystique, Peck has been famously cagey not just about what he looks like under the mask, but also about his past. Still, he has talked about his formative years with his two older brothers and liberal parents. Life was so good that he never had to come out due to such a supportive family. He discovered isolation outside of his family where other people weren't as agreeable, which struck him as odd.

"They allowed me to be comfortable at a very young age, but the struggle was growing up in this strange solitude from others," he says. "I was on my own a lot as a kid and I think I carry that loneliness inside and put a lot of that anxiety in my music. Quite literally, I felt like an outlaw while also loving cowboy culture."

Peck felt on his own often as a child and like a country song, turned it into his own.

"I genuinely felt like a cowboy and saw the adventure in it," he says. "I figured I'd blaze my own trail in this nomadic and solitary way."

He recalls listening to Patsy Cline at age 11 and, while not fully compre-

hending her lyrics about relationships, related to the simple emotions and heartbreak.

"I vividly remember just crying about those feelings," Peck says. "But that's what country music is. Now I see audiences singing my songs back to me which are deeply personal."

His thrust to fame has been like a rocket and he's bullriding it still in disbelief.

"I pinch myself a lot," he says. "For me, I've been able to meet many of my idols in just the last six months and not just in music, but in film, theater or fashion. That's been fascinating."

Despite the famous people, it's his fans — especially his queer fans — who Peck says strike him the most with their stories.

"It's so touching and I just feel incredible when I hear these stories by LGBTQ-plus people," he says. "But also, I hear from people who are completely different from me who I felt marginalized by and that even helps me with my preconceptions. I've been a performer my whole life, but I just now see this diversity in all people. It doesn't shock me because I know it's what music can do, but it still grips me every night." ■

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No. 1 with a Bullitt

Ford's turbocharged Mustang is retro cool

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

A millennial co-worker of mine saw the Mustang Bullitt sitting in the carpark and said, "I'd buy it if it was blue." Blasphemy! Young man, step back! Kids these days — there is only one color for the Bullitt and that's Dark Highland Green metallic. (Ford also offers it in Shadow Black, and I must admit it looks slick, but that kind of transgression is an entirely different sin. Green is holy in this annal of speed.)

My young friend apparently has never seen the 1968 flick *Bullitt*, starring Steve McQueen, in which a custom Mustang leads one of the most iconic chase scenes ever filmed, out-pacing a Dodge Charger while jumping and sliding through the hilly streets of San Francisco. I told him to go rent it and quit talking to me until he has.

At least he appreciated the styling. I love how the front fender recedes into the bodyside, then kicks up again into the rear fender, connecting to the original. The fastback roofline and rear window trim gives a hint of Aston Martin while the wide rear channels Porsche. Key to the Bullitt is keeping it simple with a Mustang-less custom grille, 19-in. black five-spoke Heritage wheels, red Brembo brake calipers and integrated decklid spoiler. No nonsense.

McQueen wouldn't recognize the latest car's interior, though the twin cowl dash with aluminum-look accents is wholly appropriate. Leather bucket seats are heated and cooled; the thick leather-wrapped steering wheel is also heated. Dual zone automatic climate control, B&O audio and navigation add joy while the touchscreen features

intuitive icons along the bottom for audio, climate, nav and phone. Safety is enhanced with blind spot warning and rear cross traffic alert.

My friend probably thinks the Bullitt should have a cute little turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, too, but the Bullitt gets a 5.0-liter V8 that delivers 480 horsepower through a rev-matching 6-speed manual transmission. You certainly don't have to suffer left lane slowpokes. Stay throttled to hit 163 mph or let up to achieve an impressive 15/25-MPG city/highway.

Older Mustangs could go fast in a straight line, but their solid rear axles danced over rough roads.

That's over as the latest generation employs an independent rear suspension with continuously adaptive

MagneRide damping. It rides firm, but is never harsh. Adjustable drive modes calibrate the suspension and throttle from Snow/Ice through Normal, Sport, and Track settings. Crack the throttle loud enough to wake McQueen from his nap. Glorious!

Two 1969 Mustang GT fastbacks were used in the movie, which debuted in October 1968. One car was used in many of the jumps and was sent to the scrap yard while the second was sold to a private buyer. The latter was found in Baja, Calif., in early 2017. It's showing its age, but has been used extensively to promote the current edition.

After a full education, our young friend now understands why the Mustang Bullitt is so special. I'm sure it would look good in blue (or red, white, yellow...), but that's just wrong. While the original is priceless, you can buy a 2019 Mustang Bullitt for \$46,595, or \$51,485 as tested. Competitors include the Dodge Challenger SRT, Chevy Camaro SS and Audi S5.

Follow the writer on YouTube @AutoCasey.

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Rainbow's end



Renee Zellweger's transformative performance elevates 'Judy' to can't-miss status

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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I never knew a world where Judy Garland was alive, but she was a living presence anyway. From the annual TV airings of *The Wizard of Oz* to the songs she popularized, her talent easily outlived her 47 years. But even as a child, before I knew the tragedy of her personal history, I could sense the sadness she permeated her. Even on numbers like "Get Happy" or "The Trolley Song," there was something in the timbre of her voice that oozed heartache. It's what made her such a popular interpreter of the Great American Songbook. When finally, in my late teens, I saw her greatest acting performance in

A Star Is Born, it became clear this was a creature not meant long for this world. That she lasted as long as she did seems a blessing.

It would be facile (as many biopics about tragic artists can be) to reduce her life to a variation of the poor little rich girl: Terrorized as a child star by studio boss Louis B. Mayer, cursed in adulthood with a loveless home life, failed marriages and financial hardships, but most attributable to her own self-destructive habits. And anyway, she was famous! Imagine the joy she would have brought for decades more if only she had exercised some discipline! And the new film *Judy* does, in fact, touch on all those tropes like a baseball player running the bases. But something deeper emerges from the interstices of plot points: A fully realized, funny, complicated genius with tons of heart. And the designated hitter in this lineup is Renee

■ RAINBOW Page 24

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Cedar Springs retailer spearheads new U.S.-based website for Spanish fashion giant

If you're gay and you've been to a pool party in Dallas — and if you're gay and in Dallas, you *have* been to a pool party — you've no doubt seen the eye-catching swimwear from ES Collection. More than likely, you've worn some yourself (or maybe just wanted to). And if you have purchased ES — or its sister brand, Addicted — at a store in Dallas, it's probably come from the Cedar Springs shop owned by Chris Lynch and Mark Milburn.

But if you've bought ES *online*, you may have noticed that the website ended in .es (España), because the company is based in Spain. Well, now you don't need to order across the world ... and you have Lynch and Milburn to thank.

In addition to their Dallas store, they also own and operate a brick-and-mortar shop in Austin, and for three years have operated the AddictedDallas.com website. The response to that e-tailer has been so positive, this week the Barcelona-based company has allowed them to launch ESCollectionUSA.com.

"Our warehouse is based in Dallas so we are able to process orders much more expeditiously, and if customers experience any difficulties with their orders, we can take care of them on their own time zone," Lynch says. It also is more cost effective to ship from the U.S.



to other North American destinations, as quicker, too.

The brand was founded 15 years ago, and while especially well-known for their form-enhancing swim briefs, ES Collection offers an entire line of athletic wear, including hoodies, pants and shirts. All products are made in Barcelona with a fashion-forward sensibility that is especially appealing to gay customers (although, of course, straights can wear them too... maybe just not as fabulously).

The ESCollectionUSA.com website will carry the full line of ES products, including the fall activewear lines Personal Trainer and Power Flux. And during the month of October, all online purchasers will get an additional 10 percent discount.

"We're excited for this new venture," Lynch says. "It's something customers in the states have been waiting for." ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Cover to cover

Out country artist Ty Herndon comes home

Who doesn't love Ty Herndon? A gay and proud country artist who had a string of hit singles when he was signed to a major label, Herndon is the real thing. Suave, sexy, sincere and in possession of a set of power pipes. On his new album, the aptly named *Got It Covered* (Audium Nashville/BFD), Herndon revisits and reinterprets some of his best-known tunes, including "What Matters Most," which can be heard kicking off the album in a version in which he changes the pronouns to make it a gay love song. Herndon closes the album with the rendition that maintains the original lyrics. Along the way, he also covers a song by Carrie Underwood and one made famous by his "musical hero" Bonnie Raitt, to mention a couple. Just back from Fiji, Herndon was kind enough to make the time to answer a few questions about *Got It Covered*.

— Gregg Shapiro

Dallas Voice: You recently performed on an RSVP cruise. What was that experience like for you?

Ty Herndon: I love the RSVP folks. They always put together a great experience for everyone. I'm happy to be a part of what they do. And I have met and worked with some of the best singers on the planet with these guys.

What was the genesis of the concept for your new album, *Got It Covered*? I absolutely loved the idea of reimagining some of my hits. Over the years, we have changed a little anyway. If you have ever been to one of my shows, you would notice I love to do covers. If I really love a song, I will often put it in the show. I thought it would be fun to do a few of those songs on this album as well. We had such a blast making this album. My favorite in years.

One of the songs you cover is Carrie Underwood's "So Small." Why was that song selected? This song actually changed the game for me. I had made the decision to get out of a business that I love



with all my heart. I was feeling very done. For a good while I could not get my footing in music. I had signed up for real estate classes in Nashville, and I was on my way to the first class when I heard this song for the first time. My ears had not been given the gift of a singer and song like that in a very long time. It just simply spoke to me deeply. So much so I didn't take the class. I knew in that moment I needed to sing the kind of songs Carrie Underwood was doing. Songs that hopefully change people's lives.

Underwood is part of a wave of contemporary country artists who have been vocal in their support of the LGBTQ community. What does that mean to you as an out artist? It always means so much when artists support the LGBTQ community. It really does save lives. Especially in country music. There are so many of these kids who really want to like country, but many of them feel country music does not like them. So, it's super great when any artist of that size shows support. It means more than you know.

You perform a cover of "Heart Half Empty" by gay singer/songwriter Desmond Child who has written hits for Cher and others. What made you chose that song? It was a top 20 hit for me and Stephanie Bentley. Because it was such a big duet, I often left it out of the set. I

wanted to reimagine it as a solo song. The amazing Shelly Fairchild did me the honor of some killer backup on that one. I love it.

A couple of the cover tunes were hits by others, such as "I Can't Make You Love Me" for Bonnie Raitt and "Walking in Memphis" for Marc Cohn. Please say something about the process of making songs such as these your own. I only have one musical hero in this business, and it is Bonnie Raitt. I simply worship her. I often do her songs in my show. That's always fun. But I will be honest and say I was nervous to record this one. It's such an iconic song. I just felt it in spirit that I had to do it. I think I did it justice. At least I hope so. It's such a beloved song. I was on the fence with "Memphis." I do it in the shows. People go crazy over it. However, my producer and guitar player Erik Halbig pretty much demanded that I do it. I think the studio band nailed a cool new rendition.

***Got It Covered* features guest vocalists, including out country artist Shelly Fairchild, whom you mentioned. Why did you want to record a duet with Shelly.** I'm such a fan. I'm also like her brother. She was perfect for what I wanted to accomplish with "Heart Half Empty." People recognize it as a duet. Featuring her still made it feel that way. She sings her ass off on everything she touches.

We see a lot of openly lesbian country art-

ists nowadays, including Brandi Carlile, Lucy Dacus, Becca Mancari, H.C. McEntire, Sarah Shook, Garrison Starr and Amy Ray of Indigo Girls, among others. From your perspective, do you think there will come a day when there will be as many out gay male country artists as there are lesbians? God, I hope so. It's past time. I'm working with a few amazing artists who happen to be gay. I hope and pray we see the boys catch up. And a big thank you to all of those artists you mentioned. Amazing!

What can you tell me about the decision to bracket your album with the alternative and original versions of "What Matters Most?" I know I'm going to be asked that a lot. I honestly didn't think twice about it. I just told the story the way it fit me best. When I recorded that song 25 years ago, I was in so much pain and heartbreak. Yes, it was extremely painful and damaging hiding my truth for so many years. As I said before, so many of the kids I work with in the community feel country music does not like them. So, I wanted to make the most authentic statement I could. It meant a lot to me for the fans to hear it the way I wished I could have recorded it all those years ago. In my heart I knew I also needed to include the updated original version. They both mean very much to me.

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Zellweger.

For about a decade starting in the mid-1990s, Zellweger was an unlikely star, breaking out with *Jerry Maguire*, then landing a hit franchise with the *Bridget Jones* movies, winning an Oscar (and another nomination) for *Cold Mountain* and *Chicago* ... then all but disappearing (as actresses in their 40s sometimes do). White 2016's *Bridget Jones' Baby* made more than \$200 million worldwide, it barely blipped in the U.S. with just \$24 million. If you forgot

she was even still acting, you could be forgiven.

Which, in some ways, intensifies the beauty of her performance here. There's no baggage associated with her performance, no recent scandal or tic we've become accustomed to or bored by. So from the moment she appears onscreen, raven-haired with kids in tow and belting out songs like a pro, she's transformed. You almost try to see the actress behind the performance, and you don't. It's a whiz-bang supernova of

a performance, on the level of a Streep or a Day-Lewis. A movie about Judy Garland's final comeback as a vehicle for Renee Zellweger's own comeback?! Well, it's just too perfect to miss.

The brilliance of the work resides not only in Zellweger's, spot-on recreation of Garland's vocal prowess, but in the physicality and details of her work. It's not an impersonation, the kind a drag queen might do, but an embodiment: The tight smile, the humor, the desperation, the self-effacement, the carriage

and gestures of a woman who often seemed ill-at-ease in her own body (she was prone to being chunky, so the studios starved her into stardom). Yes, she's self-destructive, but she's also damaged. Your disgust is supplanted by pity. (In one heartbreaking moment, Judy is found crying backstage after delivering a knockout show, and explains her tears thus: "What if I can't do it again?")

As told by screenwriter Tom Edge (freely adapting a play by Peter Quilter), Judy would have remained a gay icon even if her death in June 1969 hadn't helped spark the Stonewall Riots and the modern gay rights movement. The film (set in 1968 in the months before her death) deals frankly with gay issues, including touching moments with two of Judy's most devoted fans. And while the script and director Rupert Goold sometimes seem as if they are plucking scenes out of a handbook for lazy plotting, there's no denying the power of the finale, an indelible scene that scorches its resonance on you like a brand. Try to walk away dry-eyed. ■

-- Arnold Wayne Jones



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■ COVER From Page 24

Finally, Ty, according to your website, you are going to be on tour through the autumn. What do you like best about live performance? I noticed last year that I was hardly ever out on the road with a full band anymore. We are working hard to change that. However, doing all these acoustic sheds has really allowed the space to try new things and be a better vocalist. I love to sing. God gave me the gift, and I love to use it as much as possible. And without those live shows I would never have accomplished the amazing fan base I have today. My people rock!



Saturday 10.05

Lynda Carter returns to the Eisemann Center

Lynda Carter, the original Wonder Woman, brings her latest musical tour, THIS LIFE

My Music My Story, to the Eisemann Center in Richardson. The show, which offers VIP cabaret-style table seating as well as general admission seating, will include video of Carter's personal photos and video clips beginning 30 minutes prior and running throughout the show.

DEETS: Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 7:30 p.m. \$45 and up. EisemannCenter.com.

Friday 09.27 – Saturday 10.26

North Texas get ready for four weekends of fright

Screams Halloween theme park returns to Waxahachie at the Scarborough fair grounds with more terrifying attractions for this year. Featuring five haunted houses, each with a different theme, get ready to encounter post-apocalyptic zombies, ghost pirates, wicked witches, ghoulish hotel clerks and evil carnival folks. The park is open Fridays and Saturdays featuring live music and entertainment, food vendors and tarot card readings.

DEETS: Screams Halloween Theme Park, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. 7:30 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. \$32. ScreamsPark.com.



Que Q Cinema's 2019 film festival

Love queer cinema? Then catch three days of Pride-centric film in Cowtown at Q Cinema's 21st International LGBT Film Festival. Opening night will feature out director Del Shore's *Six Characters in Search of a Play* as the night's centerpiece. The weekend includes a performance by Switch n' Play and an appearance by Suzanne Westenhoefer.

Thursday 10.03 – Saturday 10.05

DEETS: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd. QCinema.org.

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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

In the Heights. Lin-Manuel Miranda's other hip-hop musical, set in a mixed neighborhood of Manhattan during a hot summer week. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 20. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Red Chariot. A world premiere science fiction thriller by Gordon Dahlquist. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Oct. 13. Undermain.org.

What We Were by Blake Hackler. World premiere about three sisters coping with a history of abuse. A co-production with Second Thought Theatre, the production has moved to Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St. Fort Worth. Through Oct. 19. CircleTheatre.com

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 Oct. 27 (extended). DMA.org.

A Sampling of Contemporary

Portraiture. An exhibition of the work of five photographers producing compelling new examples of portraiture. Afterimage Gallery, 2613B Fairmount St. Through Nov. 4. AfterimageGallery.com.



'What We Were,' which received its world premiere last month at Second Thought Theatre and won several awards from the Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum, is now being performed at Circle Theatre in Fort Worth.

SATURDAY 09.28

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 the Katy Trail.

MONDAY 09.30

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 10.01

FILM

Cool Hand Luke. One of the seminal films of the late 1960s, with Paul Newman as a defiant prisoner in a work camp who challenges authority. 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.

CONCERTS

Orville Peck. The masked out country singer performs. See story Page 18. South Side Music Hall, 1135 S. Lamar St. 8 p.m. GilleysDallas.com.

WEDNESDAY 10.02

CONCERTS

Ty Herndon. The out country singer performs songs from his new album. Arlington Music

Hall, 224 N. Center St., Arlington. 8 p.m. ArlingtonMusicaHall.net.

THURSDAY 10.03

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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Cassie Nova

Pennywise revisited Cassie reviews 'IT Chapter 2'

Good morning, afternoon or evening — I don't know your life. This week I want to talk about *IT* and *IT Chapter 2*. I feel that enough time has passed that we can talk about it. So if you have not had the chance to see the latest movie about Pennywise, the dancing clown, and his love of children, please be advised — spoilers lie ahead.

First off, I need to give a little back story on my relationship with the book. I first read *IT* during my junior year of high school. I got crazy lucky one day at the downtown branch of the Dallas Public Library; I had tried to check out the book many times, but it was always checked out. But on this particular day, I saw a lady actually put the book in the return bin, so I asked if I could get it as soon as they checked it in. The librarian was so nice; she checked it in immediately and let me take it home.

I was so excited. You have to remember this was in the late 1980s, and we were poor AF, so I never actually bought books. I just used my library card as if it were a credit card and "bought" books like I was rich. I always hated returning a book that I loved.

The next day I woke up not feeling well and told Mom I was sick, so she let me stay home. Usually on a sick day, I laid on the couch all day and watched cooking shows on PBS Channel 13 — Julia Childs, Yan Can Cook and Justin Wilson, the Cajun chef. But on this day I laid on the couch and read my book. Well, I probably got a quarter of the way through *IT*. The book was huge, and I am not a terribly fast reader. After that sick day, I had the book with me where ever I went just in case I had a few moments to read.

For the many of us who have been fans of Mr. King's book since we were kids, the big-budget movie version of *IT* was such a huge deal. It was more of a phenomenon than just another movie. And the first movie did not let me down. I fucking loved *IT*. It captured the Stand By Me/Goonies feel when it came to the friendships of the kids, and the scares and horror aspects of the story were on point.

The first movie made me feel nostalgic and reminded me of why my standards for friendships are so high. I've always had '80s movie expectations of what a group of friends should be like. I am still that way: If I can't rely on you to go on some crazy-ass adventure and know you will have my back, we can't be friends.

The young Losers Club friendships in the book and the movie are my favorite thing about the story. Sure, I love a killer clown, and who doesn't love seeing a kid get his arm eaten off. But the camaraderie and relationships between the kids are what pushed the story along to me.

The first movie was greatness from beginning to end. It was the adaptation the book



deserved, and after watching *IT*, my heart was full ... and pounding. I couldn't wait for the second chapter.

Then *IT Chapter 2* came out a few weeks ago, and I love so much about it. But I was also so disappointed with some of it. (Be warned: Here is where we get into the spoilers.)

First of all, the casting — just WOW! Every character's adult version was so on point. Even Henry Bowers — I totally believed that the kid that bullied the Losers Club grew up to be that gross mental patient minus the mullet. Whoever did the casting should win an award.

I didn't mind the sometimes-cheesy Beetlejuice-esque special effects. To me, it was equal parts terrifying and goofy looking. I loved the adult interaction and could clearly see each one's child self-contained within each adult.

I didn't care for the Ritual of Chud aspect of the movie. It makes sense in the book, but it muddles and confuses the storyline in the movie. I did not care at all for how they ultimately defeat Pennywise. Did they bully the clown to death? They said something along the lines of, "There are other ways to make someone small." And they proceed to berate Pennywise and call him names, like

"You're just a clown." He shrinks down from a giant spider clown to a baby clown thing, and they rip IT's heart out, and they squish it — together.

BULLSHIT!

It angered and annoyed me. So, you mean to tell me that this million-year-old badass from the stars that has killed so many throughout those millions of years suddenly cares that he is being called names?! Bitch, please! I get that they were supposed to be showing that they were not scared and that not having their fear to feed on made him weak enough to be killed, but I just hated that whole part.

In the book, Eddie sprayed his asthma inhaler deep into the throat of the giant spider creature, Pennywise's truest form, right before IT bites Eddie's arm off. Because of Eddie's belief that his inhaler could "kill monsters" it was the beginning of the true end of Pennywise.

I did love the "not a suicide note" left by Stan Uris to help us feel like there was closure at the end of the movie. It was heartbreaking, and it felt like a gift after what I thought was a horrible way to end the evil that was feeding on the town of Derry.

Many people are still talking about the scene that depicts the gay bashing of Adrian Mellon. It is a hard scene to watch and, honestly — remember earlier I talked about how I was sick the day I started to read the book as a kid? — it was even harder to get through back then. But it is a very important part of the book and really shows how Pennywise's evil infects the town and its residences. Still, as a young gay boy, reading that part just gutted and terrified me.

Stephen King wrote that part because he was affected by the real-life gay bashing and murder of Charlie Howard by a group of teens in his hometown of Bangor, Maine, in 1984. Gay bashing is still one of my biggest fears. I hated that part of the book; it upset my stomach more than it already was. But I also admire Mr. King for writing about the subject in a way that gave me such a visceral reaction and has stayed with me ever since.

To the people that felt the scene was gratuitous and that showing each and every heartbreaking punch added nothing, I say I hear you. But were you okay with the kid getting his arm ripped off? It is a horror movie, and I was horrified by that scene. Sure, I wish we could have seen at least one of those homophobes get their comeuppance, but sometimes you don't get justice you want.

In summary, *IT* part one — fabulous; *IT Chapter 2* — not as fabulous. I still liked so much about the sequel, but will admit to some disappointment. Hopefully, THE STAND series coming next year to CBS-All Access will be the adaptation of a Stephen King story that I have been waiting for. My fingers are crossed.

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



Making the SCENE the week of Sept. 27–Oct. 3:

- **1851 Club:** Kiana Lee hosts shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m.
- **Alexandre's:** Mi Diva Loca on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** The Darlin' Show with karaoke, games and live entertainment from 8-11 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Twisted Tuesday Talent Show at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court of the Lone Star Empire Candidate Show from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday. DFW Sisters Puppy Lube Wrestling from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday. United Court plays Match Game from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** Miss Raven's Birthday Bash, a show tunes spectacular, at 11 p.m. on Saturday.
- **House of Blues:** Sex and the City Drag Brunch at 11 a.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Dragula Watch Party with Bleach at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Marty's Live:** Sexcapade Friday with DJ C Wade and Hypeman Dupree.
- **Pekers:** A Night at the Movies featuring Candi Carroll and Gloria Devine, benefitting Educare, GDMAF and more, at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Dance Party at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Boy! Boots! Boxer Briefs at 10 p.m. on Monday. Dragula Watch Party at 8 p.m. on Tuesday. Lip Sync Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Betty Neal presents Wett, the Official Dallas Lesbian Pride with Kennedy Davenport, RP, Shemar Gracon, Karla KP, Glam Davenport, DJ 008 and MC Tyra Ra Ra at 10 p.m. on Friday. The Anton Shaw Band on Saturday. Faron and Empire Cats on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** K-Von, David Jessup, Carmella Dubuque, Sable Alexander and Angela K Alexander perform to benefit Tucker's Gift at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Last Dance Miss Wanda Comedy Show at 11 p.m., midnight and 1 a.m. on Sunday. Porshe Paris on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** DFW Sisters Blue Ball at 8 p.m. on Saturday. That Time of the Month Drag Brunch at noon on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Watch Cowboys vs. the Saints at 7:20 p.m. on the big screens on Sunday.

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

GDMAF's Night of Stars

Photos Courtesy Anthony Exum



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Solution on Page 28

Across

- 1 Suck air
- 5 Frozen queen
- 9 Vagina, in slang
- 13 Penetrating reed
- 14 Turnpike fee
- 15 Soothing agent for skin
- 16 Big top, e.g.
- 17 Asshole
- 18 Sonny and Cher's "I Got You ___"
- 19 Start of a dis from a TV series
- 22 NBC sketch source
- 25 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
- 26 Stud site
- 29 Rocker Ringo
- 31 Govt. obligation
- 33 *The View* moderator Goldberg
- 35 Goes down on a hill
- 36 More of the dis
- 39 Sitcom radio station
- 42 They're tiny but attractive
- 43 *Phantom* scar source
- 47 Singer DiFranco
- 48 "Keep your pants on!"
- 50 ___ *the Band Played On*
- 51 Blazing stars
- 53 Big name in beer
- 55 End of the dis
- 60 With 62-Across, TV series of the dis
- 61 By mouth
- 62 See 60-Across
- 64 *You've Got Mail* female only once
- 65 They get laid only once
- 66 Concerning
- 67 "Jabberwocky" starter
- 68 Amount of AZT, e.g.
- 69 Knock off

Down

- 1 Figured out
- 2 Follower of Jim Buchanan
- 3 Chaz to Cher
- 4 Engages in foreplay
- 5 Anesthesia of old
- 6 *My Fair Lady* composer
- 7 Cold shower
- 8 Islam's deity
- 9 Chews the fat
- 10 Home of T. Bankhead
- 11 Risk rust, for the Tin Man
- 12 Part of a giggle
- 20 Nonoral Marx
- 21 Boca ___
- 22 Direction away from NNE
- 23 Ordinal for John Nash
- 24 Tony Randall's *7 Faces of Dr. ___*
- 26 Canon camera
- 27 E. Wolfson or R. Cohn
- 28 Second pitches for Bernstein
- 30 Gambol
- 32 Sally Ride's org.
- 34 Top's betting phrase?
- 35 Job for Burr's Mason
- 37 Broadway director Mantello
- 38 Printer's measures
- 39 Obi-___ Kenobi
- 40 Technical skill
- 41 Danny Kaye's *On the ___*
- 44 Bottom
- 45 Tongues to mouths, and more
- 46 Banned bug killer
- 48 Prefix in a kids' clothing line
- 49 Rank of cross-dresser M. Klinger
- 52 Charles, who could make you a man
- 54 Really fighting
- 56 Drag queen in a men's dorm?
- 57 Jason went cruising in this
- 58 *Out and Curve*
- 59 *Showboat*'s "Nobody ___ But Me"
- 60 Explosive stick
- 63 Point between "gay" and "com"



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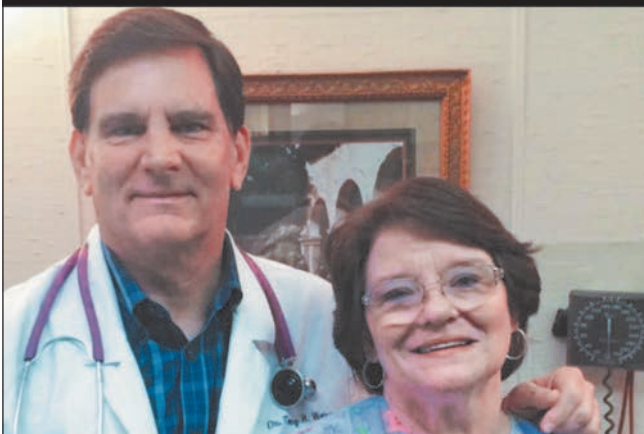
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