

daily voice

The Premier Media Source

ed 1984 | Volume 31 | Issue 17 | FREE | Friday, September 2, 2016

Back to *school*

Brite Divinity tacking LGBT issues

by David Taffet, Page 8



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Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown announces his retirement

Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown announced his retirement on Thursday, Sept. 1, less than two months after an assassin killed five police officers and wounded five other officers and two civilians.



Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown

In the aftermath of the shooting, Brown spoke about each police officer being asked to do more things than any person is capable of doing. He will be remembered by his officers for serenading them with Stevie Wonder lyrics at a memorial service. President Barack Obama, who attended the service with the first lady and the Bidens and the Bushes, told Brown he was glad he met Michelle first because she loves Stevie Wonder.

Brown gave no reason for his retirement from DPD, but talked about the fallen officers in his letter announcing that he is stepping down. A month earlier, Brown attended a rally at Resource Center and spoke to 1,000 people mourning the victims of the Pulse massacre in Orlando.

Brown has served in the Dallas Police Department for 33 years; his retirement is effective Oct. 22.

— David Taffet

Trump campaign disavows Oak Lawn-based PAC

The Donald Trump campaign filed paperwork this week disavowing any connection with Ian Hawes or the American Horizons PAC. The address listed for the PAC is 3824 Cedar Springs Road, which is the UPS Store. The box number is 801-4905.

Hawes is promising that people who contribute will be entered into a drawing to have dinner with Trump.

The Trump committee filed a report “to disavow the below mentioned committee which appears to

be using Donald J. Trump’s name, image, likeness, or slogans in connection with soliciting contributions and conducting other activities.”

The Trump filing claims Hawes’ activities are not authorized by Trump or his committee and that contributions made through the PAC are not being made to the Trump campaign.

According to The Center for Responsive Politics in Washington, D.C., American Horizons reported taking in \$349,958 and had spent \$261,760 in its latest report dated June 30. Donors who gave more than \$200 are listed. Few are from Texas.

In 2010, when Hawes was 19, he was arrested in Maryland for theft of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 for which he was given probation.

The UPS Store has no information about anyone associated with the listed box number.

— David Taffet

Paxton sues Waller County over licensed carry ban

As if he weren’t busy enough suing the federal government, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton managed to make time to sue one of his own state’s 254 counties, defending people’s right to carry guns in government offices.

Paxton sent out a press release today bragging that he has sued Waller County “to bring it into compliance with the state’s licensed carry laws.”

According to the press release, Paxton “gave Waller County final notice to comply with the law” on

Aug. 10. When county officials refused to give in, Litigious Ken (I’m borrowing from the Donald Trump playbook and giving him a catchy nickname) decided to sue. (Last week, in announcing that he had filed suit against the federal government over HHS regulations banning discrimination against transgender people in health care, Paxton noted it was his 13th lawsuit, in less than 2 years, against the federal government.)

Paxton’s press release notes that the lawsuit “requires [Waller] county to allow citizens to lawfully carry firearms in areas of the Waller County Courthouse that contain non-judicial county administrative offices, such as the county clerk, county treasurer and county elections offices, as the law requires.”

Let me take a moment to remind you all that the man who is so diligently demanding that Waller County follow the law has already been fined by the Texas State Securities Board, in 2014, for failing to disclose that he had been paid to solicit investment clients on behalf of a firm that was paying him a commission, and now faces additional state and federal securities fraud charges. Apparently he’s the only person allowed to flout the law because he doesn’t feel like honoring it.

I will give him this, though: Paxton isn’t demanding that Waller County do anything he isn’t willing to do (except, you know, obey the law). I called and checked, and his office in Austin allows those with licenses to carry to bring their guns into his offices.

— Tammye Nash



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THE GAY AGENDA

Obituary



Hector Alberto Casares, 37, passed away Aug. 27 in Dallas.

He received a B.A. in Business Administration from UT Brownsville in 2009. For the last three years, he worked for AT&T in Dallas.

Hector enjoyed the outdoors — as long as it wasn't too hot — and he enjoyed hanging out by the pool most of all. He was always there for his friends and would help them out when they needed him. He loved to joke around, but the one thing he didn't allow was someone touching his hair.

Hector also loved sitting in the parlor bar at The Round-Up and listening to Latino music on the jukebox, ignoring the stares from those who came in to listen to country-western.

A funeral was held Aug. 31 in Brownsville. A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 16, at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

pet of the week / PANCHO

Pancho, a schnauzer mix, is about 7 years old and weighs only about 15 pounds. He was transferred to Operation Kindness from a local shelter and is a great little guy looking for a home and unconditional love, love he will return in kind. Come meet Pancho and give him the home he deserves.

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



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- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is **Sharon Fein of Ed-U-Care; 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 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.

SEPTEMBER

- **Sept. 2-5: Splash Days**

Splash Days, the annual Labor Day end-of-summer LGBT 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.

- **Sept. 4: Broadway Brunch**

Leslie McDonel performs to benefit 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.

- **Sept. 8: Business Connections Mixer**

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce mixer at 5:30-7 p.m. at Souk at Trinity Groves, 3011 Gulden Lane Suite 114. Free. \$20 for nonmembers.

- **Sept. 9: Reception for Todd Scoggins**

Farewell reception from 5-8 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Sept. 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.

- **Sept. 9: High Tech Happy Hour**

TI Pride Network, Texas Instruments' LGBTQ

employee diversity group, hosts High Tech Happy Hour, open to everyone, at Sushi Zushi — West Village, 3636 McKinney Ave., Ste. 150. For information email pavw@ti.com.

- **Sept. 9: 50 Shades of Gay speed dating mixer**

Real Live Connection presents a speed dating mixer for gbt men as a benefit for the LGBTQ teen organization from 6-9 p.m. at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. No cover.

- **Sept. 9: Gray Pride**

Dr. Pravin Khemani of UT Southwestern discusses Parkinson's Disease at 6 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Sept. 9-10: The art of Jack Evans**

Ilume Gallery stages its 100th show: a retrospective of the art work and mementos from the life of Jack Evans from 6-8 p.m. at ilume Gallery, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. The show continues through Sept. 17.

- **Sept. 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.

- **Sept. 10: Reconciling Potluck**

Reconciling ministries hosts a potluck at 6:30 p.m. On Sept. 10 at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

- **Sept. 11: Politics and Drag**

Rainbow LULAC, HRC, Red and Stonewall Democrats present a political party hosted by Miss Red Foundation Raquel Blake with voter registration, HIV testing, food, drinks and special guests from 5-8 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

- **Sept. 15: East Texas Stonewall Democrats**

Election planning and talking points will be discussed at the new group's first meeting in Ben Wheeler.

- **Sept. 16: 8th Annual Red Party**

Dallas Red Foundation presents recording artist J Sutta perform at the annual party that benefits Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage from 8-11 p.m. at Sixty Five Hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. \$49.

- **Sept. 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



Broadway actress Leslie McDonel performs Sunday, Sept. 4, in the Broadway Brunch at Texas Discovery Gardens in Fair Park. The event benefits AIDS Services of Dallas. Check the Gay Agenda listings for details.

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.

- **Sept. 16: After Dark**

Drinks, divas and desserts with wine tastings and dessert stations benefiting the Turtle Creek Chorale from 8-11 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves. \$75. TurtleCreekChorale.com/after-dark.

- **Sept 16-18: Literary Soul Symposium**

This year's theme is Using Literature as Building Blocks for Growth. Authors and presenters from L.A., Houston, San Francisco, Dallas and elsewhere. Friday from 7-9 p.m. at Checkered Past Winery, 4901 S. Lamar St. Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 Fitzhugh Ave. Sunday closing brunch from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ziziki's, 4514 Travis St. # 122. Register at literarysoulsymposium.myevent.com.

- **Sept. 16-24: 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. UptownPlayers.org.

- **Sept. 17: Pride and Fabulous 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.

- **Sept. 17: Teen Pride**

Teen Pride: A Celebration for All, for LGBTQ youth ages 13-19, takes place from 2-7 p.m., at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. Includes youth speakers, an open mic, culture show-and-tell, a live game show, free food, an art competition (email art@rlc365.org for details), entertainment, prizes, games and more. Admission is free for LGBTQ youth and allies, with a suggested \$5 donation for adults accompanying youth. For information call 469-666-REAL or email pr@rlc365.org.

- **Sept. 18: Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**

Steps off at 2 p.m. at Cedar Springs Road at Wycliff Avenue. The route continues down Cedar Springs to Turtle Creek Blvd., then west to Maple Ave.

- **Sept. 18: Festival in the Park**

The festival takes place from noon-7 p.m. in Reverchon Park, 3500 Maple Ave. \$10. Children 12 and under free.



The Rev. Steve Sprinkle, left, and six of the students taking his class: Christian Briones, Tim Schaefer, Matt Pargeter, Jeff Spangler, Kris Cervantes and Lori Mack

Back to school

Brite Divinity School tackles a subject few others touch: Ministry in the LGBT community

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Rev. Steve Sprinkle is teaching a class entitled Ministry in the LGBT Community this semester at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth. That alone might set Brite apart from other schools training people in ministry; more surprising is the fact that Sprinkle actually began teaching this course 17 years ago.

But what set this semester apart is how the popularity of the class has soared. Registration kept growing at such a rate that the school several times had to reassign it to ever-larger rooms.

Ironically, the class first met the same week

Campus Pride released its “Shame List” of the 102 most anti-LGBT schools across the country. Nine Texas colleges made the list — and most were divinity schools around the state, including Criswell College on Gaston Avenue in Dallas.

Brite Dean Joretta Marshall said this week that Sprinkle’s class is one of several on sexuality the school offers. The purpose is to train students how to be a minister in a complex world, she said. Race, class and gender issues are all connected, she noted, and all are issues Brite students will face eventually, whether they go into ministry, into academics or into the field of nonprofits.

In surveys, Marshall said, some students from mainline denominations say they can’t take these issues back to their congregations. She said some of them object to the course because they feel they need to be talking about other issues.

But this course, Marshall said, is quite practical. Its goal is to prepare ministers to provide ministry and pastoral care to LGBT people and to be leaders

in discussions on LGBT issues.

The class includes both straight and LGBT students, and each student seems to have different expectations about what they want to get from the class. What they have in common is an excitement about the course. Seven of them gathered after Brite’s convocation ceremony this week to talk about it.

Christian Briones is director of student ministries at a Methodist church in Fort Worth and a Brite Masters of Divinity student. He described himself as “fit[ting] into sexual norms.” But he said he took the class because, “I want to be more exposed to how my sexuality contributes to marginalization.”

Travis Cummings, a divinity student who’s a member of Cathedral of Hope, called the class an eye-opener. It focuses, he said, on “what they weren’t allowed to teach in high school.”

Kris Cervantes, a Unitarian Universalist minister in Waco, said she gets little support from other pastors in her city when trying to address LGBT issues.

“I want to know how to be the ally who leads,” she said, explaining why she’s taking Sprinkle’s class.

Lori Mack describes herself as a “recovering criminal attorney,” now working at a Disciples of Christ Church in Fort Worth. In her previous religious experiences, she said, “I was hearing spiritually dangerous concepts.” She calls herself an ally of the LGBT community and is taking the class to learn theological reasonings to use in religious conversations on LGBT issues.

Student Tim Schaefer is following in the footsteps of his father, Frank Schaefer, the Methodist minister who was initially defrocked but finally exonerated for performing the ceremony at Tim’s marriage to another man.

“I want the church at large to see the harm done,” Tim Schaefer said. “I hope to get a strong theological case to minister.”

The students agreed that while some of the issues have changed, there will always be a need for this class.

When the class began 17 years ago, more of the focus was on ministering to people with AIDS. As new drugs were developed and HIV became a much more manageable disease, other issues arose. For some, especially the students affiliated with the

Messing added to Black Tie Dinner lineup

Black Tie Dinner this week announced that Emmy Award-winning actress Debra Messing will receive the Media Award at the 35th annual dinner, being held Oct. 1 at Sheraton Dallas Hotel. Messing has starred in numerous films throughout her career, but is perhaps most well known for her TV rolls in *Will & Grace* and *Smash*. She is also a long-time advocate for the LGBT community, having declared that securing LGBT equality is part of her life's mission. Black Tie Co-Chair Nathan Robbins said, "We are delighted and thrilled to honor Debra Messing at this year's dinner," adding that her participation in the event rounds out an all-star evening that includes actress Connie Britton, singer Deborah Cox, singer/dancer Todrick Hall and Kuchling Award recipient Dr. Steven Pounders. Tickets are available at BlackTie.org.



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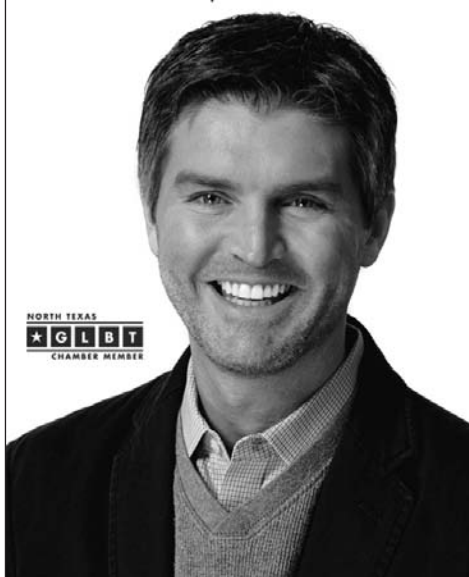
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Methodist church, marriage equality is still an important issue in the ongoing debate.

Mack said the Sunday after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision affirming marriage equality nationwide, she was horrified by the sermon she heard. Her pastor took the case to a spiritual level, she said, and she felt like she was the only person in the room who disagreed.

But for others, like Cummings, that's a settled issue.

They agreed the marginalization and exclusion of trans people, especially as young adults, is something churches must address. Some religious groups are claiming employment discrimination against transgender people as a religious right. Some students in the class want to discuss how discrimination in employment and housing simply aren't Christian values.

"At Brite, we should be at the forefront of social justice issues," Cervantes said, and Briones deplored the use of the Bible as a weapon against minorities.

Matt Pargeter recalled his admissions interview, in which he and his husband both spoke with Marshall. He said she naturally included his husband in the conversation and was interested in how each of them answered. Pargeter he has always known that his husband would be part of his career, wherever it leads him, but Brite has been the only school to acknowledge that and engage them as a couple.

Schaefer had a similar experience. When he was looking for seminaries, he said, there were only a handful he could even consider. He said he met and married his husband in Massachusetts, but when he settled on attending Brite, he had to bring



Brite Dean Joretta Marshall

his Texan husband back to Fort Worth kicking and screaming.

Sprinkle said when Brite was founded in 1914 and located on the Texas Christian University campus, it was chartered as a separate institution from TCU. "L. C. Brite established [it as] a separate school that wouldn't be swayed by a liberal college," he explained.

Brite is a Disciples of Christ seminary, but is approved by the United Methodist Church to its prepare students for ordination. Disciples of Christ voted to affirm LGBT people in all areas of church life in 2013, but doesn't dictate policy to its congregations. Midway Hills Christian Church in Dallas belongs to the denomination, has a gay pastor —

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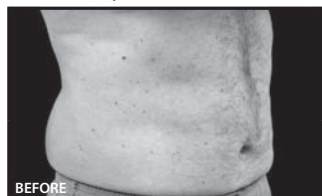
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GLBT Chamber holds business equality conference



North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce CEO Tony Vedda, left, and State Rep. Rafael Anchia

Four Texas chambers join forces
to stage conference in Dallas

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Two presidential appointees and a state representative are among the speakers scheduled to appear at the Business Equality Conference, being presented Friday, Sept. 9 in Dallas by four Texas' LGBT chambers of commerce.

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce CEO Tony Vedda said that because not everyone can take off a week and travel out of state to attend a conference, he wanted to bring some of the information he's gotten at recent national chamber conferences back to share with his colleagues here in Texas. And LGBT chambers in Austin, San Antonio and Houston have signed on to help with the effort.

The conference begins with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Vedda said that allows people plenty of time to grab a quick flight in to Dallas from anywhere around the state.

State Rep. Rafael Anchia will talk about legislative activities. Two presidential appointees — Small Business Association Regional Administrator Yolanda Garcia Olivarez and SBA Assistant Administrator Eugene Cornelius — will discuss the president's initiative to engage with more LGBT businesses.

The SBA is set to sign a memorandum of understanding with the North Texas Chamber out-

lining how the two organizations can work together, and SBA representatives will hold two breakout sessions during the afternoon.

One will concentrate on tools for success, including accessing SCORE volunteers who mentor aspiring entrepreneurs. The other will focus on access to capital for small businesses.

Other sessions will focus on issues, including how to get business certifications. The GLBT Chamber offers LGBT certification, but business attendees might also qualify for minority-owned, women-owned, veteran or disability certification.

Another breakout session will focus on creating a welcoming environment for transgender employees.

Vedda said an attorney whose practice focuses on doing business with the government will discuss understanding government contracts.

At the closing session, Texas Association of Business President Chris Wallace will speak about the upcoming legislative session and discuss how anti-LGBT legislation is bad for business.

Vedda said Texas is fortunate to have four active LGBT chambers, while many states still have none.

"Our ability to work together on programming like this makes us stronger," Vedda said. "It helps us all advance our mission to achieve equality through business."

The Business Equality Conference takes place 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Sept. 9 at UNT Dallas School of Law, 1901 Main St. \$35 for chamber members. \$45 general admission.



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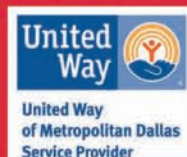
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A photograph of two men, an older white man and a younger Asian man, both smiling and wearing formal attire (suits and bow ties). They are seated in an audience, with other people visible in the background.

The report highlights “isolation, discrimination and health disparities” that older LGBT people face, and indicates that the aging LGBT

Dallas Senior Affairs Commissioner Cannon Flowers and his husband Rafiq Saleh-Flowers.





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population likely faces a higher prevalence of mental health problems, disability and disease and physical limitations than does the older heterosexual population.

(For the purposes of the report — “LGBT Aging: A Review of Research Findings, Needs and Policy Implications,” by Soon Kyu Choi and Ilan H Meyer — LGBT older adults “include the population of sexual and gender minorities over the age of 50.”)

The report estimates that there are more than 2.4 million LGBT older adults in the U.S. today, and that this number will double by the year 2030. Flowers, however, notes that other researcher put the current population at 5 million to 6 million.

“So much has changed since the last census in 2010,” Flowers said. “In that census, they only asked if you lived in a same-sex household. There were probably a lot of people who [didn’t identify as lesbian or gay] because they were afraid to come out. I think a lot of people are more comfortable being out now.”

But, he added, the question on living in a same-sex household would miss many bisexual and transgender people altogether, so “we really have no idea how large that population is.”

The report found that LGBT older adults face a number of social disparities, including barriers to receiving formal health care and social support that heterosexual and cisgender seniors don’t have to deal with. LGBT older adults also often avoid or delay health care, and when they

do seek care, they hide their sexual orientation or gender identity from their doctors and social service providers out of fear of discrimination.

LGBT older adults also have fewer options for “informal care” than their straight, cisgender counterparts. LGBT seniors are more likely to be single or living alone, and less likely to have children to care for them as they age. But the report notes “resilient LGBT older adults often rely on ‘families of choice,’ LGBT community organizations and affirmative religious groups” for the care and help they need.

Lifetime disparities in earnings, employment and opportunities to build savings, coupled with discriminatory access to legal and social programs that traditionally are there to assist older people, leave LGBT older adults at greater risk for financial instability and often facing greater legal issues. These LGBT seniors have also spent their lives dealing with — and continue to deal with — discrimination, including physical and verbal abuse, and they often face discrimination — less housing availability, higher prices, etc. — when searching for retirement housing.

The report notes that along with higher rates of mental and physical illness and disability among all LGBT seniors, transgender older adults in particular face higher risks for poor physical health, disability and depressive symptoms, many of which are associated with experiences of victimization and stigma.

LGBT older adults tend to engage more in risky behaviors, like smoking and excessive

drinking, and are more likely to engage in unsafe sex. But LGBT seniors also get tested for HIV at a higher rate than their straight, cisgender counterparts.

While LGBT older adults as a whole in general have worse health issues than non-LGBT cisgender seniors, LGBT seniors with HIV fare worse than the LGBT older adult population as a whole. They tend to have worse overall mental and physical health, higher rates of disability and poorer health outcomes, along with a higher likelihood of experiencing stressors and barriers to care than HIV-negative LGBT seniors.

The Williams Institute report calls for probability-based studies to “accurately characterize” the older LGBT population, and for more research into subgroups within the LGBT community. It also points out the need for more comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and policies, and expansions of the definition of family to include families of choice.

Finally, the report calls for LGBT older adults to be specifically recognized in the Older Americans Act as a “greatest social need group.” It is a recommendation that Flowers whole-heartedly supports.

“How do we get LGBT people and certain other marginalized groups recognized in the Older Americans Act? That’s the big question here,” Flowers said. “That’s one of the reasons, one of the main reasons, [Dallas City Councilwoman Tiffinni A. Young] appointed me to the

city’s Commission on Senior Affairs — to help make that change happen.”

The Older Americans Act, originally enacted in 1965, supports a range of home and community-based services — such as meals-on-wheels, in-home services, transportation services, legal services, elder abuse prevention and caregivers support.

Flowers said he and other LGBT aging advocates “have been trying to work with the Williams Institute since 2011, asking for them to address aging issues. They are very well respected, and I am just thrilled to see them address these issues now and create this report.”

This report, he said, “is a first step” in gathering the data necessary to garner funding for further research and services. “It’s a huge step to have them confirming what we’ve been saying for awhile now.”

Flowers noted that LGBT youth have been the focus on much attention and research, and that more and more services and programs are being created to address their needs. He hopes to see similar attention paid to LGBT seniors, and to the community as a whole.

“We want to see the youth taken care of, and we want to see the LGBT seniors taken care of — it’s the whole village,” he said. “And we hope that people will start to pay attention to the importance of interaction between the youth and the older adults. There is huge value, huge benefit in that intergenerational interaction. We can all learn so much from each other.” ■

Peter A. Schulte Attorney at Law

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BUSINESS BRIEF

Dallas attorney **Caleb Patterson** recently announced the formation of his own law firm, Patterson Law Firm, PLLC, and noted that he will be focusing on transactional matters in the field of family and estate planning, employment law, small businesses and LGBT issues.

Patterson graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arkansas Law School in 2007, and has spent most of his career since in Dallas, focusing on employment law matters. He has worked for Gardere Wynne Sewell, Ogletree Deakins and, most recently, for Littler Mendelson, all of which are large law firms. He also spent two years in Houston — mid-2013-mid-2015 — practicing family law with a small firm.

Patterson is a member of Lambda Legal's Cooperating Attorney Network, and has been a member of Lambda Legal's Leadership Council since January of this year. For information call 469-751-8565.



SCHOOL From Page 9

a Brite alum — and hosted P-FLAG when the Dallas chapter was founded in 1990.

The United Methodist Church has been struggling with the issue of marriage equality, but congregations like Oak Lawn UMC and Northaven UMC count quite a few LGBT people among their members.

Brite's programs are also recognized by the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, the Metropolitan Community Church, the Alliance of Baptists and others for training their ministers as well.

Sprinkle said when he was applying to schools at a student in the 1970s, he wouldn't have considered Brite for himself. In 1989, however, the school hired Leo Perdue as its dean. Perdue was committed to diversity, actively recruiting a racially diverse student body and a good mix of men and women. Among his newly hired faculty was Sprinkle, an openly gay Baptist minister. Perdue hired women, blacks, a Korean-Asian and even a Jewish faculty member.

The school continued to march in its own direction when, in 2012, it hired Joretta Marshall, who is a lesbian, as executive vice president and dean. Among other LGBT staff members are Cathedral of Hope's former senior pastor, the Rev. Jo Hudson, as an adjunct professor, and Roger Wedell, former director of Legal Hospice of Texas who has served as pastor at Midway Hills, as a program manager.

And as diverse as the school is and as well rep-

resented as the LGBT community is, Marshall said, "We don't always know how to cross diversities."

Explaining her vision for Sprinkle's course, Marshall said it isn't about sex. "It's about giving a broader scope," she said. "How do we live together in the world? How do I live in ministry with people I disagree with?"

Support for the class extends to Brite President Newell Williams. During his convocation speech, he referred to it and to the need for classes like this: "Irrational fears of LGBT people have resulted in violence," he said.

Sprinkle understands the complexity of what his class is trying to accomplish. He said he hopes to give students ammunition to explain Biblical texts that have been used as weapons against the LGBT community.

He also wants students to leave with an understanding of issues facing the LGBT people that will be in their future congregations. He'd like his students to have the tools they need to help find the resources to help LGBT people they'll minister to. And most important, he believes good clergy are leaders, and he wants to instill in them the knowledge they need to be leaders on LGBT issues.

And what would his students like from him? After talking for almost two hours about those same ideas, they had one last message for their professor.

"Tell Dr. Sprinkle to give us all A's," they agreed. ■

Nice rear end...



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RIGHTS, From Previous Page

was signed into law in March. The law has three parts: Part 1, which restricts how transgender people can access public bathrooms; Part 2, which prohibits local non-discrimination laws against sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination by public contractors; and Part 3, which prohibits local non-discrimination laws against sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination in public accommodations.

A trial on those challenges to the law is set for November, and three transgender plaintiffs at the University of North Carolina sought an injunction at that school to retain the pre-HB2 status quo until the court can rule on the overall lawsuit.

On Aug. 26, U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder, an appointee of President George W. Bush, issued a preliminary injunction against enforcement of Part 1 (regarding bathroom access). Schroeder noted that "no party has indicated that the pre-HB2 legal regime posed a significant privacy or safety threat to anyone in North Carolina, transgender or otherwise." Therefore, he said, his injunction simply returns to the pre-HB2 scheme until the court can rule whether Title IX's prohibition on discrimination based on "sex" includes "gender identity."

Schroeder said the transgender plaintiffs challenging HB2 "have made a clear showing that they are likely to succeed on their claim" that the bathroom access portion of the HB2 violates Title IX. And he noted that existing state laws that prohibit people from indecently exposing themselves to others or peeping into or entering a bathroom designated for someone of the opposite sex are "straightforward and uncontroversial."

"For transgender users, however, it is not clearly so," wrote Schroeder, and most appear to have been accommodated at educational institutions on a case-by-case basis, "with educational institutions generally permitting them to use bathrooms and other facilities that correspond with their gender identity. ..."

He went on to note that the state had "not offered any evidence whatsoever" to illustrate any problems with the existing means of accommodating transgender persons. "Rather," he added, "on the current record, it appears that some transgender individuals have been quietly using facilities corresponding with their gender identity and that, in recent years, state educational institutions have been accommodating such students where possible."

Lambda Legal and other groups challenging HB2 have said they will ask the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to extend that injunction to apply to all transgender people in North Carolina.

In other transgender litigation:

- Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has filed yet another lawsuit against a pro-LGBT policy of the Obama administration. On Aug. 23, he filed a complaint with the U.S. District Court for Northern Texas, challenging a new Health and Human Services regulation that interprets the word "sex" to include gender iden-

tity. On Aug. 21, in another Paxton-led lawsuit, a federal judge granted a temporary order blocking the Obama administration from taking any action against states that refuse to comply with its guidelines concerning treatment of transgender students in federally funded schools.

- On Aug. 16, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts rejected a request by lawyers for a school district in Virginia to extend the deadline for their petition of appeal. In that case, *Gloucester v. Grimm*, the school district



Texas AG Ken Paxton

seeks to overturn a federal appeals court decision that said the Title IX prohibition of discrimination "on the basis of sex" in schools includes discrimination based on the gender with which a student identifies. In the petition it filed Monday, Aug. 29, the Gloucester School Board said the high court should hear the case to resolve "the current nationwide controversy" over transgender access to bathrooms.

- On Aug. 15, a federal magistrate judge in Chicago heard arguments on preliminary issues in a lawsuit by parents and students at a Cook County high school who want to block a transgender female student from using the girls' locker room and girls' restrooms. The case, *Students and Parents for Privacy v. U.S. Department of Education*, is awaiting a trial before a federal judge for the Northern District of Illinois. The magistrate will recommend to that judge whether to grant a preliminary injunction to stop the transgender student's access until after the trial.

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■ commUNITY voices

Religion run amok

In the interest of full disclosure, I'm not particularly religious. I'm more philosophical when it comes to higher powers. I'll not bore you with the details of my beliefs, because this isn't the venue and because my beliefs are mine and don't — and shouldn't — affect you.



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

But lately, it seems that some people are trying to use their religion to screw with the constitutionally guaranteed rights of others, like me. And yes, I have a problem with that.

Where this gets dicey is that the right to practice the religion of your choice is also constitutionally protected. And people are surprisingly touchy if you point out the inconsistencies in the book on which their beliefs are based.

The latest assault on common sense comes from our very own Texas Attorney General, Ken Paxton, who campaigned for office partly on a platform of cleaning up corruption. This is the same Ken Paxton who now is facing felony charges of — wait for it — corruption filed by the Securities Exchange Commission.

But Paxton isn't letting his own legal woes get in the way of protecting his fellow Texans from the dangers of legal protections for transgender people.

On Aug. 23, Paxton filed a 79-page complaint in U.S. District Court — after shopping around for a judge likely to be amenable to his claims — that contends that the Affordable Care Act's requirement that healthcare providers offer trans-inclusive services violates the religious freedom of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

How? Really, how?

Tell me, in what possible way could providing me with healthcare of any kind conceivably violate anyone's religious freedom?

Simple answer: It doesn't.

No unless "religious freedom" is really secret code for "I don't feel like it," "I don't want to," or "I disagree with who you are."

But that would never happen with a highly educated healthcare worker ... would it?

That's sixth-grade playground bullshit, right. I mean, in the real world, if someone needs healthcare and you are a healthcare provider, you provide them with the care they need. Period.

Here's a little secret: Paxton and Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick are reading almost word-for-word out of the "5-Point Plan to Legislate Trans People Out of Existence."

This plan was designed by the hate group called the "Family Research Council." FRC and the Al-



liance Defending Freedom are two of the most evil and hateful organizations you will find — at least if you are a trans person.

Just so you'll be able to recognize it in the future, here are the points of the 5-Point Plan, in no particular order:

1. Deny trans people the ability to change their name and gender on legal documents. (Ken and Dan are working on this one.)
2. Deny trans people adequate and appropriate healthcare. (Working on this one, too.)
3. Keep trans people from serving in the military. (Our boys from Texas lost that one!)
4. Prohibit any legal protections against discrimination for trans people and make sure no one is required to respect their identity. (A work in progress.)

And last but not least, 5. Make sure trans people are not legally permitted to use restroom facilities aligning with their gender identity (Apparently, Dan Patrick desperately wants me to pee next to him.)

So, is that what "religion" is all about? Where in the Bible does it say transgender people shouldn't exist and shouldn't have rights equal to everyone else?

Nowhere.

I mean, I don't look to that book for my laws anyway, but if you do, nowhere in it will you find any reason whatsoever you should discriminate against or hate me based on its teachings.

So if you are making laws to try and eliminate a class of people, then shame on you.

When I discuss an issue, I like to try and understand the other side. So imagine this, good Christian person: What if my religion denied you or your child healthcare? Would those be "fightin' words?" They better be, because that would be pretty fucked up:

"Sorry; you and your about-to-burst appendix can take a hike. The God I believe in says you have to play the organs you were dealt. I talked to my God this morning; He wouldn't want me to take it out. Yeah, you might die because of my beliefs, but hey, I also believe there is this really nice country club in the sky you get to go to, so enjoy your tee time at 9 a.m. tomorrow!"

This bullshit really came to a head in 2014 when the Supreme Court handed down the Hobby Lobby decision. Hobby Lobby didn't want to have to provide birth control as part of its health plan because of company owners' "deeply-held religious beliefs."

(That very phrase is beginning to make me want to throw up.)

As far as I am concerned, you can believe whatever you want. There is a crap-ton of religions out there. Many of them are corrupt, no two agree, most worship the dollar more than "God" and some even have covered up the fact that kids were (are?) being molested by church leaders. So yeah, pick one and have a good time.

If it gives you comfort, fantastic! Life is tough and the world is a dangerous and confusing place, and we all need all the comfort we can find.

But if your religion seeks to deny my or anyone else's pursuit of happiness, that is where your "freedom of religion" needs to stop. I mean, I have the freedom to swing my arms, but when I swing them into your face, that freedom ends.

Simple, right? Now, if we could just explain this to Paxton and Patrick.

By the way, did I mention that having religious bullies and bigots in positions of leadership violates my deeply-held religious beliefs? ■

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



Awaiting the fall

Hollywood tries to make up for a disappointing summer with a slate of films vying for Oscar honors and audiences

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

We had to wait until the very end of the summer to discover two truly excellent films with widespread appeal (*Hell or High Water*, easily the best film of the year so far, and *Florence Foster Jenkins*, a close second), so we can only hope that Hollywood is reserving its big guns for the fall. That's typically when the prestige pictures come out, the ones vying for Oscars as well as dollars, starting once Labor Day is over.

Here, then, is our rundown of the hottest, biggest or most gay-interest films of the season. The list isn't exhaustive (release dates are national roll-outs; release dates may change locally), but it should give you an idea of what to put on your to-do list from now until Christmas.

Nate Parker's 'Birth of a Nation,' above, is the buzziest new film of the season; Eddie Redmayne whips out his wand in the adaptation of J.K. Rowling's 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,' opposite top; and a Dallas Cowboys football game is the instigating factor in two-time Academy Award winner Ang Lee's 'Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk,' opposite bottom.

SEPT. 9

Sully. Tom Hanks stars as the airline pilot whose safe emergency landing of a jet in the Hudson River made him a national hero. But what went on behind the scenes that we didn't see? Clint Eastwood directs.

Dancer. A documentary about ballet bad boy Sergei Polunin, who at the height of his fame (he did the viral video for director Dave LaChapelle of Hozier's "Take Me to Church") said he was walking away from his career.

SEPT. 16

Snowden. Bumped from last Christmas, Oliver Stone's hotly anticipated biopic tracks the efforts of Edward Snowden (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) to force governmental transparency through any means necessary. Zachary Quinto plays gay journalist Glenn Greenwald.

Bridget Jones' Baby. Second sequel to the popular series, with Renee Zellweger as the British feminist making her way through parenting.

SEPT. 23

The Magnificent Seven. Denzel Washington reunites with Ethan Hawke (*Training Day*) and adds Chris Pratt in this Western remake.

The Dressmaker. Kate Winslet stars in this quirky comedy written by P.J. Hogan (*Muriel's Wedding*) about a woman with a bad reputation who returns to her home town and exacts a brand of revenge.

SEPT. 30

Deepwater Horizon. What really happened in the Gulf of Mexico?

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. More comic fantasy from director Tim Burton, about a school for magically-endowed teens.

OCT. 7

The Birth of a Nation. The most buzzed-about film of 2016 is this slave drama from writer/director Nate Parker.

The Girl on the Train. Emily Blunt plays a divorcee who imagines a fan-



tasy world for a couple who she sees every day on her commute. When something tragic happens, she wonders if she had something to do with it. Directed by Tate Taylor (*The Help*).

OCT. 14

The Accountant. Ben Affleck stars as a math savant who cooks the books for some illegal operations, and makes a daring move when the Feds start circling.

The Handmaiden. Park Chan-Wook, director of *Old Boy*, adapts this story of Sapphic desire for the screen.

OCT. 21

Moonlight. A gay African-American man undergoes a sexual awakening, from youth to adulthood. Janelle Monae has a supporting role.

Keeping Up with the Joneses. A comedy about suburbanites who are international spies ... Joneses, mind you, not Smiths.

American Pastoral. Philip Roth's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel on the effect the turmoil of the 1960s has on one family, directed by and starring Ewan McGregor.

■ FALL PREVIEW Next Page



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L+S screen



The new 'Star Wars' franchise 'Rogue One' hopes to build on the huge success last Christmas of 'The Force Awakens,' above; below, a boy comes to his sexual awakening in 'Moonlight.'

■ FALL PREVIEW From Previous Page

OCT. 28

Inferno. Tom Hanks again, returning as symbiologist Robert Langdon in the latest *Da Vinci Code* adventure.

NOV. 4

Doctor Strange. Benedict Cumberbatch in the latest entry into the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

NOV. 11

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk. Two-time Oscar winner Ang Lee directs a wild cast (Vin Diesel, Steve Martin, Kristen Stewart) in the adaptation of this acclaimed novel, set in Dallas during a Cowboys game but with the Iraq War as the backdrop.

NOV. 18

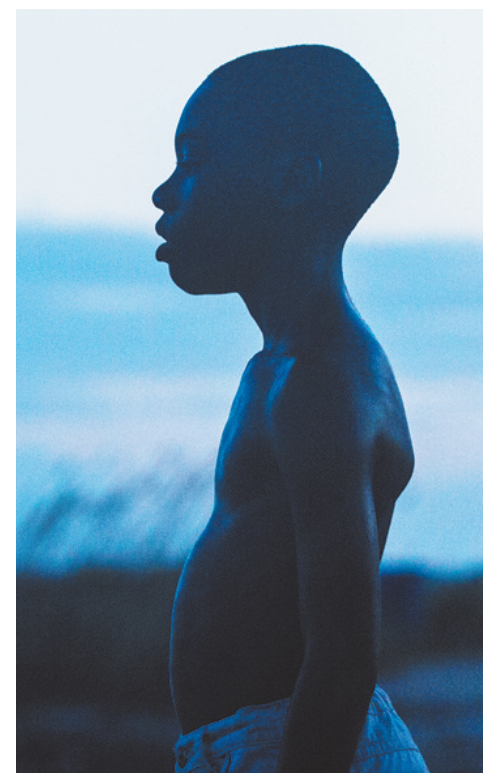
Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them. Wizards and wands and J.K. Rowling and director David Yates ... only not a Harry Potter film. Close enough, though, and it stars Oscar-winner Eddie Redmayne.

Manchester by the Sea. Writer-director Kenneth Lonergan's latest film, about a lonely Boston janitor (Casey Affleck) made the guardian of his teenaged nephew. Michelle Williams and Kyle Chandler co-star.

NOV. 23

Allied. Brad Pitt, Marion Cotillard and Lizzy Caplan star in director Robert Zemeckis' romance, set at the outset of World War II.

Moana. Lin-Manuel Miranda (*Hamilton*) contributed songs to this animated adventure set on the high seas of the Pacific.



Rules Don't Apply. Hollywood legend Warren Beatty directs and stars as Howard Hughes in this, his first feature film since *Town & Country*.

DEC. 2

La La Land. Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone and J.K. Simmons star in the latest film from director Damien Chazelle (*Whiplash*), a musical about a jazz musician who falls for an actress.

■ FALL PREVIEW Page 34



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Fuel-efficient, rugged & affordable, the Renegade Trailhawk exudes versatility

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

Jeeps are known for being tackle-everything, go-anywhere, win-everything, cross-the-Rubicon kinds of rides. It's been that way since World War II and continues today with the Wrangler, Grand Cherokee and Cherokee. But can a little Fiat-based crossover follow in its ancestors' mud tread?

Give Jeep credit — it found ways to stretch its design language far beyond the iconic Wrangler and long-running Grand Cherokee. First, it was the Cherokee's pinched face and now this conglomeration of avant-garde styling and an homage to 75 years of Jeep heritage. Omaha Orange paint draws attention to Jeep's iconic grater grille, black matte hood applique, round headlamps, and jerry can taillamps. Yet, buff fenders, black roof, 17-in. aluminum wheels, all-terrain tires, and cartoonish proportions somehow all work together for a cool off-road vibe. It looks especially fetching with Trail Hawk off-road accoutrement.

Interior style is derived from outdoors equipment and the Fiat parts bin. Anodized orange accents around the shifter, air vents and speakers echo rock-rapeling clasps and there are roomy cubbies in the doors and console for your out-doorsy stuff. Seats are canvas, but the fronts are heated and the rears fold flat to hold backpacks, bicycles, or your big haul from the outlet mall. Grip the thick, heated, leather-wrapped steering wheel and go.

In the spirit of Wrangler, the Renegade's MySky roof can be retracted and removed to view puffy clouds and soaring birds. Back inside, enjoy keyless entry/starting, ambient interior lighting, and thumpin' audio system. An infotainment system with 6.5-in. touchscreen, USBs, voice controls and Bluetooth makes connecting and commanding a click. Look at the back-up camera to keep fenders unscathed.

Behind Jeep's famous grille and lamps is a 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine that cranks out 180 horsepower and 175 lb.-ft. of torque — all routed through a 9-speed automatic transmission. That much power won't challenge sporty



The Jeep Renegade's Trailhawk kit turns a reliable crossover into a sporty terrain champ.

rivals, but it's plenty to get around town, crawl over rocks, and get down the Interstate. Besides always having the right amount of power when you want it, the 9-cog transmission's key benefits are fuel economy ratings of 21/29-MPG city/hwy.

In Trailhawk kit, the Renegade is a proven traveler of proving grounds for Jeeps. Its crossover architecture is fortified with skid plates for the transmission, transfer case, fuel tank and front suspension.

An increased ride height and unique facias allow a 30.5-degree approach, 25.7-degree breakover, and 34.3-degree departure angles. Note the red tow hooks should you get beyond your capabilities.

Hopefully you won't need them. Renegade's Selec-Terrain system allows drivers to dial in the powertrain for Auto, Snow, Sand and Mud, plus Rock mode exclusive to Trailhawk models. Hill Descent Control and Hill Start Assist provide drivers every advantage. Fully cranked, the

Renegade can ford up to 19 inches of water. It's no Wrangler, but is probably the most capable vehicle in its class.

This is more remarkable when you realize the Renegade is a near-twin to the Fiat 500X crossover and that both are built in Melfi, Italy, on architecture shared with other compact and mid-size cars in the Italian-American automaker's realm. That family tree imbues Renegade with tight, spirited handling and a comfortable ride that's more European than American. I'd almost call it fun.

A real renaissance Jeep, the Renegade proves it can speak Italian and tackle trails. You may think the styling would look better in Toon Town than in Moab, but it grows on you quickly. Kudos to Jeep for taking risks — just like its customers.

Jeep's smallest sibling starts at \$17,995, but came to \$30,950 as tested, putting it against the Subaru Crosstrek, Mini Countryman, Hyundai Tucson and Fiat 500X. ■

'16 RENEGADE TRAILHAWK

Jeep. 180 horsepower, 2.4 liter Inline4. 21/29-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$20,950.

BOOK REVIEW

***The Charm Bracelet* by Viola Shipman (Thomas Dunne 2016) \$26; 298 pp.**

For every milestone day that Lolly Lindsay had, she received a special gift. Her mother started the tradition by giving Lolly a charm for her bracelet one birthday; that charm, like each to come, signified a dream or a wish, and was accompanied by a special poem meant to remind Lolly that she was loved.

Over the years, the bracelet became heavy with metal and memories — the summer before her mother died, the boy she grew up to marry, the best friend she cherished — and when she had a daughter, Lolly started the tradition with her own little girl.

Always a pleaser, Arden was exasperated with her mother. Even as a child, she was embarrassed by Lolly's free-spiritedness, her sense of style, and by Lolly's idea of what was fun. As soon as she could, Arden moved away from her mother's Michigan home to live a button-down Chicago life that was comforting to her. But now, in the twilight of Lolly's life, Arden felt guilty for not spending more time with her mother — or her daughter.

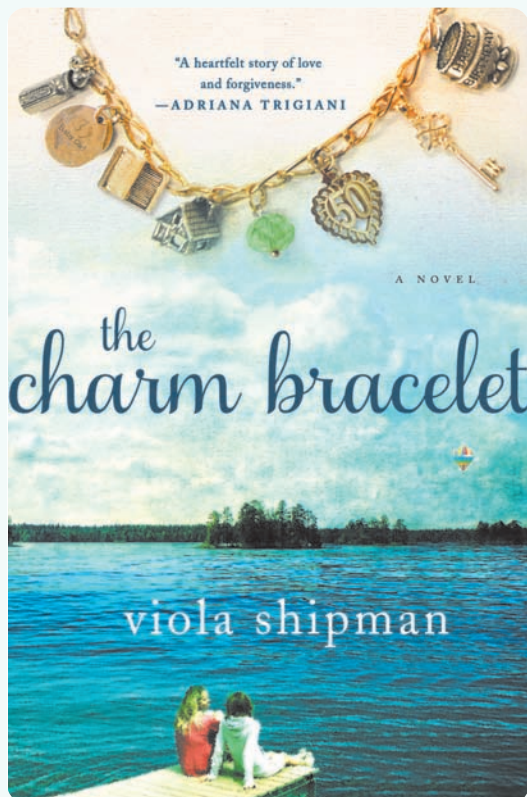
Graduating with a degree is an accomplishment, but Lauren wished she could tell her mother the truth: she really wanted an art degree, not a business one. Lauren knew that her mother worried about money; Arden, come to think, worried about a lot of things, which was maybe why Lauren was closer to her grandmother. She and Lolly were like two peas in a pod. Like two charms on a bracelet ... one of which was quietly losing its luster.

There's a basically good premise to the story inside *The Charm Bracelet*. Sadly, that story begs — pleads — for help. Reading this book is rough: names are employed to a frequency that's distracting and pronouns are at a premium. The female characters "jump up and down" a lot and it seems as though somebody's crying more than they're not; as for the male characters, one's a stereotypical Mean Dad, one is predictably hunky (do you see where this is going?) and a simple farmer-type is honest-to-goodness called "Clem."

I whined a lot while reading this book and I might have ditched it, were it not for the above-mentioned basically good premise. Author Viola Shipman (a pseudonym for gay memoirist Wade Rouse) offers a sweet generational-family, cabin-in-the-woods story told through memories and jewelry, which could've been really cute. Alas. ...

I think that, if you can overlook the flaws and not-so-charm-ing facets, you might really enjoy this mother-daughter-granddaughter story. If those things bother you, though, *The Charm Bracelet* is a gem that's awfully tarnished.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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A brunching of gays

Our hunt for the best Sunday Funday spots in Dallas. This week: **Cook Hall**

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Sometimes you can win for losin'. No matter what, everything seems to go wrong. You don't have to believe in curses to feel cursed.

Which is what happened at my most recent brunching experience at Cook Hall.

Cook Hall — the self-described gastropub in the W Hotel in Uptown — announced that it was starting a new "Brassy Sunday" Jazz Brunch. Now, barely a block away, the House of Blues routinely offers a Blues Brunch, which can really rock the house. Even the Hard Rock Café has been known to electrify a meal or two with live entertainment. This was a shot across the bow, a declaration, a gauntlet to the face demanding a duel. I was up for it.

I had a reservation, but the staff seemed a bit puzzled that I claimed to. Still, it wasn't busy, and we quickly got a booth ... up front, fairly removed from where the music seemed to be. That was OK, though — I didn't necessarily wanna be pounded by rollicking horn solos or drum riffs.

Yeah, that wasn't gonna happen.

It was "jazz" the way you might describe Stevie Wonder's album *Innervisions* as jazz: Some R&B influences overlaid a pop sensibility. I didn't honestly expect *Birth of the Cool* or even Charlie Christian, but "Take 5" was about the jazziest it got. Good music played live. Talented. Enjoyable. But Grover Washington covers just are not the same as Thelonius Monk. And that's what "jazz brunch" says to me.

Allors! What matters the music (it was complimentary, after all)? The fact we were sequestered away from the action (I never did see the musicians) wasn't a tragedy. Not, at least, when compared to service.

I decided to start with a cup of tortilla soup. Now, Dallas is the de facto progenitor of the concept of tortilla soup, so putting it on a menu is tantamount to *another* challenge. The flavors here were good, if not exceptional, but in truth I didn't get a cup: I got a bowl. What surprised me was, our server *acknowledged* that she was bringing the wrong dish as she set it down. "You'll only be charged for a cup," she said. Fair enough. But still, that mosquito in the back of my brain: Why bring out something you know is

Two rather ordinary over-easy eggs mask anything 'artisanal' about the eggs in a nest entree at Cook Hall's jazz-free jazz brunch. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

wrong?

And it happened again. And then happened again.

I ordered a dish called "eggs in a nest" (\$16), the kind of cutesy-poo name that conjures a variety of presentations. I envisioned a tangle of julienned potatoes with two over-easy eggs nestled among shaved ham and edges of smoked cheddar, undergirded by blocks of sour dough (which was in the description, and which I specifically requested anyway).

My dining companion also ordered at the same time: Shrimp and grits, priced at \$26. "These better be the best damn shrimp and grits I've ever had," he whispered to me. They weren't, though it took us a while to find out, as will be clear.

First, out came my plate — a rather prosaic presentation where the drooping whites of the egg served as kind of shroud, masking any playfulness the plate might have meant to convey. I

don't dispute that shaved country ham and some form of cheddar cheese were present, they simply did not stand out in any meaningful way. Instead, the plate was dominated by slightly overcooked house potatoes. And there, right on the side, plain as day: Rye toast. Didn't order it,



■ BRUNCHING Page 34

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Gay for play

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stage

Dallas Pride is a great time for theatergoing, and several gay short-play festivals — and Theatre Too's full-sized production of 'The Sum of Us' — can attest

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

In the play *The Sum of Us*, the straight dad of a sexually-active gay son live together in harmony, each supportive of the other. In 1990, this was pretty radical storytelling — same-sex marriage was decades off, and the film *Philadelphia* wouldn't come out for another three years. Even today, well-adjusted, civil co-habitation between generations is the exception, not the rule ... or is it?

For Mark C. Guerra, director of Theatre Too's new production of the play (opening this weekend), truth is definitely not stranger than fiction.

"It reflects me a lot," says Guerra in a break from final rehearsals. "I found the script eight years ago... and eight years ago was also when my father moved it with me. [The story of this play] really has been my life: Gay son and dad living together and the son is a good guy who can't find anyone."

One difference: Harry, the dad in the play, had

a medical condition, but not Guerra's dad... at least until the first week of rehearsals, when Guerra Sr. suffered a heart attack.

"Then it really hit home in a really tough way... it has been very emotional [for me]," Guerra says. (His dad, by the way, is doing very well.)

It's a fitting piece for Guerra to make a kind of debut in. Although he has acted in small parts for Theatre 3 and other premiere local companies for 10 years, and has directed and designed for community and children's theater, *The Sum of Us* represents his emergence as a director of an Equity production.

He's energized by the challenge. It could be a mixed bag, the embodiment of "be careful what you wish for." Holding onto a play for nearly a decade and finally getting to do it could have meant realizing the show had gotten away from you, or lead to disappointments. But nothing

Where to get your gay on this month

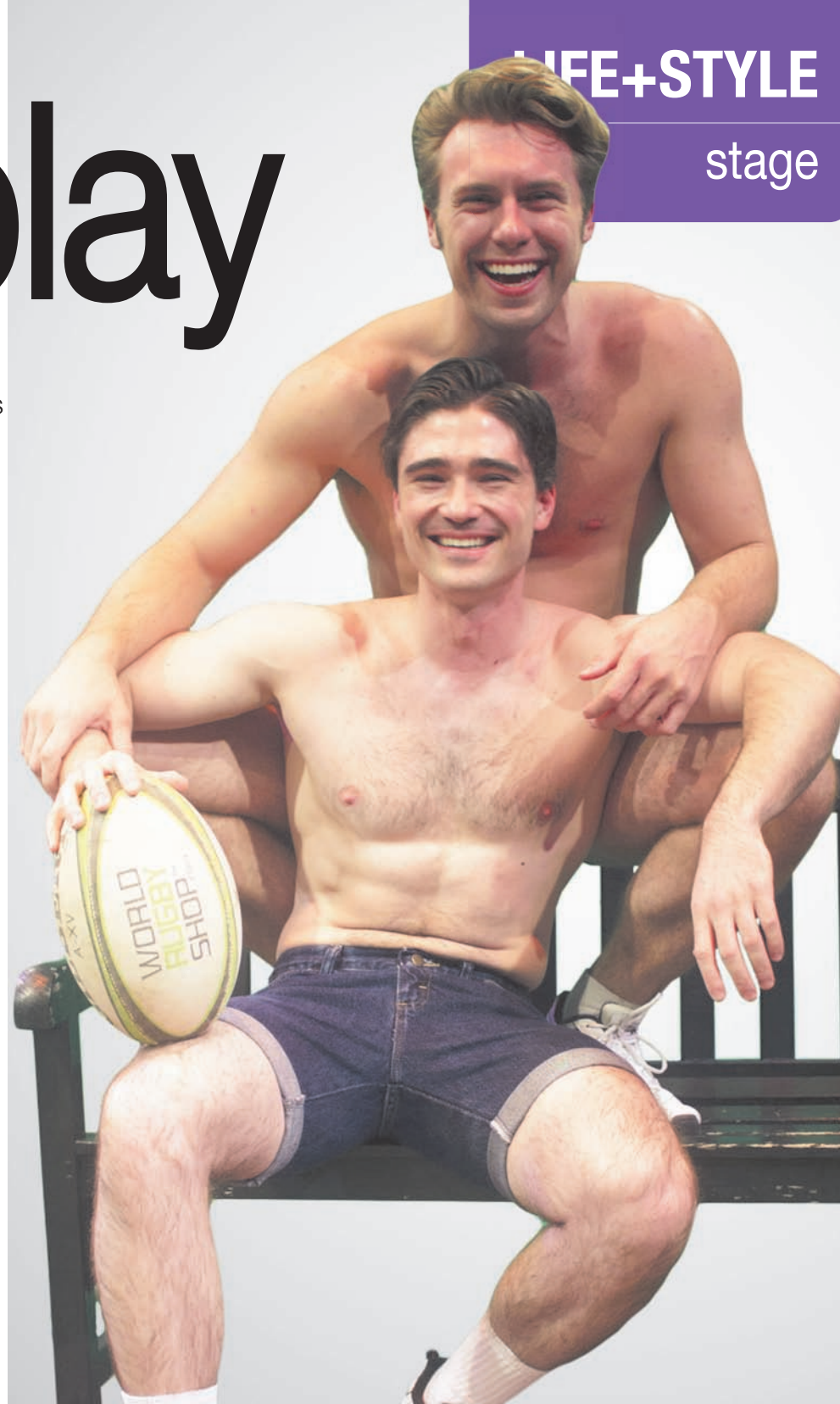
Fifteen years ago, Uptown Players became Dallas' first theater company expressly dedicated to producing shows by, about and for North Texas' LGBT community; five years ago, Uptown started its Dallas Pride Performing Arts Festival, a week of one-acts and cabaret shows set to coincide with Dallas Pride and expand its mission. Three years ago, TeCo in Bishop Arts launched its own gay Pride play contest ... once again, in September. Now even gay-run Theatre 3's bonus show, *The Sum of Us* (see story above) packs in the queer content, again this month. Here's what you need to know to see them all:

***The Sum of Us*.** Performed at Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Sept. 3–25. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Third Annual PlayPride LGBT Competition Fest. Performed at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. Sept. 15–25. Winners are selected by audience voters. All plays performed each night, and include: *Stall Tactics* by Ruth Cantrell; *Honestly* by Caroline Cole; *Copeville* by Addison DeWitt; *It Fate Steps In* by Sierra McCrley; *You Hear That?* by Ben Schroth; and *Widgets* by Shane Strawbridge. BishopArtsTheatre.org.

Fifth Annual Dallas Pride Performing Arts Festival. Performed on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Sept. 16–24. Shows include: *Boomer Tyro Is Coming Home* by Bruce R. Coleman and *Stigmatic* by Ness Everett (both in competition); *Mom's Guitar or Leave the Latchstrings Out* by Carol Young; *The Necessary Luxury Company* by Marty Martin; *The Drama Department* by James Hindman; and *Say You Love Satan* by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa. Also showing: cabaret from Amy and Freddy, pictured; and William Blake. UptownPlayers.org.

— A.W.J.



Two young gay men — one with a supportive parent, the other deeply in the closet — pursue a tentative romance in the Pride-perfect play 'The Sum of Us.'

could be further from the reality for Guerra.

"The universe really gives me what I need," he says. "I 'cast' this with local actors in my head a long time ago — I had revolved the whole thing around the son, Jeff, because I connected with that character so much. But [as I have gotten older], I have really realized the dad is really the driving force behind it all. And I've known Randy Pearlman — who plays the dad — for a long time. I'm really blessed with these actors."

He's also blessed by timing: *The Sum of Us* is the latest in a string of plays, running throughout September, that focus on the gay experience ... and take place during Dallas Pride as well. It's a

welcome synergy. (See sidebar.)

"I'm so happy it's happening during Pride — this is a PFLAG show in and out," he says. "The show is about acceptance and unconditional love ... and really, about homophobia. Everybody has a little bit of it. Even as a gay man myself, I've gone through that 'People says it's a choice — is it?' phase. Jeff says the same thing. And his boyfriend is closeted and not out to his parents. It shows [homophobia] doesn't have to be a 'hate' thing, it's just how we are perceived. It's about accepting love."

And ultimately that is what gay Pride and all the parades are for.

My chemical romance

Love, laughter, lyrics get 'Toxic' at Uptown



I BROUGHT YOU BULLETS, YOU BROUGHT ME YOUR LOVE | John Campione plays the blistered beau of a blind librarian in Uptown's hilariously poisonous 'Toxic Avenger.' (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

There's a sick, delicious history of turning unlikely stories into stage musicals. From *The Rocky Horror Show* to *Little Shop of Horrors* (riffing on sci-fi) to *Avenue Q* (the profanizing of children's television), the tradition of twisting camp sources into even campier songfests is an honored if not especially respected one, as you could sort of tell from the expressions on some audience members' faces at opening night of *The Toxic Avenger*, now at the Kalita. Glance around at random moments, and befuddlement was almost as evident as goofy delight. It can be a tough sell, I guess, re-educating successive generations of theatergoers that yes, indeed, it is OK to laugh at the unthinkable, or stupid, or outrageous. I, for one, want to say: Thank you, Uptown Players, for the venom.

And venom aplenty is there in *The Toxic*

THE TOXIC AVENGER

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through
Sept. 11. UptownPlayers.org.

Avenger, a notoriously wonderful-but-never-produced musical from the Tony Award-winning team of Joe DiPietro and David Bryan (*Memphis*). Everything about the town of Tromaville, N.J., is poisonous: Its mayor (Sara Shelby-Martin) a corrupt moustache-twirling villain who allows a mountain of oozing oilcans of glowing nuclear waste to pollute her town. Roving gangs (Walter Lee and Clint Gilbert, who gamely and hilariously tackle every townspeople save four — their characters are identified in the playbill only as Black Dude and White Dude) terrorize the residents.

A hot nerd named Melvin Ferd the Third (John Campione, in full-on Seymour Krelborn mode) tries gamely to save the town, only to be dunked in a vat of chemicals ... but may death never stop him. In classic comic book fashion, Melvin is both deformed *and* enhanced, miraculously emerging as a pustule-covered hero with

■ **TOXIC**, Next Page

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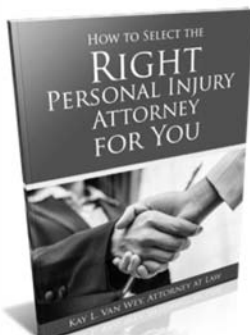
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L+S stage

■ **TOXIC**, From Previous Page

blasted quads, Schwarzenegger-sized bulletproof pecs and super-human strength. Three cheers for sweet revenge! But he's still too shy to commit to the town's blind librarian Sara (Katie Porterfield) — the only person other than his mother (also Shelby-Martin) who could love a mug like his ... because she can't see it.

Yep. You're expected to laugh at blind-girl jokes. It's that kind of show.

The Toxic Avenger is gloriously offensive in the way only smart comedy can be. It's a black parade of sight gags (and in Sara's case, lack-of-sight-gags — *ba-DOOM!*) and silly songs that echo a variety of genres, from folk ballad ("The Legend of the Toxic Avenger") to tango to faux-Bon-Jovi rock anthems. (Only slight faux, though — composer David Bryan actually is the keyboardist for Bon Jovi.) It most closely calls to mind *Little Shop* and *Urinetown*, with its loveable losers and misguided morality, but there are homages and pop-culture references all around (one of the best: rhyming "Winnie-the-Pooh" with "Maya Angelou"), in its joyous, foot-tapping score.

But the secret sauce of *Toxic* is how director Jeremy Dumont cast the show. A mere five actors (plus five musicians) spread the gooey love for two raucous hours of energetic acting and music-making. Shelby-Martin's act-ending duet with herself triggered a riotous and deserved ovation; Porterfield unblinkingly (*zing!*) plays the klutzy leading lady with panache and Campi-one — operating under more Latex than a dominatrix in Amsterdam — conveys as much tenderness as he does power. Yet Lee and Gilbert do most of the heavy lifting, with quick changes of costume and character that are dizzying. There are no conventional weapons at work here — everyone is a tactical missile, a drone that hits its targets. *The Toxic Avenger* explodes in surprises.

Marianne (Allison Pistorius), a theoretical early-universe cosmologist, awkwardly hits on Roland (Alex Organ), a beekeeper, at a barbecue with some tired line about immortality.

"Not interested," he says. A beat later, she tries again... in exactly the same way. "I'm married." Another beat. Another opening line. Third time's the charm, right?

"I'm with someone."

Apparently not.

Eventually, though, a Marianne settles on a Roland who falls for her, and they cheat, reconcile, suffer estrangement and illness... ultimately, it all works out. Though ultimately, it never



ACROSS THE UNIVERSE | A physicist and a beekeeper (Allison Pistorius, Alex Organ) meet, fall in love and live many alternative lives in the cosmic romance 'Constellations.' (Photo by Karen Almond)

works out. We're either honeybees whose lifecycles span mere weeks or quantum pawns living out thousands of lifetimes.

Ah, the intellectual conundrum of quantum mechanics and the multiverse when it comes to romantic entanglements. If every choice leads to an infinite number of outcomes, there is no happy ending. Or is every one of them happy?

Such is the heart of *Constellations*, settling in for six more weeks at the Dallas Theater Center's intimate studio space. If the

premise doesn't sound entirely original, well it's not: See the recent musical *If/Then*, the Gwyneth Paltrow movie *Sliding Doors*. Is it good? Well, sure. It was good the other times, too. It just doesn't feel necessary, or very creative. *Constellations* feels more like a theatrical etude than a play, an exercise where the playwright (in this case, Nick Payne) can fuss over structure instead of character: Can't decide if he should cheat first or she should? Well, why not have both? When you get infinite bites at the apple, you never have to make meaningful choices. But it also leaves the audience oddly empty. Why trust these outcomes? It just reinforces the impossibility of really knowing someone.

Best, then, merely to admire the performances of Pistorius and Organ, who shift on a dime through myriad minor permutations and engage us, whatever universe it's in. They are the stars of this *Constellation*. ■

CONSTELLATIONS

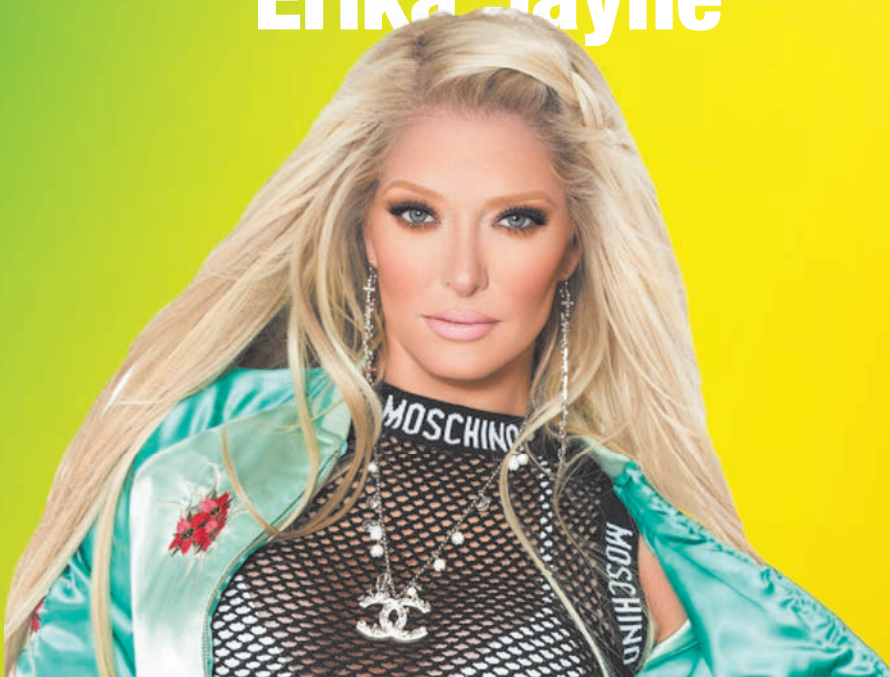
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FALL PREVIEW From Page 24

DEC. 9

Miss Sloane. Jessica Chastain stars as a lobbyist who faces off against the gun lobby in order to get gun control legislation passed.

DEC. 16

Collateral Beauty. Will Smith, Helen Mirren, Edward Norton and Kate Winslet star in a drama about a man beset by grief following a tragedy.

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story. What do you really need to know?

Fences. Tony Kushner adapted August Wil-

son's Pulitzer Prize-winning play for the screen, reuniting Broadway cast members (and Tony winners) Denzel Washington and Viola Davis.

DEC. 21

Assassin's Creed. Michael Fassbender as a man who discovers he is part of a long line of talented assassins.

Passengers. Oscar-nominated director Morten Tyldum (*The Imitation Game*) helms this sci-fi epic about a spacecraft filled with hyper-sleep passengers when something goes wrong. Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt star.



The animated musical 'Sing' is one of two Christmas releases starring Matthew McConaughey.

Sing. Animated feature about a koala (Matthew McConaughey) who is looking for a singing star to save his troubled theater.

DEC. 25

Gold. Matthew McConaughey's second Christmas feature is this adventure from Stephen Gaghan (*Syriana*) about adventurers looking for gold in Indonesia.

BRUNCHING, From Page 28

didn't want it, wasn't even on the menu. And I do not like rye.

At least I got my order *delivered*; my dining companion was not so lucky. We kept waiting for someone to return momentarily, perhaps to say, "Sorry, yours took a minute extra — it's on the way!" But no; he sat *sans* food as mine began to cool.

Now, you have to think: Wouldn't I notice if one of *two* diners at a table didn't order *anything* — you'd recall taking only one order, wouldn't you? But no one seemed a bit concerned that, 20 minutes into the meal, I was the only one fed. We finally flagged down our waitress, who eventually put in his order (plus the replacement toast, and some pepper, since the mill on the table was completely empty). She apologized, and offered us complimentary mimosas. We accepted.

It took 15 minutes for the mimosas to arrive. We were both as good as finished eating by that time. In fact, we ordered some desserts more as a way to justify our mimosas and give the kitchen another shot as we did out of hunger. The butterscotch pudding was too sweet, with far more of the vanilla layer than the butterscotch;

You might not feel an accursed experience should forever tank a restaurant's bona fides; I might agree if the menu had been more impressive. "Gastropub" implies an artisanal take on familiar food; there wasn't much evidence of that here. And while my quibbles with the food could be called minor — nothing stood out as terrible because nothing stood out *at all* — the experience did what no restaurant should ever want to hear: It left us with a bad taste in our mouths.



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Friday 09.09 —
Sunday 09.11

**Musical star Megan Hilty
teams up with DSO**

Die-hard theater queens probably first remember hearing the name Megan Hilty when she took over the role of Glinda (created by Kristen Chenoweth) in the original Broadway production of *Wicked*. She's since gone on to star in *9 to 5*, *Noises Off* (a recent Tony nomination) and the TV show *Smash*. Let's just say she's budding Broadway royalty. And she will deliver three concerts with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra next week, featuring showtune classics like "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" and others off her album *It Happens All the Time*.

DEETS: Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Sept. 9–10 at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 11 at 2:30 p.m. MyDSO.com.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Friday 09.02 —
Sunday 09.25

**Theatre Britain revisits the grand
dame of mysteries, Agatha
Christie, with 'The Hollow'**

A spooky English countryside estate, a slate of unsavory folks each with something to hide and a locked-room murder that seems impossible to solve. It could only be from the mind of Agatha Christie, and it is. Theatre Britain performs one of the Queen of Crime's juiciest puzzlers, *The Hollow*. Bet you can't guess whodunnit.

DEETS: Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Theatre-Britain.com.



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calendar highlights



The art of the late Jack Evans will be on display for two days at the ilume Gallerie, Sept. 9 and 10.

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ARTSWEEK THEATER

The Toxic Avenger. Joe DiPietro (*Memphis*) wrote this musical spoof of the camp horror cult film about a man exposed to nuclear waste who becomes a vigilante superhero. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sept. 11. UptownPlayers.org.

Constellations. Dallas Theater Center opens its new season with this romantic play about an astrophysicist and a beekeeper whose love travels across time and space. *Reviewed this week.* Wyly Theatre Studio Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 9. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Bootycandy. Robert O'Hara's series of scenes, all connected by the theme of being black and gay in America. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 11. StageWest.org.

Death the Musical II: Death Takes a Harmony. A. Scott Eckert, one of Dallas' top musical directors and musicians, brings us the followup to his self-penned *Death the Musical* with this comic sequel. Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Sept. 24. 214-821-1860.

Dreamless. A new musical written and directed by

Justin Locklear, set in a restaurant owned by a brother and sister team. Ochre House Theater, 285 Exposition Ave. Through Sept. 10. OchreHouseTheater.org.

The Hollow. An Agatha Christie mystery thriller, set in a spooky estate. Cox Building Playhouse, 11517 H Ave., Plano. Sept. 2-25. Theatre-Britain.com.

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. Through Sept. 18. StageWest.org.

I Love You Because. A regional premiere musical inspired by Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Presented by Our Productions Theatre Co. Studio Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Sept. 3. OurProductions.org.

The Sum of Us. A gay son lives with his accepting father ... but the father's girlfriend is not as open-minded. See story, Page 30. Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Sept. 3-25. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Taming. A female-empowerment political comedy from Laurent Gunderson. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 17. CircleTheatre.org.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Edward Albee's searing American classic, a raucous night with an embattled husband and wife working out their demons.



The Texas Home and Garden Show returns to Dallas Market Hall, Sept. 9–11.

Bedford Boys Ranch, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Sept. 2–18. OnstageInBedford.com.

FINE ART

Pathway. A new and immense mural by Swiss artist Nicolas Party — a dream, cobalt forest of possibly underwater landscapes — occupies the main concourse of the museum, also featuring the pastel painting *Two Men with Hats*. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 5, 2017. Free. DMA.org..

SUNDAY 09.04

WORSHIP

Dignity (LGBT Catholics). Worship the first Sunday of each month, led by ministers Cliff and Jon Garinn. Interfaith Peace Chapel (lower level), 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m.

MONDAY 09.05 — LABOR DAY

CABARET

Mama's Party. Amy Stevenson hosts this cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

TUESDAY 09.06

FILM

Network. This 1976 film, about how TV dumbs down, even the news, was considered a satire upon its release; now it feel more like docu-drama. Winner of four Oscars, including actor (Peter Finch), actress (Faye Dunaway), supporting actress (Beatrice Straight, for a two-minute monologue scene) and writer Paddy Chayefsky. 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.

THURSDAY 09.08

CABARET

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

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.

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars. The new season of All Stars, with Dallas' Alyssa Edwards in the pack. Airs on Logo at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 09.09

CONCERTS

An Evening with Megan Hilty. Three performances from the Tony-nominated Broadway and TV star, teaming with the DSO. Morton H. Meyerson Center, 2301 Flora St. Sept. 9–11. MyDSO.com.

FINE ART

Jack Evans. Pop art from the late Dallas icon will be on display for two nights. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Sept. 9–10, 6–8 p.m. ilumeGallerie.com.

DIGS

Texas Home and Garden Show. Three-day expo of all things related to decorating and gardening in Texas. Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. Sept. 9–11. TexasHomesAndGarden.com.

THEATER

Camelot. Season premiere production from Lyric Stage is Lerner and Loewe's tuneful, colorful telling of the Arthurian Legend. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Sept. 9–18. LyricStage.org.

this week's solution

J	E	D	I	F	L	E	E	A	B	A	S	H
A	S	I	S	L	A	V	A	L	E	R	O	Y
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Cassie Nova

Haters gonna hate, but not Cassie... at least, not anymore

Hello, my babies! I hate to say it, but I use the word "hate" a lot. I say, "Oh my God, I hate him" or "She is so annoying — I hate her." Well, I have decided that I am really going to work on that. "Hate" is such a strong word and usually, it is not what I mean. There is so much hate and negativity in the world. We live in a "hate" culture. Most of the time when I say "hate," what I really mean is "I am slightly annoyed with a person so I exaggerate my feelings." We as gay people tend to be slightly more dramatic about ... well... everything. I know I can be.

I'm not saying that I will never hate anything again, but I am going to try to reserve that word for things I actually, viscerally hate — like ISIS, child molesters and Trump supporters. See, even the Trump supporters line I just typed is not true, but I said it so easily. I do not hate Trump supporters. They worry me and make me shake my head in a very "bless their

hearts" kind of way. It's just so easy to say "hate."

My girl Valerie Lohr has even tried for years to get me to stop saying hate when she knew that was not what I really meant. I wish I said "love" as much as I say "hate." What I am now realizing, as I write this, is that I use the word "hate" mostly to describe *people*. I can go see a mediocre movie and find good things to say about it rather than just saying, "meh, it wasn't great but I liked the music or that one actor that is so damn fine." I can find redeeming qualities in movies ... but I don't do the same thing for people? I guess I really need to work on myself. We all love to say STOP HATE, but do we listen to the advice we give others?

On that subject, I hate what comedian/actress Leslie Jones has been going through. If you don't know Leslie Jones, she is a tall, talented, hilariously fierce actress. She is a writer and cast member on *Saturday Night Live*, she was in the *Ghostbusters* reboot this summer and if you have not watched her comedy special *Problem Child*, go watch it now. It is brilliant. Oh, and her #SlayAllDay Tweets were one of my favorite things about the Olympics.

Leslie has been cyber-bullied on Twitter. She was called racial slurs and other names. Her website was

hacked and her personal information was released. Her driver's license and passport were posted for all to see. The people that did this to her, I do hate. Anyone that will sit anonymously, clickity-clacking away behind the safety of a keyboard, deserve to be hogtied and branded as a bigot. I just don't understand why someone would go through the trouble of doing something so mean to someone they obviously know nothing about. I don't personally know Leslie Jones, but in my head, she and I are besties. We talk and text everyday about boys, eggplant Friday and funny animal videos. But seriously, my heart truly hurts for her.

Here are a few things I would like to do to the Twitter Twats that attacked my girl Leslie Jones.

No. 1. Paint their faces to look like soccer balls and bury them up to their necks in a vacant field near a high school in Brazil.

No. 2. Put their feet in concrete, let it set, dress them as a rodeo clown and drop them in the middle of a TGRA bull riding completion.

No. 3. Paper cuts... on their penises! Then accidentally spill Icy Hot on their laps.

No. 4. Any of the punishments from the movie *Se7en*. I'll show you what's in the box, bitch!

No. 5. Pissed-off fire ants to the face!

The sad fact of is, one mean person can overshadow all of the love you get. A few weeks ago at one of my shows, a friend of mine told me he saw a guy roll his eyes and say, "I just hate her." A little later, while I was performing, I passed by him and touched his shoulder. I was told that he shuddered in revulsion.

Until I heard that, I was having the absolute best night. I went out, did my thing. I got some laughs. I was told I looked sickening by a bunch of people. I was told by a guy that had been having a really rough week, that I was funny and that I helped bring him out of a funk and put him in a good mood. Good feels, good vibes and compliments galore. But the thing that stuck with me that night as I drove home was the eye rolling Cassie Nova hater.

I get it: Not everybody is gonna like you but him saying he hates me without even knowing me made me rethink the word hate. Hopefully, I am just a mild annoyance to him. Maybe he was once scared by a big red headed lady and I bring back bad memories. *Oooh*, maybe he was traumatized by Ronald McDonald. After all I am just a sexier, more contoured version of a clown.

I hate that I let this random nameless guy that I never even laid eyes on, affect me at all. I thought about his negativity all that night — hell, I'm still thinking about it. My good girlfriend Kelexis gave me some good advice. She said, "It's your name that is in his mouth and you don't even know who he is.



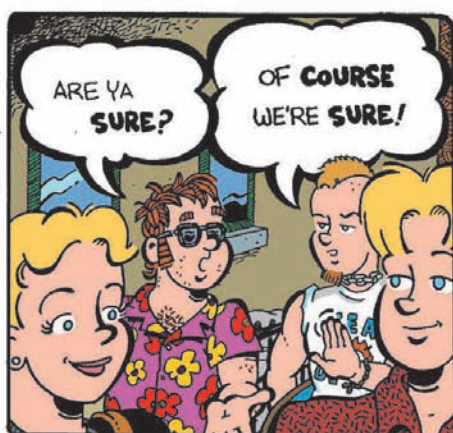
Keep it that way. Don't give him any power over you." That is easier said than done. We all want to be liked, loved and respected. Even an ego-driven ballsy, brash drag queen. Thick skin doesn't come naturally. It is something you have to work hard to develop.

If I could say anything to the beautiful Miss Leslie Jones, I would say let the love you receive outweigh the hate. In all you do. Take those negative comments and that horrible bullshit those cowards say and put in in a box in your mind. Take that box and wrap it in chains and throw that box off a cliff into the deepest hole that has no end, never to be seen or thought of again. I know it's easy to say but harder to do. The advice I give to you, Miss Jones, I give to myself. Shake them haters off. Quick and rough like a Band-Aid that has been on too long and gets matted in your hair. It only hurts for a second. Let the kind words and support you receive heal you. Heal your heart, heal your soul. Love and goodness will outweigh the bad if you let it.

I have an idea, Leslie my bestie: Take the negativity and ridiculousness you have experienced and write some jokes about it. You are one of the funniest people on the planet and if anybody can turn this shit funny, you can! Your heartfelt thank you to Whoopi Goldberg on *The View* showed us your heart. The way you have handled yourself during this mess has showed us your grace. You exude light and love with your quick tongue and edgy jokes. Your raunchy comedy speaks to my soul. I wanna be you when I grow up. Stay strong and SLAY ALL DAY!!!!

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

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



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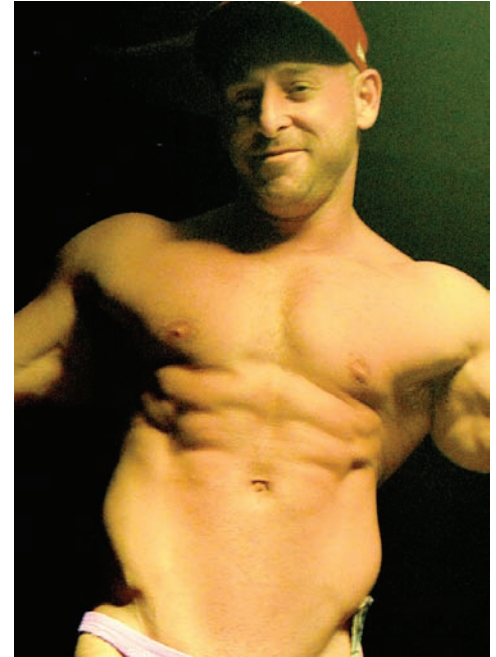
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A friendly gathering at The Grapevine.



Dancing man at BJ's NXS!



Relaxing on the patio at JR's.



The friendly staff at The Round-Up Saloon.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Sept. 2-8:**

- **Alexandre's:** *Girls Night Out* with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. *Mi Diva Loca* on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Chris Chism** on Wednesday. **ilumin** on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXS!** *Toga White Party* at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** *End of Summer Pool Party* with **DJ Press Play** spinning the hits at the **ilume** pool from 2-6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** *Texas Gay Rodeo Association* cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** *Dallas Bears* and *Leather Knights* club night on Saturday. *Trivia Night* with **Mama Payne** from 8-10 p.m. on Thursday. *Bear of the Month Contest* from 10:30-11:30 p.m. on Thursday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** *Cassie's Freak Show* at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** *Rocky Horror Picture Show* showcase at 9 p.m. on Friday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** *Tiki Party* at 8 p.m. Sunday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** *Show Tune Night* from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** *Miss Gay Texas State* and *State At Large Pageant* on Saturday and Sunday.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood**



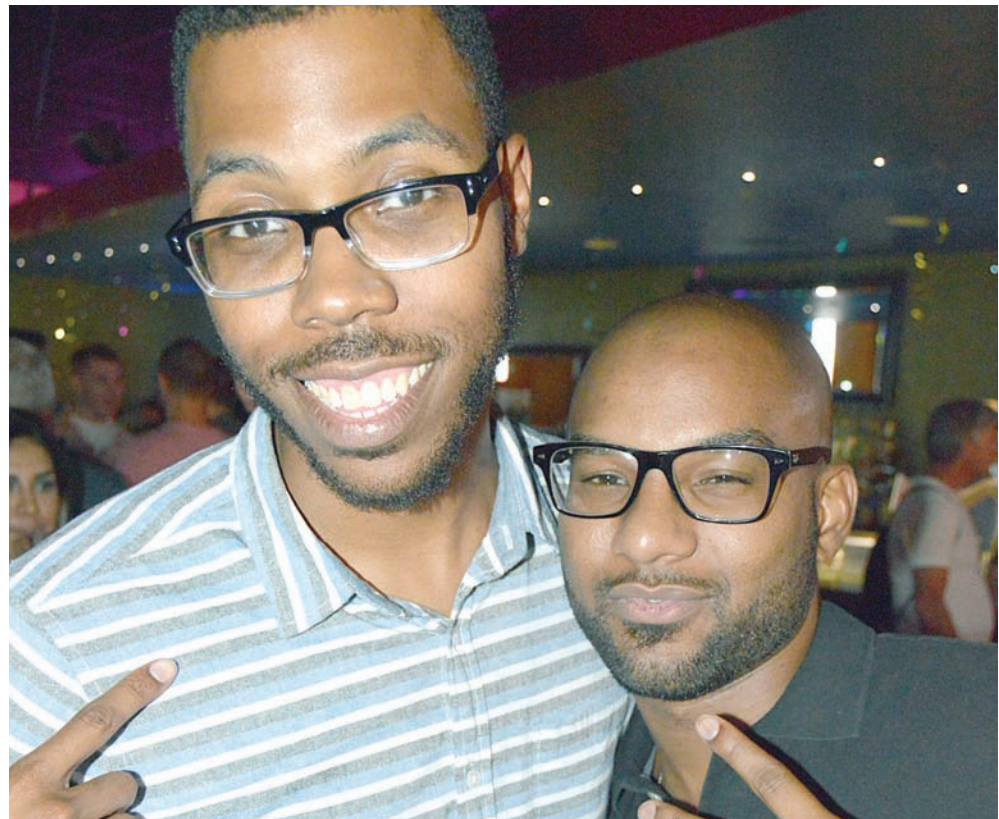
Larry is all smiles at TMC: The Mining Company.



Friends hanging out on The Strip.



Service with a smile at Zippers.

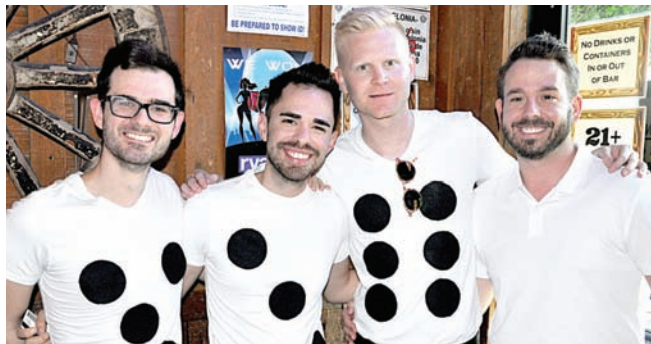


Guys' night out at S4.



The 2016 Team Clover Open

A total of 60 teams gathered for the 2016 Team Clover Open Putt Putt/Bar Crawl last weekend, competing at nine bars and raising \$15,000 for LifeWalk.





The staff at Station 4 came out swinging and singing for their annual Turnabout Show.



Jonah's tip jar origami at Woody's.



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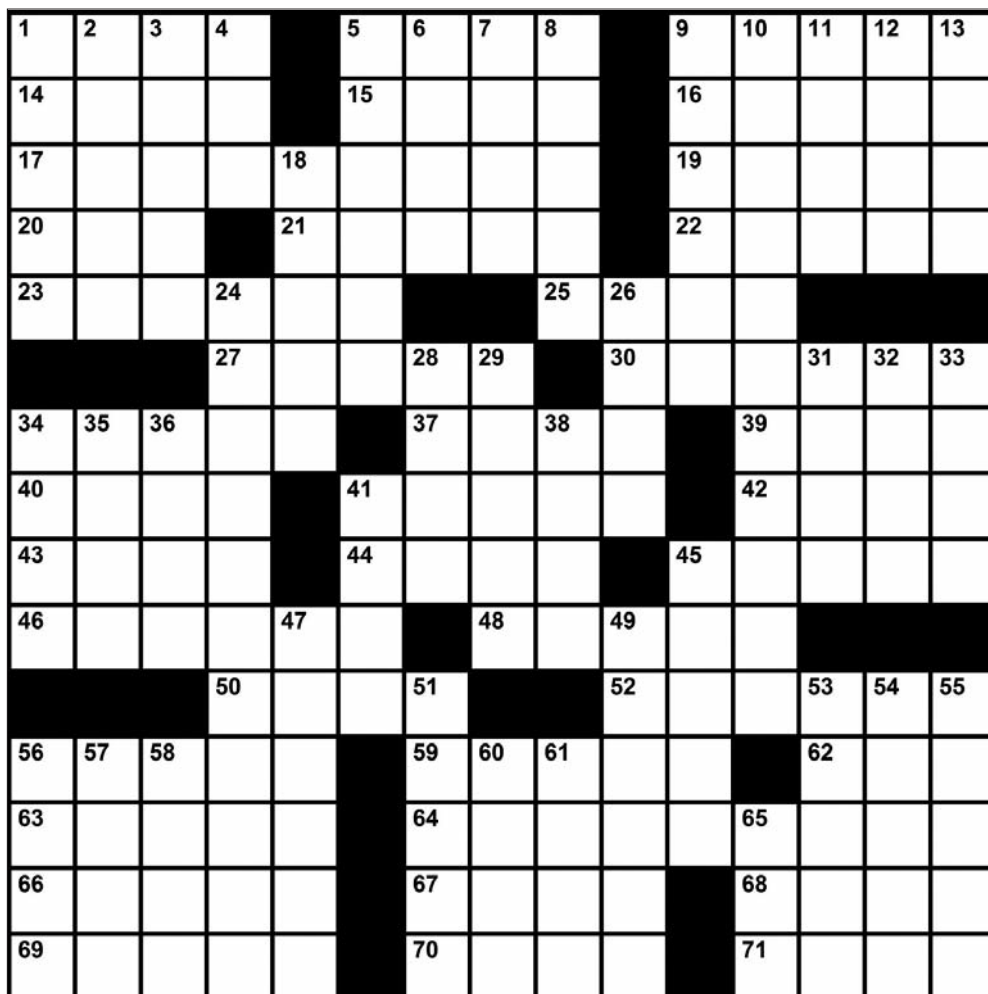
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q-puzzle



"Aww thank you"

Solution on page 37

Across

- 1 Knight in the saga of Moff Mors
- 5 Put your rear in gear
- 9 Bring shame to
- 14 Early AIDS play
- 15 Hot stuff that gets shot off
- 16 *The Wizard of Oz* producer Mervyn
- 17 Character played by 10-Down
- 19 Story about busting some Trojans
- 20 Dig it
- 21 Remove a slip, perhaps
- 22 Danes of *Romeo + Juliet*
- 23 "People" person
- 25 Future queen of *Star Wars*
- 27 Start of a legal conclusion
- 30 Like *Beauty and the Beast*
- 34 Like Oscar of *The Odd Couple*
- 37 Direction for seamen
- 39 Achilles' weak spot
- 40 Sheltered on the sea
- 41 *Growing Up Gay in the South* author James
- 42 ____ *Upon a Mattress*
- 43 Glenn's *Fatal Attraction* character
- 44 Hathaway of *Brokeback Mountain*
- 45 Check out, in a fitting room
- 46 Book about autoeroticism?
- 48 Megan's *Will & Grace* character

- 50 Comedian Johnson
- 52 Britten's *Billy Budd* and others
- 56 Soup scoop
- 59 Pasolini's sweet
- 62 Eighth mo. for Caesar
- 63 On the other hand
- 64 Disney series with 10-Down
- 66 He comes once a year
- 67 Land of Sinead O'Connor
- 68 Chance beginning
- 69 Deuce toppers
- 70 Like a generation, to Stein
- 71 Singer Fure

Down

- 1 Father in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- 2 Former NFL player Tuaolo
- 3 Tool for cutting carrots
- 4 Expert ending
- 5 Pansies and similar groups
- 6 Chloe's role in *Boys Don't Cry*
- 7 Plumb, and others
- 8 O'Keeffe's stand
- 9 Cher's portrayer in *Clueless*
- 10 Actress who just came out and tweeted "Aww thank you..." to supportive fans

- 11 Aida solo
- 12 Fly like an eagle
- 13 London park name
- 18 Herman of *Hello Dolly* fame
- 24 Orientation of 10-Down
- 26 Screws up
- 28 World War II carbine
- 29 Do an Oscar winner's job
- 31 Start of a selection process
- 32 Style of many South Beach buildings
- 33 Narrow valley
- 34 Way to address a dominatrix
- 35 Scat queen
- 36 In view
- 38 Part of San Francisco's BART
- 41 Highsmith's *The Price of ____*
- 45 Erection on the Great Plains, once
- 47 *Spartacus* venues
- 49 Type of man in an Elton John song
- 51 Ford flub
- 53 Turner that goes either way
- 54 Penetrating
- 55 Ire. patron
- 56 Bringing up the rear
- 57 Mold medium
- 58 Hamlet, for one
- 60 John Goodman's *Normal*, ____
- 61 *Gay Cosmos* author Eighner
- 65 IRA increaser

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An Open Letter to the CDC on PrEP

Four years ago on July 16, 2012, the Food and Drug Administration approved use of Truvada for the prevention of HIV, which is also known as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)¹. In a report released by Gilead Sciences on June 20, 2016, they revealed the following information:

1. 49,148 total cumulative prescriptions for Truvada as PrEP have been filled based on data reported by 82% of all pharmacies. While it is unknown how many people who were originally prescribed the drug are still on it, based on adherence information in previous studies, no more than half the people actually took the drug on any type of consistent basis². Therefore, we estimate that about 25,000 are still taking Truvada for prevention. Of these patients 79% were men or about 20,000.
2. We are assuming almost all of these 20,000 are men who have sex with men (MSM). Studies estimate that there are 4,875,000 MSM³—or 3.9% of the 125 million adult men in the US. As a result, we can conclude that less than .04% of MSM are taking Truvada for PrEP. CDC has suggested that 1.2 million men⁴ should be on PrEP but doctors and patients are not responding to that call in large numbers. PrEP cannot be a major factor in preventing HIV when so few people are on it. On the other hand recent studies indicate that 60% of MSM use condoms regularly⁵, based on last sex among HIV-negative MSM.
3. African-Americans are 12% of the US population but are 44% of new HIV infections⁶. However, they are only 10% of people on PrEP. Young people are most at risk for new HIV infections, but made up only 7.6% of PrEP prescriptions. Whites represent 27% of new infections but made up 74% of those on PrEP. The men who are taking PrEP are those least at risk from HIV.
4. PrEP does not protect people from STDs. The rapid rise in rates of STDs such as syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea⁷ indicate that fewer people are using condoms and suggesting the need to reinvigorate safer sex campaigns, which have suffered greatly as a result of the CDC's almost exclusive focus on PrEP.
5. The wide-scale advertising promotions of Truvada for PrEP by AIDS organizations and community groups funded by the manufacturer Gilead Sciences gives the impression that PrEP is very popular even though the raw numbers tell another story. Based on the large number of men who say they are on PrEP on hook-up sites such as Grindr, it would appear that they are seeking unprotected sex whether they take the drug or not.

The CDC is the national agency responsible for the prevention of HIV and other STDs. As such, we call on you to re-balance your prevention efforts to align with what patients want and need so that we can achieve better success in preventing new infections.

Thank you.
AIDS Healthcare Foundation

¹ Food and Drug Administration. (2012). FDA approves first drug for reducing the risk of sexually acquired HIV infection. Retrieved online:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm312210.htm>

² Cohen SE et al. (2014). Implementation of PrEP in STD Clinics: High Uptake and Drug Detection Among MSM in the Demonstration Project. 21st Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI). Retrieved online: <http://www.croiconference.org/sessions/implementation-prep-std-clinics-high-uptake-and-drug-detection-among-msm-demo-project>

³ Jones JM. (22 June 2016). Same-Sex Marriages Up One Year After Supreme Court Verdict. Gallup. Retrieved online:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/193055/sex-marriages-one-year-supreme-court-verdict.aspx>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (24 November 2015). Transcript for CDC Telebriefing: Daily Pill Prevents HIV – New CDC estimates underscore the need to increase awareness of a daily pill that can prevent HIV infection. Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/t1124-hivprep.html>

⁵ Paz-Bailey G et al. (2016). Trends in condom use among men who have sex with men in the United States: The role of antiretroviral therapy and sero-adaptive strategies. AIDS.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (November 2015). Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2014. Retrieved online:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-us.pdf>

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (17 November 2015). Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases on the Rise, Some at Alarming Rate. Retrieved online:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2015/std-surveillance-report-press-release.html>