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— David Taffet

Annise Parker to dedicate marker at Gittings’ home in Philly
Former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, the first openly LGBT mayor of a major U.S. city, will be keynote speaker at a ceremony in Philadelphia later this month unveiling a historic marker at the home of the late Barbara Gittings, a leading LGBT rights activist from the early days of the movement until her death in 2007.

The Barbara Gittings Residence Historic Marker Dedication ceremony is set for Tuesday, July 26, from 11-11:30 a.m. at the home Gittings shared with her partner, Kay Lahusen. The ceremony, taking place as part of the 2016 Equality Forum in Philadelphia, will also feature Equality Forum founder and Executive Director Malcolm Lazin and a special performance by the Anna Crusis Women’s Choir, the oldest existing feminist choir in the U.S.. Gittings was a member of the choir.

— Tammye Nash

Second North Texas UMC church votes for same-sex marriage
A second North Texas conference Methodist Church has voted for same-sex weddings, according to the United Methodist Church website. The article doesn’t refer to the first — Northaven UMC in North Dallas — and expresses some surprise that the second was rural Aley UMC, located outside Seven Points.

Seven Points is on Cedar Creek Lake, which has a large LGBT weekend and retirement community. Celebration Church on the Lake in neighboring Mabank was established with an outreach to the LGBT community, with help from the Rev. Carol West of Celebration Church in Fort Worth.
About 80 percent of Aley’s congregation voted to support its pastor, the Rev. Eston Williams, in his intention to conduct same-sex weddings, including Jim Braswell, mayor of nearby Gun Barrel City. Williams, 67, who has been with the church 18 years, said he has opposed the Methodist position that homosexuality is incompatible with Christianity for years, but was persuaded to ask for a vote when his two daughters said they didn’t want to be affiliated with “a denomination that isn’t fully inclusive.”

The resolution voted on by the congregation ends with the statement, “We support our pastor to hold same-gender weddings in the sanctuary of Aley United Methodist Church.”

— David Taffet

Former Dallas Voice Publisher Robert Moore captured the emotion Thursday, July 7 as he and a Dallas Police officer were trapped behind a car by a sniper targeting police. (Photo Robert Moore)
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Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Tuffet at tuffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue.

- **Weekly Lambda Weekly**
  - Every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM; United Black Ellement hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

- **JULY**
  - July 15: Dallas Strong BBQ
    The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce is among the sponsors of a Dallas Strong barbecue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, 9800 Preston Road. $25. First responders eat free.
  - July 16: Quinceanera Gaybingo
    Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at Rose Room, 54, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4458 or email Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.
  - July 16: Youth Vigil for Pulse
    LGBTQ youth and allies rally including reading of the victims names, open mic, youth speakers and performers from 4-7 p.m. at Legacy of Love Monument.
  - July 16: Night of Stars benefiting LifeWalk
    Raven, JujuBee, Krystal Summers, Nova Starr, Vanity Storm, Sienna Silver and others guests perform to benefit Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund LifeWalk team 8:30-10 p.m. at The Brick, 2529 Wycliff Ave., #120, $20.
  - July 17: Drag Star Divas for Orlando
    The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce partners with The Rose Room and Drag Star Diva to present Drag Star Divas for Orlando, a benefit for the victims of the shooting in Orlando, a drag extravaganza featuring an all-star cast, 6-9:30 p.m. in The Rose Room at 54, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. There is a $5 suggested donation at the door, and the event is open to those 18 and over. Visit bit.ly/DivasOrlando for more information.
  - July 18-Aug. 11: Back to school donation drive
    Real Live Connection, HRC, AIDS Walk South Dallas, and Oak Lawn UMC present a donation drive to collect clothing and school supplies for homeless LGBT youth and allies. Drop box locations are at the UPS Store, 3824 Cedar Springs Road, Alexandre’s, 4026 Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. For information visit RLC365.org.
  - July 19: Log Cabin Republicans meeting
    Former Dallas County GOP Party Chair Wade Emmert speaks on the challenges for the Republican Party. Social at 6:30. Meeting at 7 p.m. at Coal Vines, 2404 Cedar Springs Road.
  - July 19: Log Cabin Republicans meeting
    Sign up for AIN Angels
    Join AIDS Interfaith Network for a margarita to sign up to walk on the AIN Angels LifeWalk team. $40 registration includes: participation in the Walk, a LifeWalk T-shirt, an AIN sowing seeds of hope T-shirt and 4 LifeWalk raffle tickets from 6:30-8:30 at Ojeda’s, 4617 Maple Ave.
July 19: Community meeting on homeless youth
The Dallas Commission on Homelessness Community Engagement Committee hosts public meetings to educate, engage and gather feedback from the community to overcome challenges involving homeless youth, Tuesday, July 19-6 p.m. at North Dallas High School, 3120 N. Haskell Ave. Studies indicate about 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT. For information visit DallasCommissionOnHomelessness.org.

July 20: Holocaust survivor speaks
If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

July 21: One Night Only: Songs and Stories from the Turtle Creek Chorale
The Dallas Way fundraiser with a program of Turtle Creek Chorale stories and songs at 7 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets $10-25. Sponsorships available.

July 21: Northeast Patrol Division breakfast
Wellness and safety breakfast for those 55+. Jill Turner, President of Cooper Healthy Living, speaks. Doors at 9 a.m. and program at 10 a.m. at Harry Stone Rec Center, 2401 Millmar Dr. Free breakfast for first 200 who respond to bernie.smith@dph.ci.dallas.tx.us or 214-202-6255.

July 23: Summit on LGBT Aging
Second annual summit is a joint venture with GALA North Texas. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Southern Methodist University Plano Campus, 5326 Tennyson Parkway, Plano. cfa.lgbt.

July 24: The Brick Closing Party
The Brick/Jo’s, 2525 Wycliff, will close after 25 years with a farewell party with owners Howard Okon and Greg Parrish who are retiring.

July 25: High Tech Happy Hour
Christmas in July
Benefits The Senior Source. A $50 gift card to Target or Walmart will help a senior purchase personal items and a $100 check will purchase and install an air conditioning unit. From 5-7 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, The quadrangle, 2600 South St. #140.

July 28-31 Texas Queerlesque Festival
Queer burlesque takes center stage in the 4-day Texas Queerlesque Festival, where cabaret-style performing arts meets the culturally-rich queer community. The festival aims to unify, celebrate and elevate, and showcases Texas premiere performers in two mainstage shows at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St., and Viva’s Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St., Ste. 120. For information visit TexasQueerlesqueFestival.com.

July 30: DFW Federal Club summer luncheon
U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, the Democrat representing Texas’ 33rd Congressional District, and Joni Madison, chief operating officer and chief of staff of the Human Rights Campaign, will be featured speakers at the DFW Federal Club’s Summer Luncheon. The event is capped at 200 guests. Business casual luncheons from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm St. 48th floor. For information visit DFWFederalClub.org.

July 31: Holocaust survivor speaks
If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

Aug. 9: Bridge Building Network — Ed-U-CARE
Vivienne Armstrong talks about awareness about the care needs of LGBT older adults. Light dinner provided and Gen Silent will be shown from 6-8:30 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.

Aug. 10: Black Tie Sponsor Appreciation Party
Black Tie Dinner holds its sponsor appreciation party at Brendan Bass Showroom, 2001 Irving Blvd.

Aug. 10: Holocaust survivor speaks
If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

Aug. 13: Back to School Block Party
Clothing and school supplies collected for homeless and in need LGBT youth and allies through the summer will be distributed from 4-7 p.m. at Oak Lawn UMC, 3014 Cedar Springs Road. For information visit RLC365.org.

Aug. 14: Top Dog Couture
An evening of high canine fashion benefiting Tucker’s Gift’s LifeWalk team from 6-9 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. $5.

Aug. 19: Cabaret & Cabernet
Sammons Center for the Performing Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., presents Cabaret & Cabernet, featuring emcee Tracey Fulton along with Denise Lee, Linda Fetti, The Larry Petty Combo, Teddy and Lorna Davey, Jay Gardner, WT Greer, Sheran Goodspeed, Keyton, Keran Jackson, LaLa Johnson, Carolyn Lee Jones, Shelley Keneavey, Pam Musgrove and Diana Savage. Wine tasting at 7:30 p.m., performances at 8 p.m. Admission is $400 for a table of eight; $300 for a table of six, available by calling 214-520-7788 and online at bit.ly/CabaretAndCabernet.

Aug. 20: Turtle Creek monthly clean up
Join Turtle Creek Association’s monthly clean-up of the shores of Turtle Creek. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Beasley steps at Hall Street and the Katy Trail. clarke@turtlecreekassociation.org.

Aug. 20: Flame Games Gaybingo
Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information, call 214-540-4458 or email Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

Aug. 21: Holocaust survivor speaks
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Aug. 25-26: Sister Helen Holy
Sister Helen Holy headlines her own benefit show for Legacy Counseling Center saving sinners at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. $45-100 plus sponsorship opportunities. HelenHoly.com.
As families, fellow officers and government leaders gathered Tuesday, July 12, in Dallas for a memorial service honoring the one DART Police and four Dallas Police Department officers shot down Thursday night, July 7, following a peaceful Black Lives Matter rally, activists in Orlando staged a sit-in near U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio’s office there to demand stricter gun control laws.

And in Washington, D.C., Democrats and LGBT activists clashed with Republicans over a federal version of the “religious freedom law” popular now with state legislatures that, in effect, gives businesses and individuals free reign to discriminate against LGBT people.

In North Texas

Meanwhile, back in North Texas, LGBT community leaders and law enforcement officials are looking ahead to upcoming Pride celebrations, and other LGBT-related events, pledging to remain mindful of the attacks last month in Orlando and last week in Dallas, but adding that they already have policies in place to address safety issues.

Jeremy Liebbe heads security for the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade along with Maj. Barbara Hobbs of the Dallas Police. Liebbe said he had just met with the Dallas Tavern Guild, the association of Dallas LGBT bar owners that puts on Dallas’ Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade each September, about any needed security upgrades for the parade and festival in September.

“We’re looking at some small changes,” Liebbe said. But, he said, bar owners were surprised that most contingencies are already in place.

“We’ve had plans in place for potential tragic or criminal events as long as I’ve been involved,” Liebbe said. That includes contingencies to address an active shooter situation, suspicious packages and even a sudden tornado.

Fort Worth PD’s LGBT liaison, Officer Kathi Jones, said the Orlando massacre prompted police in her city to create a schematic of Cowtown’s LGBT bars.

“Four bar owners were very open to that” idea, Jones said.

Fort Worth’s parade, the Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade held each year on the first Saturday in October, is smaller than the Dallas parade. But, Jones said, the potential for an incident is the same.

She said officers are stationed at each corner along the route through downtown, for crowd and traffic control. The department’s intelligence unit has cameras up cameras along the entire route, and a special response team is stationed a block off the route.

Jones said Fort Worth Police will certainly be on...
heightened alert, but she believes security threats have already been addressed.

About 30 miles east in Dallas, the increased police presence around LGBT events, funded in part through a $1 million donation to the city by Mark Cuban, has eased while police regroup and heal from the July 7 tragedy. That decrease is only temporary.

Liebbe said he didn’t think people need to be concerned about security. But, he warned, “The freedoms we enjoy and deserve create some level of risk.”

In Orlando

On Monday, June 11, a day shy of the one-month anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, gun control advocates started what they intended to be a 49-hour sit-in near Sen. Marco Rubio’s office to remember the 49 victims of the shooting.

Protesters sang songs, held signs that said “#SitForThe49” and laid 49 red roses on white paper inscribed with the names of each victim.

Nine hours in, police cut the demonstration short Monday night by arresting 10 protesters who refused to leave the building when it was closing.

The protesters were released later that same night on $250 bond each. They face misdemeanor trespass charges.

The sit-in was part of a larger fight for new gun control measures, but so far the calls for change have yielded no results. The protesters said they were targeting Rubio because of the Florida Republican’s opposition to same-sex marriage and the support he has gotten from the National Rifle Association.

Protester Fausto Cardenas, a University of Central Florida student, said Pulse had been a “safe space” for him and other members of the LGBT community.

“To not feel safe in a space like that was a very impactful thing for us,” said Fausto, who wasn’t arrested. “We want to hold people accountable.”

Ida Eskamani, who was arrested, said that even though sit-in was over, she and other activists will urge voters to call and tweet Rubio, demanding that he act on gun legislation and measures to end discrimination.

“The line has been drawn and you are either standing with us or not,” Eskamani said Tuesday, hours after being released from jail. “The heat is continuing to be turned up.”

The protesters said they wanted all politicians who were targeting Rubio because of the Florida Republican’s opposition to same-sex marriage and the support he has gotten from the National Rifle Association.

“Protecting the sacred right to freely exercise your religion is the First Amendment to the Constitution for a reason; it has been and still is fundamental to the foundation of our nation,” said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the committee.

Foes of the bill also criticized the timing of holding the hearing on the one-month anniversary of the shooting at Pulse.

“With everything going on in this country right now, these horrific shootings of gay people, black people, police officers, everyone we should be doing it coming together as a nation, not tearing each other apart, which is exactly what this bill does,” said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, top Democrat on the committee. “To say this hearing is politically tone-deaf is the understatement of the year.”

Jim Obergefell, the lead plaintiff in the 2015 Supreme Court ruling to legalize same-sex marriage in all 50 states, testified as a witness opposing the bill.

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Jim Obergefell, the lead plaintiff in the 2015 Supreme Court ruling to legalize same-sex marriage in all 50 states, testified as a witness opposing the bill and asked, “What could ever justify such a discriminatory act?”

“As important as it is that same-sex couples like John (his late partner) and I have the right to obtain a civil marriage license in any state of the country,” Obergefell said, “it is also critically important that this constitutional right is not undermined by proposals that this legislation that subject loving couples like me and John, and other LGBT people to discrimination.”

Former Chief of the Atlanta Fire Department Kelvin Cochran, who was terminated from his position because of his opposition to same-sex marriage, advocated for the bill, saying it would have protected his job. 
Obama visits to help Dallas heal

The president was joined by VP Biden, G.W. Bush at a memorial service for fallen officers

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

President Barack Obama and former President George W. Bush — in Dallas to speak at the Tuesday, July 12 memorial service for the five officers killed July 7 following a Black Lives Matter protest rally — both spoke this week of the need to heal and to unite to bridge the growing chasm between the black community and police departments nationwide.

The memorial service, coincidentally, took place on the one-month anniversary of the mass shooting at an Orlando gay bar that left 49 people dead and 53 more wounded. While a congressional committee marked the day by debating new ways to discriminate against the LGBT community, Obama noted the anniversary differently. He said the goal of the killer in Dallas was the same as the shooters’ in Orlando and at Charleston’s Emanuel AME Church last year in June — to divide the country.

“With an open heart, we can worry less about which side has been wronged, and worry more about joining sides to do right,” Obama said. “But as Americans, we can decide that people like this killer [in Dallas] will ultimately fail. They will not drive us apart. We can decide to come together and make our country reflect the good inside us, the hopes and simple dreams we share.”

The president was last of the afternoon’s speakers and didn’t go to the podium until after 2:30 p.m. Most people attending arrived by 11 a.m.

Outside the hall, Arlington police, assisted by officers from other DFW Metroplex police departments, handled traffic and security. Barricades kept most onlookers across the street from the Meyerson and created a maze for those going into the hall. But police were friendly and helpful to those trying navigate the labyrinth of barricades.
Inside the Meyerson, Secret Service took over security, working professionally and quickly to ensure everyone’s safety while at the same time keeping the line of guests waiting to enter moving efficiently. Meyerson staff and volunteers were also on hand to help direct guests to the proper seating areas.

By the time the president and his entourage arrived, 2,500 people had filled the Meyerson. Uniformed officers packed most of the main orchestra section of the symphony hall, with the first five rows reserved for family of the victims. Each time family members arrived, escorted by police, the crowd stood, applauded and wiped away tears.

The Dallas Police Choir was joined on stage by singers from six area church choirs. They began with a powerful rendition of “Love is Stronger than Hate.”

In addition to state and local officials who appeared on stage, governors Jay Nixon of Missouri and Susanna Martinez of New Mexico attended. Mayors from New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Lewisville and Columbia flew in for the event. A police honor guard from Friendswood, south of Houston, sat upstairs. One Friendswood officer said it was an honor to be there for the families of the fallen officers.

Mayor Mike Rawlings welcomed everyone, noting they were there to comfort the families of the victims and “to honor those who were wounded, not only in body but soul,” acknowledging how hurt everyone on the police force is. Police Chief David Brown said earlier in the day he might require his officers to go through counseling, so that officers don’t have to request it.

The Rev. Sheron Patterson of the United Methodist Church of North Texas, Rabbi Andrew Paley of Temple Shalom and Imam Omar Suleiman of Valley Ranch Islamic Center each offered prayers for unity, healing and peace.

Before the president spoke, Sen. John Cornyn, Brown and Bush offered some remarks.

Sen. John Cornyn thanked Rawlings and Brown for the strength they’ve shown since the ambush, calling them men of uncommon courage. He praised Dallas police officers for the way they ran toward the bullets, shielded citizens and sacrificed their own lives.

“They put the people of Dallas before themselves,” Cornyn said.

After receiving a standing ovation, Bush said, “Today our nation grieves. Those of us who call Dallas home lost five members of our family.” He said the Dallas Police Department has been an inspiration for the rest of the country, and added, “We are grief stricken, heartbroken and forever grateful.”

Rawlings introduced DART Police Chief James Spiller saying, “Leadership is hard. Great leadership is unique. We experienced that leadership from James Spiller.” As he introduced Brown, whom he called “a rock” and “my friend,” the auditorium erupted into a standing ovation, the longest and loudest of the day, complete with whistles and cheers.

Brown said when he was young, he wasn’t good at asking girls out. So he would memorize lyrics to songs by Al Green and the Isley Brothers. But when he really loved a girl, he’d turned to the music of Stevie Wonder. “Today, I’m going to pull out some Stevie Wonder for these families,” Brown said, proceeding to recite the words to “I’ll Be Lovin You Always.”

The president followed Brown, beginning his speech by saying, “I’m so glad I met Michelle OBAMA. The president followed Brown, beginning his speech by saying, “I’m so glad I met Michelle
Not so lucky elsewhere

But that same spirit of unity doesn’t exist elsewhere. Tensions appear to be rising between Black Lives Matter advocates and proponents of Blue Lives Matter, the name of a movement focusing on the safety of law enforcement officers.

Kelly Orians, a 30-year-old white public defender who attended a die-in protest in New Orleans, said the two movements are not — and should not be — equal.

“I don’t believe in a Blue Lives Matter movement in the same way that I don’t believe in a White Lives Matter movement or a Men’s Lives Matter movement,” she said. “Because we’re pretty clear that those lives matter and our institutions are built to protect those lives, whereas our institutions are not built … to protect black lives.”

Tracie Washington, a black civil rights lawyer in New Orleans, expressed the same frustration with the Blue Lives Matter movement, as well as with a law Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards recently signed extending hate crime status to crimes targeting police and other emergency responders.

“It tries to marginalize Black Lives Matter,” Washington said. “And it pits two equally important interests against each other that weren’t against each other.”

William Colarulo, the white police superintendent of Radnor Township, Pennsylvania, is equally opposed to the Black Lives Matter movement, which he called a “violent, hateful organization that condones violence against police.”

“They chant, ‘Pigs in a blanket, fry them like bacon,’” he was quoted by Philly.com as saying. “I give no credit to that organization. They tend to instigate rather than heal and find solutions to the problem.”

Comedian Trevor Noah, host of Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” and a biracial native of South Africa, said people “shouldn’t have to choose between the police and the citizens that they are sworn to protect.”

“It always feels like in America … if you take a stand for something, you automatically are against something else. It’s such a strange world to be in,” he said last week on the show.

In an editorial published Monday in The New York Times, Brooklyn Borough President and former NYPD Captain Eric L. Adams, who is black, said police and black citizens share the concern that they may be in the line of fire.

“My solution to the tension between the police and the people — which I recognize as my own inner tension — is to seek unity, not find division,” he wrote, adding that community education and police reforms are also needed.

Neither side should stereotype the other, said Gregory Thomas, president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. The Dallas shooter and others who fired at police in retaliation for the deaths of the black men are not “reflective of the vast majority of citizens who are engaged with and supportive of the law enforcement community,” Thomas said.

Likewise, he added, the police shootings are not “reflective of the professional work that members of the law enforcement community conduct dutifully every day.”

Philadelphia Police Department Commissioner Richard Ross said the terms Black Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter should not be mutually exclusive, but he acknowledges the growing divisions between the two groups.

“It’s this either-or proposition,” said Ross, who is black. “This is where we’re stuck … It’s gotten so far down the tracks that I’m afraid even people who want things to be resolved don’t have a loud enough voice.”

Associated Press writer Jesse J. Holland and Erin Haines Whack along with several other AP writers contributed to this report.

“Equal rights, true tolerance means that, regardless of your position on marriage, you should be able to peacefully live out your beliefs and not suffer discrimination at the hands of the government,” Cochran said.

Despite the ideological disagreements, the main focus of the hearing became the language used in the legislation and whether or not the bill would undermine the Fair Housing Act, the Civil Rights Act or other pre-existing equality acts.

“We have had very robust conversations that disagree. What my concern is that we are at times missing each other on misinformation,” Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., said.

Associated Press writers Mike Schneider and Sarah Grace Taylor contributed to this report.
The Pet Issue 2016

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www.facebook.com/AIDSArms www.aidsarms.org
New group provides food and vet services for pets of low income people with HIV

**Tucker’s Gift**

A DFW Sisters novice wanted to raise some money to help people with HIV take care of their pets, but was unable to find a group doing that. Seeing a need, Cody and Christopher Dustin decided to take up the cause.

“If there’s a need, we have to do something,” Cody Dustin said.

So they started a new organization called Tucker’s Gift, named after their own dog. Within weeks, they had put together a board and had their nonprofit status in place.

By January, they were in business and by May they were serving clients under the banner, “preserving the bond between warm hearts and wet noses.”

Tucker’s Gift helps provide food and veterinary care for pets of people with HIV. Clients may be referred by an agency or apply directly on the group’s website. AIDS Arms, AIDS Interfaith Network, Health Services of North Texas and Resource Center are already working with Tucker’s Gift and it was named a partner agency of LifeWalk this year.

They have also formed a partnership with the North Texas Pet Food Pantry to provide food for pets.

Dustin said people should never have to face the choice of “Do I eat or do I feed my pet?”

Once a person is approved for pet food assistance, Tucker’s Gift delivers a three-month supply.

“The organizers of Tucker’s Gift. (Courtesy Cody Dustin)。“

They’ve made arrangements with several veterinarians to spay and neuter clients’ pets and to provide vaccinations and wellness checks for those animals. A client makes an appointment and then Tucker’s Gift calls in a payment for services provided. If the client needs transportation to the vet, Tucker’s Gift provides that as well.

“A booth from Dallas Eagle did a huge fundraiser for us,” Dustin said, and more fundraising efforts are planned.

Tucker’s Gift will have its next fundraiser, Top Dog Couture, on Aug. 14 in The Rose Room. It will be an evening of high canine fashion, with prizes for best in show, best friends — the “most creative six-legged pair” — and Tucker’s Choice, the crowd favorite.

Registration to enter the event is limited to the first 25 applicants. Go to the group’s website to enter.

**Top Dog**

6-9 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. $5 admission or $15 VIP. Enter at topdog.tuckersgift.org.
**Operation Kindness: Finding homes for furry family for 40 years**

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

For many people, especially for many of us in the LGBT community, our pets are more than pets. They are our family. That’s why every July, Dallas Voice presents our “Pamper Your Pets” issue.

Dallas Voice is — and for many years now, has been — pleased to partner with Operation Kindness to publish our Pet of the Week feature. And we are always thrilled when one of our featured pets finds its forever home. For instance, just this month, Pamela Curry celebrated the one-year anniversary of the day she adopted her cat, Bonnie. Operation Kindness is the longest standing, no-kill shelter in North Texas. In its 40 years of operation, the agency has saved more than 85,000 cats and dogs. Today, Operation Kindness cares for about 300 cats and dogs daily, with another 150 in foster homes.

Within the last year, Operation Kindness has provided medical care, clean shelter and food for more than 4,500 homeless dogs and cats. Tours of the facility are available from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., by appointment only. Operation Kindness is a strictly nonprofit organization and receives no government funding.

Ordinarily, you will find our Pet of the Week on the first page of our “Gay Agenda” section each week, in a smallish box with info on and a photo of one dog or one cat. But this week, since it is our “Pet Issue,” we wanted to expand our pet of the week and give you more options.

So please meet Buster and Meowth.

**Buster** is a Pug mix who, at about 2 years old, weighs about 45 pounds. He is a sweet and loving dog found as a stray more than a year ago. He has since been completely vetted and is ready for a new family to love. He is a little heavy for his six and could stand to lose a few pounds, but he will be a loyal and loving companion to his new family members.

The fee to adopt Buster is $185.

**Meowth** is a domestic longhair mix who is about 3 months old and weighs in at a mere 2 pounds. She’ll probably grow up to be a medium-sized cat. At such a young age, she has yet to develop her own unique personality, but like most kittens she’s sure to be full of love and energy — enough to entertain her new family for hours.

The fee to adopt Meowth is $135.

For information on these or other adoptable pets, contact Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The shelter is open six days a week: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; 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 shelter is closed on Tuesdays. Adoption fees include spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm testing for dogs, leukemia and FIV testing for cats and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time get a $20 discount.

Here is an alphabetical list of some animal shelter/animal adoption agencies available around the DFW Metroplex. Inclusion on this list does not indicate any kind of endorsement from Dallas Voice.

- **Animal Rescue Of Texas**
  4447 N. Central Expressway, Ste. 110
  Dallas, 75205 • 214-276-7802
  AnimalRescueOfTexas.org

- **Arlington Animal Shelter**
  1000 SE Green Oaks Blvd.
  Arlington, 76018 • 817-459-5898
  Arlington-Tx.gov/Animals

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first, because she loves Stevie Wonder.”

He followed that with a tribute to each of the officers. Before the event, he met with the wounded and he talked about the son of Shetamia Taylor, who brought her children to the demonstration. Her 12-year-old son told the president he wants to become a Dallas police officer someday.

“Despite the fact police conduct was the subject of the protest, the men and women of the Dallas Police Department did their jobs,” Obama said, noting that the officers had posted photos of themselves with demonstrators on social media before the shooting started.

Throughout his speech, the president expressed frustration that he “hugged too many families” of people killed in similar incidents during his eight years in the White House. But he praised the Dallas police, who “didn’t flinch and didn’t act recklessly,” and through their actions, “saved more lives than we will ever know.”

He praised Brown for being at the forefront of improving relations between police and the residents of the city, and called DPD a national model for the way a police department should be run. But he enumerated the shortcomings that too often plague police departments in this country.

“We ask police to do too much and we ask too little of ourselves,” Obama said, echoing frustrations Brown expressed yesterday. “We refuse to fund drug treatment. We flood communities with guns.”

The theme that’s emerged this week in Dallas is unity. People of different religious and political backgrounds have come together. At a memorial service at Thanksgiving Square last Friday, July 8, one pastor even urged straight people to hold the hand of a gay person.

That unity was clear among those on stage, especially between Michelle Obama and George W. Bush. While others were speaking, Bush kept whispering to Michelle Obama and she’d answer. The two were acting like old friends who hadn’t seen each other in awhile. Laura Bush and, while others were speaking, Barack Obama were continually glancing over at them, smiling or making faces at their interactions.

Everyone stood for the closing of the event as the choirs sang “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Michelle Obama took Bush’s hand and both began singing along. The president and former first lady then took their spouses’ hands. The three clergy seated directly behind them joined hands. Rawlings took his wife’s hand and she took Brown’s.

Just to emphasize that unity, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson joined hands with Sen. Ted Cruz. Seated above in the choral terrace, the Dallas City Council held hands. The rest of the audience joined them, singing and swaying while all holding hands.

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Standing on the brink

As we stand at a crossroads in our country, Black Panther Party cofounder’s call for unity still rings true

During the past few years, strong movements have developed among women and among homosexuals seeking their liberation. There has been some uncertainty about how to relate to these movements.

“Whatever your personal opinions and your insecurities about homosexuality and the various liberation movements among homosexuals and women (and I speak of the homosexuals and women as oppressed groups), we should try to unite with them in a revolutionary fashion.

“I say, ‘whatever your insecurities are’ because as we very well know, sometimes our first instinct is to want to hit a homosexual in the mouth, and want a woman to be quiet. We want to hit a homosexual in the mouth because we are afraid that we might be homosexual, and we want to hit the women or shut her up because we are afraid that she might castrate us, or take the nuts that we might not have to start with.

“We must gain security in ourselves and therefore have respect and feelings for all oppressed people. We must not use the racist attitude that the white racists use against our people because they are black and poor. Many times the poorest white person is the most racist because he is afraid that he might lose something, or discover something that he does not have.”

Over one year after the Stonewall rebellion in the summer of 1969 that set the movement for gay rights to move forward, Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, delivered these prophetic words in a speech that would come to be known as “his gay speech.”

Given the seismic shift in our country’s social and political rhetoric towards communities and groups who are still marginalized in the 21st century, despite the tremendous gains we have made to change that landscape, we still have much work to do. This holds true for blacks, for women and for the LGBTQ communities.

Arguably, the more visible and contentious display of vitriol has been felt by the black and LGBTQ communities, although the latter has made significant progress in the fight for equality in the “land of the free, and the home of the brave.” Women have also seen tremendous gains in their fight for access and equality at all levels of society. But there are still challenges and glass ceilings that remain.

In the black community, vestiges from American slavery, reconstruction and the period of legalized, racial discrimination known as “Jim Crow” still persist, bringing with it the same old stereotypes about blacks that have resulted in a number of societal ills that white America continues to ignore, despite our shared past.

Black men — and some black women — have been the contemporary targets of that hatred in the form of killings by those sworn to protect and serve every citizen of this nation.

To be fair — and on a topic that is the subject of criticism by some in and out of the black community — it is my belief a number of those unfortunate deaths were justifiable based on the circumstances, and the police were simply doing their job. BUT a higher percentage of those deaths involved excessive force that wasn’t justifiable.

Last week after the murders of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile (Yes, I’m calling them “murders” because that’s what they WERE!), that truth came home to roost in the latter cate-
gory of unjustified force. And that chicken came and set down square in my family, in an indelible and personal way, through painful dialogues.

Watching the second video of the killing of Alton Sterling that was in constant loop on every news station and in the media, I found myself growing angrier and angrier, because it was my opinion that the officer acted improperly and yet another black man was dead. To be completely honest, I wasn’t just angry; I was MAD AS HELL.

Before I had the opportunity to process this atrocity, Philando Castile was shot during a traffic stop, with his fiancée calmly sharing through live feed what was occurring before and after he was shot. She did so with a steady calm and resolve that I still don’t understand how she managed.

Castille’s death hit me harder. Why? Because he could have easily been me.

Like Castile, I work for my living and keep my nose clean. I am loved by the people I serve, in particularly their children. I care for my family and extended family members, as it is evident by the strong bond he had with his soon to be step-daughter that Castille did also.

And like Castile, I have a legal license to carry a handgun.

Equally as hard for me was the death of the five courageous Dallas police officers who lost their lives during what was supposed to be a peaceful protest coordinated between the black community and the Dallas PD. I sat stunned as I watched the television, repeating over and over again, “This is not supposed to be happening in Dallas, Texas, Dallas, Texas? This does not happen here.”

I have lived by the model of responsible adulthood and citizenship all my life, virtues passed down to me from my parents, who were both in our home while I was growing up. I work extremely hard to live right, treat people well and leave something tangible for the next generation of my family and others outside of it to build upon.

What Castille’s death spoke to me was this truth: Regardless of my BEST efforts to do the right thing by myself and others, if stopped by the police for a basic traffic infraction that whites and other racial groups also get stopped for, in the end I might become the next statistic — or in my own words, just another dead-ass nigger.

Is that painful to hear? That word? The word that all of us better NOT utter? Well, it’s harder for me to mentally process because that’s how I’m viewed by a segment of white America, including some police — as a targeted group.

However, what was more painful was my husband and I receiving a call from our family in Illinois. Our 17-year old grandson, our ONLY grandson out of six grandchildren, was apparently upset by everything that was going on. I couldn’t speak to him; I was too angry. Gregory spoke to him, and our grandson asked him this pointed question before breaking down: “Pappadeaux; why are they trying to kill us? Why do they want to kill us?”

That question from a young man on the cusp of his adult life haunts me to this day, because if I did have the ability to answer his question, I wouldn’t know what to say.

Perhaps I might say, “Grandson, I don’t know why they do that. All you can do is do EVERYTHING we taught you to do when engaging police officers. Be respectful. Answer all of their questions honestly and calmly. Don’t make any unnecessary movement that may be considered a threat. But above all, realize that if you do all of these things, Pappadeaux and PauPau can’t protect you if that officer sees something different. We can’t protect you and you may end up dead.”

I don’t know about you white community, but that is a really fucking hard pill to swallow. I am pretty sure you don’t have similar conversations with your own children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other loved ones — certainly not at that type of brutally honest level, given this climate.

So how do we address this epidemic of “living while black until you are killed,” that we are all witness to during this time in history — which by the way, is the same shit as usual, because this is NOT new. Blacks have been subject to racial profiling and killings for a very LONG time in this country’s history.

The only difference now is that we have smartphones to record all of this shit. And even then, you have people who walk by virtue of the badge, reminiscent of those walking because of the prominent display of their hoods and sheets, all perceived to be up right and moral citizens.

Perhaps the late Huey P. Newton was on to something powerful that we all missed: the collaborative merging of the three primary struggles for equality facing this country: Moreau than not, our movements need each other. Blacks. Women. LGBTQ.

Deliberate actions and progress for one group is progress for us all. But we have to be willing to go down this path together, for equality’s sake.

I was a participant in the recent prayer vigil for the Orlando tragedy sponsored by Resource Center here in Dallas, and I was overwhelmed emotionally at the sea of brother/sisterhood that event represented. LGBTQ, black, white, Latino, Asian, male, female, transgender, allies, political AND the police, all in solidarity for a TANGIBLY better America. I have never in my 20-plus years of advocacy in this country felt the kinship as I felt that day.

We deserve more than what we’ve been giving ourselves; my grandson and his contemporaries deserve more. We OWE them this.

And that will be our legacy to them, that they will no longer live in a society where a person is judged by their race, skin tone, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or any otherism that divides us as a nation.

Buster Spiller is a happily married, longtime activist, and award-winning playwright from Dallas.
Tiara en fuego
As she prepares to pass her title to a new queen, reigning Miss Gay Texas (and Miss Gay America) Asia O’Hara reflects on her amazing successes.
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If you’re in your mid-to-late 20s — or possibly even your early 30s … or just a total nerd — it’s safe to assume that your Facebook newsfeed has been practically consumed with talk of gym battles, faction wars and server issues. You’re probably wondering why your seemingly rational friends are wandering the streets (sober!) at all hours of the night. On behalf of, like, literally all of us, let me apologize. Because yeah, we might need to Pokemon GO calm down a little bit. But I swear, there’s an explanation for the mass hysteria. And it’s not because we’re all having a collective seizure again — that was just the one time!

Not unlike a stuffed toy inside of a claw machine, Pokemon GO dropped into the hands of a ravenous public in the United States late last week, and effectively reverted us all back to the wide-eyed 10-year-olds we were in the late ’90s. We had box braids and crew cuts, jelly sandals and light-up sneakers. We were fueled by sugar cereal, convinced we could do anything we set our minds to and fixated on the curiously named pocket monsters from Japan to the point where many of our (deliriously religious) parents legitimately thought that the cartoon characters had to be demons, because we were clearly being possessed. What else could explain our unbridled fervor? This was our Star Wars. Bigger than Sinatra. More pervasive than Beanie Babies. We determined to catch them all.

Your girl was no exception. 1998 found me at the crossroads between Girl Scout troop meetings and MTV’s Total Request Live marathons. I was not just a girl, but not yet a woman: Someone who hadn’t quite figured out the difference between Cucumber Melon body spray and actual deodorant. It would be years still before I would learn that there was nothing shameful about the fact that I was developing poorly-repressed crushes on girls while my friends were starting to attract attention from boys. Also, I’m pretty sure that was the year Ginger left the Spice Girls, and Will Smith came out with that appallingly masturbatory Western movie. (I purchased the soundtrack with my own money. It was a trying time.)

But as I watched the Pokemon series’ protagonist, Ash Ketchum, battle his way through the Kanto region, on a seemingly never-ending quest to capture all 150 (at the time) Pokemon, I was transfixed. With loyal Pikachu at his side, he faced all obstacles head on, even when the cards (and Team Rocket) were stacked against him. Something about his Indigo League journey mirrored my own pre-teen perils, as I navigated foreign concepts such as “algebra” and “menstruation.” As he struggled to find his footing as a Pokemon trainer, I, in turn, struggled to come to terms with my bisexuality … which...
(spoiler alert!) would take the entirety of my teenage and college years to figure out, act upon and eventually accept. I mean, I may not have understood why I felt attracted to both football players and cheerleaders, but I definitely understood how to level-up a fire Pokemon. Just like Ash’s quest to become a Pokemon Master, my passage through the twilight of my childhood years was paved with victories, defeats and enlightenment. It was less about the destination, and more about the journey.

Perhaps that’s why I spent hours writing ridiculously bad fan fiction, playing the card game at lunch and fastidiously recording the episodes on our aging VCR. Perhaps that might be why I threw one of the biggest fits of my life when my fundamentalist Christian mother banned all things Pokemon from our home, at the behest of the fear-mongering church pastor she was taking orders from (talk about a cultish brainwashing!). Pokemon was more than just a cartoon series or a trading card game. It was (and to this day remains) a worldwide phenomenon. When Ash threw his first Pokeball, he caught more than just a Caterpia; he captured our attention. Twenty years later, he still has it.

Which is why we’ve been completely riveted by the release of Pokemon GO, a mobile game app that finally makes it possible for us to live out our childhood fantasies. Like every other diehard fan my age, I’ve spent a fair amount of money on Pokemon for various gaming systems over the years, but for me, none of have compared to this one. Instead of sitting in your rec room pressing buttons while mushrooms grow under your feet, the game requires you to physically get up, to leave your home and explore your surroundings like a real live person! All in order to capture Pokemon. A simple trip to the grocery store is now an expedition. An afternoon in the park becomes a safari. Turning a corner means you could uncover a new Pokemon. This is augmented reality unlike anything we’ve ever seen, while (barring a few key updates that I’ve heard) being everything we’ve ever dreamed of.

I’m no longer watching Ash catch Pokemon — I’m walking in his shoes. My friends have children who are now teaching about Pokemon through the game, and it’s been insane to watch the fandom come full-circle. I mean, not since a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away have we seen a fire burn this fiercely, with a practically spiritual love for the source material being passed down through generations. It’s so much more than just a game at this point.

So if you see us walking down Greenville Avenue, staring intently into our smartphones while you’re hitting up happy hour at the Blue Goose, it’s not because we’re immature. If you see us talking about our recent conquests on Facebook, it’s not because we’re being distracted from real-life issues. If you see us pull over to catch a Pokemon at a local business, it’s not because we don’t have anything better to do. For many of us, our Pokedex has been a map guiding us through our lives.

And, if nothing else, it’s getting people to Pokemon GO outside for once. Gotta catch ’em all, after all!
Eric LaJuan Summers is tearing it up, stealing scenes left and right as the James Brown-ish soul singer James “Thunder” Early in the Dallas Theater Center’s production of Dreamgirls. But despite all the attention, he’s always looking for the next great opportunity. Maybe… Deena Jones?

He kids, he kids… but kinda not.

When Summers started his career as an actor, he imagined himself as the staid, reliable, even dull leading-man type. The first time he auditioned for Dreamgirls, he was shooting for C.C. White, the studious songwriter.

“I’ve always been the serious one — the cute younger brother with a heart of gold,” he says of his self-image. But others saw something else.

“You should try out for Thunder Early,” the...
Out actor Eric LaJuan Summers, a scene-stealing boy among ‘Dreamgirls’ in DTC’s ‘Dreamgirls.’ (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

Eric LaJuan Summers as James ‘Thunder’ Early and Kristen Bond as Lorrell pack a lot of heat (and humor) into their performances. Prior to the latest role that shows his facility with over-the-top performances, Summers was with the Broadway production of Motown: The Musical, portraying such irrepressible performers as Rick James, Jackie Wilson and Marlon Jackson. Before that, he auditioned for the role of Little Richard in the feature film Get On Up, but was deemed too old to play the teenage version of the R&B legend (though his singing voice is in the film).

So tackling Thunder Early wasn’t much of a stretch. It’s the kind of over-the-top soul singer he’s become accustomed to. And he has a lot of inspirations to draw from.

“People always say the character is based on James Brown, but I add in some Little Richard, some Marlon, some Jackie,” Summers says. And audiences go wild, especially when the character goes off-book and drops trou during his Vegas number: Hey, a little exhibitionism never hurt anyone.

“Eric is a hoot and a great flirt,” says Joel Ferrell, his director for Dreamgirls. Told this, Summers feigns mock surprise.

“My mother saw the show and after she said, ‘So you don’t act anymore — you just show up and be yourself?” he says. “I said, ‘How dare you! [Thunder] is a womanizer — I’m not!’

“That’s the only thing,” she said.”

All of which leads to his desire to try something new and different. He thinks he could get the Celine-esque hand choreography of Deena Jones down. Or really anything that shows the chops he has.

“One of my favorite things about my first Broadway show [Aida] was, I had a death scene, I had a sword fight … I want to do something serious. On a show like Will and Grace, I’m always Jack and Karen; I think it’s time to be the Will.”

That might be Summers’ goal, but audiences know what they like. And a little Thunder never hurt anybody.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Judges on shows like *American Idol* often disparage singers by saying their voices are “too cabaret,” or “too Broadway.” It’s a puzzling criticism, because it’s no criticism at all. Broadway and cabaret are incredibly important and successful genres of music that not only endure, but delight and even excite. (*Hamilton*, anyone? Or ever heard of Streisand?) The implication of such snipes is that because such styles are not radio-friendly “pop,” not “contemporary,” not “hip, young” music, they have no musical value on a singing competition show.

Screw that. Such ignorant critiques merely reveal a lack of imagination on the part of judges. Heck, one of the *Idol* arbiters in the last years was Harry Connick Jr., whose main genre derives from imitating the Big Band era of the 1940s. Pop music is what we make of it.

So it is no insult to say that Broadway veteran Cheyenne Jackson’s new album, *Renaissance*, projects an old-school commitment to “classic” music. From its opening song — “Feelin’ Good,” popularized by retro crooner Michael Bublé but originally written for the 1960s musical *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off* — Jackson shows an unabashed appreciation for a flamboyant, bombastic show-stopper. With his 22-piece backing orchestra, Jackson demonstrates a facility and great vocal ability in a variety of genres. The message is clear: musical chops are what matter. It’s the singer, not the song.

Well, sort of.

An individual song is one thing; Jackson shows clarity and power on “Feelin’ Good,” and most of the other tracks included. But the mark of great album is cohesion — a carefully curated lineup of numbers that join together into a theme. A compilation of favorite songs is just a vanity project without direction.

Truth is, *Renaissance* is an expansion of a series of concerts Jackson gave “inspired by the music of the *Mad Men* era.” But that’s an unwieldy and wide net — *Mad Men* took place over the course of the entire ’60s, a decade as musically diverse and constantly changing as any has ever been. Even the TV series moved from underground jazz clubs in its pilot to acid rock hippie music by its series finale seven seasons later.

How do you thread that needle? The answer is: Not all that successfully. A strangeness emerges in the interplay of his song selection. The brassy second track on the album, “American,” swings like an old-school standard. Jackson’s phrasing is clear and his
Why Beyoncé’s ‘Lemonade’ matters

Everyone has their own theory about Beyoncé’s Lemonade. Is it about her marriage to Jay Z? Her father’s infidelity? America’s pervasive racism and its wrenching consequence; the slaughtering of innocent blacks? Is it about Orlando now? Could be. Though the complexities are rich and thought-provoking, Lemonade simply represents resilience. Inspired by Bey’s grandmother-in-law, it’s about soldiering on despite setbacks, be it the calamity of a troubled relationship, the ever-present black struggle, or the grief of 49 lives lost in a gay nightclub. It is, thusly, our album to lean on, music for unearthing an inner fortitude when fortitude seems futile. Beyoncé is, yet again, a beacon of empowerment, and Lemonade is next-level liberation.

“Freedon,” for instance, marches in like a victorious rally cry. During the song, Queen Bey channels the rawness of Merry Clayton’s vocal shred, when the singer memorably sang “rape, murder; just a shot away” in 1969 on the Rolling Stone’s “Gimme Shelter;” on “Freedon,” Bey is carrying on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks; she is the voice of all those oppressed, past, present and future. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes of despair and persecution, a “bulletproof” Beyoncé proclaims, “I break chains all by myself.” In that moment, she sounds reborn, which she is.

Lemonade sees Beyoncé on the frontlines of change. This is her Like a Prayer, her Velvet Rope. Risks abound, from the Jack White-produced goth rock of her patriarchal takedown “Don’t Hurt Yourself” to the New Orleans-tinged “Daddy Lessons,” a guitar-plucked, percussion-slapped soul ditty that’s a testament to Beyoncé as a bona fide artist: Her talent is basically boundless. Vocally, too, Beyoncé doesn’t play it safe. “Don’t Hurt Yourself” smears Auto-Tune all over her velvety voice; she drops to a hypnotically low octave on “6 Inch;” she fashions a reggae inflection on “Hold Up.” The production is bold, and Bey’s presence throughout is seismic. She is queen; Lemonade is her throne.

It also happens to be her best album to date (do it; bow down), advancing the inventiveness of her last avant-garde release, 2013’s self-titled Lemonade. It also happens to be her best album to date (do it; bow down), advancing the inventiveness of her last avant-garde release, 2013’s self-titled Lemonade. It also happens to be her best album to date (do it; bow down), advancing the inventiveness of her last avant-garde release, 2013’s self-titled Lemonade. It also happens to be her best album to date (do it; bow down), advancing the inventiveness of her last avant-garde release, 2013’s self-titled Lemonade.

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07.15.16  dallasvoice 29
Thank you for supporting the Texas Bear Round-Up 21: “Mardi Gras” and BearDance: “Fat Friday” parties!

Your generous support at our annual fundraising events raised $68,000 for local charities.

Beneficiaries: Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, Resource Center Youth First Program, AIDS Services of Dallas, and Resource Center Capital Campaign.
Gaybingo celebrates 15 years with quinceanera

Everyone knows that in Texas, girls mark their 15th birthday with a quinceanera. Well, that goes for girls, as well, and girl, Saturday is the 15th anniversary of Gaybingo, the month fundraiser for the Resource Center. So come dressed as a pinata, or in your pastel taffeta to celebrate becoming a real lady.

DEETS: The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors at 5 p.m. MyResourceCenter.org.

Follow the Todrick Road to the Verizon for Straight Outta Oz

North Texas native was an American Idol also-ran, but he’s proven his starpower without the reality show as a popular and engaging young artist and Friend of Dorothy. And we don’t just mean he’s gay — he’s also a huge fan of The Wizard of Oz, as reflected in his latest video (“Wrong Bitch” — watch it!) and his current tour, Straight Outta Oz. Catch the big musical production that features 20 new songs in a twist on the classic Judy Garland musical.

DEETS: Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. Doors at 6:30 p.m. $30–$45. TodrickHall.com. AXS.com.

Saturday 07.16

JuJuBee, Raven, local luminaries turn out for a Night of Stars

There’s just a week before The Brick closes its doors for good, but it’s going out with a blast, starting this weekend, when Drag Racers JuJuBee and Raven join Dallas talent like Krystal Summers, Mark Alan Smith and more for this dragtastic entertainment — a fundraiser for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund.

DEETS: The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. Doors at 6 p.m., show at 8:30 p.m. $20 suggested donation.

Saturday 07.16

Gaybingo celebrates 15 years with quinceanera

Everyone knows that in Texas, girls mark their 15th birthday with a quinceanera. Well, that goes for gurls, as well, and girl, Saturday is the 15th anniversary of Gaybingo, the month fundraiser for the Resource Center. So come dressed as a pinata, or in your pastel taffeta to celebrate becoming a real lady.

DEETS: The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors at 5 p.m. MyResourceCenter.org.
More than a dozen area drag performers will appear at a fundraiser benefiting the victims of the Pulse massacre at a show Sunday at the Rose Room.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Festival of Independent Theatres. The 18th annual showcase of smaller local companies returns with six troupes producing unique shows. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through July 30. For a complete lineup of performances, visit FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.com.


Dreamgirls. The hit rock musical, a thinly-disguised version of the making of the Supremes and Motown, becomes the Dallas Theater Center’s summer family show ... for funky families. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through July 29. DallasTheaterCenter.org.


A Kid Like Jake. Second Thought Theatre closes its season with this area premiere about a little boy who prefers Cinderella to G.I. Joe. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphrey Campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 23. 2TT.co.


Pinkalicious. A musical about the joys of overdoing it with color. Final weekend. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. DCT.org.


FILM

Asian Film Festival of Dallas. The 15th annual film fest focussing on Asian films and filmmakers. Screenings at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, Through July 21. For a complete lineup of events and screenings, visit AsianFilmDallas.com.

FINE ART


FRIDAY 07.15

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 07.16

COMMUNITY

Gaybingo. Put on your prettiest dress — Gaybingo is celebrating its quincentenary. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. $25–$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

My Oh My Extravaganza. Drag show. The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St. Doors at 7:30 p.m., show at 8:30 p.m. $20. Prekindle.com.

BENEFIT

Night of Stars. Raven, JuJuBee and more perform at this fundraiser for the Greg Dollinger Memorial AIDS Fund. The Brick, 2525 Wydill Ave. Doors at 6 p.m., show at 8:30 p.m. $20 suggested donation. BrickDallas.com.
Reigning Mr. Gay USofA Michael LaMasters will perform Sunday at the Round-Up for a preliminary contest, Mr. Gay Southern States USofA.

**SUNDAY 07.17**

**BENEFIT**
Dallas Drag Star Divas for Orlando. More than a dozen drag stars will unite at the Rose Room for a fundraising performance benefiting the victims of the Orlando Pulse shooting. Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 6-9:30 p.m. $5 suggested donation. DragStarDiva.com.

**COMMUNITY**
Mr. Gay Southern States USofA. This preliminary to the Mr. Gay USofA contest is a talent competition at heart, with points also for clubwear and interview. Reigning Mr. Gay USofA Michael LaMasters will perform. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 10:30 p.m. $8.

**MONDAY 07.18**

**CABARET**
Mama’s Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. $10.

**TUESDAY 07.19**

**FILM**
The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3. Long before 24, this 1973 feature film presented a terrorist attack on New York City in real time. An underdog urban masterpiece of 1970s gritty cinema, this richly textured thriller stars Walter Matthau and Robert Shaw. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

**COMMUNITY**
Miss Gay Texas America Pageant Finals. City winners from across the state gather in Dallas for this feeder competition to the prestigious Miss Gay America, with the final night crowning a new champion. Read the interview with outgoing winner Asia O’Hara on Page 20. Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. MissGayAmerica.co/Miss-Gay-Texas-America.

**WEDNESDAY 07.20**

**APPEARANCE**
Chris Colfer: Fairytales Transformed. Glee actor Chris Colfer, who has also written a series of fantasy books, will read from his work and answer questions as part of DMA’s Arts & Letters Live Series. Horchow Auditorium at the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. 7:30 p.m. $10–$20. DMA.org/tickets.

**THURSDAY 07.21**

**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.

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FRIDAY, July 15th @ the Stroke of Midnight!

**Sizzling Summer Splash Savings!**
Continues Monday - Friday 8am to 4pm

**Toasty Tuesdays!**
Half Price Rooms 4pm to Midnight

**Steamy FREE Youth Lockers!**
Every Friday!
Sex toys and cherry pies: Jenny Block on traveling as a couple (and the greatest adventure of them all)

People apply all kinds of standards when it comes to evaluating your viability as a couple: Some people say it’s surviving a visit to Ikea; some say attending to pre-check and Global Entry clearances, or are you capable of packing light and carrying on means less chance of luggage loss, ease of getting around, less stuff strewn around your accommodations, fewer things to leave behind. In other words, less stressors for you and me, traveling is the activity that can reveal an awful lot about your partner … and about your compatibility with that person.

Whether someone is your travel-twin or travel-nemesis, you will inevitably learn a heck of a lot about him/her while readying to spend your time together. Fights can be swift and fierce if accommodation mayhem ensues.

Unpacking is another indicator. Do you immediately split the drawers and the hangers and unpack your things while expecting your partner to do the same? Do you fling open your suitcase and spend the trip digging through mounds of clothes and shoes? Is one of you an unpicker and the other a digger? Do you — gasp! — hog all of the unpacking space and leave nothing for your floundering companion?

Then there’s the trip itself. Adventure or culture? Far-flung or never too far from home? Exotic or familiar? From taking those trips. I unpack; she doesn’t. I like to get coffee first thing; she’s happy to wait until breakfast. I don’t need a plan; she likes to have an itinerary. But — most importantly — we’ve learned that we really dig each other and that traveling reveals just how well we really do mesh.

The happily — and newly — affianced couple ... while traveling.

A Couple of Guys

"Keeping Up Appearances"

ERIC? I’M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A RAINCHECK ON LUNCH.

OH... UH... OK, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, DAVID?

EVEN ONCE I STARTED THIS NEW PROMOTION, WE’RE BOOKED SOLID!

THINGS ARE SO BUSY HERE, I DON’T HAVE TIME TO EAT.

20% OFF A FULL MAKEOVER... THE WEEK YOUR DRIVER’S LICENSE EXPIRES.

PROMOTION?

YES! IT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS. IF I SAY SO MYSELF.

The happily — and newly — affianced couple... while traveling.

tight quarters and even-tighter bathroom. We were respectful and neat (for the most part) and we didn’t even have a bump.

We’ve traveled a number of times since then and have had equally grand travel experiences from modest airport hotels to glorious rooftop digs on a Mexican island. We’re both seasoned and similar when it comes to traveling and that is ideal.

We’ve also learned a lot about each other — fast — from taking those trips. I unpack; she doesn’t. I like to get coffee first thing; she’s happy to wait until breakfast. I don’t need a plan; she likes to have an activity on tap. But — most importantly — we’ve learned that we really dig each other and that traveling reveals just how well we really do mesh.

So, I guess it’s no surprise that it was on a surprise trip for my birthday this very week that she popped the question; I enthusiastically said “yes.”

As we boarded the Mackinac Island Ferry, she asked me what was in my tote. “Sex toys and cherry pie,” I said without a hint of irony before we both started laughing hard enough to concern the little old ladies next to us just a tiny bit. We did a little shopping before we went to the dock and not everything fit into my suitcase. And, once again, our travels proved to me that being with her is going to be the biggest adventure of our lives.

Block is the author of The Ultimate Guide to Solo Sex by Jenny Block, foreword by Betty Dodson.

Have a question about sex you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.
Making the SCENE the week of July 15–21:

- Alexandre's: Stephanie Sallie on Friday. Chris Chism and the Band on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday.

- Brick/Jo's: Night of Stars includes Raven, JuJuBee and others in a benefit for the Gregg Dollinger Memorial AIDS Fund at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

- Dallas Eagle: DFW Leather Corps club night on Saturday. South Central LSb-CBB fundraiser on Saturday. Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association awards banquet from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday.

- JR.'s Bar & Grill: The I Hate Cassie Show with Raquel, Bronx, Marisaah and Blanca on Tuesday.

- Kessler: My Oh My drag show at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

- Pekers: Linze Serrell presents Gospel vs. Nasty with Bible and Biscuits at 4 p.m. and show at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday benefiting her bid for Miss LifeWalk 2016.

- Round-Up Saloon: A Night of Distinguished Gentlemen: Mr. Gay Southern States USofA featuring Montell Infiniti Ross, Michael LaMasters, Kane Connors, Essense Allure Collins, Christopher Iman and Xavier Valentino at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.

- Sue Ellen's: Mustache Envy on Friday. Ciao Bella on Saturday. Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

- The Rose Room: GayBingo at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Drag Star Divas for Orlando benefits victims of the Pulse massacre from 6-9:30 p.m. on Sunday. Project Runway on Wednesday, Outrageous Oral on Thursday.

- Two Corks and a Bottle: Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.

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THE PETS ISSUE: Our Furry Families

Amber and Dylan

Seamus and Jacques Cousteau

Brent with Pepsi and Don

Bartleby gives Mr. Sniffles and Danny the stink-eye

Jimmy and Tippy

Bill and Cayman

Joey and Chanel
THE PETS ISSUE: Our Furry Families

Sandra with Akasha, Eragon and Tinker belle

Dr. Carol Ann Boyd with Max

Bill and Alfie

Jeremy and Fred

Scott and Del Norte

Brad and Josh at their wedding with Penny and Roxie
THE PETS ISSUE: Our Furry Families

Joey gets a trim at Woody’s Grooming Lounge

Johnalee with Miley and Milo

Bruce and Kiki

Jose Luis with Frank and Renzo

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Please send resume to Peacock@Pitchfordhome.com

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## Adult

### Solution on page 33

**Piscatella's Two Beards**

**Across**

1. Where to find bulging pecs
6. Shirley MacLaine’s Out on a ___
10. Cheryl of Charlie’s Angels
14. Man of morals
15. About Uranus?
16. Gillette razor product
17. Orange is the New ___ (TV show of this puzzle’s quote)
18. Michael Buble’s “___ Little Tenderness”
19. Sow’s mate
20. Pinto prodder
21. Start of Piscatella’s description of two beards
23. Former Time film critic
25. Some like it hot
26. Michelangelo’s David, e.g.
29. Threesome member for Dumas
31. More of the description
33. LA clock setting
36. Rainbow maker
37. SEI, e.g.
38. Singing group at Metropolitan Community Church
40. Dick Cheney, to Mary
41. More of the description
43. Erection of buffalo skins
45. Like Abe
46. Amanda of Married...With Children
49. Debtor’s car, maybe
50. End of the description
53. Cosmetic surgery that sucks
57. End note
58. Guinness of The Lavender Hill Mob
59. Piscatella, at the prison
60. Circumcision, for one
61. Vehicle with a turret
62. Uninvited spa guests?
63. Kind of beer
64. Herbert’s Fortune and Men’s ___
65. Channel markers

**Down**

1. Where truckers park their bottoms
2. “Can’t ___ Lovin’ That Man of Mine”
3. Genesis man
4. Gay old philosopher, perhaps
5. Rd. where they toll you so
6. Leguin’s The ___ of Heaven
7. About, in memos
8. Deli jarful
9. Rue’s role on The Golden Girls
10. Hercules’ dozen
11. Show penitence
12. Area of Tennessee?
13. Hannah of Steel Magnolias
14. Man of morals
15. About Uranus?
16. Gillette razor product
17. Orange is the New ___ (TV show of this puzzle’s quote)
18. Michael Buble’s “___ Little Tenderness”
19. Sow’s mate
20. Pinto prodder
21. Start of Piscatella’s description of two beards
23. Former Time film critic
25. Some like it hot
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63. Kind of beer
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