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Dallas Arboretum continues
Chefs in Nature series

Last month, the Dallas Arboretum launched a new culinary event: Chefs in Nature, where local chefs share recipes, prepare some bites and pair their dishes with a few cocktails. There are three more events scheduled each month. Tomorrow, Aug. 17, will feature community favorite Janice Provost of Parisi, pictured, conjuring up a light menu with two summer cocktails and tips on making her French-Italian fusion food. On Sept. 21, Nikky Phinyawatana of Asian Mint will create the meal. It will culminate on Oct. 16 with a Harvest Feast featuring six chefs, each preparing a course.

— David Taftet

Resource Center names 5 Factor recipients

Resource Center’s annual 5 Factor — which honors five individuals or organizations for their commitment to the community in five areas — has announced the recipients for 2016. They are:

Culinary: Culinaire food and beverage concepts
Media: Steve Kemble, pictured
Community: Chris Bengston, Caven Enterprises
Philanthropy: Rodd Gray, aka Patti LaPree Safe
Government: Councilman Adam Medrano

The awards will be held on Sept. 23 at 7 for Par-ties in the Design District. Tickets are $65. Congrats!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Cedar Springs hit-and-run

driver found

The driver who hit a pedestrian and killed her dog on the corner of Cedar Springs and Throckmorton in January has been found.

On Jan. 30, a car turned from Cedar Springs Road onto Throckmorton Street and hit Holly Mosley and killed her dog. Mosley had the walk signal as she was crossing Cedar Springs Road in front of the restaurant Zephyr.

After hitting Mosley and killing the dog, witnesses described the driver as gunning his engine and running several stop signs as one witness followed him, trying to get the license plate number.

Zephyr, which hadn’t opened yet at the time, had just installed its surveillance cameras. From that, Zephyr owner Danny Sikora said, they knew the car was a grey Mitsubishi Endeavor. “The angle of the camera wasn’t right to clearly read the license plate from the video.”

“Since then, it’s bothered me,” Sikora said. Every time he saw a car that fit the description in Oak Lawn, he’d take down a license plate or try to identify the driver, whom he remembered as a “bearish white guy.”

Driver and description didn’t fit until this weekend. Sikora said he was at Walgreens on Cedar Springs and parked next to a grey Mitsubishi Endeavor. He wrote down the license plate number and waited for the driver to come out of the store.

The description matched. He sent the plate number to the detective. Sikora said the detective called Mosley and asked if she wanted to file charges. When police talked to the driver, he said he drives through that intersection often and didn’t know anything happened.

Mosley said she would file charges. Police didn’t confirm what charges would be filed, but for hit-and-run offenses a driver is usually charged with failure to stop and render aid.

— David Taftet

McKinney Avenue Sun Fresh
Market purchased by H-E-B

The former Albertson’s that is currently operating as Sun Fresh Market on McKinney at Lemmon avenues was purchased by H-E-B, the San Antonio-based supermarket chain that operates locally as Central Market.

Central Market purchased property to build a supermarket on Lemmon Avenue between Reagan and Throckmorton streets in Oak Lawn. Several buildings on the land have been cleared, but La Madeleine is still operating and construction on the supermarket has stalled.

H-E-B is deciding whether to operate the McKinney Avenue store as a Central Market or H-E-B. The McKinney Avenue Albertson’s store was among the stores sold when Albertson’s purchased Safeway, which owned Tom Thumb to avoid antitrust review.

Sun Fresh Market is currently closing and it may be several months before the store reopens under an H-E-B brand. H-E-B purchased a total of six Sun Fresh stores in the DFW area and already operates five Central Markets in the area.

— David Taftet
Family Pride Zone
A safe space for LGBT Parents and their kids!

ROLL CALL!
Calling all LGBT Parents and kids!

Family Pride Zone is a family friendly outdoor space in conjunction with the Festival in the Park, held on Sunday, September 18th from Noon to 7pm. The Festival in the Park is held with the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, a Dallas Tavern Guild event.

A fenced off safe space will be created in Reverchon Park inside the gates of the main Festival in the Park. Security professionals will staff our entrance. Park entrance fees are $10 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be lifted among other house rules.

The Family Pride Zone will include food, games, entertainment, bounce houses, face painters, vendor booths and much more.

For more info, visit: dallaspride.org
If you have questions, call Leo Cusimano 214.754.8710 ext. 114

Family Pride Zone
Director: Leo Cusimano | Kimberly Kantor
Sponsors Include:
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Teen Pride Celebration, visit: rlc365.org
Saturday, September 17th | 2pm to 7pm
Location: TBA

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Penny is a two-year-old cutie who weighs 14 pounds and needs a loving family and a place to call home. She came to Operation Kindness by way of a local shelter where she was given needed care before she and others were transferred. Penny will be a wonderful addition to the perfect home. If you are looking for big love in a small package, come meet this sweet little girl. Maybe she will be the perfect dog for you.

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.; 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.

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

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week’s guests are Leslie McMurray and Katie Sprinkle; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 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 Tremore 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.

• Aug. 19: Cabaret & Cabernet
Sammons Center for the Performing Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., presents Cabaret & Cabernet, featuring emcee Tracy Fulton

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August 25: Pineywoods Voice
LGBTQIA+ support group meets at 6:30 p.m. at Special Health Resources of Tyler, 1300 Clinic Drive, Tyler.

August 25: Trivia Night
North Oak Cliff Branch Library hosts Trivia Night at Barbara’s Pavilion, 325 Centre St., with prizes for the winners. For information email NorthOakCliff@DallasLibrary.org.

August 25-26: Sister Helen Holy
Sister Helen Holy headlines her own benefit show for Legacy Counseling Center saving sinners at 7 p.m. at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. $45-100 plus sponsorship opportunities. HelenHoly.com.

August 26: Back-to-School fundraiser for Youth First
Resource Center’s Young Professionals Advisory Council hosts a special “after-work recess” to raise funds for the upcoming school year to benefit Resource Center’s Youth First program, featuring DJ Brandon Moses, Stoli cocktails and light bites. 6-9 p.m. at 1626 Hi Line Drive, #C. For information email jwilliams@myresourcenter.org or visit MyResourceCenter.org/ycap.

August 27: Austin Festival and Parade
Festival at Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Jesse E. Segovia St., Austin. Grand opening party for the Dallas Streetcar.

August 27: Dallas Streetcar ribbon cutting
Grand opening party for the Dallas Streetcar extension to Bishop Arts from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

August 30: Welcome Back to School: The Reality for Transgender Students
GALA North Texas presents a free event for educators. Leslie McMurray moderates a panel.

September 2-5: Splash Days
Splash Days, the annual Labor Day end-of-summer LGBTQ swim party in Austin, will feature a full lake, new events and new venues, with a Friday welcome party, a special guest performer on Saturday night and a Monday T Dance. Tickets are on sale now at discounts of up to 15 percent from at-the-door prices. Throughout July, buy three passes and get a fourth of equal or lesser value free. For information or to purchase tickets, visit SplashDays.com.

September 4: Broadway Brunch
Leslie McDonel performs to benefits AIDS Services of Dallas. VIP meet-and-greet at 11:30 a.m., brunch at 12:15 p.m. and performance at 1:30 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens in Fair Park.

September 9: Business Equality Conference ’16
North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents conference to network with other business professionals from around the state, attend breakout sessions and hear remarks from a national speaker on diversity from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at UNT Dallas College of Law, 1901 Main St.

September 10: North Texas Pride Festival
North Texas Pride Festival will be held from 1-8 p.m. at the Louisiana Street Grill, 350 E. Louisiana St., in downtown McKinney. There will be vendor booths, kids’ activities and dancing. For information visit NorthTexasPride.org.

September 16: East Texas Stonewall Democrats
Election planning and talking points will be discussed at the new group’s first meeting in Ben Wheeler.

September 16: Band Against Cancer
Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute and Medical Center present Band Against Cancer: The Sarah Cannon Tour, featuring Martina McBride and friends, with special guests Thompson Square, Cassadee Pope and Hudson Moore. At Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. Doors open at 6 p.m. Purchase tickets, ranging from $34.75-$125, at Verizon Theatre box office, online at AXS.com or by phone at 888-929-7849.

September 16: After Dark
Drinks, divas and desserts with wine tastings and dessert stations benefiting the Turtle Creek Chorale from 8-11 p.m. at 3014 1/2 Oak Lawn Ave. $75. TurtleCreekChorale.org/after-dark.

September 21-24: Pride Performing Arts Festival
Uptown Players hosts its fifth annual arts festival for Pride with plays, including two world premieres from the company’s first-ever Pride Write Play Writing Competition, a staged reading and cabaret acts. Kalita Humphries Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.

September 21: Gertrude Stein and Allen Ginsburg LGBT Pride Reading
Pandora’s Box Poetry Showcase presents queer poets reflecting on ecstasy, rage, woundedness, ferocity, bravery, affection and erotic marvels at 8 p.m. at the Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, 5601 Sears St.
Lambda Legal’s new CEO Rachel Tiven, in Dallas last weekend for the organization’s Landmark Dinner, sees a continued role for impact litigation after last year’s marriage equality decision.

In Texas, within a few months of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Obergefell ruling, questions about adoption and birth certificates were settled. But other states are still fighting second-parent adoptions and other family issues. Lambda Legal recently filed a case in Florida on behalf of two widowers to obtain correct death certificates listing them as the spouses.

While cases like those involve enforcement of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of LGBT people, Tiven sees other issues that haven’t been resolved.

“We’re seeing courts struggle with employment issues,” she said. “What is discrimination based on sexual orientation and what is based on sex and sex stereotyping?”

Lambda Legal recently lost a case in the Seventh Circuit involving a woman in South Bend, Ind., who was passed over for a promotion and then fired. The court agreed she was fired for being lesbian. Although that’s not a fair reason to be fired in today’s world, it is legal in many places. If the woman had been more butch, Tiven said, she’d be covered by Title VII.

“Animos for being lesbian is clearly present,” Tiven said, explaining the court’s decision. “But we’re not persuaded.”

Transgender issues are another topic at the top of Lambda Legal’s list.

“Nationally, there’s an animus towards transgender people,” Tiven said.

And those legislating against the trans community are trying to drive a wedge between them and the LGB part of the community. She said they’d like gays and lesbians to feel like, “I’m different, but not as different as you,” and not take up the trans cause.

Legislation such as HB2 in North Carolina and a long list of proposed bills that will be filed in the Texas Legislature this fall and winter affect young people terribly, Tiven said.

“They have a chilling affect on queer kids,” she said. “They send a message differences are not tolerated.”

She said the attacks on trans people “particularly on whether they can pee,” mean they can’t participate in public life. If a person can’t use a public restroom, he or she can’t work, shop, go to restaurants or lead any sort of life in public. She called the sudden interest in anti-trans legislation a backlash against the marriage-equality victory.

Tiven said a lawsuit recently filed in Illinois on behalf of a lesbian living in assisted living could be a milestone in protecting LGBT elders.

In that case, Marsha Wetzel claims administrators of Glen St. Andrew Living Community failed to protect her from harassment, discrimination and violence she has endured at the hands of other residents because of her sex and sexual orientation. Some residents began calling her names like “fucking dyke,” “fucking faggot” and “homosexual bitch.” Others physically attacked her and staff did nothing to stop the harassment.

“What happens to people at the end of their lives,” Tiven said, is a focus of new litigation that she sees growing as the baby boom generation ages and seeks assisted living, nursing and memory care.

Tiven would like to expand the capacity of Lambda Legal’s help desk.

“Lambda Legal needs to be a household name so LGBT and HIV-positive people know to call us when they have a problem,” she said.

That doesn’t mean she wants Lambda Legal to take every discrimination case. She’d like Lambda Legal to be the starting point to discuss what the next steps can be and point people in the right direction.

Tiven succeeds Kevin Cathcart, who has led Lambda Legal since 1992. Under his leadership, the organization scored victories such as Lawrence v. Texas in 2003, which declared...
sodomy laws unconstitutional and paved the way for the Windsor decision, which declared parts of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, and the Obergefell marriage equality decision.

Inclusion in the Boy Scouts, employment and housing protection and access to healthcare for people with HIV are additional legal milestones achieved under Cathcart’s leadership.

Lambda Legal focuses on impact litigation, meaning cases that can make a difference nationally by breaking new legal ground.

“We don’t want to take every case,” Tiven said. “We want to empower others to take cases.”

Tiven may be just the right person to keep Lambda Legal on course. The Harvard College and Columbia Law School grad was executive director of Immigration Equality for eight years.

That organization saw tremendous growth under her leadership. She built a pro bono legal program that serves more than 5,000 people a year that’s worth $17 million annually and helped change the immigration system for LGBT and HIV-positive people.

Cannon Flowers, who currently chairs the local Coalition for Aging LGBT, served on her board of directors. He said Tiven had a special ability to turn those pro bono attorneys into activists.

“Her tenacity of getting us into the White House to discuss a topic they’d rather not talk about,” was among the qualities that impressed Flowers.

But it was because of her passion that Flowers said he holds a place in his heart for her. Flowers and his husband, who is from Singapore, spent two decades fighting for the right to stay together in Dallas.

“She told us, ‘We’re not going to stop fighting until you two are safe,’” he said.

Lambda Legal Regional Director Roger Poindexter called Tiven a strong leader with a vision.

“She’s passionate about the LGBT community,” he said. “After 24 successful years under Kevin, she’s looking at things with a new set of eyes and will continue the legacy Kevin created.”

Tiven lives with her wife Sally Gottesman and their three children in New York City.

They have a chilling affect on queer kids. They send a message differences are not tolerated.'
On-the-job bullying

Male guard in private prison charges employer with sexual harassment

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer

Isaiah Smith is suing his former employer, Management & Training Corporation, for sex discrimination.

MTC is a Utah-based corporation that operates for-profit prisons, including one in Bridgeport, northwest of Fort Worth, where Smith was employed.

Smith said the bullying began from the day he started the job. Although he never told anyone he was gay, he said they assumed it from his mannerisms but he described the harassment as “non-stop.”

“It was like hell,” he said.

In June 2014, Smith began his on-the-job training where he was paired for training with Blake Wortman.

According to the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Fort Worth, Wortman “routinely and habitually inquired about Plaintiff Smith’s homosexual lifestyle, inquired and speculated about his sexual activities aloud, and compared [and] contrasted their own sexual activities with those which they imagined Plaintiff Smith might engage in as a homosexual male.”

Smith was 19 years old at the time.

Smith complained about the harassment to Wortman’s supervisor, Pamela Galloway. Her advice was to “man up” and “act like a man.”

A female nurse at the facility witnessed Wortman’s behavior and reported that she was being subjected to a sexually hostile work environment as well. Her complaint was promptly investigated and action taken.

Both Smith and Wortman were called into the supervisor’s office. Wortman took full responsibility for it, admitting he had engaged in inappropriate behavior toward the nurse and that Smith hadn’t used any inappropriate language. However, both Wortman and Smith were warned against such behavior.

Smith’s attorney, Michael Hindman, described him as baffled that a complaint by a female employee of sexually hostile work environment was handled immediately while his repeated complaints were ignored. When he requested to be paired with someone other than Wortman, he was told further complaints would result in his termination.

Through the end of his training, Smith was tormented. Officers joked he walked “in a feminine way,” that he was flirting with inmates and was going to raped.

When he completed his training, he was assigned to “D Card,” where the harassment continued. Fellow employees said he was not man enough to do his job because he is gay.

His supervisor responded to complaints by preventing Smith from doing certain duties. Among them were strip searches, because that would make the inmates uncomfortable.

His attorney said that if he was unable to perform certain duties, there’s no chance for advancement.

“H’ll be relegated to the bottom of the barrel,” Hindman said.

When he complained, the response was that being gay was the problem, not the sexual harassment.

Smith was threatened that he would be terminated if an inmate complained he witnessed Smith “licking his lips.” Smith assumed that meant his supervisor thought he couldn’t do his job because he is gay and would automatically be attracted to every inmate in prison.

When his supervisor refused to put an end to the harassment, Smith requested a meeting with the warden, Robert Treon. Instead of taking any action, Treon dismissed the complaint as “guy talk.”

Smith decided at this point he could no longer work under these conditions. He told his supervisor he wouldn’t return to work until he could be assured the verbal harassment and retaliation for making complaints stopped.

He requested a transfer and was denied. Instead, he was placed on unpaid leave.

After several weeks, MTC contacted Smith that they determined he had been subjected to a hostile work environment under Wortman, but that issue was resolved and they didn’t believe the current complaints.

Since he couldn’t agree with the conclusion, Smith was discharged.

The case is very similar to that of Derek Boyd, a Collin County prison guard whose story appeared in last week’s Dallas Voice. Smith was harassed to the point of his life being put in danger when other guards wouldn’t respond to Boyd’s calls for backup help after months of harassment based on his sexual orientation.

One difference in the case is that Boyd worked for a public employer, while Smith worked for a private company. That shouldn’t make a difference in eligibility for damages under Title VII.

“In creating and/or allowing a sexually hostile work environment to go without remedy in spite of repeated complaints by Plaintiff, Defendant MTC’s conduct constitutes discrimination because of sex in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” Hindman wrote in Smith’s lawsuit.

Both suits quote the U.S. Supreme Court case Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, a unanimous opinion written by Justice Antonin Scalia that concludes that sex discrimination consisting of same-sex sexual harassment, while not the original intent of legislators who wrote the law, is actionable under Title VII.

In the case Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins, held that discriminatory employment practices that are based on gender-stereotyping is discrimination “because of . . . sex,” and covered by Title VII.

Smith is requesting reinstatement, back pay, compensation for lost benefits, emotional distress, pain and suffering, exemplary damages, attorney’s fees, costs including expert witness fees and “Such other and further relief to which Plaintiff may be entitled.”
A gay delegate from Dallas talks about his experience in Philadelphia

JAY NAREY
Special Contributor

I am back in Dallas after attending the recent Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia as a delegate for Hillary Clinton, representing Texas Senate District 16 — roughly the entire northern half of Dallas County. Upon finding out I was a national delegate, people began asking me: “How do you become a national delegate?” or “What’s it like being a national delegate?”

My answer to the first question is to become politically involved on the local level, meet other activists, and let people know that you aren’t afraid to get your hands dirty by block walking neighborhoods, helping out with phone banks as well as doing voter registration.

The actual process however is pretty straightforward. Vote in the primary, attend your district convention, attend your state convention and hope you get to attend the national convention, which only occurs once every four years to nominate the party’s candidate for president.

What’s the actual experience of being a national delegate like? It’s an amazing and exhausting week of non-stop activities from 8 a.m. every morning until about 2 a.m. every night.
Here’s how a typical day for a delegate unfolds:

You get up each morning to pick up your delegation credential badge for that day. Each day you get a new credential badge.

Then you attend your state delegation breakfast each morning. During breakfast, a variety of speakers would come to address our delegation. Some of the speakers at the Texas breakfast were Wendy Davis, Cecile Richards, Austin Mayor Steve Adler, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Jim Hightower and Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Around 10 a.m. each morning, you get on a bus to take you each day from your delegation hotel to the downtown area where the convention is held. I didn’t want to wait for the bus and so I would jump on the train from the Airport Marriott to downtown Philadelphia which only took about 30 minutes.

Then you arrive at the convention center where all of the various caucus meetings are held during the daytime (the part you don’t see on television). Being a representative of the LGBT Caucus, I attended the two official LGBT Caucus meetings on Tuesday and Thursday of the convention.

At these caucus meetings, we — the LGBT delegates: more than 700 of us representing 11.5 percent of the entire convention — hear from a plethora of speakers and elected officials, many of whom are also actual members of our community.

Around 2 p.m. each day, you get a little break for a chance to grab a quick bite to eat for lunch. Philadelphia has a great indoor market called the Reading Terminal Marketplace. Yes, I had more than one Philly cheesesteak while there … Delicious!

Then at 4 p.m., it’s time to head to the Wells Fargo Center, where the night sessions were held. Delegates could ride scheduled buses or take the subway. I found the subway to be faster, so that’s what I took.

The evening sessions began around 5 p.m. and we’d hear speakers from all over the country. The real business of the convention actually occurred on Tuesday when all delegates signed their official ballots for the presidential nomination. The tally from each state is what you saw on television during the roll call of states that evening.

One of the best parts of attending the Democratic National Convention, of course, is running into so many famous people and celebrities. Just some of the many people I met or chatted with during the convention were Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Gov. Andrew Cuomo, civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis, ABC News’ George Stephanopoulos and James Roosevelt, grandson of Franklin and Eleanor!

What I took away from the convention was that the sharp contrast in vision for the country between the Republican and Democratic conventions.

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What I took away from the convention was that the sharp contrast in vision for the country between the Republican and Democratic conventions. Many are calling it the most progressive in history.

Is Democracy big, messy, and ugly? It sure is — but that should not dissuade anyone from voting in every election. It is your civic duty as a citizen to vote.

I’ve been politically active long enough — 30 years — to realize that there is no such thing as a perfect candidate and it’s unrealistic to expect that. Politicians are human just like the rest of us. Do they make mistakes? Sure. Do they have personal faults? Of course. I don’t expect perfection from those in public service.

What I do expect are people who genuinely care and want to improve the lives of people and have a passion for doing that as well as having a certain maturity level to learn from their mistakes. I am honored to have had the great privilege of representing so many of my fellow citizens this year in Philadelphia.

Jay Narey is the President of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, President of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus and was recently appointed to the Democratic National Committee’s LGBT Advisory Council.
I was born and raised in Southern California Long Beach, to be specific. I lived and worked there from birth until I was about 20. My first radio job took me to Jackson, Wyo., and I've never looked back.

OK, I've taken a few peeks, but I never moved back.

When I think of my childhood, I smile. I was raised by two parents who loved me more than anything in the world. (I know this because they told me — a lot.) I lived within riding distance of the beach and spent much of my free time on or in the water. I had some good friends. Other than my nagging sense of identity, being that of a young girl and not a little boy, I was a happy kid. Except for puberty. That really sucked.

I went to Woodrow Wilson Classical High School in Long Beach. I was a member of the Class of ’76. In March of this year, I saw a notice that our 40th class reunion was scheduled for Aug. 6 in Long Beach.

Initially, the thought of showing up for this terrified me, like it does for so many of my transgender friends. Many of the kids we knew in high school either tormented us, or we worried that if we knew they had come down from Phoenix. Then Friday evening, there was a cocktail reception at The Boathouse, a restaurant/bar on the water. On the patio were dozens of my old classmates. I donned a name tag and mingled. I was welcomed with open arms.

I saw a girl I’d missed so much. Her name is Shelley and I’ve known her since I was 4 years old. We were inseparable. It felt so good to reconnect to something that is a big part of me, yet separated by my transition. Leslie has no connection to any of this … he did. Turns out, Leslie has been accepted as one of the gang. A couple of the guys I went to school with had some questions and made comments like “You got balls.” To which I responded “Not anymore I don’t.”

The next night was the actual reunion. It was at the Long Beach Yacht Club, poolside. It was a gorgeous setting. We walked to the registration table to get our name tags. Mine had my senior picture on it, with “Leslie McMurray” for my name. I so appreciated that. I was grinning from ear to ear and as I looked to my right, there was a table with pictures, names and candles. These are my classmates who had died. It about sucked the wind out of me. I was fighting back tears as I read the names. The radical swing of emotions swept over me like a wave. I was really struggling to hang on.

Then I heard the squeals of “Leslie!” as girls I went to school with ran over and wrapped me in hugs. These were girls that I wanted to be a part of when I was in school. Not in a dating sense, but in a social sense. I ached to be in those clusters of girls just talking, hanging out. As I looked around me, I was in a cluster of several girls, just talking and catching up. I took 40 years but it was no less sweet. I still fight tears just thinking about it.

There was no rudeness, not even a hint. My classmates made me so proud to be a member of the Class of ’76. Their hugs, genuine interest and welcoming of Katie into our group was a gift I can never re-pay.

I have since re-connected with many of them and I never want to lose touch again. We drove by the old house on the way to the airport and took a few pictures. I am so glad I posted that picture and gave my classmates credit for accepting someone who had changed a little … I suppose we all have. And that’s a good thing.

Who says you can’t go home?

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com
Emanuel Salinas and John Broady wanted to open their own restaurant, but adopted one instead. We look inside their culinary romance.

The décor has remained the same. That Aztec-looking stone face carved into a chair at the entrance. The mosaic tiles over the fireplace hearth — not a feature left burning in the heat of Dallas summer, but a comforting image nonetheless. The bar area buzzes at banks off high-top tables. Even LeAnn Berry, North Texas’ reigning mixologist (especially when it comes to tequila drinks), is still behind the bar, enchanting diners with her cocktails.

“Yep, you wouldn’t know it by walking into Komali that anything has changed. But subtly it has. And that’s how John Broady and Emanuel Salinas like it.

Neither Broady nor Salinas had a background as restaurant owners, or even as professional chefs, but for several years, they yearned to open their own eatery. They looked at spaces but didn’t fall in love with any of them… and they wanted to fall in love. Then someone asked if they would consider taking over an all-ready ex-existing restaurant.

“We hadn’t really thought about it before,” Broady recalls. But they were open to it. Their first stop: Komali.

The courtship

They had never even been into Komali as guests before that, which now seems remarkable. Komali had been a popular staple in the Uptown community since 2011. Opened as a sister restaurant to Salum — the eponymous restaurant of chef-owner Abraham Salum — Komali focused on contemporary, authentic Mexican cuisine… definitely not Tex-Mex.

That suited Salinas, who was born in Mexico City and grew up in Acapulco, learning to cook from his mother. He knew Mexican food, not the hybrid popular north of the border. Broady, originally from Dallas, had moved to San Francisco 20 years ago during the tech boom, and spent a year living in rural Zacatecas, Mexico, where he learned Spanish and developed an appreciation...
Brodly says. But they decided the authenticity is what set Komali apart.

It’s harder to come by in Dallas than you might expect. Monica Greene’s long-closed Ciudad was one of the pioneers of modern Mexican cooking; “Chef Geo” trained with Greene for 11 years before working under Tre Wilcoxon (Marquee), Omar Flores (Driftwood), DJ Quintana (Resto) and finally ending up at Komali two years ago, rising to executive chef recently.

Working with Salinas, he’s maintained many of the fan favorites of the menu (the aforementioned chile en nogada, the addictive queso fundido with chorizo that beckons you like a refreshing pool of pillowy cheese, the habanero margarita), but also tweaked and improved upon some, changing the presentation or outright adding new items.

Chef Geo is humble about his efforts. When he offers that he “added some enchiladas,” Broady brags on his behalf.

“We challenged Geo to rethink the cheese enchiladas,” Broady says, “but he said ‘I can elevate this.’ And he came back with the queso con carne enchiladas” — blue-corn tortillas wrapped around Oaxaca and Chihuahua cheeses, then topped with flank steak and a creamy ranchero.

“He makes [our menu] unique,” Salinas says. “The flavors come from the very beginning, from the making the tortillas to the way we prepare the shrimp. It all tells you something about the [dish]. The menu was already similar to what I wanted to showcase. It was like having a surrogate kid: Geo delivered the toddler and it was my job to teach it to run.”

Once change they did implement: A rotating monthly “menu within a menu,” concentrating on a different flavor profile drawn from Salinas and Broady’s experiences in Mexico.

“The honeymoon

New brooms sweep clean, the adage goes. But that wasn’t the case at for Salinas and Broady.

“When we first got the restaurant we came really close to adding a section for Tex-Mex,”

for the cuisine and culture.

They were gobsmacked from the get-go. They felt an immediate connection with Abraham Salum (who told me the reaction was mutual). A taste of chef Geovanny Arredondo cooking convinced them that the kitchen was in more than capable hands.

They had, in fact, fallen in love.

“Everything was so handmade — they grind the corn for their tortillas,” Broady says with amazement. “We knew in five minutes we were going to do the deal.”

It all happened quickly. They did a few dry runs, with Salinas shadowing Chef Salum for several weeks, seeing how the bar and kitchen worked so that “when we took over, we were ready,” he says. “We got the keys on a Monday and we were open on Tuesday.”

That was back in December. Since then, they’ve had months to change it up. But much of what impressed them on their initial visit has proven to be the essential backbone of what sets Komali apart. Salinas and Broady are definitely of the school of “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

They went item-by-item over the menu, deciding what to ditch and what needed to be different. When Broady learns that I have never tried one of the long-standing dishes — the chile en nogada, a poblano pepper stuffed with such succulent items as golden raisins, pomegranates, nutmeg and beef tenderloin — his reaction seems born of disappointment, as if my life had not been properly lived without access to this miracle of culinary accomplishment.

So I ordered it. He may have had a point.

The Food Issue

The pork belly tacos are one of the best appetizers on the menu. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)
When you write about restaurants for a living, people are always seeking your advice ... usually phrased simply as, “What’s your favorite restaurant?” And the answer is ... I don’t know.

I mean, I know what I like. But I don’t know what you’re asking. Do you mean the place I go most often? The one I love the most but can’t afford more than once a year? The one I like to enjoy when I’m dining alone, or to get jazzed by all the all activity or where the cocktails impress me when I only wanna get a drink? Cuz it’s not just one place — it’s many.

So here are a few of my favorite things to consume in Dallas, in no particular order. What are your favorites?

**Bacon tasting at Knife.** “All animals are equal,” Orwell informed us, “but some are more equal than others.” Truer words were never spoken ... at least when it comes to bacon. Oh-ho, you think — bacon is bacon. Like rice is rice or Trump voters are crazy. But no! And there’s no better way to prove it to yourself than with the five-course bacon tasting at Knife at The Highland. For brunch, lunch or dinner, this horizontal tasting of five different bacons (Spanish Iberico, with its nutty richness, is my favorite, with the fatty Tennessee-raised a close second, although the others — applewood-smoked, cherrywood-smoked and Moody’s Deli — are all amazing) is the perfect way to train your palate to parse the variety of flavors in a single item. $16.

**Sazerac at People’s Last Stand.** When it first opened, I wasn’t a great fan of People’s (as those in-the-know call it, at least at my house), but over the last 18 months, it has ensconced itself as my neighborhood bar. It has craft cocktails (a great deal at happy hour!) and a staff that all but yell out “Norm!” when I come through the door. All their classics are exceptional, but the Sazerac is the best I’ve had this side of New Orleans. And if you ask for a spicy Mexican mule (not on the menu, but made with tequila instead of vodka) they will even garnish it with jalapeno if you specify. That’s awesome. $9.

**Blue corn muffin at Flora Street Café.** Stephan Pyles isn’t a chef; he’s a wizard. His creations are to most restaurant food what Michael Phelps is to you splashing around your bathtub. Even dishes you don’t necessarily love display such thoughtful preparation, you are wowed. And for years, his bite-sized blue-corn muffin — served as basically an amuse, last at his now-shuttered eponymous restaurant but smartly migrated to his latest — is a mini-miracle of casual perfection. Complimentary with most orders.

**Suadero tacos at El Come Taco.** I’m so pleased at the national attention showered upon Trompo, my favorite West Dallas taqueria. But in East Dallas, I still haven’t lost my affection for El Come Taco, and especially its juicy suadero taco, made all the better with the amazing salsas. Two of those, an arranchero, a Negro Modelo and you have a perfect lunch. $1.95.
A bowl of noodles at Ten Ramen. No reservations. Limited seating. Hard to find. These should be strikes again Ten Ramen, but nothing can deter you from the siren call of a bowl of exquisitely-prepared broth and noodles in this Sylvan Thirty restaurant. The tonkotsu bowl (flavorful pork) somehow feels like comfort food, and I’ve never even been to Asia. About $12.

Raspberry Temptress from Lakewood Brewing. It’s mid-August — about as far away as you can get from February, which is when Dallas-based Lake-wood Brewing Co. releases its limited-time-only flavored milk stout for consumption. It’s always an immediate sell-out wherever it’s stocked, so you have to keep your wits about you. Of course, the regular Temptress has the same structure, but the hunt is half the fun of savoring the victory. About $7.

The bakery board at Top Knot. I’m sure it’s a sin for a gay man to love carbs as much as I do, but I make no apologies. And the brunch-only offering of a baked-goods basket at this Uptown eatery — cornbread and kolaches, biscuits and buns — continues to haunt my dreams. $12.

Queso fundido at Komali. Read the story, Page 14.

Calamari at The Capital Grille. Yes, yes, I know it’s a big national chain, but consider: So much calamari is overly greasy, or over-cooked, or chewy-but-flavorless… or worse, these things in term, depending on how the wind blows. But every time, the pan-fried calamari here, with its spicy peppers, is non-greasy, bright, tasty and lovely to look at. Consistently great is awesome when dining out. $16.

The view from Five Sixty by Wolfgang Puck. “The restaurant at the top of Reunion Tower has been, in theory, a draw for decades, but it wasn’t until Wolfgang Puck replaced the previous restaurant with food that was, ya know, edible, that anyone other than tourists, graduating collegians and bougie expense-account businessmen went there voluntarily. And Puck’s food is way more than edible — it’s a delight, with exceptional sushi, a thriving cocktail program and top-notch service. But the nighttime view of North Texas, as it revolves 360 degrees, makes you proud to be a Texan.

The bananas foster bread pudding from Samson’s Gourmet Hot Dogs (food truck and catering). The storefront of Samson’s is no more, but chef Troy Gardner continues to operate his amazing wienerie from the Oak Lawn location for catering and food truck events. And his bread pudding — prepared from unused buns, and drizzled with a sauce that could be added to a federal list of addictive substances — remains one of the best desserts in town. (My obsession with bread pudding continues at Salum as well — see sidebar on Page 18.)

Lockhart Barbecue’s fat-free vegan smoothie (just kidding — its meat). Lockhart is the reason I can’t be a vegan. I don’t blame them, but when you can smoke meat so well that adding sauce seems like an after-thought; when your heart palpitates the closer you get to Bishop Arts; when you revert to grunting as a form of communication just thinking about a piece of butcher paper stained with the flavors of brisket… well then, you’ve created quite a reputation, my friend.

The feeling of Zen I get from shopping at Trader Joe’s. Sometimes, when I’m having a bad day and I need to feel refreshed, I drive down to the TJ on Lower Greenville, and the worries of the world seem to evaporate. It happened to me years ago when I walked into my first Central Market, but that store is so large, you can feel lost. Not so Trader Joe’s, where you can buy individual bottles of beer for $1.09, get very likeable cheap wine, organic chicken, firm tofu and 100 percent cranberry juice and tons of other items that make you feel productive and happy and part of the food community.
family were all visiting, happily chowing down. Bar manager LeAnn Berry’s family was in the same night, surprising her from out of town. But everyone is meant to feel at home.

There have been some adjustments. The couple admits that it took a few months to work out both living and working together.

“We had to find our areas of expertise,” Salinas says. “I used to work in a hotel so I’m very used to that customer experience. So I handle that and the scheduling, the staffing, the tasting. John loves the technology and the ‘big picture’ stuff.”

Attrition among the staff has been minimal and the regulars. But of course they want to expand the family to entice more diners to sample the menu that they have nurtured … and which speaks to the culture they both love. That probably means updating the menu in the fall with more seasonal ingredients (cranberry tacos in November, anyone?). But until then, they just want to enjoy the romance.

Salum: A fresh look and an old favorite

The transfer of ownership of Komali didn’t just give new life to one restaurant, but two. A big reason for the sale was so that chef Abraham Salum could concentrate his energies on his self-named Salum restaurant, which opened in 2005. Eleven years is a long run for any chef-driven concept, but a recent visit shows that the Salum still has the chops as one of the memorable French-style bistros in town.

There are, of course, the bistro classics — staples of the cuisine: A cheese board, for instance, or platter of country pate with cornichon. But Salum modifies the expected with an appetizer of warm Texas chevres, dusted in herbs and served with roasted elephant garlic. Salum humbly underplays his pastry-chef skills, but his bourbon bread pudding belies a deftness with desserts.

He’s perpetually shifting through new entrees monthly, with a few stand-bys recurring (the rack of lamb, happily), but each menu can be a new experience. Last month, the timing was perfect for the fried chicken and the regulars. But of course they want to expand the family to entice more diners to sample the menu that they have nurtured … and which speaks to the culture they both love. That probably means updating the menu in the fall with more seasonal ingredients (cranberry tacos in November, anyone?). But until then, they just want to enjoy the romance.

— A.W.J.
Tasting notes

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This fall is packed with foodie events to put on your calendar. First up will be the return of The Dallas Chocolate Festival, back for its seventh iteration. That’s all a true chocoholic should need to know, but well add that Bissous Bissous Patisserie, Kate Weiser Chocolates, Dallas Caramel Company, Whole Foods Market and more than a dozen more chocolatiers will converge at the Addison Conference Centre on Sept. 10. Tickets are $30 for adults (just $5 for kids!) or $75 for VIP tickets. And who doesn’t wanna be a chocolate VIP? DallasChocolate.org.

Also coming in September is the return of Chefs for Farmers. The three-day event features 60-plus chefs, more than three dozen farmers and artisans plus 50 brewers, distillers and winemakers. It starts Friday, Sept. 23, with a “Crème de la Femme” dinner featuring a meal from six award-winning female chefs; Saturday, Sept. 24 will be the Street Food Night Market in the Design District. And the main event returns to Lee Park on Sunday, Sept. 25, with chefs from Wayward Sons, 18th and Vine, Uchi and more. ChefsForFarmers.com.

In October, the second annual Park & Palate returns to Klyde Warren Park. The fundraiser, benefitting the popular deck park bridging Uptown and Downtown, is a two-day celebration of the Texas culinary scene with chefs, mixologists, brewers and winemakers. Friday, Oct. 21’s evening event, Down to the Roots — chaired by Dean Fearing — is already a sell-out, but Saturday’s Grand Tast — hosted by Kent Rathbun and including Jermaine Brown (Julia Pearl), Omar Flores Casa Rubia), Brian Luscher (The Grape and Luscher’s Red Hots) and others — are still available. Learn more and get tickets at ParkAndPalate.org.

Beyond this fall, though, a lot more is happening. Next year, Istanbul Grill, the Mediterranean restaurant that has been a staple in Arlington, will be opening a second location in Fort Worth in February. The new addition to Sundance Square, which will be on the ground floor of the Cassidy Building at 401 Throckmorton St., will serve lamb, eggplant, hummus, falafel and other Middle Eastern favorites.

The Food Issue

John Tesar is expanding his beefy burger empire. Riffing off his Knife steakhouse concept in The Highland hotel, he will open Knife Burger in Plano, opening about a year from now. The plan is a fast-casual version of his signature gourmet burgers will open at the Legacy West development, which is now under construction. Also opening in the development with be the first Dean & Deluca to open in Texas. The staple shop in New York City is a unique cross-section of gourmet groceries and epicurean-centric home goods.

PIE A LA MODE | The fruit pie designed Savor Gastropub pastry chef Julie Vorce will be featured at the Park and Palate event at Klyde Warren Park in October. Guests at the launch party voted it their favorite dessert. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)
Sissy’s fried chicken. Brined in buttermilk and pressure fried to a darker-than-you’d-think café au lait that’s as crisp as a dress shirt straight from the dry cleaners, a bucket of Lisa Garza’s homestyle chicken is comfort food extraordinaire. $25 for a 10-pc. mixed bucket.

Warm salsa at Mercado Juarez Cafe. I’ve never quite gotten over the idea of serving salsa not just hot (picante) but warm (calida). That impressed me when I first went to Mercado Juarez not long after moving to Dallas, and has stuck with me over the years.

Sea bass at Steel, pictured. I swore off sea bass for a few years when its sustainability was in question, but now that is has roared back, my preparation of choice is the delicate, smartly-flavored version at Steel: Warm, tender, spiced with a miso glaze and wasabi sauce. $16–$36.

Pupusas at Gloria’s. Simplicity should not spell a lack of creativity when it comes to food. In fact, look back through this list, and you’ll see a common thread is the ease with which seemingly prosaic dishes are elevated by the alchemy of ordinary ingredients coming together in exceptional ways. Perhaps the simplest of all is the one I’ve had, hands-down, more than any other: the pupusas at Gloria’s. I cannot think of a time in the last 22 years I have been in and not reveled in this pocket of flour and cheese (add some pork if you’re up for it), pan-fried and delivered up like an offering: “We are amazing, thank you for appreciating us.” $3 each.

The bacon cupcake at Zephyr Bakery Cafe. The newest of the items that make Dallas a great foodie town is the cupcake at Zephyr that has a piece of bacon on it. With Aug. 20 being National Bacon Lovers’ Day (see sidebar below), it seemed appropriate to include this best of bad-for-you proteins, combined with buttercream and gluten, as our most indulgent delight.
Friday 08.26

Throwing Shade podcasters Erin and Bryan return to Texas

For a while now, Bryan Safi and Erin Gibson have gotten together once a week to share their insights into issues that affects women and gays and give them, as they say, “much less respect than they deserve.” The popular Throwing Shade podcast is one of the sassiest in podcast, and you can see the duo for their live show, which returns to Dallas’ on the 26th. It’s dishy, hilarious, up-to-the-minute ... and very gay.

DEETS: Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. Doors at 8 p.m., curtain at 9 p.m. $17. ThrowingShade.com.

Sunday 08.21

Have your Summer Chill with the Honey Pot folks in this month’s mixer Escape to Bear Island

Honey Pot has been a recurring quarterly dance party and mixer for the gay community for a few years, and the latest might be the biggest yet, as the cute and hirsute gather for an afternoon of music (first from DJ Benson Wilder, then DJ Matt Effect), drinks, dancing and fun. It’s all part of the Bear Island Weekend of events at the Round-Up taking place Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Proceeds from Sunday’s event benefit the Resource Center.

DEETS: The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 3–8 p.m. $5 suggested donation.
Calendar Highlights

**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**


*One Man, Two Guvnors.* Recent Tony host James Corden shot to fame in the original production of this madcap comedy, and now former Dallasite (and current Broadway star) Brian Gonzales takes over the role of a man trying to hide the fact he is working for two different men, with equally different agendas. A regional premiere based on Goldoni’s commedia dell’arte masterpiece. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug 28. WaterTowerTheatre.org.


***CIRCUS***


**FINE ART**

*Vermeer Suite: Music in 17th Century Dutch Painting.* A lovely original Vermeer is among the seven paintings in this intimate exhibit exploring themes in Dutch art. Final weekend. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. DMA.org.


**FRIDAY 08.19**

**COMMUNITY**

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

**FILM**

*Multiple Maniacs.* A restored print of John Waters’ 1972 debut, a grotesque assortment of mailings, mayhem and Sister Helen Holy (aka comedian Paul J. Williams) spreads her patented form of salvation in a two-night-only comedy show, benefiting Legacy Counseling Center.

SATURDAY 08.20
COMMUNITY
Gaybingo. This month’s these: Flame Games. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. $25–$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

THEATER

SUNDAY 08.21
COMMUNITY
Honey Pot Summer Chill: Escape to Bear Island. The bear mixer returns, with proceeds benefiting Resource Center. DJ Benson Wilder and DJ Matt Effect spin. The Round-Up Saloon, 3412 Cedar Springs Road. 3–8 p.m. $5 suggested donation at the door.

MONDAY 08.22
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 08.23
FILM
Fantastic Voyage. Isaac Asimov’s best sci-fi novel brought vividly to life in this slightly corny but still delightfully fantasy about a team of scientists miniaturized and sent into the body of a dying man to perform micro-surgery. Raquel Welch never looked more stunning. 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.

WEDNESDAY 08.24
THEATER

THURSDAY 08.25
CABARET
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist’s weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zipper Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m. Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody’s Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

COMEDY

BROADCAST
RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars. The second season of All Stars kicks off, featuring queens from past seasons vying to be America’s next drag superstar … among them, Dallas’ Alyssa Edwards in the pack. Airs on Logo at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY 08.26
THEATER
An Iliad. Denis O’Hare, the gay Tony Award-winning actor, co-wrote this adaptation of Homer’s classic. Presented in the Black Box at Stage West, 821 Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Aug. 25–Sept. 18. StageWest.org.

COMEDY
Throwing Shade Live. Podcasters Bryan Safi and Erin Gibson take their popular, dishy show on the road for a live performance at Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. Doors 8 p.m., show 9 p.m. $17. ThrowingShade.com.
I get my receipt and turned to leave, and Miss Yoga Pants basic bitch says to me, “I don’t know why you had to honk at me.” I said very calmly, “I honked because you were on your phone and …” Before I could say anything else she yelled, “I was not on my phone!”

Ooh!

I pulled in a deep breath cuz I was about to unleash a good ol’ reading when without missing a beat, her adorable little boy said, “Yes you were, Mommy. You are always on your phone. Just like Daddy always says.” He said it as if he was just stating facts he knew to be true.

She gave him the look — that stare only a mother can give — one that says, “I will end you and erase all clues that you ever existed.” Luckily, the boy was clueless about his mother’s hell-stare. He was too busy touching every one of the pamphlets on the wall that tell you all the ways you can conserve water or who to call if you have a leak. I literally laughed out loud. I did not have to say another word to her. His words were an exclamation point on anything I could have said.

I asked the little boy for a high-five as I walked past him. He jumped up and slapped my hand with his. His mother rolled her eyes and stepped to the window to pay her bill in a huff. It totally made my day… although I did go home and pray for the kid the next day… although I did go home and pray for the kid that was for sure getting some kind of punishment. Even if he wasn’t even aware that he had done anything wrong. Which he hadn’t! Tell the truth and shame the devil!

I love kids, I do, but I am so thankful I don’t have any of my own. Every once in a while I will see a cute kid or see that one of my friends on Facebook post some sweet picture of their happy family and for split seconds I think, maybe we should have a baby. Maybe we should look into adopting. Then I hear a screaming kid in a store or remember that kid’s turn to their mother, Beck. Beck is one of our best friends and is more family to me than most of my blood relatives. She is a single mother who adopted the boys when they were very young and has done an incredible job of providing a stable, nurturing environment for those boys on a teacher’s salary.

OK, one last story about kids then I will never speak of them again. This is a story about my niece Holli. She’s like 20somethings now, so this happened a long-ass time ago. My sister asked if I could watch her baby for a few hours while she and my mother went to the mall or someplace … I don’t remember exactly. Anyhow, Holli was just a baby and so far had only said a version of mama. I brought my friend Lee to keep me company and help out if the kid cried too much. Lee was basically a big kid so I knew it would be fun.

The second my mother and sister left, I went to work on teaching Holli a new word. I was not going to be happy until I got that baby to cuss. I bounced her on my knee and told her to say SHIT! Say SHIT! Shit Shit Shit! But nothing. She just laughed at these two idiots repeating the word Shit over and over again. I don’t know why this was so important to me. It’s so stupid I know. I have always loved it when a kid in a movie cussed. I know it’s very low-brow, but I have always thought that cussing kids were hilarious.

Over the next two-and-a-half hours, we must have said Shit about 10,000 times … and she wouldn’t say it. We started to sing it. SHHHHHIIIIITTTTT! Shitty Shit Shit Shit! SHHHIIIIIIIIIITTTTTT! Nothing. She lost all interest in us and started to play with her toys. She got a little fussy so I gave her a bottle but the whole time I kept saying… say Shit! I gently rocked her to sleep singing Shit little baby, don’t say a Shit. Shits gonna shit you a mocking-shit. She fell asleep and we laid her down on a blanket on the living room floor surrounded by her stuffed animals and toys. She looked so peaceful and sweet.

When my ma and sister got back Holli woke up, and she woke up in a mood. Where was the sweet little baby that fell asleep just a little while before? In her place was an angry mean faced baby with an attitude. She cried, threw her bottle and just seemed pissed off. My mother picked her up and bounced her and rocked her and asked her in the sweetest voice, “What’s wrong wittle gurl?” Holli spit out her bottle my mom gave her and threw it on the floor and said “SHIT!” My mother glared at me with that morn death stare so Lee and I got the hell out of there. Mission accomplished.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.
Making the SCENE the week of Aug. 19–25:

- Alexandre's: K-Marie on Friday and Tuesday. Chris Chism and the band on Saturday and Wednesday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. Ilumin on Thursday.

- Club Changes: Wall of Food Closet Ball at 9 p.m. on Saturday.

- Club Reflection: Alana Summers hosts 80s Night costume contest with Jessica Merlot, Mattress Budde and Stexy Summers at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Texas Gay Rodeo Association presents Ropin and Wranglin with Selena Whorez, Tamra Kelley, Jeff McGuire and Dalton Murphy. Lux Bentley emcees at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

- Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Evening of Tropical Delight fundraiser for AIDS Services Dallas at 8 p.m. on Friday. MasT Dallas meeting from 1:30-4 p.m. on Saturday. DFW Leather Corps club night on Saturday. Beyond Vanilla presents Pup Races from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. Beat the Heat Underwear Party with DJ Benson at 10 p.m. on Saturday.

- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show with Fantasha, Athena, Rocky T and Raquel on Monday.

- Liquid Zoo: has moved to 2506 Knight St.

- Marty's Live: Chad Michaels meet and greet also with Nicole O’Hara Munro. Raquel Blaire, Layla Edwards, Sassy O’Hara and DJ Mike James. Doors at 9 p.m., show at midnight and photo shoot after show on Friday.

- Rainbow Lounge: The Peep Show starring Frida Monet at 9 p.m. on Friday.

- Round-Up Saloon: Honey Pot Summer Chill featuring DJ Benson Wilder at 3 p.m. and DJ Matt Effect at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

- S4: Purple Spin Party on Friday and GayBingo on Saturday.

- Sue Ellen's: Panty Raid on Friday. Filter Kings on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3:30 and Scotty Isaacs at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

- The Rose Room: Voice of Pride Finals at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

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

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood

Friends at S4.
Mike and Joan at Zippers.
Having a laugh at the Round Up Saloon.
Fun Night Out at JR.’s Bar & Grill.
Petey at Grapevine.
Friends at Sue Ellen’s
Lambda Legal’s Landmark Dinner

Photos courtesy Barb Nunn/2nd2Nunn Photography
Guys’ night out at the Tin Room.

Friends at S4.

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Solution on page 23

Across
1. Slang for vagina
5. Barneys event
9. Refrain from using the tongue
13. Shirley’s la Douce role
14. Zip
15. Northern metropolis
16. Positions for Patty Sheehan
17. Took one’s turn
18. Top priority of a top
19. Where Old Man River makes deposits
21. 2015 Tomlin movie
23. 1984 Tomlin movie
26. Mag. execs
27. Reined in
29. Bannon of lesbian pulp fiction
32. Put the top on the cake
33. Paper doll
34. Double curve in a pipe
50. Tomlin’s role in a Netflix comedy series
55. Tomlin was in this TV show hosted by Rowan & Martin
59. Susan’s Thelma and Louise partner
61. Disney pictures
62. Tomlin’s role in a Netflix comedy series
64. Tomlin was in this TV show hosted by Rowan & Martin
66. V erlaine
67. You may go down on one
69. Scout’s promise to be “morally straight”
70. Groups of games, to Mauresmo

Down
1. Baba Wawa portrayer Radner
2. Moon of Uranus
3. Cakes and ___
4. “Big Boned Gal” singer
5. “Climb Ev’ry Mountain” peak
6. Head turners?
7. Mother of Brothers & Sisters
8. Tomlin’s role in a Netflix comedy series
22. Expand upon
24. Make messy
25. Becomes hard
28. “Dancing Queen” band
30. Tom or dick, but not hairy
38. “Climb Ev’ry Mountain” peak
40. Butt heads
41. River of Ulrichs’ country
43. Abe Lincoln’s boy
44. Window piece
45. Mosque leader
46. Water-to-wine town
47. “Great balls of fire!”
50. Tomlin in 1984 Tomlin movie
51. Toward shelter
52. Carolyn who wrote about a Nancy
53. Coastal recess
54. Tomlin, who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from SAG
55. Toward shelter
57. Annapolis inst.
58. Mother of Brothers & Sisters
59. “Dancing Queen” band
60. Ingrid in Casablanca
61. Temporary superstar
62. Doc for lions and tigers and bears
63. What hangs from a Cuban
64. Disney pictures
65. Do a banker’s job
70. Groups of games, to Mauresmo
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