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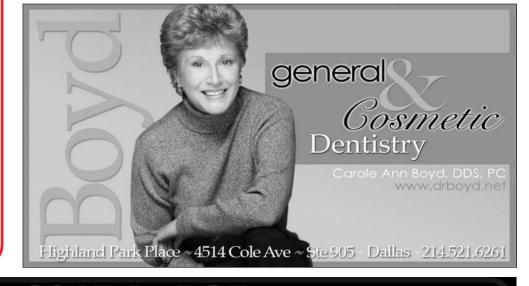
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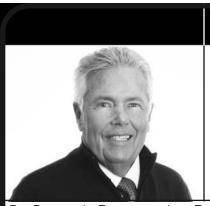






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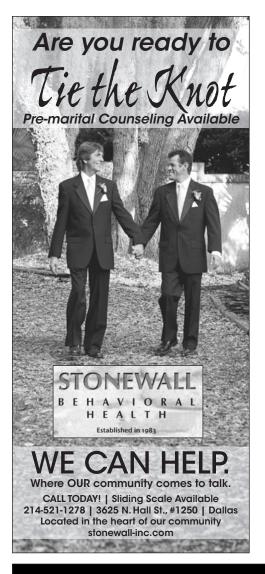
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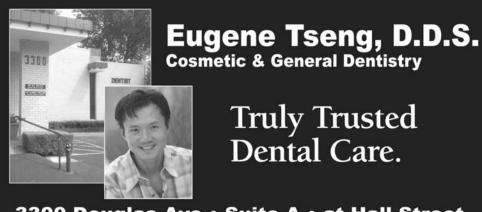
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#### **DFW Federal Club** elects new co-chair



Steve Wiscaver

organization.

Steve Wiscaver has been elected as the new co-chair of the DFW Federal Club for 2016-2017. He will replace Chris Lindsey, who is completing his second year as cochair, and joins Liz Rodriguez, who is starting her second year as cochair, in heading up the

Wiscaver has served on the DFW Federal Club Governing Committee for four years. He started out on the member services team setting up the monthly mixers, then became Member Services Committee co-chair. As co-chair of the committee, he began a number of new programs designed to reach out to new members, departing members and continuing members. He also led the Recruiting Committee for a while before returning to Mem-

Wiscaver was one of the Holiday Party chairs last year.

DFW Federal Club holds its October Mixer on Friday, Oct. 16, 6-8 p.m. at Renfield's Corner, 2603 Routh St.

- Tammye Nash

#### **Celebration Church on** the Lake hires new pastor

ber Services earlier this year.

Celebration Church on the Lake, a predominantly LGBT congregation on Cedar Creek Lake, has hired Mary Clair Lowrance as its new pastor.

Former pastor Kathy Bowser retired earlier this year after a decade of service. During her tenure, the congregation bought land in Payne Springs and built its current home. The current facility opened in

The church was founded in 2003 in Mabank with the help of the Rev. Carol West and Celebration Church in Fort Worth.

Lowrance, who lives in Fort Worth during the week, graduated from Brite Divinity School.

The church is located at 9120 S. Highway 198, Payne Springs. From Dallas, take Hwy. 175 to Mabank and exit at Hwy 198.

— David Taffet

#### 'Upstairs Inferno' schedules first Texas screening at **Austin Film Festival**

Last week, I wrote about how local filmmaker Robert L. Camina won an award at the North Louisiana Gay and Lesbian Film Fest at the screening of his new film Upstairs Inferno, which chronicles the single largest murder of gay men in U.S. history. After a series of successes at festivals all over, from Palm Springs to North Carolina, Upstairs Inferno will finally receive its official Texas premiere. The bad news? It'll be in Austin.

The documentary will screen twice as part of the Austin Film Festival — which, interestingly enough, is not a gay-specific fest, but a general mainstream one ... a first for Upstairs Inferno. The first will be Nov. 1 and then again Nov. 3; Camina will be in at-

If you can't make it down to the capital city that

week, though, fear not - Camina informs me that a Dallas screening will soon follow.

Arnold Wavne Jones

#### Betty Neal wins B/HAP's 2015 **Tommie Ross Pioneer Award**

Every morning when I get up, as I wait for my turn in the shower, I log on to Facebook to check in with my "friends" and see what's trending in the world of social media.

And every morning in my timeline, there's a post from my friend - on Facebook and, for many, many years, in real life — Betty Neal, Betty always posts something inspiring and uplifting. Even as she is herself going through trying times, such as the recent death of her brother from cancer, Betty offers something positive to start the

And when you "like" the post, or comment on it, Betty comes back right away to say hello.

"Good morning Tammye Nash."

"Good morning Betty Neal."

So even though I rarely see Betty in person these days, I "talk" to her every day. And I was glad to hear that someone who always brightens my day is being recognized this weekend for her years of hard work and contributions to Dallas' LGBT and same-gender-loving communities.

During Dallas Southern Pride weekend — Dallas' black Pride celebration — Betty will be presented with the B/HAP Tommie Ross Pioneer



Award in recognition of her "longstanding presence, her grace, her poise and her many accomplishments within both the pageant and the house/ball communities.

"B/HAP" stands for Ball/House And Pageant communities. The award is named in

honor of pioneering and iconic entertainer, and Pageant Hall of Famer, Tommie Ross. The award "recognizes and honors an individual whose work, art and achievements have demonstrated a legacy of passion, commitment, grace, style and transcendence within the pageant community."

Betty Neal, who helped originate Dallas' black Pride celebration back in the 1990s and who is a long-time volunteer with the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, will receive the award Saturday, Oct. 3, during the B/HAP Awards Ceremony, starting at 3:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Dallas - Market Center. The awards ceremony is part of the Southern Regional B/HAP Communities Health Disparities and Leadership Conference, being held in conjunction with Dallas Southern Pride.

For a full schedule of conference events, visit the conference website. For a complete list of black Pride events, visit the DSP website.

In a statement on Facebook, Betty said she is "humbled to be receiving this prestigious award from the Ballroom/House And Pageant system, and to have been nominated by the legendary Tommie Ross herself. I am a huge fan and friend. What an honor! Thank you all from the depths of

I just want to say congratulations Betty. You deserve this recognition and more. And I am proud to call you my friend.

- Tammye Nash

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#### HE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

#### **OCTOBER**

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with this week's guest, Janis Ian.; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Ste. C; Fuse game night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space at ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, apt. 2367; **Fuse Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space. For more information call or e-mail Ruben Ramirez at 214-540-4500 or rramirez@myresourcecenter.org.

Events listed in **BLUE** this week are Dallas Southern Pride events. Those listed in RED are Tarrant County Gay Pride Week events.

• Oct. 1-3: Southern Regional Ball House and Pageant Communities Health Disparities Conference: Going 'Viral': **B/HAP Communities Beat Down** 

#### Disparities—A Record Breaking Win!

The fourth annual conference addressing health disparities, HIV prevention and PLWHA care in the LGBT communities includes workshops, cultural competency training and more. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7050 Stemmons Freeway. For more information call 214-421-4800 or e-mail info@bhapconference.org or visit BHAPConference.org/bhap-2015agenda.html

#### • Oct. 2: "Black Love and Unity" **Fashion Show**

United Black Ellument and Dallas Southern Pride partner for fashion show and concert at 7 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7050 Stemmons Freeway.

#### • Oct. 2: Fort Worth Teen Pride

Youth and young adult event includes free food, entertainment, drag show, prizes and more from 6-10 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. Free for teenagers 13-18 with valid ID. \$5 suggested donation for accompanying adults. For more information contact info@RLC365.org or LGBTQSaves@gmail.com.

#### pet of the week / LOTUS

**Lotus** is a proud, confident girl with a happy personality. She is a terrier mix and is about a year old. She has the curiosity and energy of a young dog and would be a great companion to take on walks, go on hikes or travel the world with. Lotus is highly intelligent and is easily motivated by both toys and food; training with Lotus should be a breeze. Like most puppies, she would benefit from daily mental and physical exercise, such as a game of hide and seek. Lotus would do best as an only dog. If you are looking for a lovable, adorable dog come visit with Lotus today.

Other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount





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#### • Oct. 2: Brandon Michael Fugate Memorial **Golf Tournament**

Golf tournament benefits The BMF Project for Search and Rescue, which provides funds and resources for search and rescue agencies and provides emotional support for families during the process from noon-6 p.m. Tee off at 1:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. at Riverchase Golf Course, 700 Riverchase Dr., Coppell. \$100 before Sept. 28 or \$125 after. For more information and to register online visit Thebmfproject.org.

#### • Oct. 3: COSMOPOLITAN **Congregation Workshops**

COSMO Congregation hosts "Love Matters" workshop for women and "Keeping It 100" workshop for men from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. followed by a joint "The Bible and Homosexuality" workshop and question and answer session from 1-2 p.m. with pastors Will Horn, Dante Bowie, therapist Davion Wallance, sister Sarita Latchison and minister Stephanie Michele. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7050 Stemmons Freeway.

• Oct. 3: DFW Trans Ladies Monthly Meeting Meets from 7-8:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information email info@dfwtgladies.org or visit DFWTGLadies.org.

#### • Oct. 3: Tarrant County Pride Parade and Street Festival

Parade begins at noon in downtown Fort Worth followed at Main Street and 9th Street featuring live entertainment, vendors, and food.

#### • Oct. 4: Tarrant County Pride Picnic

Family-friendly annual event from noon-6 p.m. at Trinity Park Arts Pavilion, 2401 University Dr., Fort Worth. Live entertainment, group activities, food, vendors and Pride Kids Zone.

#### • Oct. 4: LVLPWA Camp Outs Fundraiser

Trinity River Bears host benefit for camp outs for gay men living with or affected by HIV and AIDS at 6 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings Ave. For more information contact

Michaelkaye2003@yahoo.com.

#### • Oct. 4: Black Love and Unity Skate Party

United Black Ellument and Dallas Southern Pride partner for a roller skating party from 7-11 p.m. at Southern Skate Roller Rink, 2939 E. Ledbetter Dr.

#### • Oct. 4: Black Pride Unity BBQ

Men's and women's unity party from 1-6 p.m. at Bachman Lake Park, 3500 Northwest Highway.



Street Dallas Octane presents rapper Lil' Kim, pictured here with Sean "Diddy" Combs at the BET Awards in June, performing Saturday night, Oct. 3, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Gas Monkey Live, 10110 Technology Blvd. The concert is one of the many events taking place this weekend during Dallas Southern Pride. (AP/Chris Pizzello, Invision)

#### • Oct. 5-8: Out & Equal 2015 Workplace Summit

Three-day summit of corporate executives and other leading business figures to discuss best strategies and practices for LGBT inclusion in the workplace with panels, workshops, speakers and more at Hilton Anatole, 2201 North Stemmons Freeway. For more information visit Outandequal.org/events/summit.

• Oct. 5: TCU Lecture: "Lynching and Anti-LGBT Violence: Making the Connection" Koritha Mitchell, Ohio State University associate professor of English, speaks on the intersections between violence currently plaguing LGBT communities and the practice of lynching of people of color at 5:30 p.m. in 141 Moudy North on the Texas Christian University campus. For more information visit WGST.tcu.edu/event.

#### • Oct. 5: AIDS Arms LifeWalk

The 25th annual 5K (3.2 mile) fun run and walk benefits AIDS Arms. Registration begins at 11 a.m. and walk begins at 1 p.m. at Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. For more information visit Lifewalk.org.

#### • Oct. 6: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting

Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway,

Fort Worth. For more information contact Finn Jones by phone at 214-499-0378 or by email at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

#### • Oct. 6: Dallas Diversity Task Force

Task Force presents its tenth anniversary report and awards with presentations by community law and business leaders from noon-1:30 p.m. at the Belo Mansion and Pavilion, 2101 Ross Ave.. For more information e-mail Dallasdiversitytaskforce@gmail.com.

#### • Oct. 8: SPLATTER: A Queer Halloween **Art Gathering and Yard Party**

Prepare for the upcoming Freak Flag: Queerbomb Dallas' queer exhibition and dance party by decorating flags at 7 p.m. at a private residence. For more information e-mail QueerBombDallas@gmail.com or visit On.fb.me/1KkqYWH.

#### • Oct. 8: Gallery 3 in Bishop Arts **Gallery Opening**

Meet the artists, including out gay artist Robb Conover, for a wine reception from 7-10 p.m. at Gallery 3 in Bishop Arts, 1319 W. Davis St.

#### • Oct. 8-10: QCinema

Fort Worth's 17th annual LGBT film festival features international movies, question and answers sessions, parties, live entertainment, stage productions and more. For tickets and more information visit QCinema.org.



Weekly at 1 p.m on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-fm. She recently recorded and an audio book version of the lesbian classic Patience and Sarah. (Courtesy Janis Ian)

#### • Oct. 9: High Tech Happy Hour

Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

#### • Oct. 9-11: OUT for Work College **Student Career Conference**

Annual conference with breakout sessions, workshops, and keynote speeches for undergraduate and graduate students looking for career opportunities and LGBT workplace inclusion. For more information and to register visit Outforwork.org/conferences/default.asp.

#### • Oct. 10: LGBT Family Building Seminar Learn about fertility, egg donors, surrogacy and adoption from 10 a.m.-noon at Vivere Surgery

Center, 12606 Greenville Ave. Free. Space is limited. To register and for more information visit DallasBabySeminar.com or e-mail Julia@3sisterssurrogacy.com or at 832-951-5491.

#### • Oct. 10: Latino Gay Pride Festival

Beverages, food and live entertainment and Latino music from Club Rails, Havana and DJs from 3-10 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. No cover.

• Oct. 11: National Coming Out Day.

Tarrant County Gay Pride Week activities include Saturday parade, Sunday picnic

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer

russell@dallasvoice.com

Kathryn Omarkhail already had a lot to do ahead of the 34th Annual Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association festivities, taking place now through Oct. 11. Aside from her duties as media director for and member of the TCGPWA board, the Fort Worth resident is the artistic director of QCinema.

And she is president of her neighborhood association.

And she also has a full-time job with Tarrant

serving as TGRA's state president, Fort Worth chapter president, secretary and more. He's also been previously honored for his efforts by the organization, including twice as Mr. TGRA, in both 2015 and 1997.

Smith was just grateful for the honor.

"The Fort Worth, Tarrant and surrounding

dedicated to the Pride parade.

Joining her were Raina Lea Award nominees Ben Smith, Madison Deveroux and the Voice's own David Taffet. The award winner, named for the drag queen who founded the Tarrant County Pride celebration, will be announced Sunday, Oct. 4. rade's overall focus.

This past fall, organizers held multiple educational and entertainment sessions exploring what "family" means in the LGBT community. The Family Connections Series highlighted issues facing LGBT people of all ages, but emphasized youth in particular.

The series was initially a grassroots effort to bring the disparate LGBT community in Tarrant County together, said Tony Coronado, treasurer of the TCGPWA board.

"We wanted to bring together folks who didn't even know we exist," he said. "We wanted to be ahead of the curve, too, asking 'What do our families need?"

If any group knows what it means to be a family, it's the thriving Fort Worth chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The 25-year old

## Coloring Cowtown with



County

With all her duties, she sometimes just can't make a meeting.

Even if she missed a TCGPWA meeting or two, her fellow board members evidently weren't offended. She was named grand marshal, along with the Rev. Curtis Smith and Terry Covington.

She knew she was nominated. The thing is, she didn't find out she won until putting the Pride guide together.

"I was shocked and surprised," she said.

She couldn't afford to be surprised for long: the Pride guide needed to get to the printer and the schedule needed to be finalized for the well-known LGBT international film festival.

Omarkhail isn't the only grand marshal who needs to get some sleep.

Smith has been the pastor of Trinity MCC for the past 14 years and worked for AIDS Outreach Center for the past nine years. He's also a member of QCinema's board.

Covington's been an active participant with the Texas Gay Rodeo Association for two decades. If it says TGRA, he's been involved,

## Pride

communities have been great to be a part of, and I humbly accept this opportunity to represent them in our celebration of gay Pride," he said.

But Omarkhail, Smith and Covington will find plenty of time this weekend to celebrate, and a few other familiar faces will be joining in. This year, former grand marshal and Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price kicked off the celebration with one of her "rolling town halls" on Thursday, Sept. 30, at the Trinity Park Pavilion. The popular sessions promote exercise and civic responsibility, with the mayor guiding citizens across various neighborhoods.

It's the first time one of the events has been

But to give real meaning to this year's "Color the World with Family Pride" theme, couple David Apolonio Hernandez and Joshua Adam Rogers was chosen to carry the TCGPWA banner, with their parents proudly walking behind them. The couple was the first to have their same-sex marriage announced in the Star-Telegram. This year, they are carrying the banner for the second time, having carried it first in 2006.

The TCGPWA is an all-volunteer committee tasked with choosing grand marshals and honorees, arranging the schedule, raising funds and choosing a theme. Choosing to focus on families corresponds with more recent shifts in the pa-

Mayor Betsy Price, above, opens Tarrant County Pride celebrations. Right, Joshua Adam Rogers with his parents and husband David Apolonio Hernandez will lead the parade.

(David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

PFLAG Fort Worth chapter and its host church, First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist, serve as this year's honorary marshals.

"It's quite an honor," said Ruby Harse, vice president of PFLAG-Fort Worth.

The honor is important, but so is the opportunity.

"Our goal is to get people to know about PFLAG. We want people to see we're regular folks," Harse said. "We also want the LGBT community to see us and not just our name. It's important for them to see us, and it's amazing how they respond when they do."

Another group who wants to make sure they're seen is the Tarrant County Libertarian Party. Family may not be their overriding theme, but acceptance certainly is.

The fiscally conservative and socially accepting political group is a parade mainstay, said John

#### **TC Pride Schedule**

• Oct. 2: Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food show

8 p.m. at Club Changes, 2637 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Hosted by Wall of Food Committee. For more information contact RhondaMae1@aol.com.

Oct. 2: Fort Worth Teen Pride

6-10 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth.

For more information contact info@RLC365.org or LGBTQSaves@gmail.com.

Oct. 3: Pride Parade: "Color Our World with Family Pride"

Line up at 10 a.m. Parade begins at noon in downtown Fort Worth.

Oct 3: Pride Street Festival

When the parade ends, head to the street festival with food, entertainment, vendors and more from noon-6 p.m. in General Worth Square (in front of the convention center) in downtown Fort Worth.

Family-friendly entertainment and winner of the Raina Lea Awards for community service from noon-6 p.m. at Trinity Park Arts Pavilion, 2401 University Dr., Fort Worth.

• Oct. 4: LVLPWA Camp Outs Fundraiser

Trinity River Bears host benefit for campouts for gay men living with or affected by HIV and AIDS at 6 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings Ave. For more information contact Michaelkaye2003@yahoo.com.

• Oct. 8-10: QCinema's 17th Annual Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival

Annual film festival showcasing the best of LGBT movies features 16 movies, including 15 premieres, receptions and an awards ceremony at Ridglea Theater, 6052 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. For tickets and more information at QCinema.org.

 Oct. 11: Pirates of Steampunk: Plundering for Charities Turn About Pageant Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington crown Mr. and Ms. Turn About at 6 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings Ave. Line up begins at 5 p.m. For more information e-mail Jerika Tailar at Phoenyxitc@gmail.com.

Oct. 11: National Coming Out Day



Spivey, an active member and former president.

"Tarrant County Gay Pride Week is one of our 'must attend' events of the year. We want the thousands of attendees to know that there's an option for their vote. Our parade float slogan is 'Equality Through Liberty' and we're promoting Outright Libertarians — a Libertarian group that focuses on LGBT policy issues," he said.

It's worth pointing out, Spivey added, that the Libertarian Party has long embraced LGBT equal-

"[We were] the first political party to support LGBT rights back in 1971 and remain steadfast in protecting the rights of all individuals," he said.

By "Coloring Our World with Pride," organizers wanted to celebrate diversity and give a sense of what's to come next year as well. The TCGPWA celebrates its 35th anniversary next year. And organizers want to be ahead of the curb with promoting what they're calling a family reunion.

But for now, the focus is on the 34th parade, which includes the celebration's other crown jewel: QCinema.

With a "new, vintage look" and new venue, 15 of the festival's 16 movies this year are premieres. A free screening of The Case Against 8 takes places in partnership with Movies That Matter, a film se-

ries highlighting social justice issues sponsored by the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission.

Each will be screened at the historic Ridglea Theater on Fort Worth's west side.

The branding may be new, but the strategy behind choosing the movies remained the same. Each festival tends to have a personality that mimics the times and society. Movies making the circuit this year include more transgender visibility overall. One of those movies is Game Face, a feature about a transgender MMA fighter. (More Q Cinema coverage starts on Page 28.)

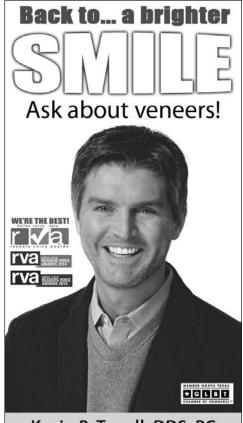
"This year's films reach a broader audience but are less educational and more entertaining," Omarkhail said. "This festival is important because we're seeing our lives portrayed on the big

Both QCinema and TCGPWA are excited to be reaching a broader audience this year for fun, celebration and civic awareness, Omarkhail said.

Certainly if there's ever been a year to bring together LGBT people and allies, it's 2015, the year marriage equality was legalized nationwide with the historic Supreme Court Obergefell ruling.

The feeling of jubilation and freedom is certainly no different in Tarrant County even five months later.





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# Rob Schlein goes "Geen las, it's even more difficult, because experienced installers aren't based here. Here's what Schlein did

After adding solar panels, Schlein doesn't pay for electricity for his house or power for his car

**DAVID TAFFET I** Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

Eco-friendly Rob Schlein runs his house and powers his car on solar power generated by panels

Schlein, better known as president of Metroplex Republicans, doesn't see a bit of conflict between his political and social personas. But his conservative friends sometimes question his motives.

"I'm a little green for them," he says.

But Schlein argues it's downright conservative to save all that money he's not paying for gas to power his Chevy Volt or to TXU to keep his house

"The green I like is cash," he says.

Since installing solar panels on his house earlier this year, Schlein has only owed money on an electric bill twice, during the two hottest months of the

Solar power isn't for everybody, he acknowledges. Currently, solar panels on the roof don't add to a home's resale value and, in some cases, can complicate the sale. But if you plan on staying in your home long-term, Schlein says, solar power

to Home Depot, picking up a few panels and calling someone to throw them up on the roof. In Dallas, it's even more difficult, because experienced

Here's what Schlein did.

First he researched solar panel manufacturers before settling on Sunpower, a Canadian-made brand. Sunpower, he found, while more expensive, makes the highest efficiency panels available.

Next Schlein searched for installers. He got bids from two and chose the one that answered his questions directly and thoroughly.

The installation company he chose is based in Austin. They used satellite imagery to estimate how many panels could be installed on Schlein's Dallas home, facing south and west, to generate the most power.

Schlein warned that before going ahead with any solar plans, anyone interested in installing the panels should check for any homeowner association restrictions in their area. Make sure the house is facing the right direction, he added. His panels are on the side and back of his house, hidden from street view. His neighbor across the street would have to install panels facing the street, and that would detract from the house's appearance.

Obtaining the permits from the city of Dallas took some time, because city inspectors have little experience with solar energy installations, Schlein

The recommended output is 10 kilowatts of energy. Oncor will help with installation costs up to that amount. Here's where the economics of solar energy kick in.

Schlein said his total cost was about \$38,000.

Oncor has a fund that pays up to a third of installation costs. He estimates they paid \$10,000 of dized with energy credits.

"I'd like to thank all of my taxpaying friends for subsidizing my solar panels and electric car," he

Next he picked an electric plan. Only TXU, Reliant and Green Mountain will work with homeowners to credit back energy flowing into the grid when all of the output isn't being used in the

He chose TXU's plan that charges high rates during the day and offers free electricity at night.

Schlein says he decided against installing a storage battery to store energy produced rather than directing it back into the grid. His installation company recommended against it because, they told him, the technology isn't quite there yet. However, Tesla has been working on producing a storage battery for home use that he may add later.

Since installing the solar panels, Schlein says he has only paid an electric bill twice. During those high energy usage months, his bill went down from \$500 last summer to only \$150 this year.

He also takes advantage of the free electricity he gets at night from his TXU plan. That's when he plugs in his car to charge.

The Chevy Volt can go 40-50 miles before needing recharging. As a backup, it can run on gas as well. He said he's only used about four tanks of

In addition to \$200-to-\$300 per month he's saving on electricity for his house, Schlein estimates he's saving about \$200 a month on gas — depending on the price of gas at the time.

A program on his computer shows Schlein what's sucking energy and what's working efficiently. As his halogen lights burn out, he's replacing them with LED bulbs.

One other warning he had for homeowners thinking of installing solar panels: Make sure the roof is new and sturdy. The solar panels are screwed directly into the roof, so the decking needs to be strong. When the roof needs to be replaced, the solar panels will have to be removed and then replaced.

Schlein says he's about eight years into a 40-year roof and the solar panels have a 25-year life span.

He sees his solar panels as a long-term investment. The system may take up to eight years to pay for itself. That figure could rise or fall as the cost of electricity and gas changes.

#### Saving water too

Schlein's savings don't stop there. His green credentials continue in the irrigation system he installed in his yard.

First, he had Dallas Water Utility install two water meters. One goes to his house and includes sewer charges that can be almost as high as the water bill. The other only attaches to his irrigation system, with sewer fees waived.

Next, he installed a computer system that adjusts the amount of water used. The program pings the National Weather Service.

Temperature's over 100? It'll use more water. Down in the 60s? It uses less. Going to rain? It postpones needless watering.

Schlein said he's planning to stay in his house long enough to see his investment pay off and is happy to talk to anyone about his experience even left-wing liberals going solar just because it's good for the environment.









## A new day, a new gayborhood?

A South Dallas neighborhood is emerging as one of the nation's first black gayborhoods

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer russell@dallasvoice.com

A neighborhood in south Dallas bound by Fair Park, I-45 and I-30 is among the many neighborhoods in the historically blighted area beginning to garner real estate developers' attention. Thanks to a push by civic and business leaders to provide affordable housing and more infrastructure investments such as transportation, the storefronts by Fair Park are slowly filling up.

The neighborhood is also on the verge of becoming one of the first African-American gayborhoods in the region, if not the country. the intersection of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Interstate 45.

His vision is this: Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard could not only serve as a gateway to Fair Park — which he calls "the crown jewel of South Dallas" — but to an entire vibrant and creative neighborhood with residential and commercial appeal.

But before commercial activity there must be evidence of residential activity, Myers acknowledged. And commercial development may not even look like retail boutiques, but maybe general services instead.

For instance, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center are already located along the boulevard. And Myers said he has already seen development across from Fair Park, including new housing developments as well as salons and restaurants



Historically, the Fair Park area has been one of the poorest in all of Dallas County. According to The Fair Park Neighborhood Study conducted by the University of Texas at Dallas, incomes in the area range from \$8,600 to \$35,000. The three-mile radius around the 2,000-acre Fair Park grounds is home to 26,000 residents, most of whom are African-American. But there is also a growing Hispanic population as well.

The recent infrastructure improvements, including expanded public transportation services like the bus and light rail, have spurred additional development and a renewed interest in the neighborhood.

Driving down Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, you wouldn't know the neighborhood is burgeoning. But Kirk Myers, chief executive officer of Abounding Prosperity, has seen the area develop. In fact, his organization's office is at one of the gateways to the gayborhood, situated at

The main thoroughfare would be further from Fair Park itself, however, with the convergence at MLK Boulevard.

"If it happens, that's where it'll be," Myers said.
"We are seeing a movement where black gays in Dallas are moving into the neighborhood. It may be 10 people at its highest right now, but the neighborhood is becoming increasingly visible."

At a recent block party ahead of the black Pride events, fairgoers didn't seem to mind the exuberant partygoers across the street. It was late in the evening, but those attending a pre-Dallas black Pride event were contributing to the neighborhood. And no one seemed bothered by it.

"In a neighborhood you'd think was homophobic we were accepted," Myers said. "We were creating a vibrant environment."

Historically, the LGBT community has created

GAYBORHOOD, Page 15

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## On the verge of



## history

LifeWalk teams near record-breaking totals

Last year LifeWalk participants raised \$592,628 for AIDS Arms and other North Texas AIDS service organizations.

This year, on the 25th anniversary of the event, LifeWalk participants want to exceed that goal. So far, teams and individuals have raised \$465,814.84, but they still have time left to top last year's total

At least one team also wants to break the all-time LifeWalk team fundraising record for a single year of \$86,359, set by Guys and Dolls in 2013.

Because fundraisers have until Friday, Oct. 23 to turn in funds, both goals may just get reached.

Seven teams and three individuals have raised \$10,000 or more so far. Four of those teams — Team Clover, Guys and Dolls, Green Team and Team Metro — have raised more than \$20,000 each.

Surpassing last year's half-million dollar haul isn't an impossible feat. Consider the dollars brought by two of the top teams, Guys and Dolls and Green Team. Since 1997, Guys & Dolls has raised \$835,000 total. The Green Team has raked in \$260,000 in 24 years.

Another team, Team Metro, has raised more than \$100,000 in its eight years. Team Metro is a LifeWalk Partner, with funds benefitting the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund.

The fundraising doesn't end the day of the walk.

On Saturday, Oct. 10, LifeWalk hosts One Night in Bangkok at the Brick. On Tuesday, Nov. 10, LifeWalk hosts its Celebration Party, where one lucky fundraiser will be rewarded for his or her efforts

For every thousand dollars they contribute to the total, individuals get their name in a drawing to win a week-long vacation to Maui, courtesy of the Brick.

Terry Bax with the three-year old Team Clover is one of the teams most determined to beat Guys & Dolls' 2013 haul. They are nearly there.

After factoring in sponsorships, Bax's threeyear old Team Clover has raised \$86,018 this year.

This year he wants to raise \$100,000, he told the Voice in an April interview.

Every dollar counts when it comes to providing services for people with HIV.

"Twenty-five years of dedicated fundraising and walking by an amazing and supportive community has resulted in crucial medical care and other social services for those HIV-positive in need. Your efforts have made the difference between someone living or dying," said Tori Hobbs, chief development officer of AIDS Arms.

"If people hadn't stood up and raised awareness for this long, we'd still have people dying in the streets. Every dollar makes a difference, and no gift is too small," she said.

The 25th Annual AIDS Arms LifeWalk and festival begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4 at Robert E. Lee Park 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. Registration begins at 11 a.m.

- James Russell



GAYBORHOOD, From Page 12 -

thriving neighborhoods. Myers pointed to the gentrification of Cedar Springs in the 1980s and 1990s. The push to create a welcoming and safe space for LGBT people transformed a blighted area into what it is today — one of the nation's most well known and frequented gayborhoods.

But now the high rent has pushed a lot of people to look elsewhere. If history is a guide, then where the gays go, so will more development.

"Gay history is [intertwined] with gentrification. We make neighborhoods beautiful," Myers said.

The goal, if the neighborhood emerges, is to create a neighborhood in which to live, work and play.



Several LGBT African-American residents have already moved in. A rainbow flag, sitting undisturbed first turned Myers' attention to the phenomenon.

Buster Spiller lives near Bachman Lake in North Dallas, but most of his civic activities happen in South Dallas. He's worked with the Martin Luther King Jr. Friends of the Library and doing HIV outreach with the Dallas Urban League among others. He even briefly lived in the neighborhood in the 1993.

"That was a while back!" Spiller said. He agrees with Myers that a gayborhood could certainly emerge. But, he added, "it's always been there, but just a lot more quiet.

"The social climate is just changing. A transgender person could go into Wal-Mart without it being a big deal," Spiller added. "People are just freer and everything's a lot more open."

The neighborhood's development is long overdue, which may explain why there hasn't been pushback by the neighborhood. The fact that there is a real disparity between North Dallas and South Dallas may also create a more welcoming climate.

"Typically the southern sector of Dallas has gotten the short end of the stick even though the largest chunk of the city's population lives in South Dallas," Spiller said.

Now that apartments and newer single-family homes have popped up, Spiller gets why more African-American LGBT citizens would re-consider the Fair Park area.

"As it's revamped, it's the people who are going to contribute to the betterment of South Dallas," he said.





## **HRC unhappy with Dallas** for release of MEI score

Fairness Fort Worth voices concerns about favoritism by the organization for Texas' larger cities

**DAVID TAFFET I Senior Staff Writer** taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas has worked hard to improve its Municipal Equality Index score and is excited that score may be 100 this year.

Human Rights Campaign, which compiles the MEI, understands that excitement and is even proud that their report generates that sort of excitement in a growing number of cities. That's much better than the alternative — cities that don't care what HRC thinks, or worse, cities that don't care how their LGBT employees are treated. And there are lots of those.

But while it's compiling its scores and sharing preliminary reports with cities to verify, it requires an amount of confidentiality.

Dallas Ethics and Diversity Officer Cheryl Orr set off a firestorm recently when she reported to the Dallas City Council Budget, Finance and Audit Committee that the city originally scored a 96 this year, but after she submitted additional information, the four points it needed to make a perfect 100 would be added.

The problem was her report was delivered during a public meeting that was broadcast on the Internet.

The Dallas Morning News and Dallas Observer both reported the news. Dallas Voice had the information a week earlier, but was told the information was off the record, so held off on publishing it.

Fairness Fort Worth President David Henderson decried Orr's early release of the information. "This was nothing short of a preemptive, crass marketing move to establish a first impression of superiority over other cities, citing un-vetted scores of quite a few," he said.

He criticized the headlines "Dallas gets perfect score" and "Dallas hits 100," saying it was not a done deal. He also criticized Dallas LGBT leaders for not calling the city out.

"Sadly, the list of Dallas' LGBT leadership publicly disavowing this behavior is practically nonexistent, tacitly approving what should be vocally denounced," Henderson said.

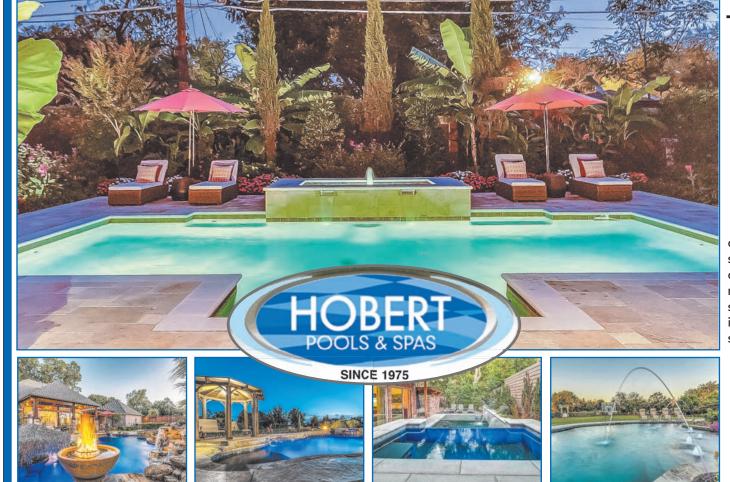
HRC responded to the release of the preliminary score with a letter to Dallas City Manager A.C. Gonzalez.

"I am writing to express the serious concerns of the Human Rights Campaign related to the recent release of Dallas' draft Municipal Equality Index score," HRC Legal Director Sarah Warbelow wrote in the letter.

Part of the research process involves allowing cities to review the draft to provide feedback. That feedback potentially raised the Dallas score by four points. Orr reported the city partnered with Coalition for Aging LGBT to host a conference on aging and city employees formed an employee re-



David Henderson



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Cheryl Orr

source group. In addition, Dallas had never gotten points for its LGBT mayor's task force.

But Warbelow, in her letter explained that every page was clearly labeled "confidential draft not for publication," in bold red and added an additional warning.

While scolding the city for its release of information, Warbelow tempered her anger.

"HRC is encouraged by the pro-equality efforts Dallas has undertaken in the past year," Warbelow wrote but also warned, "As a result of this, the MEI Team is exploring potential ways of penalizing cities for willfully breaching our terms of confidentiality."

Orr responded that she was asked by the council for a briefing on where Dallas stands on LGBT issues. By ordinance, she's required to deliver quarterly briefings to the council as part of the law that passed last year requiring equality throughout city government.

"It's unfortunate the news has focused on the scores," she said.

She said she repeated throughout the briefing that all scores were preliminary and could change until publication in November.

She and Gonzalez are writing a letter to HRC and next year, she said, she'll postpone the briefing on the MEI score until after its public release.

Still, Henderson called the release of the preliminary scores unethical and said information about scores other cities would receive compromised their work to Dallas' advantage.

"Those who purport to be the arbiter of equality and ethics must practice what they preach," Hen-

derson said.

Task Force member Erin Moore said, "We understand protocol was broken, but we're really proud of the work Dallas has done to achieve this score."

#### **Inconsistencies**

In addition to his outrage about the release of the scores of area cities, Henderson said he spoke extensively with HRC about how the MEI is compiled and what he called inconsistencies.

He was particularly concerned with how Texas cities were scored for their anti-bullying policies and in particular the inconsistency between how Dallas and Fort Worth were rated.

Part of the problem is that school systems in Texas are independent governmental bodies. The maps of the Dallas and Fort Worth independent school districts do not correspond to city limits.

Many students who live in Dallas attend Richardson, Mesquite, Plano and even Highland Park ISD schools, and suffer from those school systems' varying anti-bullying policies, while students in cities like Wilmer, Hutchens and Seagoville, all within DISD, benefit from Dallas anti-bullying policies.

While DISD has comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies, RISD does not. Lake Highlands residents, for example, all attend Richardson schools.

Fort Worth is similarly divided. But in the last MEI, Dallas got credit for DISD's anti-bullying policy and Fort Worth lost points because some of

its residents who live in other ISDs weren't covered by FWISD's anti-bullying policy. And Fort Worth's policy has become the model for school districts across the state that are serious about tackling the bullying problem.

In Texas, what can a city do about school district policy? Absolutely nothing. Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings has virtually no power over RISD policy, even though most of northeast Dallas falls into that district.

In addition, Henderson claims HRC favored large cities — Dallas and Houston — that host major fundraising events for the organization.

"Scores from 2014 met with considerable mistrust for inconsistencies as yet unexplained that led to perceived favoritism of large Texas cities that are home to considerable fundraising streams," he said.

#### **Additional work**

Even if Dallas receives a final score of 100, both Dallas and Fort Worth have work to do on a number of transgender issues. Transgender healthcare is not fully covered. Trans homelessness is a problem that both cities must address.

In addition, Dallas does not have the Human Rights Commission that Fort Worth has to oversee compliance.

Those issues may become more important in the future when marriage equality won't be an issue.

To see the full letter HRC sent to the Dallas city manager, visit Dallas Voice.com.

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Pope's first visit to the United States instills hope, raises questions for LGBT Catholics

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer russell@dallasvoice.com

In his first visit to the United States since his papacy began in 2013, Pope Francis spoke before a joint session of Congress on Sept. 24. It was the first time a pope had spoken to the U.S.'s top legislative

Cliff Garinn was delighted by his message.

"I felt inspired by his general demeanor and ability to be non-judgmental," Garinn said. "He told Congress, 'I'm not here to lecture you.' His plea to [Congress to] stop fighting was refreshing and inspiring."

Garinn, a former priest who serves with his husband Jon Anthony as co-chaplain of Dignity Dallas, a group of LGBT Catholics who worship at Cathedral of Hope, was also relieved.

"I'm glad he didn't call out same-sex marriage [in his speech before Congress]," he said.

By publicly focusing on issues of social and economic issues, Francis just isn't boosting the image of the Catholic Church, which has historically been harsh toward the LGBT community, but practicing his Jesuit beliefs.

"He follows the Jesuit mentality that faith is a way to liberate. He's not talking about rules, regulations and protocols. He's asking we care for another and the planet," Garinn said. "Just look at the response from the crowds. He's even inspired the non-religious with his sense of justice."

Pope Francis is Garinn's type of Catholic.

"He's drawing us to a better way of treating one another," Garinn said. "His sense of fairness and unity is not what I encountered through my life."

Francis's messages are encouraging, he has left many LGBT Catholics, as well as advocates for women's ordination and reproductive rights activists, begging for him to be more specific.

"People want him to be definitive," Garinn said. "[The Catholic Church's] strong on the Eucharist and Last Supper, which Francis emphasizes in his teachings," Garinn said. What the Pope is saying, is that we're not all sitting at separate tables, but together in communion at one table, Garinn added.

Francis once wrote the faith is a warm fire.

"He wasn't looking at the cold ashes," Garinn pointed out.

Garinn's sentiments are shared by many other Americans — LGBT, Catholics and Protestants. According to a study released in August by the Public Religion Research Institute, Francis himself is actually more popular than the Catholic Church as a whole.

It's what the center called the "Francis effect."

Two-thirds, or 67 percent, of Americans have a favorable view of the pope, compared to just 56 percent who hold a favorable view of the Catholic Church. Among Catholics, approximately nine in 10 view both the pope and church favorably.

"While there is only one official Roman Catholic Church, politically speaking, there are increasingly two American Catholic churches," said Robert Jones, chief executive officer of PRRI. In his visit, Francis was addressing the two demographically different churches.

The two different churches have two different



Pope Francis waves to the crowd during a parade Saturday, Sept. 26 in Philadelphia. The pontiff has drawn praise from the LGBT community for what some see as a more welcoming attitude toward LGBT people, but his visit with anti-gay Kentucky County Clerk Kim Davis during his trip to the U.S. has caused others to rethink their position. (AP/Matt Rourke, Pool)

LGBTQ Task Force, was also among the LGBT advocates disappointed with Francis. She applauded his commitment to issues of economic and environmental justice but was alarmed by sharp jabs at marriage equality.

"We welcome Pope Francis' advocacy for the 'Golden Rule', which calls on everyone to 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' But this doesn't seem to apply to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and our families," she said in a statement.

Francis' commitment to eliminating poverty and unemployment, support for comprehensive immigration reform and better stewardship of the environment, for example, should intersect with a positive view on LGBT issues. "It's unfortunate

a leader who can be so good on these issues can be so out of touch to others," she said.

Still, Garinn, interviewed before the news broke that Davis privately met with Francis, sees the pendulum swinging in another direction.

The change is evident even in the decline in attendance at Dignity Dallas' services.

"We're seeing a change in membership," Garinn said, suggesting that the group's members are returning to services at traditional Catholic churches, rather feeling they have to segregate themselves.

"It could be either LGBT Catholics are comfortable going to their own church or not going to church at all," Garinn said. "They could simply be practicing their own communion with God."

views, too. Among the majority of Catholics who support same-sex marriage, for instance, nearly half believe the pope supports their view. Among the minority of Catholics opposed to same-sex marriage, however, 62 percent believe the pope supports their view.

Francis's elusive views may have endeared him to many Americans, but speeches in Washington, D.C., New York City and Philadelphia had some national LGBT advocates skeptical.

Even before a private visit with Rowan County, Ky. Clerk Kim Davis, who was jailed for refusing to issue any marriage licenses after citing religious objects to same-sex marriage, some national LGBT groups expressed skepticism towards some of the pope's past statements condemning same-sex marriage and other LGBT issues.

Statements released during his visit reinforced that skepticism.

When news broke Francis privately met with Davis but declined to meet LGBT Catholics, Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin expressed disappointment.

"It would come as a shock to all those who were inspired by Pope Francis' call for greater tolerance and inclusion if he were to lend support to a public employee who has become synonymous with discrimination against LGBT people. And it would be most disappointing to the dozens of LGBT faithful who gathered to welcome Pope Francis to Washington, D.C., and whose request for a meeting was denied," he said in a statement.

(Representatives with the national Dignity USA attended one of Francis's speeches at the invitation of the White House.)

Rea Carey, executive director of the National



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#### **High impact AIDS prevention**

Abounding Prosperity and AIDS Arms receive grant money to address HIV in minority and marginalized populations

**DAVID TAFFET |** Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Centers for Disease Control awarded 90 high impact prevention grants to AIDS service organizations in June. Only six went to organizations in Texas, and of those six only two — Abounding Prosperity and AIDS Arms — are in North Texas. The grants are intended to fund work with people who are at high risk of contracting or spreading HIV.

Thanks to the grants, some people who are negative will be able to go on PrEP, a prevention regimen that includes taking the HIV medication Truvada.

AIDS Arms will use the grant funds to target people recently released from prison. That population is at high risk of spreading HIV unless they are connected to care.

AIDS Arms' goal is to enroll those former inmates into their system, and within a short period of time get them to a doctor to prescribe the proper regimen so there's no interruption in their medication.

While waiting for the federal AIDS Drug Assistance Program that covers the cost of AIDS medication to kick in, AIDS Arms has temporary funding options.

"Thats what some of your LifeWalk money is for," said LifeWalk Director Tori Hobbs.

Abounding Prosperity is using its funding to target African-American men and Latino and African-American trans women.

Kirk Myers, AP founder and CEO, said the grant is part of a new national prevention strategy that focuses on following the epidemic. And the epidemic, he said, is spreading most rapidly among minorities across the South.

Myers listed a number of reasons for that: conservative states refusing Medicaid expansion, thus preventing many people from seeking medical care; homophobia; church doctrine that stigmatizes and encourages shame, guilt and self-loathing.

The project uses a multi-layered approach targeting high-risk minority populations using social networking strategies, social media and tangible incentives.

"Our approach is primarily testing," Myers said. "We already have a robust testing program."

AP is charged with identifying newly positive individuals and linking those people to care, as well as finding those who tested positive elsewhere and getting them re-engaged in care.

Myers said he talks to a lot of people who are positive and still healthy who are not thinking about their HIV. But the current recommendation is to get anyone who tests positive on medication before their t-cell levels fall or opportunistic infections strike.



Abounding Propserity Founder and CEO Kirk Myers and Associate Director Tamara Stephney. (David Taffet/DallasVoice)

For the partners of HIV-positive individuals or those engaging in risky behaviors, Myers said, there are a limited number of slots for those who are uninsured or underinsured to get on PrEP.

Myers said trans women of color are also at high risk for HIV for a number of reasons. Many are unemployed or underemployed, and their inability to obtain identification that matches their presentation contributes to that problem. Many trans people lose family and friends when they transition and, as a result, become homeless.

Myers said some have no other options for survival than engaging in sex work. And sharing needles for silicone or hormone injections adds to the problem of HIV infection for some trans women, he added.

AP is charged with identifying at least 24 new infections per year. Since the grant period began this summer, Myers said, they've already found eight, and during a normal year, AP identifies 70-100 people who test positive.

Tamara Stephney, AP associate director, calls herself the mother of the agency.

While her main position is quality assurance, making sure grant money is spent within the terms of the grant, she described what she does that an institution like Parkland couldn't do for the community.

"When you come in, you become our extended family," she said.

She said they develop personal relationships with their clients to keep them in care.

"We show you how to live with HIV, not die from it," Stephney said.

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## communityvoices

## Claiming Pride every day

was invited to capture what Pride means to me. For many that is an easy request. It means solidarity, social justice, becoming more visible, finding a voice, being with a larger community with a similar story to commiserate and celebrate.

I remember my very first Pride parade many, many years ago in Austin. The thing I remember most is the continual unfolding of the sense of being "not alone." It was wonderful. I felt more courageous in expressing my truth.

And yet, I can struggle. I struggle with special days set aside to really "be who we are," or to "be recognized and celebrated." It smacks a little of tokenism and I don't want a day, I want every day, and I want that for every person — that steady trickle of acceptance, celebration, being seen and heard.

I want Pride to have a shelf life, for every group that finds themselves labeled in any way.



Rev. S. David Wynn Sr. Contributing Columnist

Poet David Whyte has written: "Courage is a word that tempts us to think outwardly, to run bravely against opposing fire, to do something under besieging circumstance, and perhaps, above all, to be seen to do it in public, to show courage; to be cele-

brated in story, rewarded with medals, given the accolade, but a look at its linguistic origins leads us in a more interior direction and toward its original template, the old Norman French, Coeur, or heart.

"Courage is the measure of our heartfelt participation with life, with another, with a community, a work, a future. To be courageous, is not necessarily to go anywhere or do anything except to make conscious those things we already feel deeply and then to live through the unending vulnerabilities of those consequences. To be courageous is to seat our feelings deeply in the body and in the world: to live up to and into the necessities of relationships that often already exist, with things we find we already care deeply about: with a person, a future, a possibility in society, or with an unknown that begs us on and always has begged us on. Whether we stay or whether we go — to be courageous is to stay close to the way we are made."

For me Pride parades are an invitation to the much deeper soul work of "staying close to the way we are made," and in so doing, getting closer to the way those around us are made. It's a clarion call to relationship that is deep and vulnerable work.

Pride is an external, embodied ritual that will hopefully lead us to the internal ritual of recogniz-



ing our own beauty and worth. The challenging part is that it asks us not only to do that for ourselves and those who understand our stories because they share some piece of our story, but to also cast the net wider and see the same beauty and worth in those beyond our stories, including those who protest and want to suppress our stories.

The Pride event is a way to practice our courage, so that when we step away from that space into the larger space of the larger world we do so with our whole heart and "heartfelt partici-

pation with life, with another, with a community, a work, a future." It takes great courage to live this way.

Stay close to the way you are made. Have courage. Happy Pride to all of creation in every day.

The Rev. S. David Wynn Sr. is lead pastor of Agape MCC Church in Fort Worth. He has a Masters of Theological Studies degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and is a shamanic practitioner and reiki master.

### Feedback

#### Tents interfere with enjoying the parade

I really enjoyed the [2015 Alan Ross Texas Freedom] Parade, but it took a long time to find a spot to watch the parade because of the tents up and down the street allowing only their party — no matter how small — to see the parade.

This has gotten totally out of hand in the last couple of years. It doesn't represent the message of inclusivity and equality of the parade when the city or the tavern owners guild allows people to claim space to see the parade.

Most people with tents weren't even watching the parade. They were sitting around playing with their phones, playing beer pong, or the tents were almost completely empty but still had "do not enter" caution tape draped around their claimed space. I have a few pictures showing this.

I have never seen any other city allowing this during a parade. These are not the businesses that sent up the space between their business and the street I am addressing (to make a few extra bucks, which is also sleazy). Evidently anyone can set up a tent along the route and keep anyone else out as long as you show up early and have an obnoxious tent.

This is wrong.

Tom Cunningham, via email

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## **Defining Homes**

hillip Murrell has always been filled with what he calls "an entrepreneurial spirit." That's why he set out to build his own business and his own brand in real estate. And in just three years, he has done just that. He was Keller Williams' Rookie of the Year in 2012, and this past spring was voted Best Realtor in Dallas Voice's Readers Voice Awards.

Born in Houston, Murrell moved to Michigan as a child, but returned to Texas to attend Baylor University. He moved to Dallas to work in marketing with SJR Communications, then started his real estate career with Keller Williams, before joining Dave Perry-Miller & Associates in January. It was the move to Dallas that helped him get on the right track.

"I grew up as a conservative Baptist boy, and then I went to Baylor," Murrell says. "But when I got to Dallas, my life opened up, and I started growing into my own skin. I was able to really start making friends and building true relationships, and that lets me keep it real. It is that keeping it real aspect that helps me build trust with my clients."

Murrell started in real estate at just the right time. Three years ago, what had been a depressed market was really beginning to rebound, and he was able to put his skills, his talents and his personality to good use and grow with the market.

"I have only been a Realtor for three years, but I have already had some repeat clients," he says. "That's because people who bought three years ago already have a lot of equity in their home, because of where the market was then compared to where it is now. And a lot of people have already recouped what they lost [in terms of equity] when the market went down."

Murrell specializes in properties in the Uptown, Turtle Creek and Oak Lawn neighborhoods, but he noted that more and more LGBT couples are having children, and are looking beyond the traditional gayborhoods for their homes.

"I do have more and more clients who are having kids now," Murrell says. "That's not new, of course, but it is becoming more prevalent. A lot more gays and lesbians are looking beyond the usual neighborhoods when they are looking to buy a home. They are more concerned about the schools and finding a neighborhood that's best for their kids."

For many, that means looking at suburbs. "I had a couple just recently who wanted me to find them a home in Frisco," says Murrell. "I told them I can find them a house, but that's not my area of expertise. You can't be an expert in every area, and that goes back to having a honest relationship with my clients."

It's not just couples with kids that are looking outside the gayborhoods. "I help gay people move everywhere now," he says. "Overall, there is a very optimistic mood. And younger gays aren't just looking for the gay areas. They are looking for homes with real character, they're looking for treed neighborhoods."

When it comes to Oak Lawn, Murrell has some tips for homeowners looking to sell, as well as those looking to buy. Pointing out that there are a lot of older homes in Oak Lawn, Murrell suggests, "It's usually a good idea to do some upgrades" when you're getting ready to put your home on the market. "A lot of people are looking for homes that are move-in ready," he says. "Besides, people don't always have the vision [to see the potential in a house], so it's not a bad idea to spend a little money so you can make more money on a house."

Because he "flips" houses himself — buying a house that needs repairs, remodeling it and then reselling for a profit — Murrell offers some insight into what it takes to make a house sellable, and some hints for others who want to get on the flipping wagon.

"The thing is, you make the money when you buy the house," he says. "That means that you have to know up front what needs to be done, how much it will cost to get it done, and how much you need to sell it for to make a profit. You have to always be thinking about the resale. Know the prices of things — can we get this much done in that length of time, and can we resell for this price?"

Don't skip the design process, Murrell counsels. "Know where to put the walls, how to select the right tile. There are places to save money, and then there are places not to worry about saving money. Anything that involves the structural integrity of the home, don't skimp on those. If you have wood floors, you need to make sure those are perfect."

There are ways to save, however. For instance, subway tile is very popular but not expensive. "The trick is to make sure it is installed perfectly," he says.

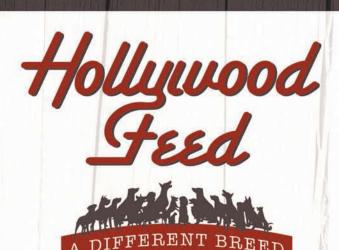
It also helps to know the area — what's hot, and what's going to be hot. "The market is going up again, so it's getting harder to buy properties [to flip] in the really hot areas, because the prices are going up. Instead of trying to buy in an A area, buy in a B area that's on it's way to being an A area."

Flipping homes in Oak Lawn is a way of keeping alive the unique character of the neighborhood, and a way of helping the LGBT community that has long seen Oak Lawn as "home base."

"It's awesome to watch how fast Oak Lawn is changing," Murrell says. "I hate to see some of the older places being torn down, but at the same time, that has to happen sometimes. We have a really walkable community now, with developments like ilume. I hope a lot of the developers coming into the area will continue to build that kind of mixed use community. Oak Lawn is becoming an ever more affordable and urbanite place to live."

— Tammye Nash

You can contact Phillip Murrell at phillip@philliprealestate.com or 989-859-2275.



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**L+S** pride

# Why it gotta be back? One lesson to take away from the 18th annual Dallas Black Gay Pride: The best things in life are free



Dallas' gay Pride parade may have been in September, but Pride in North Texas is far from over. In addition to Tarrant County's planned Pride events (see story Page 8), Dallas Black Gay Pride Weekend continues. And while some question whether "Pride" is even worth doing anymore, organizers of black Pride feel it provides an important service — not as a separate event, but a supplementary one.

"Black Pride often [focuses] on matters of HIV and AIDS, which are still so important in the black community," says Jalenzski Brown, who heads the Resource Center's United Black Ellument (U-BE) project. "There are parties but some serious things, too. We decided to add some artsy events — and we still want to do things where people can get something free."

Events that U-BE is co-sponsoring with Dallas Southern Pride include everything from a skate party show to a barbecue. It kicks off Friday with a fashion show at the host hotel, the Crowne Plaza Market Center. That's followed on Saturday with a mini-conference and workshops with topics like "What is love?" and "Polyamory and team building." Even though these events technically aren't free, "scholarships are available for those who can't afford to attend, so they can get it for free," Brown says.

Sunday, a "unity" barbecue at Bachman Lake — hosted by several different groups — is "sort of like this year's festival at Reverchon Park, only it's free," Brown says. There's also a roller skating party (again, free, including admission and skate rental).

There are more traditional "circuit" events, though, Brown promises.

"Lil Kim is in town performing at Gas Monkey, and DJ Rude Boy, a Dallas DJ will be spinning. And the straight ally Beat King — a rapper from Houston — is performing at The Brick Friday," Brown says.

— Arnold Wayne Iones

To see a complete schedule of events (official and unofficial), visit DallasSouthernPride.com.

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## Ya gotta have heart

Turtle Creek Chorale opens 36th season with renewed energy and purpose



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor iones@dallasvoice.com

When Bruce Jaster, the executive director of the Turtle Creek Chorale, heard the slogan for the men's choir's upcoming concert Heartland, it brought a smile to his face. "America Never Sounded So Good," he repeats. "I'm totally enamored of that. The music is across-the-board stunning."

There's something about the slogan that subtly hints at the recent victory for

gay rights this summer on the constitutionality of marriage equality, though Jaster dismisses that was its intent. Yes, there is a new sense of pride in the gay community that we have collec-

tively earned an important degree of widespread respect. But Jaster thinks in this case the pride is more personal: The chorale has rarely been better.

It's a sling-shot reversal from a year ago, when the group's artistic director stepped down and prospects were looking anemic. But a celebratory 35th anniversary concert led by returning former artistic director Tim Seelig, the appointment of both Jaster and new A.D. Sean Baugh and tremendous enthusiasm among the singers and audiences has energized the chorale in tremendous ways. Season ticket subscriptions have shot through the roof; membership has increased (an astonishing 180 live singers will appear at the inaugural concert); and best of all, the music is

great.

TCC: HEARTLAND

City Performance Hall,

2520 Flora St. Oct. 9-10. 7:30 p.m.

TurtleCreekChorale.com.

Jaster credits Baugh's leadership for a lot of it, especially the opening concert of the season. Called Heartland, it features everything from folk to standards to jazz to showtunes, with special appearances by the Lone Star Wind Orchestra and the TCC's Partners in Harmony, who will balloon the performers in Act 2 to 250, including about 40 women. And, as always, there will be a sense of humor that goes over the top ... but shouldn't offend anyone. (The opening number, "This Land Is Your Land," will feature a

pageant that only the minds of the chorale would conceive.)

Heartland will kick off the full season at CPH (followed by Home in December, Heroes in March/April and Heartstrings in June), while a soon-to-be-an-

nounced "second season" offers a series of smaller concerts at venues across Dallas-Fort Worth.

Jaster is a cheerleader, no doubt, but it's rare for arts groups to have such a sunny outlook nowadays. This season marks the renewed emphasis on the chorale's longstanding Sterling Circle membership, which offers VIP treatment for contributors above and beyond ticket sales (including two free tickets to the second season). And to hear Jaster tell it, that's well worth the investment.

"When I attended the first rehearsal in mid-August, I promise, they could have done a concert the next night," he insists. "They were that good."

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Q Cinema film fest includes a timely, Texas-based doc on marriage equality

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**SCOTT HUFFMAN I** Contributing Writer scott\_in\_dallas@yahoo.com

For LGBT Texans and their allies, Feb. 26, 2014 was noteworthy if not revolutionary. On that day, San Antonio federal judge Orlando Garcia ruled that Texas' ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. While Judge Garcia stayed his ruling pending appeal, it was a watershed moment for out Dallas filmmaker Rebecca Rice.

"My partner and I looked at each other and said, 'My God! We're going to have marriage equality in Texas!" Rice recalls. "I honestly thought that it would never get here. I thought it would move on from state to

state to state for years, maybe for decades."

Rice, who earned a graduate degree in filmmaking at SMU, immediately knew that she had to suspend these moments in

time. She feared that once same-sex marriage was legalized, the struggle to achieve it might begin to fade from the collective memory. Rice felt the best way to memorialize the changing tide was to film first -person interviews with LGBT couples about their relationships and pursuit of marriage. The result of her efforts is the documentary We Do, which will screen at Fort Worth's Q Cinema next Saturday. (For reviews of several other films at the festival, including the opening night movie, see sidebar, Page 29.)

"I love all that history. I thought it was a chunk of time that was going to be lost," Rice

says. "The younger generation would take [marriage equality] for granted. They are going to think we've always had these rights. I wanted to preserve something so we won't forget — to document what happened and what people had to do."

Rice's film profiles three same-sex couples: Leta and Anne Kalfas of Denver, Mariel and Viviana Baluja of Austin, and Michael and Michael Serrecchia-Robinson of Dallas. The film also features an interview with Jim Mitulski, a former pastor at the Cathedral of Hope. Rice's original idea was to keep the film brief and limited in scope. After completing the first interview with Mariel and Viviana, though, the project took on a

life of its own.

"I originally intended to do a 20-minute documentary," Rice says. "I just wanted to get people's stories about getting married. I had no idea how much they were going to share and

how rich their stories were and how much bigger this was going to be in terms of their stories."

Rice's second interview was with Leta and Anne Kalfas. The fact that the couple were starting a family together (Anne was pregnant at the time and has since given birth to their son Apollo), gave the film a new dimension. Jaxson, Leta's biological son from a previous relationship and half-brother to Apollo (the couple used the same donor's sperm), also participated in the project.

"They had an equally compelling story, but a little bit different," Rice says. "They had the sup-

port of both of their families. The angle was when Leta began talking about when gays and lesbians have children — that it's so intentional and never accidental. There are so many things that we have to think about in life that straight people don't. That's a big one. Having children takes a lot of effort if you are LGBT."

Rice's introduction to the film's third couple was a gift of sorts from her longtime friend Donatelle Mascari. She insisted that Rice meet "the Michaels," as they are known — one of whom, Serrecchia, shares his coming out story in New

York City at the time of Stonewall. It was as if the final piece of the puzzle had fallen into place.

"I went over to their house — a complete stranger that they had never met," Rice says. "They let me interview them. They told me their story. I felt their story was amazing. I feel each of these couples embodies a different decade. It overlaps in our collective gay and lesbian history. It adds to the story arc of what we've been through to get to this point in time."

■ RICE Page 32



#### **QUEER CLIPS: Q Cinema lineup**

While the new documentary *Out to Win* offers a survey course on the topic of LGBT athletes, *Game Face* — which opens Q Cinema's 17th season Thursday — is more specialized, focusing on just two. Belgian cinematographer Michiel Thomas, directing his first feature, follows lesbian transgender mixed martial arts fighter Fallon Fox and gay college basketball player Terrence Clemens as they compete for championships and face their biggest struggle: coming out

Fox is older, having a daughter in high school. Her daughter is supportive but her own parents rejected her when she transitioned, leading her to consider suicide. Professionally, she thought she was in the clear when California and Florida licensed her after she was honest on her applications; sore losers, prejudiced fans and a general lack of understanding made things more difficult. She got support from LGBT organizations and her friend Kye Allums, who was the first transgender college basketball player.

Clemens had a rough time in high school when a gay rumor led to his close friends and teammates abandoning him. He switched schools, fell in with a bad crowd and wound up spending eight months in prison. Eventually he got into Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, a two-year college whose basketball team won the regional championship in his second year. NBA player Jason Collins came out about the time Clemens needed a role model and mentoring, and gave him good advice.

Between having cameras around and taking advantage of clips from a long list of credited sources, the filmmaker was able to assemble comprehensive stories of the two subjects. We don't get into Clemens' love life, but Fox finds a

girlfriend in the midst of the firestorm surrounding her

As Fallon and Terrence were helped by those who came before them, they are committed to helping those who will follow, until the whole thing becomes a non-issue. This film will reach many young people they won't get to touch personally. (Oct. 8, 6 p.m.)

In the Grayscale. There aren't 50 shades of gray in this Chilean drama, but it's repeatedly made clear that not everything in life is black or white.

This is a story of one of the Qs in LGBTQ. Bruno (Francisco Celhay) is a 30-something architect who takes a break from marriage and raising a 10-year-old son, moves into his grandfather's workshop and takes some me time. (He says "I want to be alone" more than Garbo.)

Hired to design some kind of landmark by the kind of guy who gives rich people a bad name, Bruno is paired with Fer (Emilio Edwards), a historian and tour guide in his late 20s who is openly gay. Although it takes a while, Bruno and Fer come together faster than Bruno's projects; but Bruno's still not sure that's what he wants. When Fer says "I hate happy endings," it could be an omen.

Directed by first-timer Claudio Marcone, *In the Grayscale* develops at a slow pace that's sometimes appropriate, sometimes annoying. Some plot elements, such as why the Santiago native would need a full-time consultant, are strained or fuzzy; but the acting is good, the basic story plausible (if frustrating, since we're likely to side with Fer in wishing Bruno would make up his damn mind already), and the men have a hot sex scene about halfway through. Approached with reasonable expectations, *In the Grayscale* will deliver. (*Oct. 8, 8:30 p.m.*)

— Steve Warren All screenings at the Ridglea Theater.

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- Arnold Wayne Jones

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## Fall foodie fiesta!

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor iones@dallasvoice.com

Fall is sort of synonymous with eating: Thanksgiving, Halloween candy, pumpkin spiced lattes, German Oktoberfests. And Dallas hits it full force starting this week.

It begins, as it has the past seven years, with Burgers & Burgundy, the annual benefit for DIFFA that includes sliders and munchies crafted by some of the top chefs in North Texas (pictured). Only this year, it's not just Texas representin' — lead chef/organizer John Tesar (Knife, Oak, El Bolero) has invited nationally-known chefs like Justin Brunson (Old Major) and Kris Morningstar (Terrine) to join local notables like Tre Wilcox, Blaine Staniford (Grace), Sharon Van Meter (3015 Trinity Groves) and Brian Luscher (The Grape, Luscher's Red Hots) in crafting bites to pair with wines. It returns to the beautiful gardens of the Seanor Estate (4627 Meadowood Road) on Oct. 2, from 6:30–9:30 p.m. tickets run from \$85 (online) to \$150 (VIP). Learn more at

This weekend also welcomes a newcomer to the food stage: The inaugural

DIFFADallas.org.

Taste of the Anatole. This three-day food fest, taking place at the Hilton Anatole in the Design District, begins with Food and Wine Around the World on Oct. 2 (\$85), followed on Saturday, Oct. 3 with intimate workshops and an evening Grand Tasting (\$99) and finishing up with Sunday brunch (\$59). The evening events will be accompanied by live music, as well as wines and spirits from the likes of Cakebread, Robert Mondavi Napa, Maker's Mark and more. And you can even get ticket packages that include a twonight stay at the hotel, and each night includes



an after-party at SER. For more information, visit TasteOfTheAnatole.com.

The next big event is the annual **Chefs for** Farmers, which is bigger than ever. This threeday culinary event, which runs from Oct. 23-25, includes a Guest Chef Dinner Oct. 23 at host-chef Matt McCallister's FT33 in the Design District, The Butcher Block Party outside the Joule Hotel on Oct. 24 (featuring 15 local chefs and bartenders) and on Oct. 25, the main event Culinary Village at Lee Park. For tickets and a full list of participants, visit ChefsForFarmers.com.

#### ■ RICE From Page 29

Rice has recently screened the film at festivals in Austin and Palm Springs and at special events. Two Dallas screenings bookended the week of June 26 when SCOTUS announced its ruling. Audience response has been positive, and Rice is enjoying the fruits of her labor.

"It's not like. 'Hollywood, here I come!" Rice jokes. "This film is a little snapshot film. It's going to speak to certain people. It's going to be important to our community. It feels similar to finishing graduate school. It feels like I accomplished something I wanted to do."

Despite documenting the matrimony of others, Rice and her partner Rose have yet themselves to marry. They do, however, have a plan.

"[We want] to get married on our 10th anniversary," Rice says. "We don't Rebecca Rice have any children besides two cats. They don't get any inheritance rights. I think because we put all our financial and legal ducks in a row, we have the luxury of waiting until it's a romantic moment for us."









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## Friday 10.02 — **Sunday** 11.01

Denise Lee sings the blues ... again

Is it typecasting or the role of a lifetime? Frankly, we don't care — we just know that, even though M. Denise Lee has portrayed Billie Holiday in two prior productions of *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, we're happy she's back in a new version at Jubilee Theatre about the final concert by the legendary blues

singer and tragic figure. This is the same role that won Audra Mc-

Donald her fifth Tony. Eh. We still prefer to see Denise in it.

DEETS: Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.

#### LIFE+STYLE

best bets

#### **Saturday** 10.03—**Sunday** 10.18

#### Gay Latinas get hip-hop treatment in Cara Mia's 'Blu'

Here's a story you don't hear told every day: A queer Latina couple raising a family in a society ravaged by gang violence, told in the form of an epic poem flavored with hip-hop. But that's exactly what Cara Mia is taking on with *Blu*, a play by San Antonio native Virginia Grise. Rene Moreno directs the mix of modern musical and spoken word.

**DEETS**: Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. CaraMiaTheatre.org.



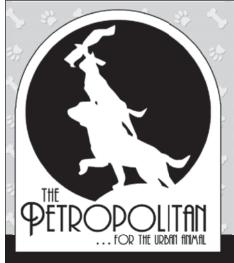
#### **Sunday** 10.04

#### Live 'La Vida Ricky' at Gexa concert

From Menudo cutie to daytime hottie to international pop sensation to gay icon, Ricky Martin has been in the public eye (and he's an eyeful) for decades. And he hasn't slowed down. The guy who popularized Spanglish and electrified dancefloors with his sultry moves on songs like "Livin' La Vida Loca" and "She-Bangs" is in concert Sunday. If you were lucky enough to win our ticket giveaway, you already have your plans in place, but there's still time to get seats to what may be the last big outdoor concert of the summer season. (Opening acts are Wisin and Ha\*ash.)

**DEETS**: Gexa Energy Pavilion, 1818 First Ave. in Fair Park. 7 p.m. GexaEnergyPavilionDallas.com. LiveNation.com.





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#### calendar highlights

#### ARTSWEEK

#### **THEATER**

*The Droll.* A world premiere, about a world where theater is illegal, launches Undermain's 32nd season. Undermain Theater, 3200 Main St. Through Oct. 17. Undermain.org.

*Blu*. A part spoken word, part hip-hop epic powel about a queer Latina couple raising a family amid violence. Presented by Cara Mia Theatre Co. Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Oct. 3–18. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

Creep: The Very Very Sad and Unfortunately True and Completely Fabricated Tale of Jack the Ripper. The world premiere of the original musical by Dallas' Donald Fowler. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Oct. 4–25. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill. M. Denise Lee plays blue giant Billie Holiday giving her last-ever concert before her tragic death at 45. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Oct. 2–Nov. 1. Jubilee Theatre.org.

**Dry Land.** A regional premiere of the acclaimed new play. Upstart Natatorium, 2336 N. Beckley Ave. Through Oct. 10. UpstartTheater.com.

The Dumb Waiter. Kitchen Dog Theater moves into its (temporary) new digs in the Design District for one season with this opener, one of Nobel Prize winner Harold Pinter's celebrated "comedies of menace." The Green Zone, 161 Riveredge. Through Oct. 10. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Fix Me Jesus. A comedy set at Neiman Marcus. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Oct. 11. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Matilda The Musical. Tony Award-winning musical, based on the Roald Dahl children's classic, about a resilient little girl — sort of a Dickensian Annie. Final weekend. Reviewed this week. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

*How the Other Half Loves.* Theatre Britain presents Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. *Final weekend.* Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Theatre-Britain.com.

**Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical.** World premiere musical from award-winning team of writer/composers, based on the variety show but camped up. Stars *American Idol*'s Justin Guarini. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 11. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**The Mountaintop.** Play about the final hours of Martin Luther King Jr. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Nov. 15. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Bad Jews.** A relationship comedy about family. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 1. StageWest.org.

#### COMEDY

**Dysfunctional Divas**. Steven Jay Crabtree's many personalities come out in his one-man show about women. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Oct. 2–3 at 11:15 p.m. \$12 (plus one food item).

RIPPED | 'Creep,' Dallas composer/author/actor Donald Fowler's world premiere musical about Jack the Ripper, opens this weekend at WaterTower Theatre. (Photo by Kelsey Leigh Ervi)

#### FINE ART

N.S. Harsha: Sprouts, reach in to reach out. A site-specific mural, the first in Dallas for the Indian artist, transforms the main corridor of the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 21, 2016. DMA.org.

Best Books Ever Written: Texas. Artist/collagist Stuart Sheldon premieres the capstone of his new series of collages, including works in celebration of Texas authors and marriage equality. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Through Oct. 17. ilumeGallerie.com.

**Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine**. The DMA's conservationists restore this century-old display case of silver, lapis and glass — an amazing example of Viennese craftsmanship. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. DMA.org.

#### COMMUNITY

**18th Annual Dallas Black Gay Pride Weekend.** The annual Pride celebration, which includes numerous parties, celebrities, cookouts, pool parties and more, many divided into "for him" and "for her" categories. For a complete schedule, visit DallasSouthernPride.com.

#### **FRIDAY 10.02**

#### COMMUNITY

**State Fair of Texas.** The country's biggest fair opens this week. Howdy, folks! Fair Grounds at First Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Sept. 25–Oct. 20. BigTex.org.

**Panoptikon.** The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

#### DINING

**Burgers & Burgundy.** The 7th annual foodie fundie for DIFFA. Gardens of the Seanor Estate, 4637 Meadowood Road. Oct. 2. 6:30–9:30 p.m. \$85–\$150. DIFFADallas.org.

Taste of the Anatole. Three-night event includes world tasting, grand tasting, workshops, brunch and after-parties at SER in the Hilton Anatole. TasteOfTheAnatole.com.

#### **HALLOWEEN**

**Screams.** The 20th season of the outdoor frightfest. Screams Park, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. Fridays–Saturdays through Halloween. \$27. ScreamsPark.com.

**Dark Hour Haunted House.** Gay-owned chills attraction with multiple sinister-themed areas. 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. Open select nights thorough Halloween. 7 p.m.—midnight. \$26 and up. DarkHourHauntedHouse.com.





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#### Stage review: 'Matilda'

The history of kid-lit (and adult literature, for that matter) is populated by stories of neglect, privation and resilience. It makes sense: There's no drama, really, if the tyke dies at 6 of malaria. From Oliver Twist to Harry Potter, the heroes of these tales are often young boys, but Matilda, the protagonist of novelist Roald Dahl's tale, is a scrappy little girl. (She's like a British Little Orphan Annie )

I wasn't familiar with the story going into Matilda The Musical, except what I picked up through cultural osmosis over the years. But the show, now at the Winspear, seems to combine a dystopian society where learning is frowned upon, reading is for suckers, TV is the height of human achievement and cruelty goes unjudged except by sensitive souls. (All are typical Dahl exaggerations of actual life the 1960s.) In other words, this is kid-lit that doesn't really play to kids. And clocking in at two hours 45 minutes, is past the bedtime of a few critics, as well.

I don't quite get the audience of Matilda, which is plot-thick, long and rangy. Personally, I didn't pick up until midway through Act 2 that Matilda possessed telekinesis, and I didn't understand why the school librarian was so rapt in her storytelling (the way children usually are of avuncular figures like Grandpa in The Princess Bride). And anytime you litter a stage with a half-dozen preadolescent voices pitched so only a dog can hear, you're playing with acoustic fire. (At least half the lyrics sung by the young ensemble are as garbled and unintelligible as Cockney rhyming slang.)

But even with its shortcomings and "wherefore?" puzzles, ultimately Matilda The Musical works in some clever and unexpected ways. The set resembles a set of playroom building blocks; the costumes are Mod London-Meets-Dickensian



BDSM; and best of all are the actors, including the little dynamo as Matilda (a rotating slate of young actresses) and Bryce Ryness, dragging it up as the hatchet-bodied headmistress Miss Trunchbull. Unacknowledged cross-dressing villains? It's like a British panto gussied up with steampunk attitude. Adults should enjoy that more than the kid-

- Arnold Wayne Jones

#### SATURDAY 10.03

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

#### **SUNDAY 10.04**

CONCERTS

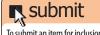
Ricky Martin. Gexa Energy Pavilion, 1818 First Ave. 7 p.m. LiveNation.com.

#### **TUESDAY 10.06**

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Edward Albee's scathing portrait of a marriage on brink, with two of the greatest screen performances ever from Richard Burton and Oscar winner Elizabeth Taylor. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

#### browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.



To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.

#### THURSDAY 10.08

**CABARET** 

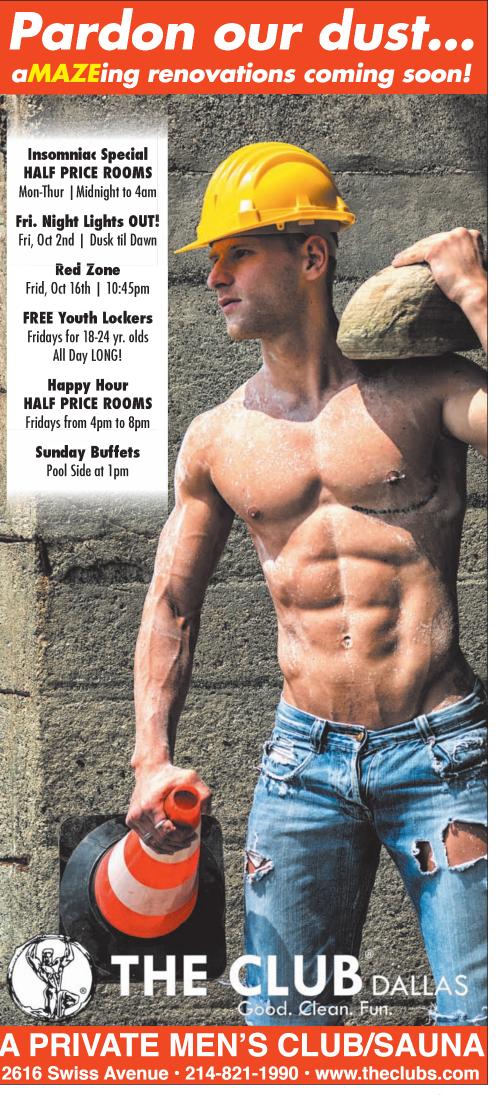
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

#### **BROADCAST**

Project Runway. The latest season of competing designers is underway. Lifetime at 8 p.m.

#### this week's solution

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#### **Dallas Theater Center** 214-880-0202 | dallastheatercenter.org

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Kalita Humphreys Theater 3636 Turtle Creek, Dallas | 214-219-2718 uptownplayers.org

### Cassie Nova

Cassie's in a mood this week! She riffs on the death of modern civility

"Good evening, idiot hookers." That is one of my favorite lines from the new show Scream Queens. Not to spoil anything, but what they did to Ariana Grande I have thought about doing to her a thousand times. Oh my Gaga, that poor deaf Taylor Swift girl. If you haven't watched it yet, you just gotta. It's so awful ... but in a good way.

This week I thought I would share things that have been bothering the shit out of me lately. As I write this, I would like you to picture me as ventriloquist Jeff Dunham's dummy Walter. Add a big red wig but without the hand up my ass ... this time. If you don't know what Walter looks like, Google him - I will

First off, to the people who have decided to turn smoking into some kind of performance piece, we get it, you vape. I don't have a problem with vaping or people who vape if you show common courtesy while doing so. I have a problem with these asshats that use these super-vaping things that make you look like you are attached to a fog machine on a dancefloor in hell. One guy in JR.'s last week was creating so much damn "vapor" that it looked like a smoke bomb had gone off, and it smelled like Redbull. He was so proud of how cool he thought he looked. Not only did he just look douche, but between his Red Bull-scented vape and his Axe body spray, I thought I was going to throw up.

To the people that walk to their car in a busy parking lot, get in their car, start it, put it in reverse and then decide to sit and stare at your phone: Go to hell. Go directly to hell. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200. This has happened to me three times in the past two months. When did people become so damn self-absorbed? They have such a lack of empathy for their fellow man. I swear, I was about to have a Fried Green Tomatoes moment and ram their car and their stupid face into oblivion. It is people like those assholes that would benefit from the three-day waiting period to buy a gun. Usually by the third day I'm not mad anymore. Usually. To the people that make TV shows, can you please just end the show before it just gets ridiculously stupid? I am talking to you, Under the Dome and Lost. So many

shows start off strong and then, because they do well in the ratings and make money, they think, let's see how long we can drive this cash train. I would rather have one or two strong, well-written seasons than 10 seasons of watered-down, confusing crap. I loved

Smallville, but c'mon, Clark should have flown by season three. The last few seasons were just

painful, but I watched them be-

cause I am a loyal idiot viewer.

I also have an unhealthy amount of rage when it comes to electronic devices not working right. When my DVR or Netflix puts up the logo saying that "signal has been lost." or "please re-enter password." I want to punch someone in the throat. Slow WiFi when I am trying to read something gossipy or important makes me feel like an angry cartoon character turning red and blowing steam out of my ears. Don't get me started on the stop and start action of a YouTube video I am trying to show someone. Even the word "buffering" make me want to scream and rip the eyes off a teddy bear. I fear one day they will find my body with one hand clutching my chest and the other hand holding a smashed phone. Damn you devil devices!

To you wonderfully enthusiastic patrons that come and watch a drag show: I adore you, but if you spend the entire show trying to video the performances on your ghetto-ass phone like you are a cameraman filming the Olympics, please quit it. We see you trying to film "up" the girls' dresses and we do not find it amusing. If you are up dancing in the aisles, at least tip the girl that has you on your feet. If you are drunk, broke and in the way, please stop it before I have to rip you a new one on the microphone. I can make you go from "fun guy dancing" to "dumb drunk asshole" with one witty quip. So don't test me. The amateur show is every Thursday night.

While we are on the subject of being a good audience member, please don't move the chairs. That isn't your living room so don't rearrange the furniture. I cannot tell you how many bruises I have gotten from walking into a moved chair or table. That spotlight is bright, so we are nearly blind - hell, some of us are actually blind. You wouldn't rearrange the furniture at a blind person's house. That is just mean.

There is a door outside our dressing room that goes out to the patio of Station 4. A door, like all doors, that opens and closes. So to the people that like to stand outside said door and act all butt hurt when the door opens and hits them, I have one thing to say: Move bitch get out tha way, get out tha way bitch get out tha way! It's a freaking door!

When my husband and I go to a restaurant, the server always ask if we are paying together or sepa-

rately. I always say together — no big deal. But when they bring the check they always hand it to my husband. Do I look poor or something? Do I look like I need someone to take care of me? So because he is the masculine one in the relationship he automatically pays. If that is how independent women feel on the regular, I feel you ladies. It's annoying.

Oh, and one last thing. If someone is nice enough to book you to do a paid show, and instead of showing up you send a message 11 minutes before curtain, you are an ass. Not only did you miss out on a great opportunity, but you screwed someone else out of a booking with a check. I could have called someone else in. No tea, all shade. If you think I am talking about you, I am. Sometimes a bitch gotta put a bitch on blast. No hard feelings, I just wish people would handle things differently sometimes.

I apologize for being such a Debbie Downer this week, but it feels good to vent and get some shit off my chest. God, reading back over this I come across as an asshole. Fuck it. Toughen up, pussy. Life is hard. Winky face!

Random thoughts: How hungry was the first person to eat oysters? "Oh look, a wet rock with a loogie in it, Mmmmm." I bet all dinosaurs were assholes. Chris Pratt and I would make pretty babies. I miss Saturday morning cartoons. Hangnails are proof that God likes to see us suffer. I am gonna need to take the day off work if anything ever happens to Betty White. I wonder which is more addictive: Trivia Crack or regular crack?

If you have anything you would like to ask me, please do. I give great advice. Next time I hopefully won't be so moody. Maybe I got my monthly exclamation point — it's like a period, but with a dick!

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

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.





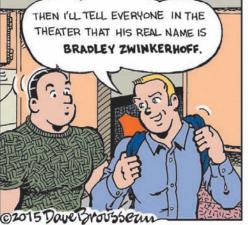














### LIFE+STYLE

#### scene





Onyx on The Strip

LifeWalk Putt-Putt Pub Crawl at Sue Ellen's.

#### Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 2-8:

- Alexandre's: Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday. Jason Huff on Saturday. Chris Chism on Wednesday.
- BJ's NXSI: Jada Pinkett Fox moves the amateur hot body contest to Wednesdays.
- Brick/Joe's: Ida Mae Watergate hosts Dallas Southern Pride show with Armani Nicole Davenport, Suki, Storm Jones, Deserai, Krystale, Preston Dupree, Keairra Ross, Kameo Narcisse, A'keria Davenport, Essence Allure Collins, Ambriel Bonet Dupree, Spyda Boo Gotti, Aundra Materialboi and Diondria Sanchez on Friday.
- Changes: Patrons invited to join Changes at Tarrant County Pride as part of the last float in the parade on Saturday at noon.
- Club Reflection: Texas Gay Rodeo Association meeting at 2 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. PWA Show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire candidate shows Friday and Saturday from 7-10 p.m. Women in Leather social night on Friday at 9 p.m. Dallas Bears and Leather Knights club night on Sautrday. Dallas Girls of Leather monthly meeting on Sunday at 5 p.m.
- Hidden Door: Mr. Hidden Door contest at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- Marty's: Recording artist Fly Young Red and twerking contest with \$300 prize on Friday.
- Rainbow Lounge: Tarrant County Gay Pride show at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Dance lessons at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
- S4: Out & Equal party at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Sue Ellen's: Panty Raid on Friday. Cherry Bomb on Saturday. Kathy & Bella and Barefoot Hippies on Sunday.
- Zippers Hideaway: Judy Chamberlain on Thursday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Haygood.



Man candy at Tallywacker's.

### LIFE+STYLE

### scene







Friends partying at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Getting ready at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.

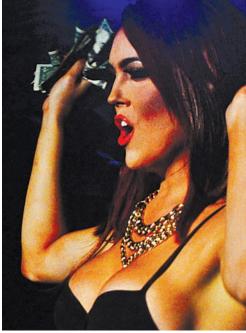


The friendly staff at Cedar Springs Tap House.



Dana and Kellye at Sue Ellen's.





Marissa DeAmour, left, and Valerie Jackson, right, performing at The Rose Room in S4.



Friends' night out at TMC: The Mining Company.

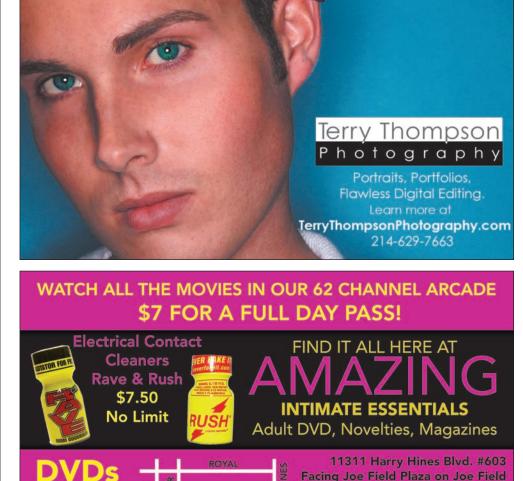
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Above: Don, Marie, Angel and Don. Left: Cameron and Darlene. Below: Crissy, Rob and Deanna.







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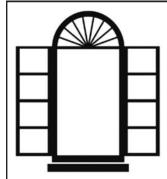
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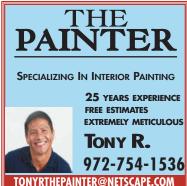
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### Bi Songs by ...

#### Solution on page 37

#### Across

- 1 Olympic award for Ireen Wüst
- 6 Supporter of Julia Morgan?
- 10 They were under Hoover
- 14 Advil rival
- 15 Global rights org.
- 16 Drumbeat start
- 17 They're green when you pluck them
- 18 \*"I Kissed A Girl" singer
- 20 Non-Judy garland
- 21 "I've \_\_\_ had!"
- 23 Annovances
- 24 Meat that may be tender
- 26 \*With 45-Across, "Baby Blue" singer
- 27 The "T" in T.E. Lawrence
- 29 Doesn't feel up
- 30 Old PC program
- 33 Poe visitor
- 34 Miss, to Mauresmo
- 35 Leafy veggie
- 36 Ball of film
- 37 Cold-cocks
- 38 "Art of Love" poet
- 39 Umlaut pair, in Rilke's language
- 40 Shaft output
- 41 Tee shot for Rosie Jones
- 42 That, south of the border
- 43 Abel's assassin

- 44 Word after bottom
- 45 \*See 26-Across
- 46 Raunchy British sitcom
- 47 Gets to second base, perhaps
- 50 Comic strip dog
- 51 Family magazine
- 54 \*Pete, who sang "Rough Boys"
- 56 Full of the latest
- 58 The African Queen author
- 59 Early Ron Howard role
- 60 More cunning
- 61 First of the Democratic ass drawers
- 62 Fairy godmother's stick
- 63 Former NFL player Tuaolo

#### Down

- 1 Edifice complex
- 2 Novelist Wiesel
- 3 \*"Cool For The Summer" singer
- 4 Greeting to Maria
- 5 L of GLAAD
- 6 Vehicles for some dykes
- 7 Flair
- 8 Literary rep.
- 9 Erections with ribbons wrapped
- around them
- 10 \*"Coming Clean" singers \_\_\_ Day
- 11 "Terrif!"
- 12 "To be" to Henri

- 13 "Over my dead body!" and more
- 19 Small shooters shoot them off
- 22 Tennessee Williams twosome
- 25 Black pussy cats, e.g.
- 26 Leaves at the altar
- 27 It may be rough
- 28 Circles overhead
- 29 \*"Bicoastal" singer Peter
- 30 \*"John, I'm Only Dancing" singer
- 31 Kind of drab
- 32 Passover dinner
- 34 Richly deserve
- 35 Land of Margaret Cho's ancestors
- 37 Place to exam someone's dinghy
- 41 Man-to-man, to Sue Wicks
- 43 Disney frames
- 44 Crime-fighting org.
- 45 \*"Tonight's The Night (Gonna Be Alright)" singer Jackson
- 46 Changed from a pair to a threesome
- 47 Owner of a gay dog on South Park
- 48 Cicero's garment
- 49 Some of Mary's lambs
- 50 Way to come
- 52 Web surfer
- 53 Supermodel Banks
- 55 MPG monitor
- 57 Dottermans of Antonia's Line



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