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Easter in Lee Park and the Pooch Parade (Photo by Chuck Marcello)

DGLA PAC issues endorsements in Dallas City Council races

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Political Action Committee issued its nonpartisan endorsements in the Dallas City Council races. Unlike Stonewall Democrats, which also endorsed, but used party affiliation as a criteria, DGLA did not use party affiliation as a basis for its endorsements.

Election Day is May 6. Early voting begins Monday, April 24.

- District 1: Scott Griggs
- District 2: Adam Medrano
- District 3: NO ENDORSEMENT
- District 4: Dwaine Caraway
- District 5: NO ENDORSEMENT
- District 6: Omar Narvaez
- District 7: Tammy Johnston
- District 8: Gail Terrell
- District 9: Mark Clayton
- District 10: Adam McGough*
- District 11: Lee Kleinman
- District 12: Sandy Greyson*
- District 13: Jennifer Staubach Gates*
- District 14: Phillip Kingston

* Indicates incumbents who were unopposed and were endorsed by the DGLA PAC in 2015

— David Taffet

Court orders state to pay attorneys' fees for marriage equality plaintiffs

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered the state of Texas to pay more than \$600,000 in attorneys' fees and other costs to the attorneys of Texas marriage equality plaintiffs Mark Phariss and Vic Holmes, and

Cleo De Leon and Nicole Dimetman. The court awarded \$585,470.30 in fees and \$20,202.90 in other costs to the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld, which has pledged to use the funds for future pro bono work.

Phariss and Holmes and De Leon and Dimetman filed suit in November 2013 in federal court challenging the constitutionality of Texas' constitutional amendment banning marriage equality, which had been passed by voters in 2005. Judge Orlando Garcia issued his ruling striking down the marriage equality ban on Feb. 26, 2014 — a ruling Texas officials quickly appealed to the 5th Circuit Court. The 5th Circuit held a hearing in January 2015, but did not issue a ruling before the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26, 2015 ruling declaring all anti-marriage equality laws unconstitutional.

— Tammye Nash

Roy Moore loses appeal

Former Alabama State Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore got a big diss from seven retired Alabama Supreme Court justices this week when they upheld a decision by the state's Judicial Inquiry Commission removing him from the bench.

The retired justices wrote in their decision, "We have previously determined that the charges were proven by clear and convincing evidence ... we shall not disturb the sanction imposed."

The commission removed Moore from office last year after he instructed the state's probate judges — the officeholders tasked with issuing marriage licenses in that state — to ignore the June 26, 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision that overturned bans on same-sex marriage nationwide. Despite federal court rulings, Moore insisted that the SCOTUS ruling didn't count in Alabama, and that his state's marriage equality ban still ruled supreme there.

— Tammye Nash



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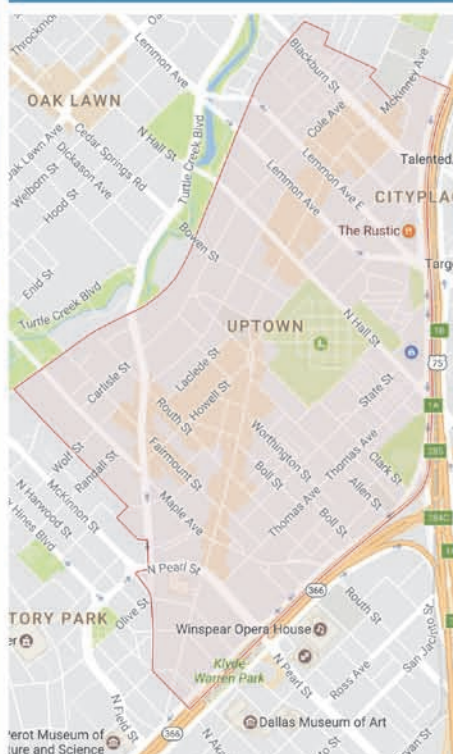
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THE GAYAGENDA

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

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guests are **TreShaun Pate**, **Trenton Johnson** and **Jade Lenore** from the **Black Trans Advocacy Conference**; **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. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St #103; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee park every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.

APRIL

- **April 21: Federal Club mixer**
The DFW Federal Club holds its April Mixer from 6-8 p.m. at Cedar Grove, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Visit DFWFederalClub.org or email co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org for information.

- **April 21: Compassion Fatigue Symposium**
Ed-U-Care presents its sixth annual symposium from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road. EdUCareDallas.com.

- **April 22: Metroball Day at the Casino**
Metroball Winstar Casino Party Bus and fundraiser for Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund leaves at 8:30 a.m. from Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. and from Collin Creek Mall in Plano at 9 a.m. \$75. \$125 per couple. GDMAF.org

- **April 22: Turtle Creek cleanup**
Turtle Creek Association needs volunteers to help keep Turtle Creek beautiful and litter-free. Trash bags and pickers

provided. Wear no-slip shoes and gloves. Meet at 9 a.m. on Hall Street at the Katy Trail. Clarke@TurtleCreekAssociation.org.

- **April 22: Charity Underwear Auction**
Charity America organization hosts a Charity Underwear Auction at BJ's NXS!, 3215 Fitzhugh Ave., at 9 p.m. The event is hosted by Mr. and Miss Charity America 2017, Preston David Pickett and Jazzmin St. James D'Monaco, and will feature Sable Alexander, Melodee Karrmichael, Onyx Anderson, Gloria Devine, Mona Devine, Bronx Diorr and The Queen G. Event sponsors are Outlines Men's Wear and Skivvies.

- **April 22: Carnival of Health**
Students, physicians and health professionals from UT Southwestern Medical Center team up for the 13th annual Carnaval de Salud (Carnival of Health) from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at T.J. Rusk Middle School, 2929 Inwood Road, offering free health care to under-served populations in Dallas. The health fair will feature free health screenings for several common conditions, including diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Participants can also get free sports physicals and learn about local health resources. There will be interactive booths for children, carnival activities, arts and crafts and prizes.

- **April 23: Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)**
Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance hosts a community-wide commemoration of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) at Temple Emanu-El, 8500 Hillcrest Ave. The program will include readings from the children of Holocaust survivors and music for the Temple Emanu-El Choir and the Israeli Scouts. Yom Hashoah commemorates the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and celebrates the lives of those who survived. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

- **April 23: Free men's grooming event**
Free beard trim, hot towel treatment, facial, hair touch up, raffles, free samples and more from 2:30-7 p.m. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

- **April 23: Pre-needs planning**
Funeral planning for the LGBT community from Lincoln Funeral Home. Brunch



Onyx will be one of the special guests performing at the Charity Underwear Auction at BJ's NXS! Saturday, April 22. The event is hosted by Mr. and Miss Charity American 2017, Preston David Pickett and Jazzmin St. James D'Monaco. See listings for details.

included from 1-3 p.m. at El Fenix, 6811 W. Northwest Highway. To reserve a seat, contact Scottlynd Colgrove at 214-398-8133 or scolgrove@lincemetery.com.

- **April 24: HRC Mondays**
Chino Chinatown in Trinity Groves, on Singleton Avenue in Dallas hosts HRC Mondays, partnering with Equality Vodka to offer specialty cocktails and \$5 Equality Vodka drinks, with 20 percent of all Equality Vodka sales going to the Human Rights Campaign.

- **April 24-30: National Black Trans Advocacy Conference**
The National Black Trans Advocacy Conference and Awards Gala is an educational and empowerment event, attended by 300 trans and gender non-conforming individuals, family, friends, allies and corporate partners from across the country. Marriott Quorum, 14901 Dallas Pkwy, Addison. BlackTrans.org.

- **April 25: Spring Fling mixer**
Meet the Oak Lawn Library staff and Oak Lawn Library Friends who discuss upcoming programs. Free appetizers and

drink specials. 5:30-7 p.m. at Zephyr, 4001 Cedar Springs Road.

- **April 26: LGBT Youth Homelessness Awareness Day**
Mayor Mike Rawlings issued a proclamation to bring awareness to the issue.

- **April 27-May 1: Purple Party Weekend 2017**
Dallas Purple Party 2017, presented by Purple Foundation, begins Thursday with Bear Party, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, continues with Pump! the Welcome Mixer on Friday from 4-8 p.m. at Aloft Hotel, then the Ignite Opening Party from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at S4, continues Saturday with the Rise Pool Party from 1-7 p.m. at Sisu Uptown and the Purple Party Main Event from 10 p.m.-5 a.m. at South Side Music Hall, followed by the Refresh Sunday Brunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Aloft Hotel and Revival Tea Dance from 1-7 p.m. at The Nines, and concludes with Glow Closing Party from 9 p.m.-4 a.m. at the Hall of State at Fair Park. For information and tickets visit PurpleFoundation.org.

• **April 28: Celebration of Excellence Dinner**

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents its Business Excellence Awards at its Celebration of Excellence Dinner. Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. GLBTChamber.org.

• **April 28: Women's Business Conference**

The Dallas Regional Chamber hosts the 21st annual Women's Business Conference with keynote speaker Judy Smith at 8 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. \$99 members, \$250 nonmembers. DallasChamber.org.

• **April 29: An April Arts Salon**

April is Arts Month in Dallas. The Turtle Creek Chorale and Bruce Wood Dance Project present An April Arts Salon with The Women's Chorus of Dallas, Uptown Players, the Cathedral of Hope Choir, and others at 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. \$25. AnAprilArtsSalon.Eventbrite.com.

• **April 29: Operation Kindness Health Clinic**

Operation Kindness no-kill animal shelter partners with Pets for Life and the city of Carrollton to host a pet health clinic, from

10 a.m.-noon at the Crosby Recreation Center, 1610 Crosby Road in Carrollton, offering microchipping and city licenses to low-income pet owners, along with spay and neuter humane education. For information call 972-247-1369.

• **April 30: Operation Kindness Hope Gala**

Dinner and entertainment by Ricki Derek and his six-piece band from 7-10 p.m. at Sambuca, 2120 McKinney Ave. OperationKindness.org.

• **April 30: Miss Big Thickette**

Nelda Pickens hosts as members of the Turtle Creek Chorale dust off their wigs and paint their faces to compete for the coveted title of Miss Big Thickett from 7-10 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Benefits Prism Health North Texas, formerly AIDS Arms. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

MAY

• **May 4: Outrageous Oral**

Mica England talks about her lawsuit against the Dallas Police Department at 7 p.m. at The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. TheDallasWay.org.

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Leaving a living legacy

Unlike blood, LGBT people and those who are HIV-positive are encouraged to donate organs

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Back in 2007, Gary Evans recalled, he had started feeling very sluggish: “I’d come home and go right to bed.” And at work, he had trouble getting anything accomplished.

When he went to his doctor for his annual check up, he had a test for liver function. The year before, the test showed his liver functioning properly. This time, the test revealed he had NASH — nonalcoholic steatohepatitis — a slow, steady buildup of fat.

Although it’s something that usually develops over years, “In my case it happened within months,” Evans said. With NASH, fat builds up in the liver, making the organ get hard and making it difficult for blood to flow through the organ. The walls of the veins can become weak and break causing blood to empty into the stomach.

In late July, Evans went to the hospital because he was throwing up blood. Doctors inserted a stint into his vein. He recovered and went back to work.

The next spring, Evans started turning orange so he went back to the hospital. Doctors determined he needed an immediate organ transplant or he would die. They sent him to Baylor, where he was rejected for the transplant, because he had an active infection.

During this time, his kidneys failed, which is common with this type of liver



Illustration by Kevin Thomas/Dallas Voice

disease.

While Baylor wouldn’t do a transplant, the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville in Florida decided they might be able to help after they received a copy of his records. A week later, he took an air ambulance from Love Field to Jacksonville. When he came home, Evans had a new liver.

It took Evans about a year to recover. He didn’t receive a kidney transplant because those organs from the donor weren’t

a suitable match. But his own kidneys recovered 25 percent of their function. After a transplant, kidneys may regain 80 to 90 percent in some people. Doctors predicted he would need a kidney transplant within five years.

Nine years later, Evans’ kidneys remain functioning at about 25 percent.

Evans returns to the Mayo Clinic annually for a checkup. He said he’s on some medication that has few side effects. The most

common one is causing tremors.

“My hands will shake,” he said. “Most of the time it’s very minor.”

He stays out of the sun, because transplant recipients are very susceptible to skin cancer. He avoids uncooked food and makes sure fruit and vegetables are washed well. He doesn’t work in the garden.

He said the most common cause of liver failure is hepatitis C.

“The old treatment was so bad, some

people died from its side effects,” Evans said. But now, there are treatments that are more effective, work much quicker and are much easier to take.

Donate Life

Donate Life Texas is the only official organ and tissue donor registry in Texas. Executive Director Suzy Miller wants the LGBT community to know during April — National Donate Life Month — that unlike blood donations, their organ donations are welcome.

To get word out to the LGBT community, Donate Life Texas plans to exhibit at the Dallas Pride Festival in September.

Blood banks focus on whether the potential donor is gay and reject all blood from someone who has had a same-sex sexual contact. Hospitals doing organ transplants are more concerned with whether the donor was HIV-positive or HIV-negative, regardless of sexual orientation.

But being HIV-positive doesn’t exclude someone from donating organs. People who are HIV-positive may donate and those organs would be used to save the life of someone else who is HIV-positive.

And, Miller said, the need is great: “590 Texans died last year on the transplant

waiting list.”

There are three ways someone may leave their organs for transplant — by signing their driver’s license, by signing up on the Donate Life Texas’ website and by signing a legal document stating one’s wishes to donate.



Gary Evans

Miller said any of these is considered a legal document, and “Your family can’t overturn your decision.”



Suzy Miller

When a terminal patient is in the hospital and death is imminent, the hospital sends the person’s name to its organ procurement organization, an entity independent of the hospital. The hospital and OPO are kept separate to avoid charges of withholding treatment to hurry the death and harvest organs.

The OPO’s first step is to find out if the patient has signed up as an organ donor.

So that there’s no confusion, Miller noted, a transgender person who has legally

changed their gender designation or their name since signing organ donation documents should sign a new document so that current information matches current status. But she stressed that transgender people are welcome and encouraged to donate organs.

Not everyone who has signed an organ donation document and dies can be used as an organ donor. But no one knows whether a person’s organs can be used until that person has died. Miller said the best candidates are people who are already in the hospital and die of a stroke. In that instance, doctors can continue to keep the heart pumping even after the person is declared brain-dead to keep the blood flowing to the organs, to keep those organs viable for transplant.

Heart attack victims are less likely to be able to donate. Miller said if the heart has stopped for more than four minutes, the organs begin to degrade.

Evans also encouraged people to donate their organs.

“Why take it with you?” he said. “If you die, you can leave a living legacy.”

He said some organ recipients need counseling to overcome the sadness that someone else died in order for them to live. He said he didn’t have that problem, but is grateful his donor has already given him almost an extra decade of life.

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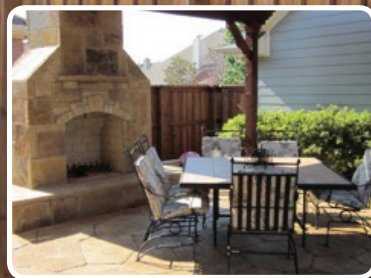
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Mayor declares LGBT Youth Homelessness Awareness Day



Josh Cogan, Councilman Adam Medrano, Pam Gerber and Ashley Lind, at a press conference at Dallas City Hall, discussed LGBT youth homelessness. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Promise House opens facility
and offers programs for homeless
LGBT young adults

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Mayor Mike Rawlings said he was concerned with LGBT homeless youths. Now he has proven his concern with an enthusiastic interest in earmarking a portion of the money in the next bond election to address the problem of homeless LGBT youths.

As a result of work done by the Mayor's LGBT Task Force, and a committee that grew out of the work of the task force called OutLast Youth, Rawlings has declared April 26 LGBT Youth Homelessness Awareness Day.

The mayor points out in his proclamation that about 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT. To address this problem, Councilman Adam Medrano called a press conference at Dallas City Hall on April 19,

announcing the city's goal of ending youth homelessness by 2020.

That initiative began about a year-and-a-half ago when Josh Cogan and Pam Gerber met in Medrano's office to plan how to address the problem. They set up a strategic plan session that brought together 47 faith leaders, elected officials, non-profit organization representatives and representatives of the private sector.

They stressed awareness and teamwork to bring together resources across the city and set goals. Among the accomplishments is the opening of homeless student drop-in centers across the city, providing food, clothing and a place to spend time off the street.

Gerber is optimistic about the ultimate goal of ending youth homelessness. "We're not only meeting but surpassing our goals," she said.

She emphasized the importance of the private sector in solving the problem, saying the private sector is an "engaged constituency." Their support helps make Dallas a safer and more welcoming city and helps provide resources to care for some of our most vulnerable citizens, Gerber said.

Cogan, an ally who is passionate about housing and helping LGBT youth, de-

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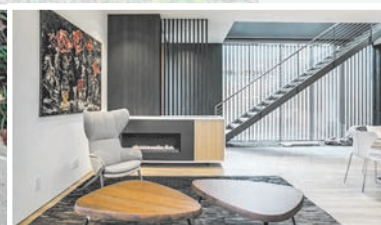
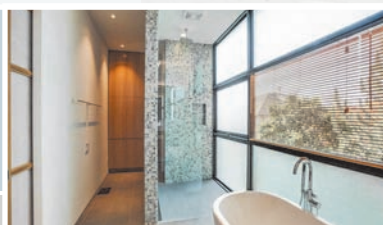
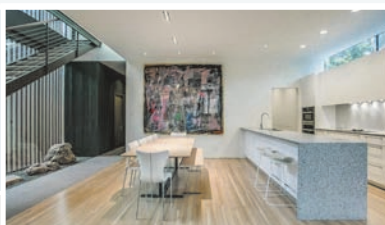
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Prom gives seniors



Portia Cantrell dropped out of high school and never went to her prom, so she's excited about going to

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Portia Cantrell's wife wants the Gray Pride Prom to be as authentic as possible, so she's not agreeing to go until she receives a proper promposal. "If we're doing this, we're doing it right," she told Cantrell.

Cantrell's mother died when she was six. Her sister, who is 12 years older, moved back into the house to help her father take care of her. When she was 15, her sister caught her in her bedroom with her girlfriend.

"If you're going to act like this, there's the door," she recalled her sister saying. A friend of her father let her live in his garage. But he got her pregnant, and she dropped out of school.

"Life is good, but it doesn't turn out that way for a number of people," the always optimistic Cantrell said about what happened to her.

Although she dropped out of high school, Cantrell earned her GED and went to college. So she got to walk across a stage to receive a diploma. But she never got to walk down a red carpet to her prom — and

that bothers her. A lot.

This was the perfect year for it, she decided. Her niece is 16 and Cantrell is 62. Her niece is out and going to her prom with her girlfriend, so Cantrell figures it's the perfect time for her to go to prom with her wife.

Other members of Gray Pride, a program of Resource Center that holds a weekly meetup on Monday afternoons, have similar reasons they're going to the Gray Pride Prom.

Serena Smuckers, a transgender woman, explained the discomfort of putting on a tux for her prom. "Prom was miserable," she said. "I had to be the upstanding dude." Could she go as her authentic self? "You couldn't do that in a town of 6,800 in Nebraska," she said.

Cantrell, on the other hand, said, "I want to go and wear a tux. I dream of having someone on my arm and not being on someone's arm. Now, thanks to Gray Pride, I can do that."

Larry Derrick called his coming out a revolving door — he was out with gay friends, but not with his family. He finally came out at 29.

"What I want to get out of prom is to bring the person I wanted to bring in high school," he said. Even if he was really out in high school, he said his school would never have permitted him to go to prom with another man.

a second chance



the Gray Pride Prom. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



Phil Garbera is from Cooperstown, a small town in upstate New York, best known as the home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. "Prom for me was non-existent," Garbera said. "It was an awkward time for me."

There was no social media then, he noted. No internet. Just a card catalog in the library with few books. He was shy and didn't say much to anyone in high school.

"If I talked, someone might pick up on an inflection," he said. "So I became more introverted."

But he came from a supportive family. "My parents adored me," he said. "I never had the 'gay conversation' with them."

When he started dating, Garbera said his friends would pick him up at the end of the driveway. But his parents wanted to meet them. "Then they did and they were lovely to me," he said.

Still, Garbera recalled, that was at a time when a man could be institutionalized just for dancing with another man. Not until 1973, during a meeting of the American Psychological Association in Dallas, was homosexuality declassified as a mental disorder.

Cantrell said in the course of her life, she has gone from facing the possibility of being arrested for dancing with another woman to the joy of dancing with her wife at her prom.

The Gray Pride Prom is for anyone 50 and older and those accompanying someone 50 or older. The event will be held at Resource Center on May 13, with a DJ, cocktails, a red carpet and photographer.

Gray Pride runs a support group on Mondays at 11:45 a.m. for people to discuss their issues with aging with a counselor from Resource Center's mental health program in conjunction with Southern Methodist University. From 1-5 p.m. is a meetup for senior socializing.

As much as he enjoys inter-generational programs, Gray Pride meetup attendee David Moskowitz said, "I enjoy talking with people my age and older about what happened in the past and how things have changed since the '60s."

Cantrell said she can just be herself at a Gray Pride gathering.

"I have found that if you're over 50, you disappear," she said. "You're irrelevant."

Garbera said that was better than when he first came out and older gay men told him, "Your life's over at 30."

Cantrell called prom part of a rite of passage that led to graduation. That didn't happen for her. After she was thrown out of her house, she didn't talk to her sister again until she was 41. At that time, she found out her sister needed a kidney. She went for a test, found out she was a good match and donated her kidney to her sister.

They reconciled but never really spoke directly about the time her sister threw her out of the house.

Cantrell's sister is in her 70s now, and Cantrell knows she should have a conversation with her about why her sister did what she did and how it affected Cantrell.

All in all, Cantrell said she's had a good life. After college, she became a nurse and then a trauma nurse specialist. And in May she'll make up the one thing she says she missed in her life — the prom. ■

Tickets for the Gray Pride Prom are \$10 and available at FiftyShadesGPProm.eventbrite.com.



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MAYOR, From Page 10

scribed himself as a recovering "homo-phobe in the name of Jesus." He said he was a "church planter," working through the Baptist Convention of Texas, and while working as a pastor at a new church in Deep Ellum, he partnered for a program called Bridge Builders with Resource Center's UBE program.

That night, eight LGBT youths told him their stories — some publicly and some in private — about having been kicked out of their homes by their parents because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"I'm here because I grew up in the church and my mom threw me out," Cogan said he heard repeatedly that night.

He said he just couldn't sleep, so he researched the problem and realized it's a national problem not being addressed locally.

Cogan is even using an office at the new LGBT home. Promise House has offices, classes and residential space for more than 100 youths spread over four buildings in Oak Cliff.

Once in the home, the youths' medical and dental needs are addressed. Counselors work with them, and once settled, they'll be given vocational guidance to put them on a path toward self-sufficiency. They may live in the new house up to two years.

Darron Moore, who works with LGBT youth at Promise House, said these new residents need employment, and any help from the community is appreciated.

He said getting them in a secure, stable environment is the first step so they can get their critical needs met before starting work on their long-term goals.



One of the programs of OutLast Youth involves working with churches to come to an understanding that "no matter what your theology on homosexuality is, no child should be homeless," Cogan said. He's currently talking to Watermark Church in North Dallas, which made a name for itself last year by taking away voting rights from one of its gay members for refusing to participate in the church's reparative therapy program.

Among OutLast's partnership organizations is Promise House, which became a Black Tie Dinner beneficiary last year.

At the press conference at Dallas City Hall, Promise House CEO Ashley Lind announced that at the end of March, her organization opened a new house specifically for LGBT young adults who have aged out of the foster system.

Lind said her organization's participation in this coalition is "a natural fit for us."

Any homeless LGBT youth can be accepted into the program, although Lind said there are a few reasons they might send a youth elsewhere for additional help before bringing them into the program at Promise House. If a youth is suicidal, they'd be directed for intensive help elsewhere, and when youths are on drugs, they get them help and bring them into their program once clean.

Anyone interested in volunteering with Promise House can find out about volunteer opportunities on the agency's website at PromiseHouse.org. In addition, Moore has a wish list of items needed for the new LGBT house. The list includes bedding and other household items, bus passes, school supplies and other general items and gift cards for everything from fast food, clothing, movies, hair salons or beauty supplies. To contribute, contact Moore at darron.moore@promisehouse.org.

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It's hard to hate up close

Illustration by Kevin Thomas/Dallas Voice

Survivor hopefully holds a lesson for Texas legislators

My heart broke recently when Jeff Varner, a gay man, outed Zeke Smith as a transgender man on *Survivor*. As has been often stated, outing a trans person is an act of violence. Doing so can put our jobs and even our lives in jeopardy. It's the ultimate betrayal and unless you are the transgender person in question, that information is not yours to share.

Not ever.

Varner of all people should have known better. And apparently he did, since he quickly recognized that he screwed up. He has apologized and has been gracefully forgiven by Zeke.

But this column isn't about that; there is so much to think about.

When Zeke was outed during the TV show's Tribal Council, it created one of the more awkward moments on television in recent memory. There was just silence, then the remaining contestants turned on Varner, scolding him for outing Zeke and saying it was Zeke's story to tell.

Varner was then voted off.

Here's the bright spot in this latest attack on trans identities: Zeke is well liked by the other competitors on the show. Not "even though he is trans." He is well liked as Zeke, as a guy!

I'm fond of hugging people I meet for the first time. I also remind people that it's hard to hate someone you've held in your arms. Or as Dr. Oz put it, "It's hard to hate up close."

I've been out speaking to several groups lately. I usually ask how many in the room have met or personally know someone who is transgender. The numbers vary, and



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

often it's skewed by age: 20-some-things are much more likely to know a trans person than are Boomers. But still, the percentage is low. We are still a mystery to many.

That's why this incident on *Survivor* is so important.

It wasn't just that the other people in the game grew to like Zeke. It was that millions of viewers of the show did, too. This wasn't Zeke's first season on the show. He was invited back because he was a good player, he was likable and he was interesting — as a person, not a controversy.

"This is also why, regardless of the risk to my safety or health, I live my life as a transgender woman in a very public way. But I still reserve the right to tell my own story when and where I see fit. Sometimes I just want to be another woman in the room.

Having people get to know and hopefully like me is important, because that changes people's hearts and minds. Everyone who meets me or hears me speak can no longer say they've never met someone who's transgender before.

Now, because of Zeke, millions of *Survivor* fans will have to toss out ideas they have had.

This makes it harder for politicians in Austin and Washington, D.C. to lie about us and have those lies believed.

I really hope there are some *Survivor* fans in Austin, because the House has cooked up a North Carolina-style bill that would prevent cities like Dallas from offering

equal protection to transgender people as they do now.

On Wednesday, April 19, the House State Affairs Committee held a public hearing on the committee substitute for HB 2889, a bill hailed as a replacement to SB 6. HB 2899 amended by the author to be CSHB 2899, and would ban municipalities and school districts from enforcing ordinances, orders, or other measures that protect transgender Texans from discrimination when using restrooms or changing facilities that correspond with their gender identity.

If the people who author these bills would only take the time to meet and get to know us — or even just look at the example of *Survivor*. The other tribe members turned on Varner — not Zeke. Comments from the general public have been positive and supportive towards Zeke.

Once people understand the issue, once people get to know us, the light goes on. I may not be everyone's cup of tea, but please — please! — don't deny me basic human rights or put me in harms way because of who I am, because of something I can't help and didn't ask for but is surely as much a part of me as your gender is to you.

"Reality" shows take a rap for often being far from real reality. But this past week, *Survivor* offered a dose of truth and a positive example of how people will defend a friend, a tribe mate, because of who they are — not what's between his legs.

How nice it would be to have our state leaders take a page from *Survivor*. The lesson? Be nice, or we may just vote you off the island.

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.

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Master of your domain

Designer Gary Riggs is at his best helping you discover your own style

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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We've all experienced that sensation: You walk into someone's home for the first time, and soak in their space. And it is... magnificent. Or malignant. You can't always put your finger on it — sometimes the décor works, sometimes it feels woefully off — but you know there's something at work there. You just can't say what.

Well, Gary Riggs *can*. As founder of Gary Riggs Home, a high-end showroom and design studio along the tony furnishings enclave of Alpha Road, Riggs has made a career of figuring out how to make a space work. And his secret? He helps *you* figure it out.

Riggs didn't always plan to go into interior design. He studied art and drawing (while majoring in finance) at Brigham Young University. He worked on TV shows based at the Orem studios where the Osmonds produced their shows, and was even a set decorator and lead painter on the original version of *Footloose*. But what drove him creatively was oil painting.

He was making a living in Utah, but decided to move to Dallas because "I had a sister who lived here, and I wanted a bigger art market to sell my paintings." He took his portfolio around to several of the galleries "and got a really great response.

So I packed up and moved here."

He was doing well with his art — "one of the galleries sold 22 of my paintings to Texas Instruments for their corporate collection," he says — and gained a following. One day, a potential buyer asked to come to his home to check out some paintings for the new house she and her husband were building.

"She came to my house, and bought a few of my paintings, and that was that," he says. Then the next day, she called him.

"She said, 'I love the way your home felt when I was in there. It just felt so good.' She told me they had been working with a designer [on their new home] and that they had gotten some furniture, but that the home didn't 'feel' right. She said, 'I want to feel when I walk into my living room like I feel when I walk into your living room.'" Would Riggs mind, she asked, if he could take a look and see what he could do.

This was not, as it turned out, an unusual request for Riggs. "I always had friends and family ask me, 'Can you do my house?' Over the years I just ended up doing some," he says. So he agreed to take a look.

He immediately knew the space wasn't working.



"I'm really good at space planning and what was so bizarre to me was there was all this nice stuff that they had bought but it was just so disjointed," Riggs says. "There was nothing connecting it. It was just a hodgepodge of things sitting around the room. So I immediately thought, well, if I move this stuff here, and that stuff there... I asked [the client], 'Do you mind if I get a few things to show you what I'm thinking of and what would help your room?'" She agreed, and he found several

items, mostly from a furniture supplier he had used in the past, that could tie the room together. "I rearranged the room so that it made more sense, and just left them with a list of what I had done and what I had brought. She called the next day and said, 'I just love this. I cannot leave this room. I go in there and just want to be in my chair and read. Would you help with the master bedroom?'"

And so began a long and successful career in making other people's dreams a reality. He eventually began working at the same furniture company and was prolific — both as a designer and a painter. But by 2004, the itch to branch out on his own was intense.

"I took the plunge," Riggs says.

His showroom is a retail store open to the public, "but in reality, we are an interior design firm that has this huge inventory to draw from, so we can get your project done quicker." In addition to gorgeous furniture, they sell apothecary items, candles and accessories "so people can come poke around and get ideas," he says. But a lot of his business is designing very, very high-end spaces.

"I like dealing in the higher-end goods, because I want there to be longevity," Riggs says. "And whether contemporary or traditional, I like a classic quality to things. I might do a *little* bit of stuff that is trendy, but I don't get into tons of that, because I think trendy stuff is when you start feeling dated."

The problem is, many people decorate just that way.

"It does bother me that people get caught up in [how] every year, a different color [is the hot new thing]. Of course, people in the industry — the manufacturers of paint and fabrics — *want* you to always feel like you've got to change, because that sells more paint or more fabric or sofas. If they can convince you that you can't have brass hardware in your house anymore, then they've sold a whole house

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Lighten up!

Interior designer
Doniphan Moore shares
his 17 fave ways to let
the sun shine in



Whatever your budget for decorating, there are plenty of quick, simple ways to brighten your rooms for spring and summer without spending a lot. Dallas-based interior designer Doniphan Moore, whose elegant, nature-inspired design aesthetic works in sprawling mansions or high-rise condos, says he'd start by putting some light on the subject.

Here are some of his best tips.

Sparkle that glass. Clean windows are the simplest way to brighten a room. Wipe 'em inside and out with foam cleanser and a microfiber cloth. "It's a huge task but that sparkling glass really brings the shine in," says Moore. If you have draperies, now's the time to get them professionally cleaned. "That's something people forget to do." Moore recommends Country Club Cleaners, "the only company in town that cleans drapes on site."

Sheer joy. It's time to shun shutters and lose light-filtering window blinds and try "sheers," those filmy curtains that let a soft, diffused light into sunny rooms. Moore recommends The Shade Store (4516 McKinney Avenue).

Brighter bulbs, lighter rooms. Swap out old light bulbs for brighter LED lights. "There's been a lot of advancements over the past year in clean, white LED bulbs

that don't look like fluorescents," Moore says. The big-box home improvement stores are well-stocked right now. Also, clean all your dusty lampshades with a lint roller to get a sudden boost of light from a previously dark corner.

Give your bed a makeover. Swap out all the heavy winter layers of coverlets and poofy duvets for some new fluffy pillows and lightweight duvet inserts. "All-white linens reflect light and feel fresh," says Moore. Spring is also a great time to buy new bed pillows. (Moore likes the selection at Bed Bath & Beyond.)

Purging feels good. There is life-changing magic to tidying up, just like that book by Japanese de-clutter expert Marie Kondo says. Doniphan Moore says he'd start by clearing off and re-accessorizing book shelves. "Use small plants like succulents, which don't need a lot of attention, in spaces between books to bring in touches of green. And donate books you're ready to part with to charity." Don't forget to dust the top shelf.

Free up fridge space. Now's a good time to do deep inventory in your kitchen pantry and fridge shelves. "Get rid of your winter munchies, clean the shelves," Moore says. "You look in the fridge and pantry all the time. Be happy with what you see there." (He also advises tossing any food past its use-by date, including ice





cream. But really, Doniphan, who keeps ice cream around long enough for it to expire?)

Go back in the closet. But only to organize it. Moore suggests hiring a professional closet organizer who won't have any emotional attachments to those too-tight jeans you wore on your best date ever. But if you're motivated to do it yourself, toss out things you didn't wear last year or anything that you're now too thin for after a winter of steady workouts. (That's thinking positively!) Pack away winter wools and cashmeres in acid-free tissue paper inside clean drawers with a few cedar chips.

Get all up in the grill, gurl. Some Easy-Off oven cleaner, or some vinegar and baking soda and a wire brush will get the gunk off that outdoor grill. Time to prep now for warm-weather cookouts because you don't want to plan the party but open the grill to find it caked with old greasy goo.

Fruit over flowers. Moore likes to accent tables or counters with seasonal fruit in pretty bowls. "That's easier to do than flowers and you can't eat flowers," he says. "I love lemons in bowls. The yellow is so pretty. Remember to remove all the stickers — so tacky!"

Pick a room and paint it. Even giving a small room a fresh, bright, fun new color can be a home décor picker-upper. Moore

likes Pantone's color of the year, "Greenery," a zesty yellow-green that evokes the outdoors. Use it in a laundry room or guest bath, he advises. He also likes painting garage interiors a nice clean white. "It's another space you see every day. Why not make it something pretty?"

Scents for sensibilities. Just replacing your dish soap and hand soaps with new spring scents can be an inexpensive, easy re-do. "I love things that smell like herbs and fruit," Moore says. "Basil, lemon, grapefruit — all nice for warmer months. Fresh candles in these scents add another layer."

Tumblers for you. If you like mixing summer cocktails, invest in a new bar set. Moore likes the ones at Highland Park's Forty Five Ten ("awesome dishwasher-safe crystal tumblers for \$20 each"). And look for a new cutting board and indoor/outdoor linens and napkins. For those, head to Set & Co. in Oak Cliff (841 W. Davis Street), says Moore, where you'll also find a line of great kitchen gadgets. Need fresh dish towels? Pick up a few at a dollar store or the simple, crisp white ones at any Williams-Sonoma.

Make a fix-it list. Tour your yard and house and make a repair list, advises Moore. "There's always something," he says. "Leaky toilet, squeaky doors, a cabinet

■ LIGHTEN, Page 23



CITY OF DALLAS FAIR HOUSING OFFICE

The city of Dallas Fair Housing and Human Rights Ordinance makes it illegal to discriminate against a person in regards to:

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DISCOVER



Plant whisperer Kato Crow dishes the (composted) dirt on gardening in North Texas

A month into spring, you and your lawn are waking up from winter funk. Time now to dig into reviving your greenery. We asked certified nursery professional and self-described "Dallas plant geek" Kato Crow for her best tips for making your garden grow.

For lusher lawns

Dress it up. Dallas soil gets depleted every two to three years. Whether your lawn is St. Augustine grass, Bermuda, Zoysia or a mix, you should "top dress" it with a half-inch of organic compost every few years. Intense heat from summer sun bakes away good organic matter and heavy rain washes it away. (August 2016 was the wettest in 100 years, Crow says.) April is the best time to feed a lawn with compost; don't do it in the heat of the summer.

Grounds for your ground. Look closely for places in your lawn where water has pooled over the winter or where there's

evidence of root rot or soil depletion. Those bald spots along the edges of sidewalks, driveways and plant borders would love a jolt of java from your leftover coffee grounds, whose acidity counteracts our soil's alkalinity. (Sprinkle it like fairy dust, says Crow; don't dump it in globs.)

Get tricky. If you have azaleas, camelias, gardenias, Japanese maples, dogwoods or hydrangeas in your yard, you need to "trick them into liking Dallas" by amending the soil with special mixes (ask at your neighborhood garden center) and top-dressing with acid fertilizer three times a year (Easter, Memorial Day and Labor Day are good times for that). Root balls of those flowering shrubs need acid to produce blooms.

Try some trees. The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, Crow advises. The second-best time is today. (Talk to a garden professional about the best choices for



of new fixtures... only to tell you in a few years that brass is the *only* thing you need now. But I'm one who says, let's see what's going to look best in the house and then decide what color to pick."

In fact, Riggs insists that his job is not to foist *his* taste on his clients, but assist them in discovering theirs.

"I'm a firm believer that I don't care what the rule is, you can break it and make it amazing. A lot of times I work with the client who say, 'We can't do that because everybody says we can't.' And I say, 'Well, this isn't *everybody's* home, and if you like that color, then let's use it. And we'll make it look very much today. [A room] can look modern just in the way you present it. You can have very traditional things, but if you present them in the right way, it can feel very modern."

For instance, you can repurchase older furniture for a new look. "There are ways to repurpose things the client already has that will fit in. It's all about space, really. I love the challenge of space planning, because sometimes you've got the strangest spaces."

When updating with new items, Riggs suggests investing in high-end pieces whose timelessness will make them look good 10 years down the road.

"Take it slow and incremental, but make every purchase make a difference," Riggs says. "That might mean you save for three more months so you can get the right chest versus the cheap chest, but you'll be really glad you did. I don't think everything

needs to be expensive necessarily, I'm just saying that it's about quality and longevity. Sometimes a \$100 vase is worth every bit more than getting four \$25 vases. Because it's the one that makes a statement."

When beginning a redo, Riggs likes to start with the common areas.

"I like to use the same color in all the common areas just to make it feel larger. Then if you want to change color, I'll go into the bedroom. But every redesign begins by asking: What was the thing that gave you the inspiration and the motivation to redecorate in the first place? It might be a fabric, or the color of your blue shirt. You might have seen a piece of furniture that you fell in love with or a painting that you want to feature in a room. I've had clients who didn't really know what they wanted, so I ask, 'What colors do you like to wear? What is your wardrobe?' You try to find something that they really do love. I always feel that my responsibility is to lead you to a great aesthetic."

It's a philosophy borne of Riggs' belief in maximizing our environments to make us feel comfortable.

"I'm a believer that as people, we cheat ourselves. I have a friend who says she travels the world and stays in the nicest hotels and sees the most beautiful palaces, but she absolutely loves the feeling she gets when she opens that door and walk into her own home. It's about getting that feeling for me that is the spirit of a home." ■

Gary Riggs Home, 4450 Alpha Road.
GaryRiggsHome.com.

hinge that's falling loose." Start fixing that stuff. Re-grout your bathroom to make it look like it's had a new paint job (no, really). Roll up old, dusty rugs or welcome mats in entryways and put down some new sisal or jute ones, which "feel sort of beachy and summery."

Go deep, go clean. If a deep-clean of your entire house is too much work for you, hire a professional cleaning team to do it. They'll clean places you haven't even thought of, like ceiling fans, behind dressers and armoires, the crannies of your entertainment system. It's an investment in results that last most of a season before you have to think of doing it again.

No more faking it. Things to get rid of forever, says Moore, include fake plants (buy real tulips because they're pretty and inexpensive). Also toss old pillows that have gone shapeless and anything else that looks worn out, like dingy chair covers or outdoor cushions that may have sprung some mildew spots over the winter.

Replace organizational boxes and baskets with a set of something new. Moore says he always trusts The Container Store for innovative storage solutions in bright, fun colors.

Claim it and frame it. How often do you change out pictures and picture frames? Not often enough, according to designer Moore. Take inventory of your framed photos. Display new ones that reflect life's happy moments and place those where you can enjoy them daily.

Love your stuff. Get a new perspective on things you already own by moving your collections around in your house. If you have favorite pictures or art pieces, put them in new spots where you'll see them every day. "It will make you feel good every time you look at them," Moore says. And that's what good interior design is all about, right? ■

— Elaine Liner

To learn more about designer Doniphan Moore, go to DoniphanMoore.com.

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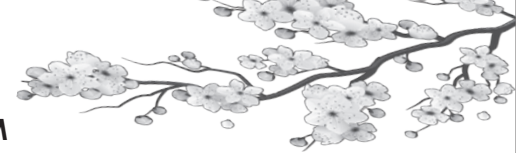
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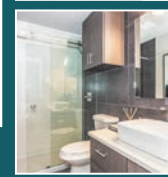
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It's name is reno

Redos of condos pose unique problems, but Grant Woodruff is happy to solve them for you

The process of renovating a kitchen or bathroom can be intimidating. Where to start? What factors do you want to take into consideration? Should you *really* paint those Shaker cabinets purple?

The struggle gets even more real when you're taking on a renovation at a condo, high-rise or other multi-family residence — there are usually unforeseen restrictions, extra costs and that grouchy HOA president to deal with.

That doesn't mean, however, that you can't get a killer new kitchen or the bathroom of your dreams just because you don't live in a house. You just have to get off on the right foot and minimize surprises (and costs). Grant Woodruff, founder and owner of Dallas' Renowned Renovation,

specializes in condo/high-rise redos and suggests a few things to consider for a successful remodel.

Consider your budget. Woodruff suggests first looking online to see what you like and what direction you'd like to go (Houzz.com and Pinterest are great places to start). "You can find all types of looks, and almost have what you want picked out from other people's stuff," he says. "Then it comes down to how much you want to spend." When it comes to the latter, be realistic. "People say, I watch HGTV and they did a whole kitchen for \$12,000. That's not real. That does not exist."

Find the right contractor. "Renovation is like a puzzle," Woodruff says. "There



RENO Page 29

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your area.) Plan for the mature size of a tree or shrub so they don't crowd out in three years. "The first year they sleep; the second year they creep; and the third year they leap!"

Pooches need paths. If you have dogs who run around the perimeter of your yard, place landscaping 18 to 24 inches away from fences so the pups have a pathway. "My daughter and her wife have three dogs, so they keep most of their flowers and herbs in sturdy pots to avoid trampling," Crow says. "Also, scoop the

poop and discard it. Don't add it to your compost pile."

For gorgeous gardens

Compost the most. "Whoever has the most organic compost wins," Crow notes. You can be an active composter or a lazy one. (The city of Dallas even offers free composting classes.) Create good compost material with either a "batch composter" in a barrel or a flat composter inside a 3x3-foot grid outdoors. Compost needs carbon (dryer lint, hairbrush hair, pet hair),

nitrogen (potato scraps, grass clippings) and moisture (about the consistency of a squeezed-out dishrag) to "cook" for about six to eight weeks. Don't ever compost pet waste (cat or dog), because of bacteria.

Plant now, eat later. Now is the perfect time to plant a vegetable garden. "Our hard season isn't winter, it's summer," says Crow, so planting in April allows roots to form and establish before those 100-degree days roll around. You can garden 12 months a year in North Texas, with cabbage, kale, broccoli, cilantro and

Brussels sprouts continuing to produce well through the winter. Try "edible landscaping" with pomegranate, plum and fig trees, which are self-fertilizing and "Texas tough," Crow says.

Herbs work. Dallas gardens love ever-green herbs like rosemary, thyme, oregano and sage, which are low-maintenance, tasty and look pretty in gardens or containers. "Find out what you grow well," Crow advises, "and grow a lot of it."



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Friday 04.21 — Saturday 04.22

Jaston Williams returns with 'Tuna' ... only not onstage

Jaston Williams will forever be known for co-writing and co-starring in *Greater Tuna* and all its related plays, so word that he's bringing a new production to North Texas is awesome... even though this time it is as a director (with three actors instead of the usual two) for a handful of performances this weekend, at Richardson's Eisemann Center. Come see this essential Texas comedy.

DEETS: Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.

Wednesday 04.26

Dining Out in Dallas pits top local chefs against each other for charity



We've all seen chefs compete on TV for honors of "the best," but you can see it in real life as 15 local fine-dining chefs — among them Dan Landsberg of Dragonfly, Nico Sanchez of Meso Maya, James Johnson of Pappas Bros. and Brian Dietz of Eddie V's — will prepare big bites for the attendees, in the hopes of winning your vote to be declared Dallas' top chef. Mike Shetsky, newly-minted exec chef at SER, is the host, and shared a preview of what he has in store, pictured. Proceeds benefit the Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation.

DEETS: Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. 6–10 p.m. TexasNF.org.



Friday 04.21 — Sunday 05.07

'Norma' closes out Dallas Opera's season

When you think bel canto ("beautiful singing") opera, you think Bellini; and when you think Bellini, you think *Norma*. The legendary tragedy, about a priestess of the ancient world, opens Friday to close out the Dallas Opera's 2016-17 season. Soprano Elza van den Heever stars as the tragic heroine.

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



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...**A Moment in the Life of Willa Dee Arvis.** A drama set in 1942

about a mystery relating to two women whose husbands have enlisted to fight in World War II. *Final weekend.* Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. MBSProductions.net.

Electra. DTC artistic director Kevin Moriarty has adapted Sophocles' tragedy for an outdoor experience just as in ancient Greece, with the audience intimately involved in the production. Abbey Siegworth takes on the title role. Annette Strauss Square (beside the Winspear Opera House), 2403 Flora St. Through May 21. Start time will be after sundown (8:30 p.m.). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord. A metaphysical comedy about religion and personalities throughout history. Reviewed this week. WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through May 7. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Let It Be Me. Theatre Britain continues its final season with this tale of a caretaker for her senile aunt whose life is complicated when she falls in love. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through April 30. Theatre-Britain.com.

Straight White Men. A father deals with his three sons — two successful, one not so much — in this modern comedy. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Reviewed this week. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 6. 2TT.co.

Susan and God. The 1937 stage version of one of the film films Joan Crawford made at MGM. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through May 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Disney's The Little Mermaid. The charming stage adaptation of the movie musical, written by Dallasite Doug Wright. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. April 21–May 14. CasaManana.org.

Greater Tuna. Co-author and co-star Jaston Williams goes behind the scenes to direct this new production, which features three

actors instead of two. The plan hilariously spoofs Texas culture. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts, 2531 Performance Drive, Richardson. April 21–22. EisemannCenter.com.

OPERA

Norma. Bellini's classic of the bel canto canon, about a doomed Druid priestess in Ancient Gaul. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 21–May 7. DallasOpera.org.

FINE ART

Mexico 1900–1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Jose Luis Orozco and the Avant-Garde. A magnificent exhibition of nearly 200 works showcasing the impressive diversity — from realism to cubism to surrealism and even film — of Mexican art in the first half of the 20th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 9. DMA.org.

FESTIVALS

37th Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual faire that takes you back to 17th century Europe features vendors, performances and cosplay. Scarborough Faire Grounds, FM 66 in Waxahachie (exit 399B off I-35). Weekends through May 29. SRFestival.com.

TUESDAY 04.25

FILM

Beyond the Valley of the Dolls. Roger Ebert wrote this camp classic, a sequel to another camp classic. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

CABARET

Paul J. Williams: I Didn't Know He Could Sing. The comedic actor proves his vocal chops. The Women's Building at Fair Park, 3800 Parry Ave. 7 p.m. doors, 7:30 p.m. show. Free admission; refreshments available.



Paul J. Williams shows his more serious side as a singer, with the latest in the Fair Park cabaret series, entitled 'I Didn't Know He Could Sing' at the Women's Building on Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY 04.26

DINING

Dining Out in Dallas: Battle of the Chefs. Fifteen fine-dining chefs, as well as Deep Eddy Vodka and other beverage distributors, compete to show their best work at this fundraiser for the Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation. Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. 6–10 p.m. \$100–\$125. TexasNF.org.

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will be a lot of unknown issues, so you need people who can problem solve properly."

He notes that it's not that hard to get a contracting license in Dallas, so it's easy to fall prey to someone who doesn't really have the chops to deliver. Don't be afraid to take some pre-emptive steps to make sure your contractor is fully qualified. "Ask them, 'Do you have reviews online? Can you provide a copy of your certificate of insurance? The names and email address of three references? The size, scope and completion date of three projects?'" says Woodruff.

Consider condo conundrums. Units in multi-family buildings are harder to renovate, which leads to extra challenges... and extra costs. Makes sure you work with your contractor to communicate with your HOA and condo board to answer questions and understand regulations. "In a condo, your wires and your plumbing run through a wall you don't own. You can only work from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may only have water shut off once a month," Woodruff notes. The right contractor will work with you and your HOA to reduce unforeseen issues.

Think about your market value. Of course you want to update, but make sure

you don't go overboard into a trend that will die out — a dated look will turn off buyers should you decide to sell. "What I tell clients is, unless you don't care and this the home you're gonna die in, make sure your home has transitional elements — a little bit of everything that blends really well. You don't want to date yourself but don't go so far off the cuff it makes it hard for a buyer," Woodruff says. "You don't want people to either love it hate it."

Be willing to compromise. New shower! Subway tile! Top-end finishes! It's all so exciting!

It's easy to get carried away, but know from the start that, between your condo restrictions and your budget, you might have to sacrifice a few things. Woodruff mentions a recent client who required a creative solution. "He wanted a hall bath, steam showers, shower body sprayers." Re-doing the plumbing was getting more and more complicated and expensive. "In a high rise, everything is integrated," Woodruff says. "Can this little ol' water line provide water for all these sprayers you want?" The solution: Woodruff installed water pump in the bathroom. "It saved him \$25,000," he says. "It rattles a bit, but we'll take that for \$25,000."

— Jonanna Widner

For perkier potted plants

Plant a thriller, a spiller and a filler.

Don't just plant one thing in a pot; plant three. Crow counsels filling pots in a peace symbol or bullseye pattern with a tall "thriller" plant in the center, ringed by a medium-high "filler" and then a low "spiller" around the edges. Reliable "thrillers" are Cordylines (a showy purple-pink palm) and tropical hibiscus. "Fillers" could be petunias or begonias, which Crow says are "tough as hell." And good "spillers" are trailing herbs such as oregano or rosemary, or the old-fashioned, reliable sweet potato vine.

Let them drink, not drown. People water too much, Crow says. Allow the top 2-in. of pot soil to dry out between thorough waterings. Watering too often (i.e., every day) can lead to suffocation and root rot. "When water goes in, air comes out. We're trying to find a happy medium between a drink of water and drowning." Cover the drain holes in your planter boxes and plant pots with a coffee filter before you add rocks or broken pot pieces for drainage to keep soil from dirtying up the

patio or creating a plug in the container.

Try some "funky shui" planters. Think beyond those gardening center plastic or ceramic pots. Crow says she's put potted plants into old dresser drawers, worn-out cowboy boots and other found objects. "Use whatever you like as long as it has a drain hole."

Put plants in the best light. Some plant pot tags will say "full sun," but those tags were printed in Utah, not Texas, Crow says. "Do a 'sun audit' with your camera phone," she advises. Go stand where your plants are at noon and look up. If you see sky, it's full sun. If you see a tree, it's a shady spot. Move plants around to the right light.

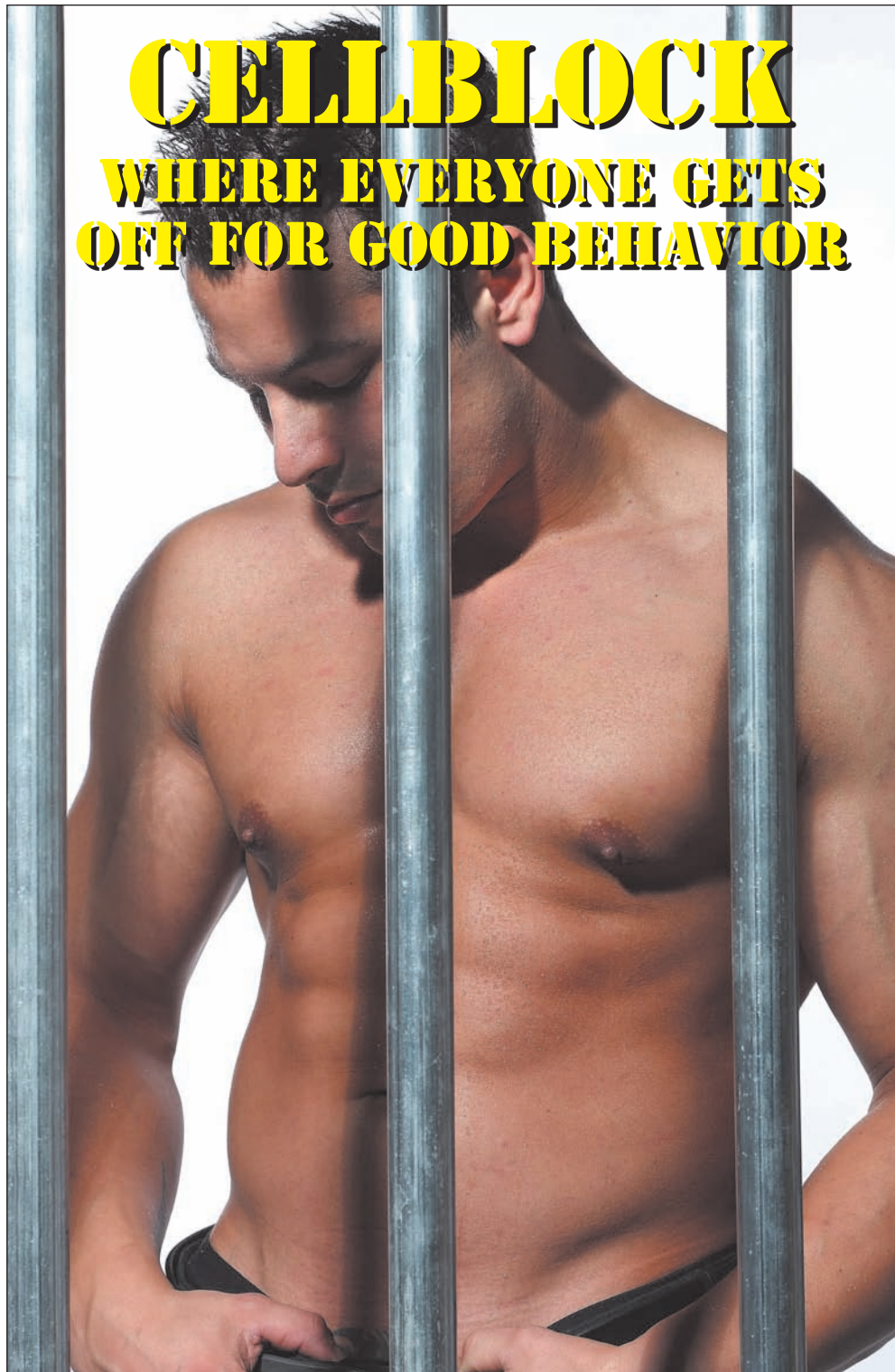
It's not a chore; it's a natural workout. "You can bury a lot of troubles digging in dirt," says Crow. "Gardens reduce stress and are an excellent way to exercise with all that lifting, digging and bending."

— Elaine Liner

Kato Crow offers gardening classes and workshops and will come to your house for a one-hour "horticultural house-call." DFW-PlantWhisperer.com.

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AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER
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AMELIA COURT
1936 Amelia Court | 214-590-5647 | AOC.org

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ELM STREET CENTER | 940-381-1501
COLLIN COUNTY CENTER | 972-424-1480
HealthNTx.org

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NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS HIV PLANNING COUNCIL
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POSITIVE VOICES COALITION
Fort Worth | 817-321-4742 NoTexasAIDS.org

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RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRY
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LGBTQA PROGRAM at UT ARLINGTON
Arlington | 817-272-2099 | UTA.edu/lgbtqa

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SMU.edu/StudentAffairs

SPECTRUM
214-768-4792 | People.SMU.edu/Spectrum

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214-520-7828 | TWCD.org

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DALLAS STONEWALL YOUNG DEMOCRATS | DallasSYD.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF DALLAS COUNTY | LPDallas.org

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LogCabin.org/Chapter

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MetroplexRepublicans.com

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS
214-506-DEMS (3367)
StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DENTON
StonewallDemocratsOfDentoncounty.org

TARRANT COUNTY STONEWALL
817-913-8743 | TarrantStonewall.org

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4012 St. Andrews

LGBT LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR
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DALLAS LATINO PRIDE
TexasLationGayPride.com

DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE
214-405-5475 | DallasSouthernPride.com

DALLAS TAVERN GUILD
214-571-1073 | DallasPride.org

GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS
GLFD.org | 214-421-8177

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE
Community Council of Greater Dallas
844-831-9600 | CCCG.org

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE of NTX
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DAMN | 214-521-5342 ext. 1739 | DAMNmen.org

DFW FUSE | 214-540-4435 | DFWFuse.com

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GRAY PRIDE
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information@primetimers-dfw.org

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RAINBOW ROUNDUP - LGBT Families
info@rrup.org | rrup.org

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469-666-7325 | rlc365.org

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CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT
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Celebration-Community-Church.com

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TRINITY MCC 817-265-5454 | TrinityMCC.org

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uuc@oakcliffuu.org | OakCliffUU.org

UNITY OF DALLAS
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FrontrunnersDallas.org

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CANCER SUPPORT COMM. | 214-345-8230

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G.E.A.R (Gender, Education, Advocacy & Resources) | 214-521-5124

GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF NTX
GALANorthTexas.org

GAY AND LESBIAN ANGER MANAGEMENT GROUP
469-328-1980 | Marial33@gmail.com

LAMBDA GROUP OF NICOTINE ANONYMOUS | 214-629-7806NICADFW.org

OVER THE RAINBOW | 214-358-0517

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PFLAG-FORT WORTH | 817-428-2329

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YOUTH FIRST
214-879-0400 | youth@myresourcecenter.org

Girl on girls

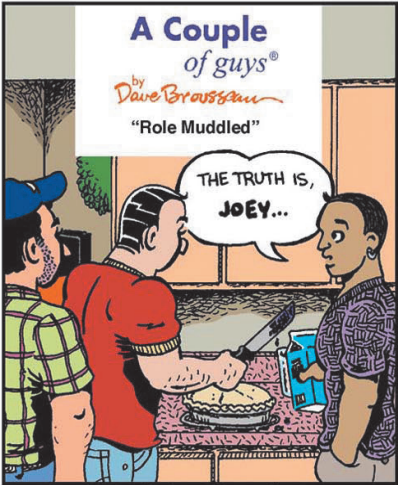
Jenny Block braces herself

I used to hate it when my mom would tell me to seek the silver lining — how losing one thing somehow gave me the chance to get something new; how not getting a job or a part in a play or a place at a university gave me the chance to get another job or another part or go to another school. It used to drive me nuts, partially because she was right. It wasn't a matter of needing the bad in order to get to the good. It wasn't a matter of being grateful for or appreciating the bad. Instead, it was a matter of mindset. It was a matter of shifting my thinking. Rather than dwelling on the bad, I found myself seeking out the good.

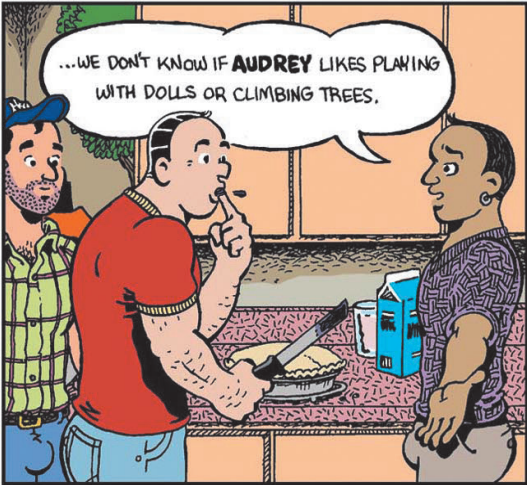
It's a lesson that has served me well in many parts of my life, but especially in my relationships. For example, I just got braces. Yup. Forty-six years old and thanks to not wearing my retainer enough, I am sitting in Dr. Rahimi's chair once a month getting my wires tightened. That's no fun. But what's really putting the hurt on me right now is not being able to kiss my fiancé, Robin. She's none too thrilled, either. Sure, we can touch lips. But the kind of kissing that most healthy couples not only experience but also thrive on, is not on the menu these days. It's been bumming me out. A lot. It feels like a piece of us is missing, a connec-



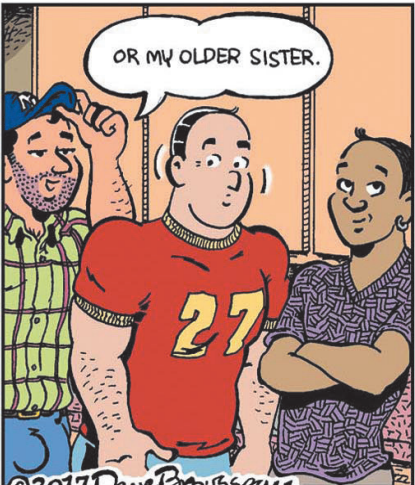
Photo courtesy Chuck Holloman



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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tor of sorts, the thing that gets us from A to B. The thing that gets us from "You've been on the road for a week" to "Now we're back home together." The thing that gets us from "We're having an argument" to "We're back on track." The thing that gets us from "The movie is over" to "Wanna go to bed early?" So, we had a choice: We could let it kill us or we could let it inspire us. And you better believe that we chose the latter.

The crazy part is that, as awful as it is, it is also kind of fun. We hold hands more. We look into each other's eyes longer. We find new ways to flirt and transition. Most importantly, we adapt. Apart from communication, the ability to adapt has to be one of the most vital couple traits. It's the difference not only between the couples who live or die, but also the couples who survive versus thrive.

The thing is, it's not simply a skill. It's a choice. Robin and I choose to be together each minute of each day through the subtle changes and the not so subtle ones. This gives us an ease to the way we live. We don't have to worry that something will change in us that will make the other person love us less, other than running over a bag of puppies or stealing from the poor to give to the rich, of course.

It also gives us a strength that can only come from flexibility. Like a massive tree that sways in high winds versus a rigid pole that breaks in two, we choose to ride the waves. That certainly can mean simply tolerating what comes our way. But, when we can, we do our best to embrace the new even when we're not necessarily thrilled about what caused the change. The best relationships are about conscious choices, about choosing one another, about choosing to be together, about choosing how to love and

support and really enjoy each other.

I hate my braces. And I hate that I can't kiss Robin for real for another four months. But I love that she always asks if I have my wax with me and that she doesn't mind checking my teeth for that stray sprig of basil. I love that we are finding new ways to flirt and connect at a time when a zillion other things could be capturing our attention. And I love that I know how much she hates my braces and not only still loves me but loves me even more because she knows how crazy they drive me and yet knows how much committing to them is the right thing to do.

My mom was right. It is about silver linings. Life is all about silver linings. And love and relationships are most certainly all about silver linings. I'd love to make a joke here about the silver in my mouth. But my braces, thank goodness are clear. But then so is my love for Robin and my commitment to our being a couple, brackets and all.

Have a question about sex you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.

this week's solution

S	L	E	E	P	A	B	B	Y	S	L	A	B
T	I	A	R	A	L	O	L	A	T	O	U	R
A	S	T	I	R	B	O	O	N	A	R	T	E
			K	A	T	E	M	C	K	I	N	N
F	R	I	S	B	E				O	D	D	E
R	O	N	A	L	D	F	A	V	E			
A	G	A	T	E		T	E	R	I	P	A	C
M	E	L	I	S	S	A	M	C	C	A	R	T
E	R	L	E		T	O	M	S		B	O	W
					N	O	S	E		S	A	F
P	R	O	N	T	O				S	O	L	A
S	A	R	A	H	P	A	U	L	S	O	N	
A	D	A	M			I	R	M	A		N	I
L	A	T	E			N	I	P	S		E	T
M	R	E	D			G	A	S	H		S	Y

browse
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DFW Pride Happy hour at Cedar Groves



Making the **SCENE** the week of **April 4-21**

- **Alexandre's:** **Stephanie Sallie** on Friday. **No Label** on Saturday. **Ewayne Smith** on Sunday. **Liz Mikel** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Grove:** **DFW Federal Club mixer** from 6-8 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Changes:** **All Organizations Community Highlights Show** at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m., cookout at 4 p.m. and show at 7 p.m.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Let's Sing the Blues** benefiting **GDMAF** from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. **South Central Leatherboy 2017 boy dontrel** presents **A Night of Fantasy** including a **medieval fantasy-themed bake sale** from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. **Dallas Bears** present **Cake Walk** and **auction fundraiser** from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** **Super Sunday show** is a **benefit for Willie Snider**, hosted by **Bianca Davenport Starr** at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Bear Happy Hour** at 6 p.m. on Friday. **Miss Gay South Central Newcomer & At Large** at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday. **Andrew Christian** book signing and **fashion show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **Droo** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** and **Bad Habits** on Sunday. **Kathy Corbin's going away party** on Sunday. **Linze Serell** presents **Miss Fire & Ice State** and **State At Large** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** **Show Tune Night** from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Bar crawl** to follow **Investitures XXXVIII**. **Buffet** at 5 p.m. Show 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Mee Maw Walker's happy hour** benefits **LifeWalk** from 5-8 p.m. on Thursday.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**





Bryan gets out and about



Rita Fine at Woody's Sports and Video Bar

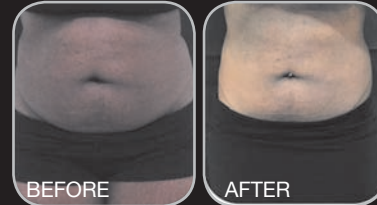


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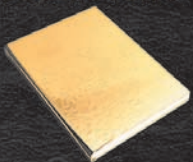
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[enter in rear behind New Fine Arts]

Pegasus SlowPitch Softball celebrates Big D Easter

Photos courtesy of
Jeremy Pierce



Looking good on The Strip



All smiles at The Round-Up Saloon



Smiling faces at Woody's Sports & Video Bar



Friends' night out on The Strip



All aglow at Alexandre's



Cyran and Angel at Sue Ellen's

Scarborough Renaissance Festival



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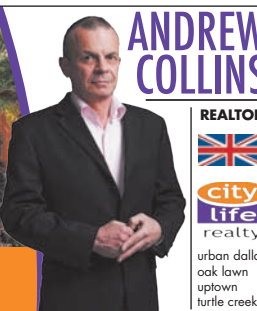
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Drag Politicians

Solution on Page 31

Across

- 1 What hibernating bears do
- 6 Name on a column
- 10 Michelangelo’s *David*, once
- 14 It goes on a queen’s head
- 15 Cross-dresser in a Kinks song
- 16 Series of concerts for Etheridge
- 17 In motion
- 18 Benefit
- 19 Paintings and such, to da Vinci
- 20 She played Jeff Sessions on *SNL*
- 23 A bitch might try to catch it in her teeth
- 26 Most queer
- 27 Dancer Reagan’s father
- 28 Top choice, slangily
- 30 Material for nice stones
- 31 Garr of *Tootsie*
- 32 Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, and others
- 36 She played Sean Spicer on *SNL*
- 39 Gardner of mystery
- 40 Hulce and others
- 41 One that bends over in an arbor?
- 42 Standout facial feature
- 43 Outing in Africa
- 44 Lickety-split

- 48 Tanning places
- 49 She recently told *The Hollywood Reporter* that she’d like to play Donald Trump
- 52 Gay video directory name
- 53 La Douce part for Shirley
- 54 Cardio med
- 58 A little behind
- 59 Beats, barely
- 60 Sexual favors obtained while surfing?
- 61 Wilbur’s stallion
- 62 Vagina, in slang
- 63 Where priests come together

Down

- 1 RR terminal
- 2 Flower for Foucault
- 3 Enjoy orally
- 4 Contemporary of Claude Debussy
- 5 Metropolitan Community Church readings
- 6 *Seascape* author
- 7 Big bang sound
- 8 Interest group
- 9 Al, who sang “Eat It”
- 10 Bear
- 11 *SNL* producer Michaels
- 12 Places for quickies, perhaps
- 13 George of *The Gay Sisters*
- 21 Connoisseur Allen
- 22 Suffix with ox
- 23 Body build
- 24 Paul Monette’s partner Horwitz
- 25 As a whole
- 28 Amelie Mauresmo’s woman
- 29 Rainbow shapes
- 31 Retreat for D.H. Lawrence
- 32 Using the Divine Miss M’s name in vain?
- 33 Fighting hard
- 34 1920 Colette novel
- 35 Lebanon neighbor
- 37 Bending over
- 38 Mother-of-pearl sources
- 42 Math degree
- 43 Signal that goes either way
- 44 Sacred song
- 45 Traffic cop’s tool
- 46 Use a gifted tongue
- 47 *A Streetcar ___ Desire*
- 48 Cut
- 50 Sills’ solo
- 51 Dave Pallone and others
- 55 Provincetown project
- 56 Carnival town
- 57 Bette Davis’ ___ *Acquaintance*

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