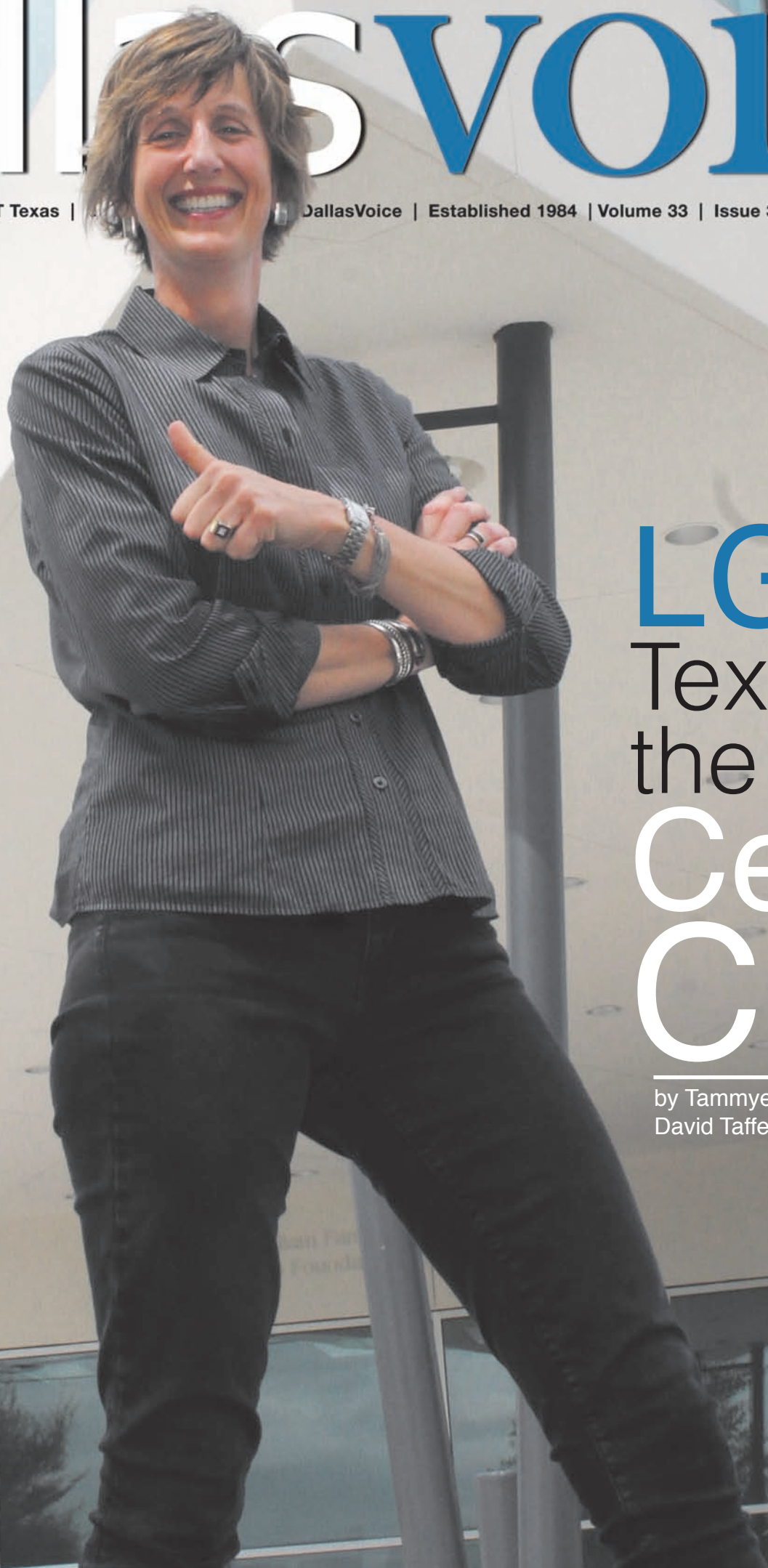


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LGBT Texan of the Year Cece Cox

by Tammye Nash &
David Taffet, Page 10

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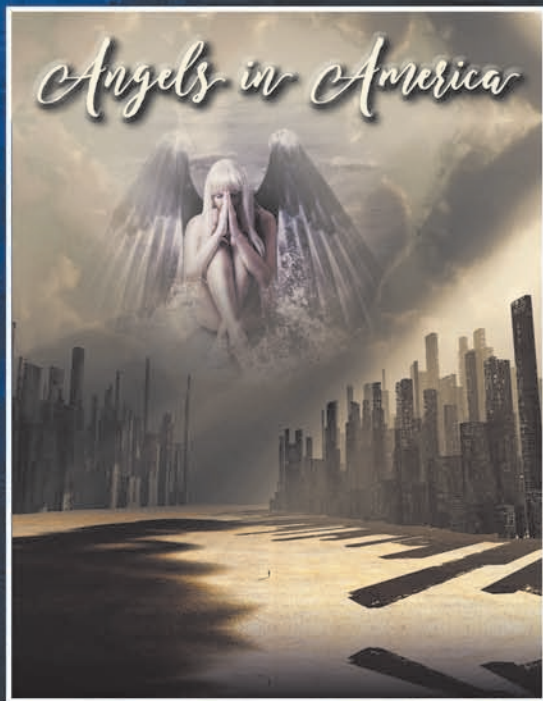
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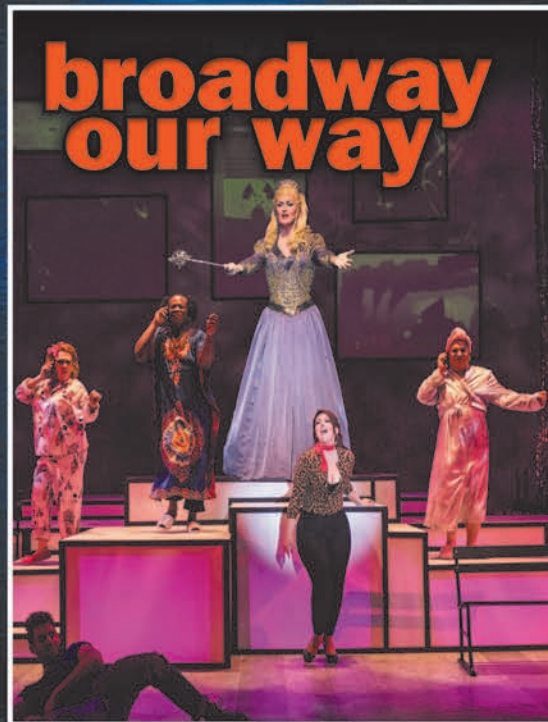
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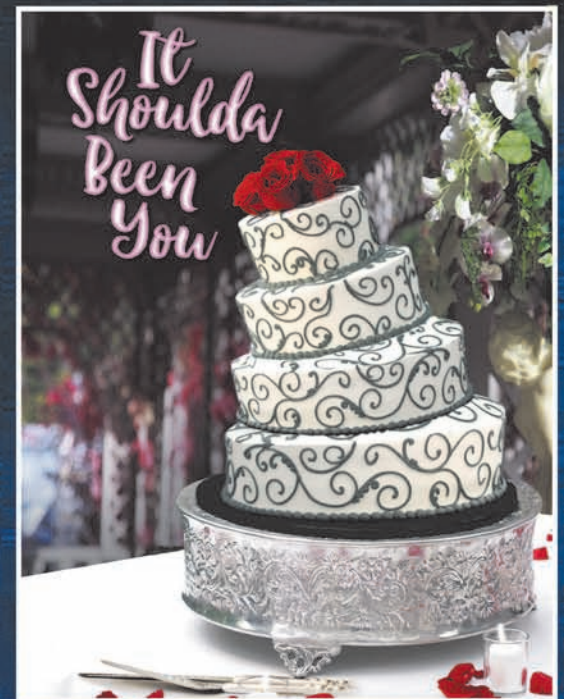
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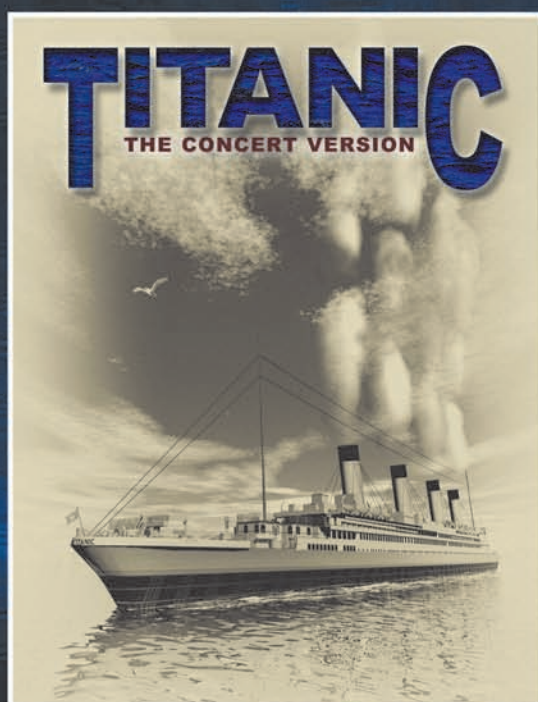


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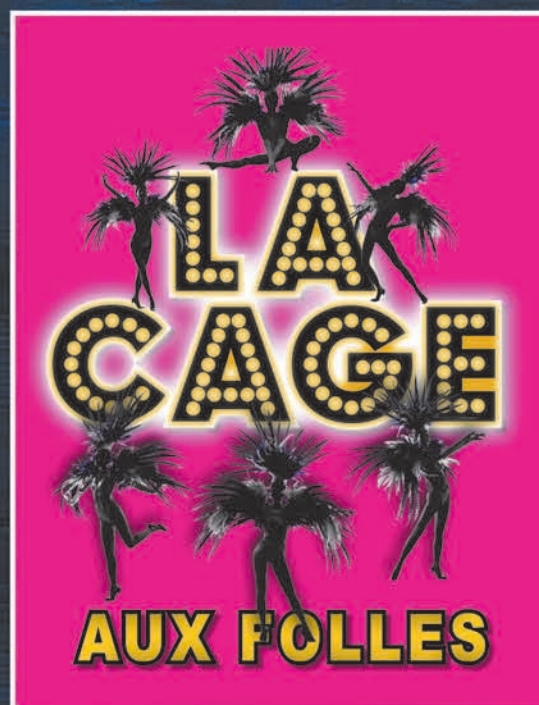


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Design by Chuck Miller

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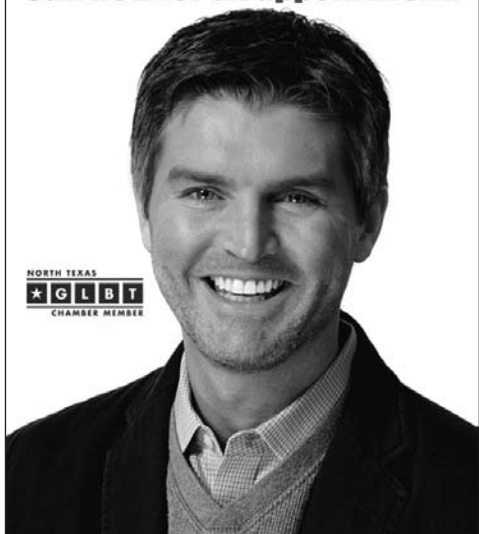


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Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards

Louisiana nondiscrimination order declared unconstitutional

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards' executive order protecting state LGBT employees has been declared unconstitutional by State District Judge Todd Hernandez.

Hernandez ruled Edwards' order created or expanded state law, something only the legislature can do.

The state's Republican attorney general filed the lawsuit challenging the Democratic governor's order. Edwards plans to appeal.

While Edwards' order included a non-discrimination provision for contractors, it contained an exception for religious organizations contracting with the state.

Hernandez bought the argument that Edwards' executive order tried to create new protected classes of people that don't exist under current state or federal law. In his decision, he called it, "an unlawful usurp of the constitutional authority vested only in the legislative branch of government."

— David Taffet

Cherokee Nation legalizes same-sex marriage

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Cherokee Nation's attorney general legalized gay marriage for the country's second-largest Native American tribe, saying its same-sex marriage ban violates a tribal requirement for all of its citizens to be treated equally.

Attorney General Todd Hembree's opinion, which was issued Dec. 9, says parts of a 2004 tribal law that defined marriage as "a civil contract between one man and one woman" and prohibited marriage between two persons of the same sex violate the Cherokee Constitution, which requires the equal treatment of tribal citizens.

"The right to marry without the freedom to marry the person of one's choice is no right at all," Hembree wrote in his opinion.

Tribal Assistant Attorney General Chrissi Nimmo said Monday, Dec. 12, that the opinion carries the

force of law and legalizes same-sex marriage and adoption by same-sex couples who are members of the Oklahoma-based tribe, which has about 300,000 members.

The Cherokee Nation was among 11 of the nation's 567 federally recognized tribes that had explicit bans on same-sex marriage.

— Tim Talley/Associated Press



Joanie Schultz

WaterTower appoints new artistic director

As Joanie Schultz was driving through the snowy streets of Chicago in mid-December, she realized that this could well be her last time for a while to brave the

bracing cold of a Midwestern winter. Instead, she would have to contend with a different extreme: Texas summer heat.

"It'll be different... It'll be good, though," she says optimistically.

Schultz made the move from the bustle of the City of Big Shoulders to the environs of Big D; this week, she was named the new artistic director of Addison's WaterTower Theatre. The appointment was announced by board President Paul Shultz. "Joanie is a phenomenal-choice to lead WaterTower Theatre's artistic vision in a new era," he says.

It's a huge leap of faith for her... but also for WaterTower, which was ably led for 17 of its 20 years by Terry Martin, until he resigned last spring. Schultz is moving to an area where she has few ties; WTT is giving Schultz her first slot as an artistic director leading a theater company. And both couldn't be more excited at discovering each other.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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THE GAY AGENDA

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

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guest is Dallas County Commissioner **Theresa Daniel**; **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.

DECEMBER

- **Dec. 16-17: Nearly Naked Nutcracker**
Broads and Panties Burlesque presents The

Nearly Naked Nutcracker benefiting Trans-cendence and The Battered Women's Foundation at 9 p.m. at Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St., Suite 120. Tickets at NearlyNakedNutcracker.com.

- **Dec. 17: Hark**

Free Christmas music concert with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, Cathedral Bells and Voices of Hope at 7 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Free. For information call 214-351-1901.

- **Dec. 18: Children's Christmas Pageant**

About 45 children and youth of Cathedral of Hope present the story of the Nativity at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. For information call 214-351-1901.

- **Dec. 18: A Taco Christmas**

The Miss Gay Texas State/State At Large pageant system partners with Pekers Bar to host "A Taco Christmas" at the bar, 2615 Oak Lawn Ave, benefiting AIDS Walk, Tucker's Gift and the Coalition for Aging LGBT. The chicken- and beef-taco dinner, complete with chips and salsa, starts at 4 p.m.,

pet of the week / KIKI

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Operation Kindness will be at The Galleria, 13350 Galleria Road, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sundays and Christmas Eve, noon-6 p.m., through Dec. 24, with Kiki and other perfect pets looking for forever homes. They'll be just outside Banana Republic's mall entrance. For information call 972-418-PAWS.



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followed at 5 p.m. by a show featuring Miss Gay Texas State 2017 Nia Courtland, Miss Gay Texas State At Large 2017 Bianca Davenport Starr and special guest performers. For information call 214-528-3333.

- **Dec. 19: Charitable Mondays**

A portion of sales will go to Shared Housing Center. Tell server you are participating from 3-7 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Klyde Warren Park.

- **Dec. 21: A Drag Queen Christmas**

Bob the Drag Queen, Trixie Mattel and more at 9 p.m. at House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St.

- **Dec. 24: Chinese food and a movie**

Congregation Beth El Binah has a traditional Jewish Christmas Eve dinner at 4:30 p.m. at Royal China, 6025 Royal Lane.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Northaven UMC**

Christmas eve services at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Christmas morning at 11 a.m. at 11211 Preston Road.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Oak Lawn UMC**

Christmas Eve services with candlelight and Holy Communion at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Christmas day with Holy Communion at 10 a.m. at 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Celebration Community Church**

Christmas eve services at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. at 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Metropolitan**

Community Church of Greater Dallas Christmas eve service at 7 p.m. at 1017 S. Elm #105, Carrollton.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at the Episcopal Church St. Thomas**

Christmas eve service at 8 p.m. and morning service at 10 a.m. at 6525 Inwood Road.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Agape MCC**

Christmas eve at 7 p.m. at 4615 E California Parkway, Fort Worth.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Promise UCC**

Christmas eve at 7 p.m. at 2527 W. Colorado Blvd.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Cathedral of Hope**

Christmas eve at 7 p.m., bilingual at 9 p.m. and candlelight at 11 p.m. Christmas Day at 10 a.m. at 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Dec. 24: TAG Christmas Party**

Tyler Area Gays host their annual Christmas Party from 7 p.m.-midnight at a private residence. Bring snacks and spirits. For

location and other information email Tyler_Area_Gays@mail.vresp.com.

- **Dec. 25: Christmas**

- **Dec. 26: Charitable Mondays**

A portion of sales will go to Shared Housing Center. Tell server you are participating from 3-7 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Klyde Warren Park.

- **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**

Find your party and party safely.

- **Dec. 31: Once in a Blue Moon dance**

New Year's Eve party for women from 7 p.m.-midnight at DanceMasters Ballroom located at 10675 East Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. \$25.

- **Dec. 31: Masques at Midnight**

Formal gala and awards evening hosted by Tarrant County Pride from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Drive, Fort Worth.

JANUARY

- **Happy New Year**

- **Jan. 12: Little Black Dress Party**

The FashionCited preview party that benefits Legal Hospice of Texas from 7-9:30 p.m. at Goodson Acura, 4801 Lemmon Ave. Tickets are \$25 at the door, and include food, drinks and music. For information call 214-521-6622 or email kamesha@legalthospice.org.

- **Jan. 17: Stonewall elections**

Stonewall officer elections at 7 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

- **Jan 20: Protest at the Inauguration**

Protest on Inauguration Day Against War, Racism and Inequality from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Freedom Plaza, 14th St NW & Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C.

- **Jan. 21: Women's March on Austin**

A sister event to the Women's March on Washington taking place in D.C. from noon-6 p.m. at the Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin.

FEBRUARY

- **Feb. 25: Dash for the Beads**

5K and 10K run, 1K walk and festival at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Cauty St.

MARCH

- **March 20: Advocacy Day in Austin**

Speak to your legislators. GALA North Texas will sponsor buses to Austin. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin.



Cathedral of Hope UCC, 5910 Cedar Springs Rd., offers a Christmas music concert by the church's Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, Cathedral Bells and Voices of Hope on Saturday, Dec. 17. On Monday, Dec. 19, the church children and youth present their Christmas Pageant at 9 and 11 a.m. For details listings in The Gay Agenda.

LGBT Texan of the Year

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox took her agency to new heights in 2016, but family, friends and coworkers praise her dedication to family as much as to community

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor

nash@dallasvoice.com

and

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

This has been a banner year for Resource Center. And CEO Cece Cox is the one who has been waving that banner all along, leading the way in creating an agency continually striving to find new and better ways to meet needs in every segment of the North Texas LGBT community.

And so, in recognition not only of her six years as head of Resource Center but also her more than 30 years as an advocate for LGBT equality, Dallas Voice has chosen Cece Cox as our 2017 LGBT Texan of the Year.

Resource Center — first incorporated as the Foundation for Human Understanding in 1983 — officially opened its new \$8.7 million LGBT Community Center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road in May. Less than a month later, that new center was the site of an emotional gathering of hundreds of people mourning the massacre at Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

Resource Center continued operating its Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, 4012 Cedar Springs Road, as usual, while moving its food pantry to the former headquarters at 2701 Reagan at the same time the Reagan Street facilities were being remodeled. The remodeled — and renamed — Simmons Health Campus facilities were rededicated in mid November.

Dallas Voice spoke to Cox earlier this week about Resource Center's milestones this year, under the guise of writing a year-end wrap-up on local LGBT and HIV/AIDS agencies. In that interview, Cox said that since she first took over as CEO, the task of building a new facility was what she feared most, and what most compelled her.

Her goal, she said, has always been for Resource Center to better serve the community, and with the opening of the new center in May, "we fulfilled our promise to do that."

Cox described the new community center as a dynamic piece of architecture with "movement" and "an interesting visual. Six months after it opened, she said, she still gets excited to see people using the building.

Cox said the young LGBT people she has talked to tell her they are happy to have a place to come, and she said the building's large expanse of glass does exactly what she had hoped — project an image of an open and welcoming home. "We are,"



Photo courtesy Shelly Skeen

she said, "inspiring. We're a beacon."

Cox said she is also happy with how the remodel at the Health Campus — which houses the food pantry, the hot meals program, the insurance program and an expanded counseling program — has turned out. "We transformed [the facility] while honoring its past," she said.

Cox said she is grateful for the support that allowed her to lead the effort to build the new facility, renovate the older buildings and thus provide the space and opportunities the community needs. But her friends, family and coworkers said this week it's Cox's leadership, spirit and dedication that make them grateful as this year comes to an end.

"I've known Cece since the 1990s, when she was president of [Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance] and I was working in radio," said Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager for Resource Center for the last eight years. He said that the construction of the new community center and renovation of the Health Campus "is the fulfillment of a dream we've had, as a community and as a center, for so many years. It's taken a lot of work to get here. It's been a long journey, and Cece is the captain of our ship."

McDonnell credited Cox with having the stamina and the dedication to not only see the center through this massive construction phase, but to "at the same time remain engaged with the community." He pointed to her role in the vigil for the Orlando victims and her meeting with Dallas Police Chief David Brown to express the community's concerns when the Rev. Robert Jeffress, anti-gay pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, announced his church would be "counseling" police officers.

She has also maintained her position and duties as co-chair of the board of CenterLink, a national network of LGBT community centers. As the CenterLink board co-chair, Cox is "the face and the voice of the LGBT community of Dallas, and she is always very much aware that she represents us to the rest of the country that way," McDonnell said.

And here at home, he added, "she is our vision person, helping us set our standards and our goals, and helping us reach them. Cece is our champion, and she is our cheerleader."

Linda Moore, an attorney who served on the Resource Center board for more than 15 years, said she still gets an incredible thrill each time she drives by the new Community Center. And it was Cox, she said, that pulled together the capital campaign that made it possible, by reaching out to "a broader footprint of people" than anyone else could have done.

"Cece has the ability to inform and educate people about all the things Resource Center does," Moore said, adding that she was glad Cox chose to keep the Reagan Street property and renovate

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it, rather than selling it. She said that the building there is “iconic,” and that “I hope it continues to be a special place for the people who use those services.”

Moore also had high praise for Cox’s work as an activist as well as an administrator. “She’s been an advocate at a lot of critical times” for the LGBT community, Moore said of Cox. “She’s never been afraid to say when something’s not right. She’s not afraid to talk to any audience.”

A prime example, Moore said, was when Cox began hearing that even though the Dallas Independent School District had a comprehensive anti-bullying policy in place, some DISD officials were telling principals not to enforce the policy. Cox went before the school board members, quickly convincing them of the necessity of enforcing the policy already in place.

David Chard is now president of Wheelock College in Boston. But he met Cox when he was dean of the Simmons School of Education at her alma mater, Southern Methodist University, before she took over as CEO at Resource Center.

Chard, who is openly gay, said he and his department at SMU wanted to do something that would benefit the school and the LGBT community, and “we thought of mental health support.” Cox stepped forward to help make that happen.

Chard said the program wouldn’t have happened at all without Cox’s help. “Her credibility at SMU was well ahead of me,” he said. “The uni-

versity didn’t ask any questions. I’m not sure I could have done it without Cece.”

Through that program, SMU began offering counseling internships at Resource Center, and Chard brought Cox onto the Simmons advisory board. While most advisory board members are major donors, most aren’t what Chard calls “doers.” But Cox was a doer, he said.

“Her contributions there have been enormous,” he said. “She really gives substantive advice.

“Nonprofit leadership is really a tough job,” Chard continued. “It doesn’t always attract savvy people like Cece. I’ve worked with many, but she’s at the top.” he agreed that while the opening of the new community center was a transformative milestone for Resource Center, he said Cox’s leadership through the years has benefited not just the LGBT community, but Dallas as a whole.

Cameron Hernhold has been the Resource Center’s director of development for three years and seven months. Shortly after she took the job, the agency redefined its goals for the new community center project, setting new goals for the capital campaign intended to fund it.

“When you work in development, you know you’ll either have a fundraising CEO or executive director, or you have someone who focuses on other aspects of the job. When you’ve got a fundraising CEO, it makes projects like our capital campaign easier,” Hernholm said. “With Cece Cox, I got both. I can tell you, Cece is responsible



Coworkers, family and friends all praise Cece Cox for her passion and dedication. (Photo courtesy Shelly Skeen)

for the success of this capital campaign. In 2013, the board decided to allow her to focus on fundraising, and that’s what made us able to do it.”

Hernholm said Cox is not just a boss, “she’s also a mentor. She is so strong, and so inspiring. Her success leads to success for this agency. She’s a real door opener, for Resource Center clients and for her staff, too. She’s just a rockstar.”

But Cox is also “a whole lot of fun,” Hernholm said. “She’s just a total joy to work for and work with.”

It’s a sentiment that McDonnell echoed, saying that he thinks of Cox not just as an outstanding boss, but as an outstanding friend, too. He recalled the day of the massacre at Pulse, saying that in the midst of planning for the vigil happening that same evening, it was Cox who reminded him “that we’re still human, and that our reactions are human. She’s the one who reminded me to stop, take a breath and have that human moment, then get back to work. She helped me get centered into what we had to do that day.”

McDonnell said that Cox was there for him as a friend when he lost his mother and, just this month, we he lost his friend and fellow activist, David Mack Henderson. He was at work when he got the news of Henderson’s death, McDonnell said. “I called Cece and told her, and she said, ‘I’ll

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SATURDAY 12/24

7, 9 and 11 pm Christmas Eve Worship
Rev. Dr. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas

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Promise House opening LGBT facility



Promise House's original house is now a home for pregnant teens and new moms. An LGBT house will open soon in the same neighborhood. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

New group home in Oak Cliff will
supplement other services offered
to LGBT and other youth

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Promise House, the Oak Cliff agency that houses homeless teens, will soon be opening a house for 18-to-21-year-old LGBT youth. Promise House CEO Ashley Lind doesn't yet have a specific opening date, but she said the new house should open sometime over the next month.

While few youth-oriented shelters offer a program like this anywhere in the country, Promise House staff members did visit similar facilities in California to make sure the Dallas agency is providing the programs needed for new LGBT house to be successful.

Nationally, about 40 percent of homeless teens are LGBT. Lind said her agency's internal survey showed only about 10 to 12 percent of Promise House residents fall into the category. Working on the assumption that Dallas isn't taking dramatically better care of its LGBT youth than other cities are, the agency chose to take responsibility for that number being so low.

"That led us to believe either our kids are not comfortable in self-identifying upon entry or our services are not conducive to their immediate needs," Lind explained.

Promise House recently received a grant that will allow the agency to set up the new group home for LGBT young adults, allowing the youth to live there and receive services for up to two years.

"That age was chosen because we can intervene in a way that allows them to be independent and

self-sufficient adults," Lind said. Child Protective Services is often involved in cases with younger clients.

Programs will help the LGBT youth access community resources, find employment and get an apartment. Through counseling, they'll work through prejudice they've encountered and other problems they face.

The grant is for a demonstration project, because there are very few programs like this anywhere in the country, Lind said. The house will be staffed with people with an understanding of the issues LGBT youth face. Counselors will be available for weekly sessions as well as for crisis intervention. Mentors who have had similar experiences growing up LGBT will be there for the residents to look to for advice and as role models.

Staff members are connecting to medical resources to help youth through situations specific to them from HIV prevention or treatment to transitioning for transgender teens, and collaborating with other organizations to offer referrals to other community resources.

"We'll let them make the decision what they'd like to participate in to fulfill their needs," Lind said.

In addition, residents of the new LGBT house can take advantage of other Promise House programs.

Education is an important piece for all Promise House residents. If the LGBT residents don't have their high school diplomas, they can either finish in a local DISD school, the Dallas Can Academy, which is just a few blocks away, or get a GED. Then many Promise House residents continue on to college.

Promise House not only works to help its residents earn scholarships, the agency also has a scholarship program of its own to help the youth continue their education.

6 months later

49 killed at Pulse remembered in memorials in Orlando

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Relatives, friends and survivors of the June 12 Orlando nightclub massacre stood outside Pulse where candles were lit behind stars with the names of each of the 49 patrons killed, as they remembered the six-month mark Monday, Dec. 12, of the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

They hugged one another outside the shuttered gay club, and at 2:02 a.m., the exact time gunman Omar Mateen started shooting inside, a moment of silence was held. Then they read the names of each of the deceased patrons.

Many wore black and others wore rainbow-colored "Orlando United" T-shirts and ball caps.

More than 50 other patrons were seriously injured during the Pride month massacre.

"Time really does fly," said Orlando Torres, who hid in a bathroom when the shooting started. "It was very somber and very touching."

Torres spoke to reporters after the early morning remembrance, which was closed to the public and media.

"This morning was very emotional. To the beautiful 49 we will never forget and continue to keep your pulse," the official Pulse Twitter account read Monday.

Two other services were held in Orlando for the Pulse victims later in the day. Across the metro area, some buildings were lit up in the rainbow colors of gay Pride.

The gates around Pulse were opened in the evening, again, this time for a public remembrance. Another service was held in the evening

at the Orange County Regional History Center.

After the service, the history center opened an exhibit of digital photos showing Orlando's response to the mass shooting. Tens of thousands of central Florida residents attended memorial services for the Pulse victims in the days after the massacre. They held candlelight vigils and lined up to donate blood. Rainbow flags were hung all over the metro area in support of the gay community.

Also Monday, the city of Orlando launched a program that allows businesses to designate themselves as safe places for gays and lesbians if they feel threatened. Orlando police officers began distributing decals to local businesses to post in their windows identifying them as places members of the LGBTQ community can go if they feel they are in jeopardy.

Mateen was killed in a shootout with SWAT team members after a three-hour standoff. The FBI is still investigating the massacre.

The future of the nightclub is still up in the air. Pulse's owner last week said she is no longer interested selling the property to the city of Orlando which had planned to use it for a memorial.

Owner Barbara Poma says she plans to use the space to create a "sanctuary of hope" and a welcoming area where people can reflect on those affected by the tragedy.

At the history center service Monday, Poma said efforts for a memorial will begin soon, after the holiday season. She said it was essential that what happened at Pulse is never forgotten.

"Where do we go from here? We only have one way to go, and that's forward," Poma said. "We must find a way to defeat evil and find a way that, for generations to come, no one will forget what happened here."



PROMISE, From Previous Page

One of Promise House's main goals for its residents, including those in the new LGBT house, is to help find an apartment on their own, once they're old enough. Staff members help the youth look for an apartment they can afford in a neighborhood that's safe.

Although a young adult may be able to afford the monthly rent, their earnings might not be enough to cover things like a security deposit and utility deposits. So to help them move in, Promise House will help with those costs, even subsidizing their rent for a few months and give them some furniture to help them get going.

A specialized program targeting one community is nothing new for Promise House. The agency opened in the 1980s with one house that held 10 residents, and now that building is used for pregnant teens and new moms with their babies. Teens can live there for up to two years. At that point, Promise House helps the young moms move into their own apartments.

Lind said often CPS and law enforcement are involved in cases where the boyfriend of the teen's

mother or a stepbrother is the father of the teen's child. When the pregnant teen is thrown out of her house, often with a mother blaming the daughter, Promise House intervenes and helps the teen through the pregnancy and, if she's keeping the child, the first couple of years of motherhood.

In addition to that original building, Promise House now has another house and has built more housing plus classroom, counseling facilities, offices and space for other programs on adjacent property.

While some youth that come to Promise House were homeless and living on the streets, some of the youth were referred to the agency and others came to the Oak Cliff agency through CPS.

At one time, Promise House could help only 10 youth at a time. The number is now closer to 100. Although Lind doesn't know how many lives Promise House has touched over the years, she said about 500 young people currently are helped by one of the organization's programs every year.

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Bigger, better Pride

Dallas Pride committee announces plan to expand celebration to two days, with the Festival in the Park on Saturday, and the Pride parade on Sunday

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

The 2017 Dallas Pride festivities are expanding in 2017, with the Festival in the Park moving to Saturday while the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade stays at its traditional 2 p.m. time slot on the third Sunday in September.

Michael Doughman, executive director of the Dallas Tavern Guild, the organization that produces Dallas Pride, said there will be “a lot of new changes and additions to make the festival more inclusive and entertaining.” He added that holding the festival and the parade on different days gives more people the chance to attend both events.

“We feel these changes ... will enhance both experiences for our community and out-of-town guests,” Doughman said. He noted that more new features are in the planning stages, and that the Pride committee will be announcing those new additions to Pride weekend in the months to come.

Doughman said that Tavern Guild and Pride Committee members have been made the decision to expand after examining other Pride events and talking with organizers of those events.

“The general consensus is that a two-day event is much more successful,” he said. “That way people don’t have to decide between going to the parade, or going to the festival.”

Doughman said Tavern Guild and Pride committee members had hoped to make the change to two days of Pride this year. But the events of the year forced them to delay.

“We’ve been talking about it since we moved from Lee Park to Reverchon Park. We have the space now to really expand and improve the festival,” he said. “We had wanted to do it this year. But then Orlando happened, and that kind of took over everything. All our attention this year had to be on safety and security.”

Doughman said part of the plans to expand and improve the festival include incorporating the annual Teen Pride events as part of the Dallas Pride line-up, rather than it being something separate.

“It looked and felt like the teens were having to have their own thing because they weren’t allowed to be part of [Dallas Pride]. We want everyone to be included,” he explained. “We already have a safe space set aside for the Family Pride Zone for the little ones and families. Why don’t we include Teen Pride the same way?”

“So we are going to create a safe space within

the festival, a space away from alcohol and things like that, for Teen Pride to be there and be part of the festival.”

Doughman also said that organizers will be focusing on turning the festival into “mainly a music festival. We’ll be adding a second stage — there’s more information on that to come — and we’ll be adding more music, more entertainment throughout the festival grounds all day long. We will start lining up entertainment soon, and we’ll be releasing all the details as they become available. People are going to be very excited when they start seeing all we have planned.”

Doughman said the new two-day Pride schedule will help alleviate the age-old problem of traffic congestion, too. “That’s always been a bone of contention with residents who live along the parade route,” he said. “But now, with the length of the parade and where it will end, that won’t be such an issue. There won’t be any reason for people to file out into the streets and follow the parade to the park. They can stay on the Cedar Springs Strip and there in the neighborhood.”

The parade, which had been turning down Cedar Springs and ending at Reverchon Park (and before that, Lee Park), will now end at the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Turtle Creek Boulevard. Organizers will coordinate with the Lee Park and Arlington Hall Conservancy to allow parade floats to unload at that park, giving participants an easy walk back to the main drag to continue their celebration.

Doughman said the changes are also intended to help offset the rising costs of producing Dallas Pride each year.

“Costs have escalated just so ridiculously in the last couple of years. We had to do something trim those costs, and we weren’t going to be getting any leeway from the city” in terms of what permits were necessary to stage the events, and how much those permits cost, he said. “We had to find a way to make it all affordable, for us and for the people who attend, without damaging or negatively affecting the parade or the festival.”

Doughman continued, “I know there are a lot of people out there who think we’re getting rich off of Pride. But that’s a huge misconception. It couldn’t be further from the truth. And there are some who criticize us for taking corporate sponsorships and donations. But it costs a lot of

money to put these events on.

“There are so many costs people don’t ever think of. There’s the cost of the trash containers along the parade route and in the park, and the liners to go in those containers,” he said. “And then there’s the cost of cleaning up that amount of trash. And the cost of police security the city and Homeland Security require that we have. The average person has really no clue how much it all costs.”

“Ours is one of the few Pride celebrations that has a beneficiary element. Most are able to generate just enough seed money to start working on the next event,” Doughman said. “To be able to produce this event for the community, to pay our bills and still have money to give to our charities, we have to generate a lot of money for that. And there are things we want to do that we just think are the right things, socially, to do. Those things come with a price tag.”

Doughman acknowledged that there will likely be some disadvantages. But, he said, “the losses are minor compared to the wins. There’s nothing self-serving about the decisions we are making. We all work 10 months a year, and I am the only salaried employee. I’m not saying we aren’t trying to raise more money. I just don’t want people to misunderstand why we want to raise more money. Our books are open to anyone who wants to see them.”

Doughman also acknowledged that recent the recent discovery that former assistant director David Berryman had misappropriated funds

could cause some to question their support for the Dallas Pride committee. But he said the problems that had allowed the misappropriation to happen have been addressed, and Berryman has repaid all the money he took.

“David has been removed and has no access to anything to do with Pride any more,” he said of Berryman. “We have a brand new CPA in charge of oversight on all the books and finances, and the committee membership will get a full budget report each month. And we’ve gone to a three part process for all purchases now.”

He noted that Pride financial transactions are no longer handled through PayPal, “because we found out that was the portal through which the funds were shunted away. ... We’ve removed any opportunities for that kind of thing to happen again.”

For details and to keep abreast of new information about Dallas Pride 2017, visit DallasPride.org, check the Dallas Pride Facebook page or follow Dallas Pride on Twitter.



Michael Doughman



Cathedral of Hope UCC recently honored Cece Cox for her 30 years of activism (2nd 2 Nunn Photography)

be right down.' She came to my office and we just held each other and cried.

"When you are an advocate, finding a balance between work and life can be hard to do," McDonnell added. "Cece makes sure that the people here [at Resource Center] find that balance."

For Steve Atkinson, Cox's friendship has been as valuable as her leadership and her activism. He said they first became friends in the early 1990s when they worked together on some really big activist battles, including the effort to get the city of Dallas to pass an ordinance protecting employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"I immediately saw that Cece was not only passionate about all the right causes, but that she was also brilliant and immensely talented," Atkinson said. "In all the years since then, she has been one of our community's most effective leaders and advocates. I am so proud she is one of my closest friends, and immensely proud of what she has done to advance equality for LGBT and to help those living with HIV and AIDS.

"Cece has been a stellar head of Resource Center," he continued. "During her tenure the center has grown, thrived and expanded its programs greatly, which means many more people are helped and served by its work. Cece is one of the most visible and respected leaders our community has ever had, and that is a wonderful thing for all of us."

Despite her commitment to her community and her job, Cox is also deeply committed to her family. She is, said her brother Martin Cox, "a devoted and dedicated mother who loves her son, Mateo, and who partners with Mateo's other parent, Lisa Means, to raise him well. She's a fun-loving person with a great sense of humor — a very fun aunt and sister."

Martin Cox said his sister "has the skill of being able to easily relate to and communicate with

many different kinds of people, while being unwaveringly clear about what she believes is right."

Her girlfriend, attorney Shelly Skeen agreed. "Cece is one of the kindest, gentlest, most passionate, unwavering, strong, resilient and persevering souls I have ever known," Skeen said. "I am truly grateful and blessed by how she shows up in the world each day, and that is equally true not just to those close to her, but for everyone she touches with her unending work in and for our community."

Skeen added, "Cece is truly a pioneer. Her courage to be out and open when others were not, her undying work for our community, her passion for the most basic of the qualities that make us human and her willingness to see the beauty in them and then fight for them ... has transcended and shaped at least two decades in the LGBT community, and has left us all better off than we were before."

While her family, friends and coworkers are happy to praise her accomplishments so far, Cox herself is already looking ahead to what comes next.

"I have a huge goal" already set, she said. But she's not quite ready to talk about what that goal is. Still, she has no problem talking about her priorities with and for Resource Center, including "expanding the counseling program. The youth program is coming alive, and so are senior programs."

Texas and the rest of the country are facing some major challenges in the days ahead, as the Trump administration begins its reign next month, and, Cox warned, "We must prepare for what we think will be coming our way, while not getting freaked out or panicked by it all."

And with Cece Cox there to keep carrying that banner high, the way forward may be just a little bit brighter, after all. ■



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What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices.** Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. **Pregnancy Registry:** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about

TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices.** Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.

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■ commUNITY voices

Calling a rose a rose (and other random thoughts)

"That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet."

This oft-quoted line from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet came to mind this week at work.

My co-worker, a lovely African-American woman, is often asked for on the phone or up front in the lobby as "the black woman." While technically that's accurate, she does actually have a name. And it would surely be a lot more polite to simply ask for her by name.

But too many of us are, frankly, too lazy to remember names. So instead we refer to people in ways that can be borderline offensive — though no offense is intended.

I get an occasional taste of that as well. Just this week, I was asked to come up front because a woman was there to see me. They said I'd know her as soon as I saw her.

I walked up front and — nope. I'd never seen her before.

She looked at me and said, "That's not her. She used to work in the food pantry."

I then asked her if she was looking for the woman who worked in the food pantry, referring to that woman — who also happened to be transgender — by name. She perked up and said "Yes, her. Do you know where she went?"

I didn't, and we ended our conversation.

I walked back to my desk knowing — not for the first time — that they had called me to come



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

Hell, I'd settle for "the tall girl." Except, where I work, they'd say, "Oh, you mean Cece Cox."

I did it again — something I've done too many times. Each time I do it, I instantly regret it. But then next year, I do it again.

I'm referring to stopping at the grocery store on the day before Thanksgiving. If that's not the busiest day of the year for grocery stores, it has to be right up there.

It was around 5 p.m., and there were no parking spots, no shopping carts available (I had to swipe one near a check stand) and getting through the aisles was like merging from I-35 onto Woodall Rogers at 7:30 a.m. on a Monday. Good luck!

I escaped with my life — vowing never to do that again, until next year.

I was planning a trip to Atlanta to see my kids and I needed a dog-sitter. I called my friend Peter, who has done this

for me in the past (as I have for him). He said he'd love to, but he's moving to Cincinnati.

That sucked the breath out of me. I've known Peter for "only" five years, but he has become such

up front because someone had come in and asked for "that transgender woman."

While it is true that I am a transgender woman, I also have a name. I'm proud of who I am, but there is a lot more to me than just being a transgender woman.

a dear friend and important person in my life.

Peter and I worked together at CBS Radio. I programmed Jack-FM and Peter was the program director at KLUV (maybe you've heard it?) He and I became fast friends and would occasionally have lunch together.

Peter is a wonderful man, about my age, and we both spent most of our lives on the radio, so we could relate. He has a wicked sense of humor, exceeded only by his compassion and sense of humanity.

Peter is also an out Gay man.

Peter left CBS in the fall of 2012, but we kept in touch and would still have lunch occasionally. Keep in mind that in I was still deep in the closet about the whole transgender thing. I was still married and living in Flower Mound, about as far from the gayborhood as one could get — Denton County, for Pete's sake!

At that point, I didn't even know there was a gayborhood in Dallas.

We would usually eat at Lucky's, or Black Eye's Pea, Hunky's or Snookie's (a favorite of Peter's). When I came out to Peter, he — of course — was a rock for me and was thrilled for me.

When I was escorted from the CBS building in 2013, Peter was one of the first calls I made. He said, "We are going to drink! Meet me at the Round-Up at 6:30."

I had never heard of The Round-Up and didn't even know it was a gay bar. I figured it was a red-neck country bar and thought it odd that a gay guy and a trans girl would meet at such a place. But I trusted him.

That day — April 11, 2013 — was the day I decided I would live my life 100 percent as my authentic self and never look back. Peter was holding court in the back bar with our bartender, Harold, who made me feel so special and so welcome.

It was a night I will never forget.

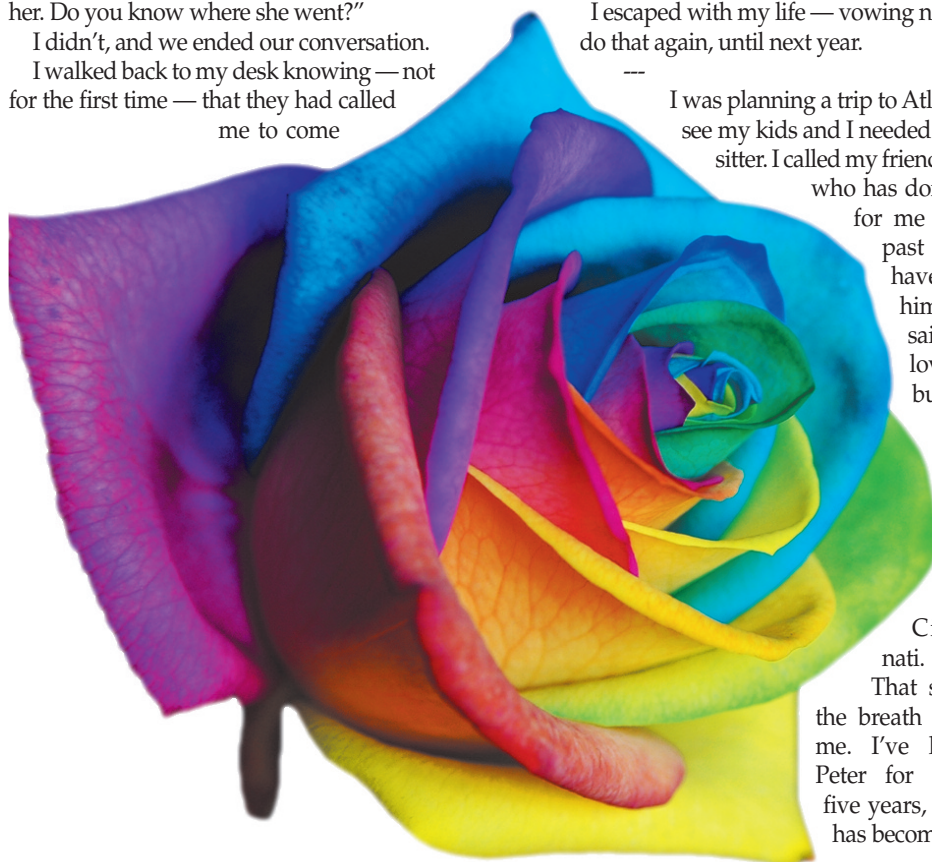
It was Peter's kindness, acceptance and friendship that helped give me the confidence I take with me every day now. He is such a good friend and such an important person in my life. So when he texted me about having lunch on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at JR's I had to accept.

We shared laughter and some really good burgers, but all too soon, I had to get back to work. I hugged him close and kissed his cheek and tried to tell him how important he is to me before the tears made it impossible to speak.

He told me, "This isn't goodbye."

I sure hope not. Friends like him, I can count on one hand. ■

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.



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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You got the right bitch

'Drag Race' victor **Bob the Drag Queen**, on confidence, comedy and redefining drag

On reality competition shows, viewers usually have to wait until the finale to know who won. But aficionados of *RuPaul Drag Race* had some clairvoyance during Season 8 — they knew who won by Episode 3: That's when Bob the Drag Queen owned the challenge — *RuCo's Empire*, a spoof of the nighttime soap — like no queen has ever done. We mean ever. You weren't watching just drag; you were experiencing an artist in full control of their medium. The remaining episodes were merely busy-work until the crown was awarded.

It wasn't like it was easy, either: Bob defeated viewer fave ChiChi DeVayne, bombshell Naomi Smalls and conceptual makeup master Kim Chi to take the title — not with better costumes, or smoother lip-sync, or great verisimilitude, but by the sheer force of *talent*. Bob had "star" written all over him. And he knew it.

"I always thought I would be around for the long haul," he admits. "I don't think I ever thought I was the *best* [drag queen] there, just that I was the 'most qualified' for the job at hand — in terms of what they are asking or, I think I rose to the occasion the best."

Confidence might be Bob the Drag Queen's secret weapon, but it wouldn't mean squat without the chops to follow through. "It's one of those things as an artist: You have to believe in yourself to expect people to pay to sit in a room a listen to you talk for an hour," he says. The wild card appearing on *Drag Race* was being apart from a support system. "You do think, 'What if I messed up on that one?'"

because you don't have my network of people to bounce ideas off of. It was a little bit nerve-racking." (In fact, he didn't know he was in the Top 3 for sure until about a week before the episode aired — they film multiple ejections with each queen sashaying away.)

All of this excitement has happened just in the past year; since he was crowned, Bob has continued to expand his profile: He has released a video with Todrick Hall ("Wrong Bitch," with nearly 2 million views on YouTube) and toured, currently emceeding A Drag Queen Christmas, featuring fellow contestants Naomi, Thorgy Thor, Milk and more. (It comes to Dallas' House of Blues on Wednesday.)

That's a great career arc for the 30-year-old, who only got into drag after watching the Season 1 of *Drag Race*.

"I was really inspired watching the first season — I thought Bebe Zahara Benet was beautiful and elegant and funny," he says. "But I was also influenced by non-drag performers like Whoopi Goldberg and Chris Rock and Carol Channing — more as a performer than a queen." Indeed, Bob sees the title of "drag queen" as the beginning of the conversation, not the end of it.

"Saying 'I'm a drag queen' doesn't really say what you do — it's like saying, 'I'm an entertainer.' There are visual artists and dancers and comedy queens and performance artists. Drag is just [starting the conversation] by blurring gender lines."

But Bob isn't simply using drag as a gimmick; he's committed to a long career in and out of stilettos.

"Without sounding corny, I really just wanna be Bob the Drag Queen — to create something new and not imitate what someone else has already done," he says. "I don't have any intent of

quitting drag because I'm *really* good at it — it suits me and I have fun doing it. But I just did a show on HBO *out* of drag because acting is also a passion. Sketch comedy is [also] one of my loves, and my standup comedy [which, he concedes, has become more political since the election]. Making people laugh is one of my favorite things ever. And I really enjoy making music, which sort of surprised me."

Bob the Drag Queen might be the only one surprised — his fans have known he had it all in him, whatever he wanted to do. Stars are like that. ■

A DRAG QUEEN XMAS

House of Blues,
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HOLIDAY CD: 'A Pentatonix Christmas'

If you were listening to pop music in the late '70s and early '80s — or are just a fan of the era — you probably recall a group called The Manhattan Transfer, most famous for their song "The Boy from New York City." Their sound was a blend of doo-wop and jazz, adult contemporary and a cappella vocal melding. No one else on the record scene was quite doing what they did then; they were followed by groups like Boyz II Men and Wilson Phillips (also known for their close harmonies and reliance on more vocals than backing tracks), but genuine human-only music-making? Well, that died with the advent of Janet Jackson... or at least it went on life-support. You'd have to find a barbershop quartet for that kind of music.

But now we have Pentatonix, the Arlington-based quintet of vocal magicians, to scat and bebop their way through deeply-layered vocal arrangements on the road to creating a happy, sometimes ear-defying musical sound all their own.

Pentatonix's first commercial release was a 2012 EP of Christmas songs; they go full-bore on the holiday with their latest album, **A Pentatonix Christmas**, in which they revel in bringing up the holiday spirit in 11 tracks.

Despite the uniqueness of their sound, they start off with some fairly traditional selections. "O, Come All Ye Faithful" launches with a guttural back-beat that calls to mind a Caribbean flavor; that's followed by "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," which goes upbeat with a double-time tempo and ends with a flourish that could come from a Russian folk dance. Deeper in, you get to relax not just in the harmonies, but in the strong vocal clarity of individual voices. "White Christmas" could have come off a World War II-era album from a crooner in a cardigan,



but there's something modern and refreshing about it as well — they aren't just rehashing Bing Crosby, they're trying to lay their own groundwork. By the time they get to "I'll Be Home for Christmas," the album begins to closely resemble the delightful *Ally McBeal* Xmas CD that came out nearly 20 years ago.

Not all the songs are straight-up carols. Track 8, a beautiful version of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," captures the song's darkness, but the title is the only knee-bend to anything in the sacred canon of a holiday carols. "Goodbye My Friend" refers to winter, but otherwise doesn't seem all that Christmas-y; "Feels So Good to Be Bad" stakes more of a claim to the season, but it's really just a chance for some fun and entertaining musical numbers.

Some of the songs try too hard. "Up on the Housetop" aims for a hip-hop version of what Christmastime is, but does so with one of the most annoyingly trite of all secular carols. But this retro CD — part Carpenters, part family-around-the-yule-log compone — really hits the right chords.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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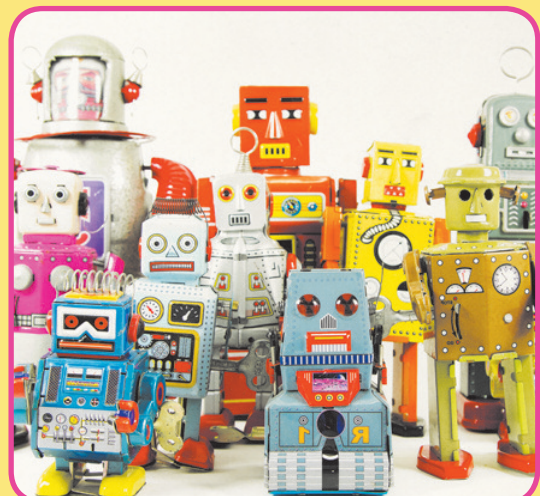
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MUSIC

Ivan Dillard, *trans rocker*

The Dallas musician had a second coming out, which only served to influence his musical derring-do more, as leader of The Mystiks.



MUSIC

Todrick Hall, *super-hyphenate*

The Arlington native first attracted attention on *American Idol*, but popularity on YouTube, followed by tours, TV appearances and a Broadway stint (as the lead in *Kinky Boots*) prove there's almost nothing he can't do.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Robert Moore, *first person shooter*

Dallas Voice's former publisher was one of many locals trapped while a sniper shot at Dallas police officers in July. His dynamic snapshot captured the energy of the experience, and went viral.



of the **year**

We celebrate more members of the North Texas LGBT community who added color and memories to 2016



MUSIC

Lady BSmooove, *hip-hop pio-queer*

Hip-hop music has long been considered anti-gay, but Dallas musician Lady BSmooove helped launch Austin's Pink Elephant queer hip-hop festival.

COMMUNITY

Alyssa Edwards, *fierce queen*

It's been a banner year for Edwards, a local fave who returned with a memorable appearance on *Ru-Paul's Drag Race All Stars*, as well as killer live performances across North Texas.



COMMUNITY

Jake Papadakos, *best boy*

ILSb titleholder is part of a leather power couple; see profile on Page 30.

COMMUNITY

Will Sale, *Easter bunny*

Following an abortive Easter in the Park event in 2015, the local activist helped bring the event back to where it belonged in the gayborhood.

FINE ARTS

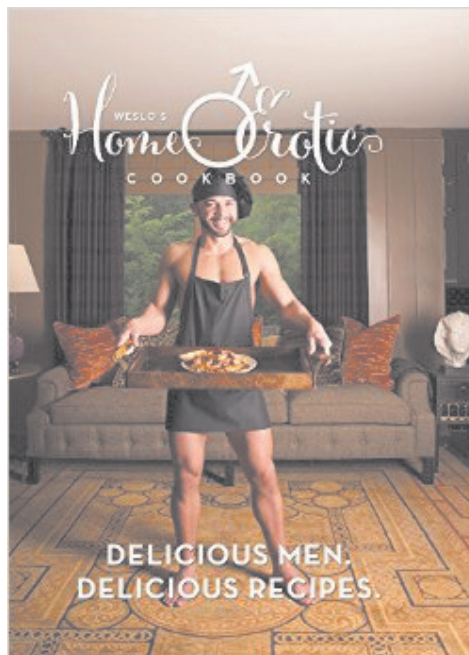
Agustin Arteaga, *arts magnate*

The new executive director of the Dallas Museum of Art plans to expand the role of the museum on the lives of North Texans.

FINE ARTS

Ronald Radwanski, *caring curator*

After 100 exhibits, Radwanski decided to step down from the ilume Gallerie, where he showcased many local artists while also raising money for many area charities.



PUBLISHING

Wes Smoot, *beefcake chef*

He produced *Weslo's Home-O-Erotic Cookbook*, which made kitchen time sexy.

DINING

Stephan Pyles, *culinary wizard*

His new restaurant, Flora Street Cafe, is one of the buzziest eateries in Dallas in years.

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THEATER

Cheryl Denson, *director extraordinaire*

Denson has been one of the best stage directors in North Texas for years, but her one-two punch for Uptown Players in 2016 — the Judy bioplay *End of the Rainbow* and the return of the groundbreaking *Angels in America* to the Kalita — accounts for some of the best theater you could see in Dallas this year.



THEATER

Brigham Moseley, *handy solo artist*

Moseley writes and performs his confessional (and very gay) autobiographical one-man shows with skill, humor and humanity.



SPORTS

The Lady Quins, *rugby lovers*

The women's team of the local Harlequins organization rides high with Olympic focus on their sport; see profile on Page 32.

THEATER

Kelsey Leigh Ervi, *live action multi-talent*

Ervi has been an assistant director, director, actress, festival coordinator and artistic associate at WaterTower Theatre, in addition to podcasting, making her one of North Texas' most active and indispensable theater artists.



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Oh, boy!

Jake Papadakos took a leather title this summer, but it's the leather community that has given much back to him

It is called a collar," Jake Papadakos, 41, explains of the locked cable he wears looped around his neck. "Technically, it is not *my* collar. It is my Sir's collar. It is a symbol of ownership ... that my Sir owns me. Basically it allows other people, especially those who are in the [leather] community, to know that I am taken."

Papadakos is "taken" by fellow Dallas resident David "Tug" Whitehead, and together, they form a kind of North Texas leather power-couple: Whitehead was International LeatherSir 2015, and Papadakos earned his title, International Leatherboy 2016, over last Labor Day weekend. (The competition also includes a title for International Community Bootblack, a male or female who works on and cares for leather.) For the reigning Papadakos, he looks forward to fulfilling his title commitments in the coming months. He is also proud of his Sir's accomplishments over the last year. (Their one regret: Both didn't hold their international titles simultaneously.)

"I was bartending all the time, and he was travelling all the time," Papadakos recalls of Sir Tug's reign. "I rarely got to see him. I was extremely remiss that I didn't run for Leatherboy at the time to be by his side. After I won, about a week later, a friend said to me, 'You do realize that you and your Sir were International LeatherSir and International Leatherboy at the same time [on stage] for about three minutes?' [That put] a smile on my face."

Papadakos has been active in the leather community for a little more than four years. He won his first regional leather title three years ago as a bootblack. He advanced to an International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago, where he was second runner-up, competing against eight other bootblacks. More recently, Papadakos took the South Central Leatherboy regional title, a win that qualified him for the International Leatherboy competition last summer.

"I've always been interested in the [leather] scene," Papadakos says. "Without going into too much detail, it got to the point that it was the only kind of porn I could watch that gave me a rise. While I was living in Panama City, Fla., I heard about an event in St. Petersburg — the International Puppy Contest. I thought it sounded like fun. I got to see leather first hand, so to speak."

It was there Papadakos met Brenda Cothorn, an author who writes BDSM novels — surprisingly, most featuring gay romance. The two became friends. Papadakos witnessed Cothorn flogging someone over that weekend and desired to feel leather across his bare skin as well. Cothorn agreed to flog him.

"I found it became very therapeutic," says Papadakos, who submitted to flogging more than once that weekend. "It was the cheapest therapy session you could possibly get. It allowed me to release emotion that I had bottled up inside of me. When I was finally was able to release a lot of the stuff from my past, I started to grow emotionally, spiritually and mentally. I became a stronger person because of it."

Papadakos believes the general public holds several misconceptions about the leather community, the most common being that it is "all about sex and kink." To the contrary, Papadakos describes the community as a fraternity of sorts, complete with fellowship and philanthropic activity. For example, Papadakos hosted fundraiser benefitting Legacy Counseling Center just last week.

"Believe it or not, it's more about the brotherhood and the family... the relationships," he says. "I have never met a more well-rounded, emotionally stable, giving community than the leather community. There are people I have never met in the leather community who reach out to me on a daily, weekly, monthly basis to chat, to tell stories, whatever. That to me is extremely powerful. You don't get that anywhere else."

Papadakos understands that some people have reservations about exploring their leather curiosity. But joining in, he insists, is not as scary as all that. He compares an initial leather scene visit to one's first trip to a gay bar.

"You can go to the Dallas Eagle on any given night and you can spot the virgins, so to speak," Papadakos says. "It's amazing how quickly these new people are embraced and brought in and taught and mentored. Some of them decide it's not the right scene for them for whatever reason, but a lot of them decide that it is."

As a founding member of local boys' social group the Lone Star boys of Leather, Papadakos is committed to educating those who wish to join the leather scene, and especially mentoring other leatherboys. And don't make the mistake of believing only young men can be leatherboys. The position is one of mindset, not of age.

"I've seen 80-year-old boys," Papadakos chuckles. "Boy is a mentality of service, typically of submission to a Sir, daddy or master. But really for me, being a boy is all about the service aspect ... not only to my Sir, but to the leather community at large."

— Scott Huffman

LIFE+STYLE

queer locals



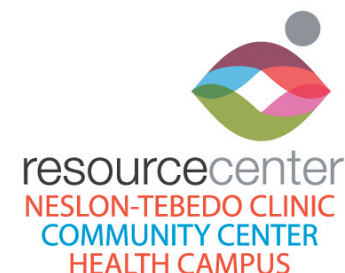
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Photo courtesy Rob Graham Photography

You ain't seen nothin' like the Lady Quins

Rugby — especially women's rugby — takes centerfield, and Dallas' Lady Harlequins is enjoying the moment

It seems like every Olympics, whether summer or winter, has its fair share of lesser known sports suddenly coming to the forefront in the midst of the usual fare. *Whoa*, we all suddenly think collectively as a nation, *archery's cool*.

This year's Summer Olympics were no exception. The 2016 Rio Games certainly provided the expected shining moments — the brilliance of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics team, the earth-shattering dominance of Michael Phelps — but the glint of gold cast a spotlight on a first-time Olympic sport that might be the next emerging sport for women: Rugby.

Even a quick glance at a rugby match gives some insight as to why it's fun to watch... and to play. Molly Whitman, one of the co-founders of the Lady Harlequins, Dallas's only women's Division 1 rugby club, explains how the uniqueness of the sport lends to its appeal. "The athleticism of the game is unlike any other sport," she says. "You've got 80 minutes — two 40 minute halves — and it's just constant game play."

Unlike American football, she notes, there are very few stoppages in play during a rugby game.

"A tackle does not stop anything," she says. "If there's a tackle, it causes a ripple effect of things very important to the game."

Whitman says the Lady Quins, who are associated with the long established men's club the Dallas Harlequins, did get a boost

from the Summer Games. "Two weeks after the Olympics, we got contacted by more interested people than we have in a whole year," she says. She's quick to point out that it's not just the Olympics effect. While the exposure certainly helped, women's rugby has already been on the rise in the U.S. for a few years now. More and more colleges offer women's teams, and several adult league teams have popped up over the country. The result for the Lady Quins has been a big boost in interest. The team started the season in mid-March with around 11 players; that list now tops out at 64.

Whitman says the team has seen the uptick "partially because of the Olympics, but also just because positivity breeds more positivity. We're getting so much support and we're so thrilled with the girls we're bringing on, it's had this ripple effect."

Played without pads or helmets, rugby is a full-contact sport that combines many elements of football — including tackling, passing and kicking. The physical nature of the game has given it the reputation as being a bit rough. While it may intimidate some people, Whitman says, it's rugby's ragged edges that help make it fun. "Too often people try to sugarcoat the physicality of it," she says. "The truth is, one of the things that makes rugby great is that you are doing a full contact sport with nothing between you and the other player besides a mouthguard."

That's not to say it's a complete, dangerous brawl. "We don't use our head to tackle," as often seen in football, she says. "One of the first things you learn as a rookie is the safe way to fall and the safe way to tackle. But there will always be bumps and bruises and scrapes."

The Lady Quins' stamina has paid off.

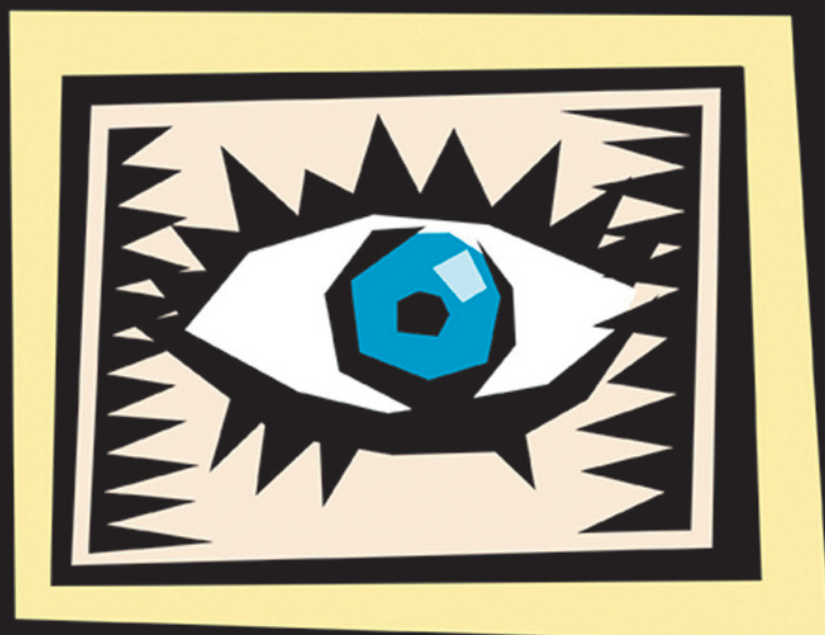
The fun expands off the pitch as well. Whitman says most games are followed by a few pints at a local bar, as the team bands together singing traditional rugby songs, some of which can get a little randy. There's a unique bond that forms between rugby players, she says, and while members of opposite teams may battle on the pitch, they often develop friendships off it, even with people from different cities and countries.

While rugby may not quite be ready to usurp softball and other traditional sports as queen of the North Texas rec league games, the significant uptick in interest bodes well for the sport. The social aspect of it, as well as the camaraderie, make it a good match for LGBT locals looking to meet new people.

"There's this amazing sport right here at your fingertips," Whitman says. "It's so accessible, we don't have tryouts, and the camaraderie and the confidence you will gain from being on this team of strong women is unparalleled."

— Jonanna Widner

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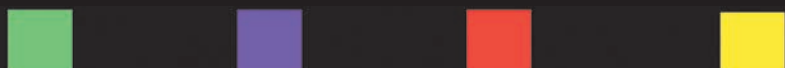
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Tasting notes

Holiday Edition: Tamales, tacos and spreading hope during the season

The holidays are upon us, and calorie counting decreased with the thickness of sweaters. Here are some foodie events, items and ideas that will make you jolly — and perhaps even get a belly like a bowl full of jelly.

Anastacia Quinones (AQ to her friends and followers) took over the kitchen at Bishop Arts' **Oddfellows** last summer after stints at **Komali** and **Kitchen LTO**. She'll be back in **Trinity Groves** on Dec. 19 for an event close to her heart: A fundraiser for Genesis Women's Shelter. AQ was so impressed by the services the charity offered, she enlisted a dozen fellow chefs around town — including those from **Hattie's**, **Uchi**, **Cedars Social**, **Parigi**, **CBD Provisions**, **Resident Taqueria** and more — to participate in a foodie-centric Ugly Christmas Sweater Party. Master mixologist **Leann Berry** will be conjuring

up some cocktails recipes. It's a great way to have fun and do something important for people in need during the holidays. The event runs 6–9 p.m.; advance tickets are \$60.

If you're from Texas, you know that while Thanksgiving is about turkey, Christmas is about ... tamales. Yes, that's a tradition that I never grow weary of. **Cantina Laredo** offers to-go orders of their house-made chicken or beef tamales every day through Christmas Eve, for \$16.95/dozen. Just give them six-hours notice and you can celebrate this centuries-old delight. Available at all North Texas area locations.

The hot new Uptown joint **Shake Shack** is just as famed for its milkshakes as its burgers, and it's rolling out a new lineup of designer nogs for the holidays (each for \$5.79). A trio of season shakes are now available. The chocolate peppermint tastes like an indulgent candy cane, while the sugar cookie (topped with sprinkles!) reminds you of mom baking in December. I was less impressed by the take on pumpkin pie, but instead, try the brownie hot chocolate (ask them to over-foam it for a moussier version) and you'll be full of Christmas cheer.

If you wanna get warm — physically, spiritually and culinarily — two-step into **Stampede 66**. **Stephan Pyles'** accessibly upscale Uptown eatery has a great deal weekdays, with a taco bar and happy hour from 4–7 p.m. Better yet, Music Mondays offer live bands performing while you sip finely-crafted cocktails and dine on discounted bites at the bar.



'TIS THE SEASON | The tradition of tamales makes the holidays special, and Cantina Laredo offers them to-go through Christmas Eve.

Cedar Grove at the ilume is gussying up brunch this weekend, with a pop-up cocktail cart of Cointreau on Dec. 17 and 18. Then the rest of the week, you can enjoy happy hour from 4–6 p.m. Tuesdays–Fridays with the 4-5-6 offer: \$4 mixed drinks, \$5 glasses of wine and \$6 martinis, as well as half-price deals on *all* food.

We're used to checking out **Bread Winners** for brunch... during brunch hours. But the local institution also offers that brunchy feel at dinner-

time. Items introduced this fall bring the home-style feeling to the evening hours, with items like salt-and-pepper chicken wings, a decadent brisket-based meatloaf (also made with pancetta!) and a blackened redfish topped with a rich crab beurre blanc. Toss in a cocktail (like a classic Manhattan or Leo's Old Fashioned) and a few shady friends, and you've got the makings of brunch at sunset.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Tuesday 12.20

Bruce Wood Dance truly creates magic with star-studded cabaret show

Anyone who last year attended Mistletoe Magic — the annual cabaret and fundraiser for the Bruce Wood Dance Project — knows that they have hit upon something that truly is magic: Broadway stars Liz Calloway and Hugh Panaro, pianist Joseph Thralken and the crazy-talented dancers of BWDP. They are bringing all of them back this year, and blowing it out even more with a huge party at City Performance Hall. It's a not-to-be-missed celebration of music, movement and memories.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. \$55–\$100. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

Friday 12.23



Another nut! Eisemann hosts 'Hip-Hop Nutcracker'

We've used up a lot of ink (or if you're an online reader, electrons) talking about Nutcrackers this season ... and Hillary didn't even get elected! (I kid, I kid.) from traditional to burlesque and even nearly naked. So what's left? Hip-hop, as it turns out. *The Hip-Hop Nutcracker* still has Clara and Herr Drosselmeyer and the sugar plum fairies, but it's all set to a rollicking score with a live violist, DJ and a dozen dancers crunkin' it for Christmas. The one-night only event should enliven your Christmas Eve Eve.

DEETS: Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 8 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.



Tuesday 12.20 — Saturday 12.31

Irreverent, hilarious 'Book of Mormon' returns to Winspear

Hello. My name is Elder Price. And I would like to share with you the most amazing book. And not just book — score, sets, direction, choreography. Why, it's *The Book of Mormon*, the hilariously irreverent musical comedy making its third appearance in Dallas, but each time is an event. The sassy satire lovingly pokes fun of the LDS church (including its wacky stance on homosexuality) ... and it does so Broadway style, with lots of energy. And you can even ring in the New Year with a Dec. 31 performance. Believe!

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

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SHOW SUBJECT TO CHANGE

calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK
THEATER
A Charlie Brown Christmas. K. Douglas Miller directs an adult cast in this stage adaptation of the TV holiday classic, featuring the Peanuts gang for Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Dec. 21. DCT.org.
A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's annual holiday show, this time with Sally Vahle in the role of Scrooge. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28. DallasTheaterCenter.org.
The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Burlesque Nutcracker! The hilarious comedy about strippers mistaken for ballet dancers returns. Presented by MBS Productions. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 26. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.
Broadway Christmas Wonderland. A family-friendly review of holiday songs and dancing. Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals. *Final weekend.* Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.
Gloria. The regional premiere of this Pulitzer finalist about the cutthroat world of magazine publishing. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 22. DallasTheaterCenter.org.
Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge. Christopher Durang's farce about the holidays through the eyes of a Dickens character. *Final weekend.* Bedford Boys Ranch, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. OnstageInBedford.com.
Murder for Two. An Agatha Christie-esque mystery, played by only two actors — one the detective, one all the suspects. A witty musical of dueling pianos and wits. *Final weekend.* Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.
Santa Claus: A New Musical. The legendary gift-giver gets his own musical, developed locally in a world premiere. Casa Manana. 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 23. CasaManana.org.
Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold. It's *CSI: Bethlehem* as a Catholic nun solves the biblical mystery: Where did the gold that the three wise men brought to the manger go? Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 23. WaterTowerTheatre.org.
The Sleeping Beauty. An original English panto, a beloved holiday tradition, skewers a familiar fairy tale with cross-dressing and comedy in a family-friendly way. Cox Building Playhouse, 1617 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 30. Theatre-Britain.com.

CONCERTS
Dallas Symphony Christmas Pops. The annual concert series of carols, classics and sing-alongs. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Through Dec. 18. MyDSO.org.
BALLET
The Nutcracker. Texas Ballet Theater's annual production of Tchaikovsky's classic Christmas ballet. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 24. TexasBalletTheater.org.
BURLESQUE
The Nearly Naked Nutcracker. The return of this campy/sexy striptease, an admixture of dance and comedy, built around a Nutcracker theme. Features male and female performers. Viva's Lounge, 1350



Jonathan Palant leads the Credo Choir in a holiday music concert Saturday in Plano. Palant was recently named an innovator of the year for his work. Manufacturing St. Dec. 16–17. 8 p.m. \$22. NearlyNakedNutcracker.com.

FINE ART
Art and Nature in the Middle Ages. Evolving representations of the natural world in the Romanesque period, from England to Iran. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through March 19. DMA.org.
Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt. Highlights of works from the Brooklyn Museum that honor the mystical role cats played in the days of the pharaohs. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 5, 2017. Free. DMA.org.

SATURDAY 12.17
CONCERTS
Credo Choir Holiday Concert. The mixed-voice community choir let by Jonathan Palant performs seasonal favorites, with special guest Julie Johnson. St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 W. Plano Parkway, Plano. 7:30 p.m. \$20 suggested donation at the door. CredoChoir.org.

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MONDAY 12.19

FUNDRAISER
Ugly Christmas Sweater Party. Oddfellows chef Anastacia Quinones, formerly with Komali and Kitchen LTO, has gathered colleagues from 12 restaurants (including Uchi, Hattie's, Cedar Social and more) as well as the mixology skills of Leann Berry and Fernanda Rossano, for this foodie event and ugly sweater contest. Proceeds benefit Genesis Women's Shelter. Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Drive. 6—9 p.m. \$60—\$70. Search on EventBrite.com.

TUESDAY 12.20

FILM
Holiday Inn. Try to overlook the scene in blackface, and instead enjoy this whimsical comedy that launched the biggest song in the history of music, "White Christmas." Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THEATER
The Book of Mormon. The multiple Tony Award-winner

returns for a limited run. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 20–31. ATPAC.org.

CABARET
Mistletoe Magic. Hugh Panaro, Liz Calloway and Joseph Threlken return to Dallas for this spirited party, performance and fundraiser for the Bruce Wood Dance Project. One night only. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. BruceWoodDance.org.

THURSDAY 12.22

CABARET
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
Top Chef Charleston. Two Dallas chefs — John Tesar and Casey Thompson — are among the returning competitors who this season are pitted against newcomers. Bravo at 8 p.m.



It's a trap! Fangasm prequel 'Rogue One' fails to light up the sky

The adage "you always hurt the ones you love" applies as much to movies as paramours. Devoted *Star Wars* fanatics, especially those who grew up with the series starting a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away (i.e., the 1970s), have long complained about two notable flaws in the original: First, Luke kisses Leia, which is gross, because they are siblings; and second, the mistake in the design of the Death Star that allows the rebels to blow it up seems pretty glaring. Nevertheless, Adm. Akbar asserts that many rebels died getting these plans to the Alliance.

Believe it or not, *Rogue One* is entirely about the backstory of that design defect... and the rebels who passed it along to Princess Leia before Darth Vader commandeered her ship.

We are deep in fanboy territory, people.

Indeed, *Rogue One* feels almost more like fan fiction than a true part of the series (the fact the words "Star Wars" do not appear, officially, in the opening titles signals that they consider it a cousin-by-marriage more than the favorite son) — an explanation of a minor plot point that no one except die-hard devotees would have even noticed, not to say cared about. (It also casts Adm. Akbar as a bit of a liar, since in *Episode IV* he says *they* discovered the flaw once they got the plans, when clearly it was spoonfed to them. Not that I care or nuthin'.)

George Lucas has said he based *Star Wars* on *The Hidden Fortress*, but *Rogue One* more closely resembles another Kurosawa film: *Seven Samurai*. Set between the events of *Episode III* (*Revenge of the Sith*) and the original (*A New Hope*), the plot involves assembling a crew of outcasts to do the dirty work of saving the universe. It employs a mostly-new cast of characters who, for the most part, had never been mentioned in the series previously — among them a kind of female Han Solo (Felicity Jones) and a guerilla leader, who seems to be included solely to give Forest Whitaker a strange cameo. These new folks, and tons of new locales, muddies the story considerably. Meanwhile, we get glimpses of several over canonical characters, most notably a digitally-recreated Peter Cushing as Grand Moff Tarkin. The problem is, he (and at least one other) look as waxy and artificial as museum statues — a noble effort to flesh out some characters, but hardly effective.

On the other hand, *Rogue One* does benefit some from the historic shorthand build around the Star Wars mythos, as well as the backing of the studio which clearly wants to capitalize on owning the property, but doesn't want to trash it... at least not too quickly. There's a slickness and a familiarity to the score, the sets, the style. We know what the Force is, so explaining it doesn't take up any time.

The film trots along, but it's hard to imagine it attracting many new devotees. This is the Inside Baseball of scifi, a side show to entertain the masses while the headliners relax backstage.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

The holidays are here again! Yet, from Dear Howard's viewpoint, precious few of us this year appear to be any happier than we queers were during last year's holiday season. How does that deliciously foul, annual Christmas ditty favorite go, kids? ... *Your heart's an empty hole / Your brain is full of spiders, you've got garlic in your soul, Mr. Grinch / I wouldn't touch you with a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole!* Ah, *les mots juste*.

With 2016's holiday spirit already teetering atop Mount Crumpit to dump it, dear readers, let's just get poinsettias-stripped-of-their-leaves right to it.

Dear Howard,

I got married to my new husband a year ago last Christmas Eve. Marc's favorite TV show of all time is *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, so as my first anniversary present for him I actually found online an original TV production cel of Marc's

favorite character, Max the dog, signed by Dr. Seuss himself. They're asking \$400 for it. Marc insists he doesn't want me give him *any* Christmas gifts this year, that we've plenty of time to exchange Santa presents later in life down the road when we've more money, but I *love* my man and want to surprise him with something fabulous I know *he'll* love for our first anniversary. Your thoughts? — Whit

Dear Whitmore,

My thoughts, you lovesick crocodile, are that you should hand over the reins of all mutually-shared finances to your newly wedded spouse, immediately, and that *you* should never be permitted to shop for art again. Here's why, Whitley: It requires but the very briefest, minimal Google search to reveal that not only did Theodor Seuss Geisel never sign so much as even one original *Grinch* TV animation cel. Granted, the occasional hand-signed *Grinch* produc-

tion cels do come on the art market very rarely, yet not a single one of them will be signed by the patronymic, pseudonym sobriquet known all the world over as "Dr. Seuss" himself; moreover, even should you luck across a cel actually signed by either the original storyboard or animation artists, such as, say, June Foray, Maurice Noble or Virgil Ross, you're *easily* going to spend northwards these

days of \$4,000, *not* \$400... and for any cel featuring the ever-popular Max, prepare to spend a *heaping* sleigh-full more. In short, Whitney, you foul one, you're being duped.

Here's Howard's advice, Whitlock: Simply present

to Marc, for your first anniversary gift to him, a DVD version of *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas*: He'll treasure it, forever, I promise you ... just as his heart will additionally grow two sizes each and every year, for *you*, that you're both together, forever afterwards, eternally.

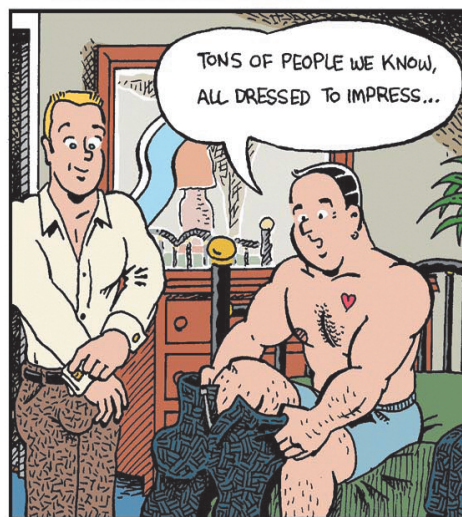
Dear Howard,

My 42-year-old husband of 20 faithful years is a blond Adonis: sapphire-blue eyes, six-pack abs, bubble butt and a great English accent. He dresses in the latest European fashion, especially those tight slacks that show off his large "manhood." He's practically the love-child of Tom Daley and Brad Pitt! Whenever I leave my husband alone in a bar, even for but a minute, I always return to find him being hit on by some gym rat or a retail queen: I've come to *expect* that if they don't know we're a couple, they'll cruelly say to me, "Go away, you don't have a *chance*!" Worse, sometimes they'll actually squeeze in between us and coo to my husband, "You can do so much better than *that*."

While I'm no Cary Grant, I



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don't scare small children, and I *quickly* dispatch them back to whatever inky-dark corners whence they oozed. My problems are: 1. Why do these rude people feel they can do this? And 2. All my husband ever hears is, "Who's the pretty boy? You're the pretty boy, yes, you are." He doesn't ever *hear* the insults they're directing to me; he *only* hears their compliments to him; otherwise, he is the perfect husband. What do I do? — Anonymous

Dear Anon,

Girlfriend, your quandary isn't exactly a rare one. Alas, whenever two males are involved in any relationship *not* 100 percent platonic, then one of said horny two is always going to "hear" that the other is more visually-fucking-fabulous; consequently, *one* receives far more extra attention solely for his looks than is seemingly fair. Granted, it means that (merry fuckin' Christmas!) life translates into a totally *unfair* advantage for men gifted with gorgeous looks over those born just plain-looking: "Looks aren't everything," is what we're all taught to take assured comfort in, yet this maxim is, of course, pure bullshit. Looks... are... *everything*! "Can we talk here?" as the famously non-gorgeous Joan Rivers so infamously noted, "No man ever put his hand up a woman's skirt looking for a library card."

So, you want Dear Howard's suggestion for what you do? Honey, I suggest you learn to just deal, after 20 years of faithful betrothal now, with having miraculously lucked across an Adonis who loves *you* even more than everyone else on this Earth whom merely lusts for him sporting a fantasy penis *larger* than their born-in-a-manger-studs' fantasies.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs an answer? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.

Artwork by Mark Stokes



Hanging out at Marty's Live



Dave and Melissa at BJ's NXSI



In the Christmas spirit at Pekar's

Making the **SCENE** the week of Dec. 16-22:

- **BJ's NXSI:** Shut Up and Glow Me welcoming The Haus of Edwards with Shangela, Laganja Estranja and Alyssa Edwards on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** T'was the Week Before Christmas hosted by Jerika Teller from 6-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Hung with Care underwear auction and show hosted by Mr. Great Plains Olympus Leather Stephen Grantiz on Friday. Homo-Rodeo Calendar Signing from 10 p.m.-1 a.m. on Friday and 9 p.m.-1 a.m. on Saturday. The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Jingle Balls benefiting GDMAF at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Krystal & the Cool Kids with Chanel LaMasters, Your Highness, Rocky and Bleach on Tuesday.
- **Pekers:** A Taco Christmas, a fundraiser for LifeWalk, Tucker's Gift and Coalition for Aging LGBT, at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** Ugly Christmas Sweater Party with cash prize on Saturday.

- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear Happy Hour on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Party Raid on Friday. Ciao Bella on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3:30 p.m. and Marisela The Voice at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Cassie, Kelexis, Krystal, Willam, Vancie Vega, Quest and Jenna on Saturday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** Trashy Sweater Christmas Party at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Tampa Bay at Dallas on the big screen at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth



Dancing men at BJ's NXS!



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Photos by Josh Gustamante





Friends' night out at Zippers



Striking a pose at Marty's Live



All smiles at BJ's NXS!

Classic Chassis Car Club Christmas Dinner

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Caven Christmas Party

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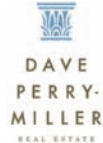


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Home Work

Solution on page 36

Across

- 1 Take off one's clothes for ones
- 6 He did Jackie's clothes
- 10 Hit balls softly
- 14 Bel ___ cheese
- 15 Charles Laughton played this emperor
- 16 Carbon compound
- 17 Nobelist Sadat
- 18 "Put a sock ___!"
- 19 Bi
- 20 San Francisco singers that passed up a world tour be cause of "much work to do at home"
- 23 Go off the track
- 24 Deliver by parachute
- 26 *Arsenic and ___ Lace*
- 27 Hunter's favorite diet colas?
- 30 Ring, to Elton John
- 31 Where Dr. Callie Torres works
- 33 Minimal tide
- 35 Checks for STDs
- 36 Areas toured by 20-Across
- 39 Rod of diamonds
- 42 Former *ET* anchor John
- 43 Poet Teasdale
- 47 "No need to explain"
- 49 Word on Warhol's can
- 51 Da. before Mardi Gras

52 Money coming in

- 54 Filet follower
- 56 Is sad about 36-Across?
- 59 Like a slick head
- 60 Ball or chase balls
- 61 Shopping aids
- 63 *The African Queen* author
- 64 Jay once of TV
- 65 "...farewell, auf Wiedersehen, ___"
- 66 Mouseketeer Jimmie
- 67 Civic group
- 68 Prepare to shoot off again

Down

- 1 Bathhouse feature
- 2 Juicy fruit
- 3 Wanted-poster figures
- 4 Warwick's "___ Little Prayer for You"
- 5 Learner's license
- 6 Way to come
- 7 Part of Mapplethorpe's equipment
- 8 Kane in *All My Children*
- 9 *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* genre
- 10 Like Lincoln before his presidency
- 11 Makes straight, as hair
- 12 Falls asleep

13 RN offering

- 21 Humped antelope
- 22 Emulate William Jennings Bryan
- 23 Homer's outburst
- 25 It may come at the end of a love letter
- 28 *The ___ Little Boy in the World*
- 29 Satisfies fully
- 32 Played it straight, perhaps
- 34 Step, to Frida
- 37 _Dallas_ family name
- 38 Twiddled digit
- 39 Dupont ___ (abbr.)
- 40 Quite a while back
- 41 Abused with the tongue, perhaps
- 44 Result of a lick on the head, perhaps
- 45 Prominent cock
- 46 Bannon of lesbian pulp fiction
- 48 Go at it
- 50 Upright shaft
- 53 Lucy's gal pal
- 55 Classic job for a Sherpa
- 57 Azaria of *The Birdcage*
- 58 Personality parts, to Frasier
- 59 Tatum O'Neal's *The ___ News Bears*
- 62 Bottom line



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