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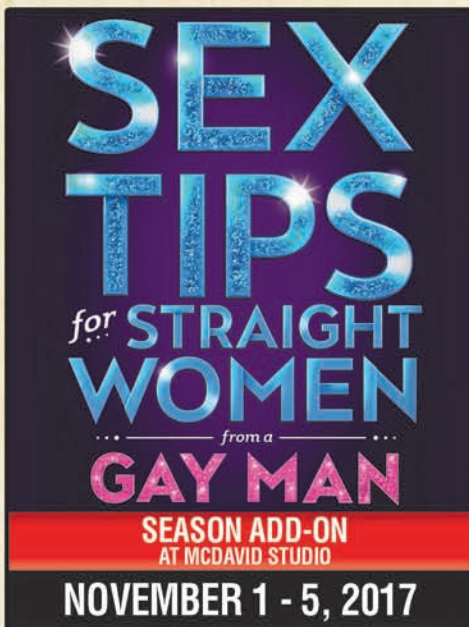
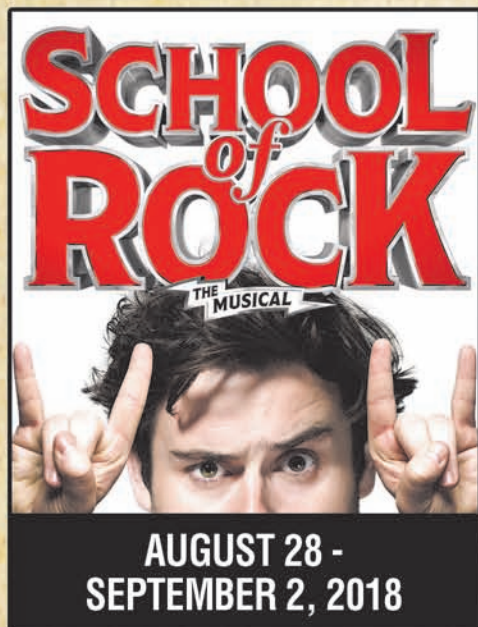
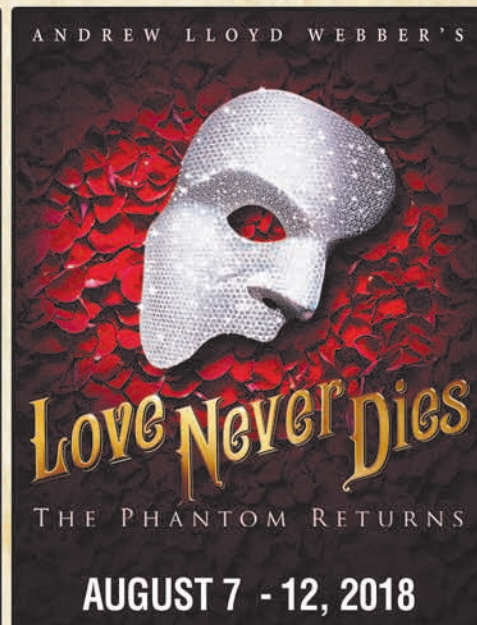
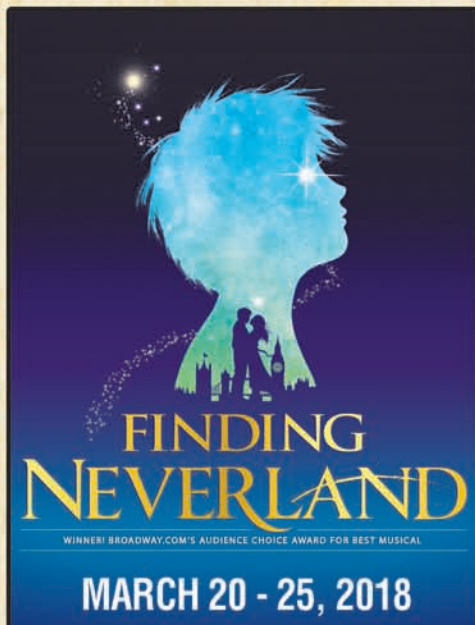
by Arnold Wayne Jones
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Dallas City Council decides not to appoint bigot

Former Dallas City Council member Vonciel Jones Hill was not chosen to serve on the board of Dallas Area Rapid Transit. When the city council voted, she received no votes.

Hill spent her eight years on Dallas City Council opposing anything and everything the LGBT community did:

She complained about HIV billboards in her district. She was the only council member to refuse to sign a letter welcoming people to Dallas for Pride weekend. She voted against updating wording on city ordinances that were more inclusive of the trans community.

But, during her tenure, she did chair the transportation committee, which led to her nomination for the DART Board.

— David Taffet

Help set a Guinness World Record... by showing up in Frida Kahlo drag

An exhibition at the Dallas Museum of Art featuring the works of Mexican avant garde artists including Frida Kahlo is setting attendance records already. But there's another record you can be a part of.

Frida Kahlo — famed for self-portraits placing her in traditional Mexican garb, and often showing proudly her proto-moustache — was born July 6, 1907, meaning her 110th birthday is on Thursday, July 6. The Dallas Museum of Art is hoping to make a certified entry into the Guinness Book of World Records that day by inviting people to show up for the largest gathering of Kahlo lookalikes. (Yup, that's an actual category apparently.)

Participants must provide their own solo cos-

turnes (no shared costumes), which must include the following elements: A unibrow (drawn on with makeup of attached hair... unless you have it naturally); at least three artificial flowers worn in the hair; a red or pink shawl; a flower-print dress without slits that extends below the knee on all sides. Check-in is at 7:30 p.m., with the official "count" at 8 p.m. (The full event spans 6 to 9 p.m., and includes birthday cake, makeup tips and a performance by the Dallas Black Dance Theatre.)

And you can also see the exhibition, with \$6 off the usual fee, and just celebrate the great bisexual artist. The show closes July 9.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Report estimates 547,000 same-sex married couples

The Williams Institute, an LGBT think tank based at UCLA, reports that there are more than 547,000 same-sex couples that have married.

The number is an estimate since many places — like Dallas County — don't keep track of the number of marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples.

According to Williams Institute, 390,000 couples were married before the Obergefell marriage equality ruling, issued two years ago today (June 26). Since the decision, another 157,000 couples have married.

The report also estimates the number of adults in the U.S. who identify as LGBT at 10.7 million. That number comes from the Gallup Daily Tracking Survey.

The number of married couples is extrapolated from the Gallup survey. "In U.S., 10.2 percent of LGBT adults now married to same-sex spouse," Williams Institute reports in a footnote. Another footnote explains that divorces and deaths are not taken into account in its number.

— David Taffet

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THE GAY AGENDA

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 **Roger Wedell** and **Judy Sherman** from Texas Pride Impact Funds; **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.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews.; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

JUNE

- **June 30: Tyler equality rally** Area LGBT and progressive groups will join the East Texas Stonewall Democrats in a celebration of equality. The Stonewall Equality Rally & Progressive Pub Crawl begins at 5 p.m. on the downtown square. [Facebook.com/EastTexasStonewallDemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/EastTexasStonewallDemocrats).

JULY

- **July 1: Boom Goes the Dynamite** Charity America show celebrating America's freedom benefits Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food, Tucker's Gift and the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network at 7 p.m. at BJ's, 3215 N. Fitzhugh Ave.

- **July 2: Interfaith Forum on Refugee Resettlement** Moderated panel discussion, tables hosted by local refugee-serving organizations, networking, fellowship, and light refreshments from 3-6 p.m. at Northwest Community Center, 5750 Pineland Drive. Free but registration required. [Eventbrite.com/e/interfaith-forum-on-refugee-resettlement-registration-35572173328](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/interfaith-forum-on-refugee-resettlement-registration-35572173328).

- **July 4: Classic Chassis Car Club** Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

- **July 6: Frida Fest** Help the Dallas Museum of Art set the Guinness world record for "the largest gathering of people dressed as Frida Kahlo in one place" at 7:30 p.m. at DMA, 1717 N. Harwood St. Before the record-setting attempt, discounted tickets to the blockbuster exhibit will be available. Unibrow and other required costume details at DMA.org/FridaFest.

- **July 7: Big Bowling Blow-out** Bowl for Hope supports the mission of Cathedral of Hope from 6-9 p.m. at AMF Richardson Lanes, 2101 N. Central Expy., Richardson. CathedralofHope.com/47years.

- **July 7-9: Beyond Vanilla** At the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Dallas, near the Galleria. Judy Tallwing is the keynote speaker. Advance registration fee starts at \$120; onsite registration is \$149. For information visit BeyondVanilla.org.

- **July 9-23: The Eclectic Anniversary Art Auction**

As part of its 47th anniversary celebration, Cathedral of Hope is transformed into an art gallery featuring a collection of original 20th and 21st century movie posters and art, including Texas artists and commissioned works. CathedralofHope.com/47years.



Mr. Charity America Preston David Pickett and Miss Charity America Jazzmin St. James D'Monaco head a stellar lineup of entertainers in "Boom Goes the Dynamite," a special show Saturday at BJ's NXS! benefiting Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food, Tucker's Gift and the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network. See listings for details. (Photo by Ron Comstock.)

- **July 11: Get Centered** Behind the scenes tour of the Resource Center led by CEO Cece Cox from 11 a.m.-noon at 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **July 11: Social ExperiEvent** Social ExperiEvent, a collaborative effort to combine various forms of artistic media into a social event, featuring artists Tamara Alexandra and Sergio Santos painting live, music by DJ Extra and nonprofits IGNITE and Step UP, plus a blackjack tournament and a cornhole competition, takes place from 5:30-9 p.m. at Pilikia, 3113 Ross Ave. Social ExperiEvent is held the second Tuesday of each month. For information visit [Facebook.com/events/717790881734444](https://www.facebook.com/events/717790881734444).

- **July 13: New Member Showcase** New North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce members show who they are and what they do from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Best Western, 8051 LBJ Freeway.

- **July 13: Table Captain informational happy hour** Thinking of becoming a Black Tie Dinner table captain? Representatives will be there to answer your questions. Sign up by 7 p.m. and you'll be eligible for your table to upgrade to Sapphire sponsor from

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Stirr, 2803 Main St.

- **July 14: Voyeurotic Carnival: A Night of Circus and Burlesque** PolyDallas Millennium LLC, hosts Voyeurotic Carnival: A Night of Circus and Burlesque at 8 p.m., at Viva's, 1350 Manufacturing St., featuring Sydny Deveraux of New York City, Onyx Fury, Amy Henderson, Olive Avira, Iris Le'Mour, Vivienne Vermuth and Nox Falls, and emceed by Lillith Grey. The event is part of PolyDallas' 3rd annual symposium, "Power, Equality and Anarchy in Polyamory," being held July 14-16 at Crowne Plaza Dallas Market, 7050 N. Stemmons. Tickets for the burlesque show start at \$20 and are available at Prekindle.comn/vivas. For information on the seminar visit PolyDallasMillennium.com.

- **July 14: DFW Pride Happy Hour** DFW Pride Happy Hour, organized and maintained as a community service by Texas Instruments' TI Pride Network, will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St., No. 140, in The Quadrangle. For information email pavw@ti.com.

• **July 15: Firecracker Gaybingo**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458.

MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• **July 16: Summer Psychic & Holistic Fair**

The Labyrinth Walk Coffee House presents the Summer Psychic and Holistic Fair at the UU Church of Oak Cliff, 2829 W. Kiest Blvd.

Will include a variety of readers, healers, Reiki practitioners and more, plus vendors selling healing crystals, jewelry, bath products, art and more. Admission is free; readings start at \$20 per 15-minute session. For information visit LabyrinthWalkCoffeehouse.com.

• **July 18: Get Centered**

Behind the scenes tour of the Resource Center led by CEO Cece Cox from 11 a.m.-noon at 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **July 20: Gray Pride**

Monthly mixer from 5:30-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **July 22: Pride festival auditions**

Audition to perform on the community stage at the Sept. 16 Pride festival in Reverchon Park from 1-4 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **July 23: The Wedding Party & Expo**

Dallas Voice presents the third LGBT Wedding Expo to connect businesses with couples who are planning a wedding. Vendors include bakers, car services, caterers, clergy, florists, formal and bridal wear, jewelers, musicians, photographers and videographers, printers, venues, destinations and more from 1-4 p.m. at Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway.

▪ **pet of the week / ITTY BITTY**

Say hello to **Itty Bitty**. He is a 7-year-old, brown tabby and white domestic shorthair mix. Like his name suggests, he's a small guy, weighing only 4 pounds, but he has a huge heart. He was surrendered to the SPCA of Texas on Feb. 10 because his previous owner developed allergies to him. He is a total lovebug and adores having his head and neck scratched. If you're looking for a friendly, loving cat to snuggle with, he's your man! Itty Bitty has been neutered, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. He is positive for FIV, but he can still live a long, happy life; he'll just need to be the only kitty in the home, or will need to live with other FIV-positive kitties. His adoption fee is only \$25 right now, so come meet him today! #86693

Itty Bitty is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed., and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. SPCA of Texas offers a special summer rate of \$25 to adopt any pets, except small mammals and livestock. Regular adoption fees are \$250 for puppies, \$125 for adult dogs 6 months or older and kittens 0-6 months, \$75 for adult cats 6 months or older and \$50 for senior dogs or cats 7 years or older and VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more). Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



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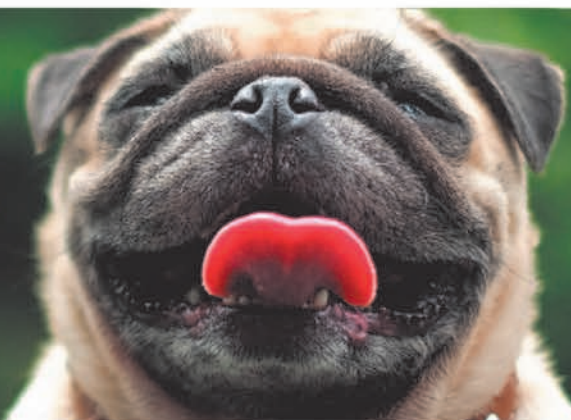
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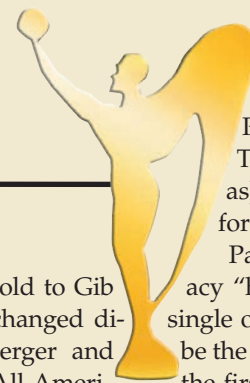
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The boys are back in town



Dallas' starring role in the revival of Mr. Gay America

BRANDI AMARA SKYY | Contributing Writer
brandiamaraskyy@gmail.com

Ever since the introduction of RuPaul and his *Drag Race* into mainstream social consciousness, everyone — and I mean EVERYONE — loves drag (and are voicing their opinions about it).

There are *RuPaul's Drag Race* watch parties everywhere where audiences hashtag their favorites to win. For most people, this is where their love (and knowledge) of drag ends.

But for those of us that live and breathe drag all day every day, we know drag's history and culture are far more complex than what we see on TV — and much more diverse.

Drag queens are only one part of our history, and within our drag community lives the entire spectrum of the rainbow: drag kings, club kids, look queens, genderf*ckers, bearded queens, divas, female drag queens and male entertainers also known as Mr.'s in the drag world.

And you can find every single type of dragster here in Dallas on any given Friday or Saturday night. That's because Dallas is known as the drag capital of Texas — and arguably of the entire United States.

Big D is home to the most diverse batch of national drag pageant titleholders in the country. Almost every pageant system has a national titleholder from our city: Asia O'Hara was Miss Gay America 2016, All American Goddess 2012 and Miss Gay

USofA 2007; Whitney Paige (RIP) was Miss Continental Plus 2013 and Miss Gay USofA Classic 2010 among many other titles; Kane Conners was Mr. Gay USofA at Large 2015; I was Miss USofA Diva 2014, and Michael LaMasters was Mr. Gay USofA 2015.

But it's not just about the titleholders. Dallas has been — and is — also host city to many national pageants, including Mr. Gay USofA, Mr. Gay USofA At Large, Miss Gay USofA Newcomer and, most infamously, Miss Gay USofA for the past 21 years.

Dallas is not only a mecca for drag, but a world-renowned symbol of drag excellence.

So when I heard that Michael Dutzer and Rob Mansman of Mad Angel Entertainment were not only bringing the boys back for the return of Mr. Gay America (formally Mr. Gay All-American) but had also chosen Dallas as the host city, my drag heart couldn't help but get excited.

Why did they choose Dallas as their comeback city? The two men explained: "Dallas is a great city with a lot of interest in pageants and male contests. We've spent a lot of time in Dallas over the past two years, everyone at Caven Enterprises and the Rose Room have been good to us. We are excited to work with them on this show."

And we are excited to welcome them because in a drag race world of trying to find the next drag superstar, the America system is the original universe. Miss Gay America started in 1972, when Norma Kristie was crowned the first Miss Gay America. Norma — aka Norman Jones — bought Miss Gay America in 1975 from the original owner, Jerry Peek, and more than a decade later, in 1983, Norma along with Carmel Santiago started Mr. Gay All-American "to provide a venue for gay men to showcase their intellect, community

service and talent."

Mr. Gay All-American was sold to Gib Hauersperger in 1995, and it changed directors until, finally, Hauersperger and director John Beebe (Mr. Gay All-American 1996) canceled the pageant indefinitely in 2009.

In 2016, Michael and Rob purchased the system from L&T Entertainment (which bought MGA from Norma in February of 2005). But even before they finalized the purchase, Michael and Rob were already discussing the revival of Mr. Gay All-American.

"The moment, we bought Miss Gay America we had people asking if we would bring back Mr. Gay All-American," the men said. "Asia O'Hara, who we became very close to through the year, brought it up a lot, and the day after her step down, she called and said let's start planning Mr. Gay America. From that moment, it was full force ahead."

Full force indeed. In just a little under a year, Michael and Rob revitalized a male entertainment system that was all but forgotten in the newer generations of drag. And when they released the open call for contestants this past Jan. 1, they had no idea what to expect. But the response was lovingly overwhelming.

"When we opened registration, it was only a matter of minutes before all the spots were filled," they noted. It marked the beginning of a new era for MGA's male division and sparked a name change to remain consistent with the Gay America brand and family.

The 10 contestants that made the cut are from all over the United States: Kentucky, Chicago, West Virginia, Florida and, of course, Dallas. Local favorites Michael LaMasters (former Mr. Gay USofA 2015) and

Patrick Mikyles (former Mr. Gay Texas USofA and Mr. Hot Body Texas) are two of the 10 contestants vying for the title rooted in a rich legacy.

Patrick said the Mr. Gay America legacy "has a strong foundation, and every single one of those [formers] all worked to be the best in their own unique way. Being the first under the new brand [would be] very exciting. Not often does someone get the chance to shape the future of a national entertainment brand."

That's what these 10 contestants are really competing for: the opportunity to be a part of and build upon the MGA legacy — a legacy that Rob and Michael hope to grow "to a level it deserves. Where the titleholders are respected and in demand as entertainers."

The MGA legacy is big. Dare I even say RuPaul big? I think so. And every single person in the audience at Sunday's pageant will feel it. Because that's the kind of magic that happens when you have more than four decades of history to stand and build upon.

It's the kind of energy that breeds excellence and births legends. It's also the thing that Rob and Michael are most excited about: "[We] feel that there will be an emotional aspect to the show. A lot of the former All-Americans are coming, and we will honor them and welcome them, keeping their bond that is still very strong."

And one hardworking male entertainer will be chosen to be the newest link in that bond — linking the present to the past, strengthening an already rich legacy, and becoming the next drag superstar.

Tickets are on sale at www.mgatickets.com and will be available at the door. Ticket prices range from \$30 for General Admission to \$65 for VIP Seating.

Rob & Michael Owners Mr. Gay America



Protecting progress

Since 2003, the LGBT community has made huge strides, but maintaining those rights will take vigilance

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

This week, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling overturning an Arkansas law that allowed a non-biological opposite-sex father to be listed as a parent on birth certificates, but did not allow a same-sex spouse to be listed as a parent.

The ruling came down on June 26 — Marriage Equality Day.

On the same day in 2015, the Supreme Court issued its ruling that extended same-sex marriage throughout the U.S. Two years before that, it paved the way with the *Windsor* decision that ruled part of the Defense of Marriage Act illegal. And in 2003, *Lawrence v. Texas* paved the way for *Windsor* by declaring sodomy laws unconstitutional.

Progress on LGBT equality had almost come to be expected. But in this current, regressive political climate, could some of those rights be rolled back?

Nick Morrow is Human Rights Campaign's press secretary for the southern states. He said LGBT advocates have to stay alert, and keep LGBT equality on the front burner.

"One of the most impactful things you can do is make sure legislators know what you oppose and what you favor," Morrow said. "Make as many contacts as possible."

That's on a national, state and local level. Right now, Morrow said he is worried about the upcoming special session of the Texas legislature, the agenda for which includes yet another "bathroom bill" that would prevent transgender people from using the appropriate public restroom facilities and could also include language repealing local nondiscrimination ordinances that go beyond state and federal protections.

"Anti-trans legislation is extremely dangerous for trans Texans," Morrow said, adding that fighting such legislation is important for the entire LGBT community, including straight allies.

First, he said, is the economic damage laws like these cause. California has al-



LGBT advocates and allies turned out in force for Advocacy Day, sponsored by Equality Texas and other progressive organizations on March 20, gathering for a rally on the steps of the Texas Capitol. Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith has called on advocates to keep speaking out against bathroom bills and other discriminatory legislation as Texas lawmakers prepare for a special session starting July 18. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

ready banned state-funded travel to Texas because of the anti-LGBT adoption law passed this year by the legislature. But potential damage to Texas' reputation is another reason to avoid passage of a bathroom bill. North Carolina, despite a half-hearted repeal of its bathroom bill, is still dealing with travel bans and a hit to its reputation that just won't go away.

Morrow called the anti-transgender legislation just an entry point for attacks on a broad range of civil rights for LGBT people. "It's a way to undermine LGBTQ rights as a whole," he said. "After marriage equality, we saw an uptick in anti-LGBT bills as a reaction to the ruling."

On a federal level, Morrow said, the Equality Act is a priority, because there's still no federally-based legal recourse for those who might get married on Sunday and get fired on Monday for being LGBT.

But HRC's strategy is to fight for equality at all levels of government. In Mississippi

PROGRESS, Page 12

Peter A. Schulte Attorney at Law

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Congressional candidate Lorie L. Burch hopes to help heal a divided nation

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Lorie L. Burch says her campaign to replace Sam Johnson as the congressman from Texas' 3rd District in 2018 isn't about her need to fill a powerful elected office. Instead, she hopes that — win or lose — her candidacy helps re-engage voters in the democratic process and reconnect the constituents with the elected officials who work for them.

"So much of what I want to do is to get people back to feeling like they have a voice, to engage them and empower them," Burch, an attorney specializing in LGBT family law, said this week. "When you look at our elections, we have pathetically low

voter turnout in this country, and especially here in Texas. Texas has one of the worst voter turnout [levels]. What is really behind that?"

For Burch, the answer is apathy rooted in a feeling of powerlessness.

"This system is set up to make us feel powerless. But we are not. The power resides in us [as voters and citizens], and that power starts at the ballot box. We have to get people educated. We have to get them engaged, and we have to make them feel like their voice and their vote matter.

"I'd rather see 100 percent turnout and not a single vote for me" than another low-turnout election.

Through her years as an attorney working with LGBT families and her years of civic involvement with the LGBT community, Burch has built a reputation and a recognizable name. But she doesn't want people to support her candidacy just because of her image.

"I don't expect support or money or votes just because someone knows me or likes me or identifies with me," Burch said. "I want

to show them what I'm about, show them that this [race] is winnable.

But, she continued, "If you look at the numbers, they are there. And given recent election results, it's all the more critical that people get on board and support [her and other progressive candidates] with time, money and talent. This can turn. We can make the change."

Burch hopes to replace 3rd District incumbent U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson, who has announced he is not running for re-election. She is campaigning for the Democratic nomination, and while no one else has officially declared themselves a candidate for the Democratic nomination, 2016 Democratic candidate Adam Bell has said he is running again, District 8 state Sen. Van Taylor, a Republican, is rumored to be eyeing a run for Congress, she said.

There are "a couple of fringe folks" who have said they will run to replace the incumbent, including "a new guy," also named Sam Johnson, who has "said he is running for the Democratic nomination" but who has also said he supports all of

Donald Trump's positions, Burch said.

"This has been a real baptism by fire for me, learning how campaigning actually works," she said. "People can just pop in and out of the race until it becomes official. You're not an 'official' candidate until you've raised \$5,000. Then you have to start filing reports with the FEC and everything."

Despite her history as "an advocate trying to make inroads for equal justice and equal opportunity, especially for the LGBT community," Burch said that those who know her best were probably shocked by her decision to run. "I don't think they ever thought I'd go this route," she said.

But, she continued, "I have always felt there was more for me to do. I had been feeling this restlessness, wondering what that more would be. Then the election last fall happened, and I chose to see it as an opportunity. Regardless of which side of the issues you're on, I think last year's election showed us that this country is sick and tired of politics as usual. I think there is a continuing groundswell of people ready for representatives that will get back to 'we, the

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people.' It's something I feel called to do."

Burch said she attended the Victory Institute candidate training and "talked to tons and tons of people." But the turning point came when she was introduced to Denise Hamilton, who operates a political strategy firm in Plano.

"She completely connected with me," Burch said of Hamilton. "She knew the ground game, how to strategize, how to run. She told me, 'If you do this, I've got your back.' Next thing I knew there was a Facebook page and a website and a launch party."

"All those friends and clients and strangers, even, cheering me on — it's been very humbling," Burch said. "But it also makes me really feel I am called to do this."

Burch and her wife, Kimberly Kantor, first met a couple of years ago through Rainbow Roundup, an organization for LGBT families that Kantor founded and for which Burch served as a legal source. The two were married last month at Graceland, and Burch "officially" became a parent of Kantor's two daughters, ages 12 and 7.

As impressed as she was with Kantor's work with Rainbow Roundup, it was finding out that Kantor was an educator who worked with children with special needs that really sealed the deal.

"To find someone predestined to spend

their time making a difference and making a better life for people — LGBT families and families with special needs kids — it was perfect," Burch said. "One of the first gifts I gave her was a necklace that says 'A Dreamer and A Doer.' That defines her, and it defines me."

Burch acknowledges that her campaign could make not just her but her family a target for the especially nasty kind of attacks that have become a common form of politics in the age of Trump. But, she said, they are ready for it and will face it as a unified family.

"Kimberly and the girls — I have these moments of doubts, but they don't ever have that. They believe in making the world a better place," Burch said, adding that "even the girls' other mom [Kantor's ex] is very excited about this. She thinks this is a great thing for the girls to see."

"I don't think there's a way to prepare for" the nasty, hate-driven attacks, Burch said. "We just have to have the awareness that those things could come along. The importance of trying to make a difference and create positive change for all people far outweighs the potential problems. And we'll just remember what Michelle Obama said: When they go low, we go high."

Burch said that while she has a platform based on policies and ideas, her main fo-

cus is on her vision to "bring Washington, D.C. to my community. I want to have an immediate impact in terms of listening and finding out what are the main concerns in my community, then bridging those gaps. Preparing for the job means getting into the community and listening to people."

"People are getting more and more disheartened. Our democracy is not working. Our leaders are ineffective and politics are more partisan than even," she continued. "It's scary how divided we are in our nation and in our own communities. People don't respect others' opinions, or even believe they have a right to a different opinion. Our current leadership encourages that because as long as we stay divided, we can't take on the things that need to change."

"I see this as an opportunity to stand up, to say that I am going to fight for the change we need. I want to be able to tell my kids, and someday my grandkids, that when I saw something that was wrong, I did something to help get our democracy back on track."

Lorie L. Burch



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pi, he pointed out, Jackson and Magnolia both passed nondiscrimination ordinances over the past year.

HRC has teamed with Equality Texas and several other organizations including the Transgender Education Network of Texas, the ACLU and Texas Freedom Network to derail the bathroom bill and other proposed laws that remove the ability of cities to create their own ordinances during the legislature's regular session, and will continue to do so during the special session.

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said he also worries about proposed religious refusal legislation. "Using religion to discriminate is the new frontier," he said. "The Supreme Court is likely to address it."

In the mean time, the legislature is likely to allow it.

Smith believes the Supreme Court will rule against these religious refusal laws and said there's a body of lower court rulings "making accurate distinctions" between what's true religious freedom and what's not. He said we must ensure the ability of people to practice their faith without infringing on other people's rights.

His advice to LGBT Texans is similar to Morrow's: "This summer, we need to be as loud and visible as possible during the legislative session. We can't use summer as an excuse not to be vocal."

Smith said he isn't sure what the new bathroom bills would look like, but the House and Senate both have sponsors lined up. He said there might even be multiple versions of the bills.

Because the session lasts only 30 days, Smith said he doubted the bills would get hearings in both houses of the legislature. But when there are hearings, he said, he needs people to show up.

And, he said, constituents need to start contacting their legislators as soon as this week.

Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell agreed.

"We need to be ready to push back and push back hard and with a loud voice," McDonnell said. "Think your voice doesn't count? It does."

Just this week, the Dallas City Council listened when the LGBT community pushed back against the nomination of

former City Councilwoman Vonciel Jones Hill to serve on the board for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit. During her eight years on the council, Hill opposed anything and everything positive toward the LGBT community. After current councilmembers heard the opposition to her nomination to the DART board, not a single one — not even the two that nominated her — voted for her to be appointed.

McDonnell said the next term on the U.S. Supreme Court could be very interesting. The court has already agreed to hear the case of a Colorado baker who refused to bake a cake for a same-sex couple and a case challenging a Mississippi religious freedom law.

The case of transgender student Gavin Grimm's lawsuit over bathrooms at his public school has been remanded to the Fourth Circuit. If either side appeals that court's findings, it could end up back in the Supreme Court next session.

Different circuits have already issued varied rulings on whether sexual orientation or gender identity are already covered by U.S. law as sex discrimination. That poises any of those cases to be heard by the court.

Two justices that have been allies to the LGBT community are aging and an appointment of one conservative justice could end progress made through the courts.

As bathroom bills continue to be debated, Lambda Legal Dallas-based attorney Paul Castillo filed a case this week against the St. Johns County School District in Florida for shaming a 16-year-old trans student into using a separate bathroom.

While legislatures debate hiding discrimination behind religious liberty arguments and hurting trans kids by regulating bathroom use, suing for equal rights has been successful.

Lambda Legal hopes that the new case in Florida and Gavin Grimm's case in Virginia will set precedent that trans students must be treated fairly. Among the other landmark cases Lambda Legal filed is one related to elder abuse in a nursing facility in Illinois and is involved in cases relating to housing, immigration, employment, healthcare and other issues.

Achieving equality in all of these areas will be slow and arduous.

"We need to be vigilant," McDonnell said.

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Handel's depressing win in Georgia

Despite the creeping anti-LGBT scum covering D.C., love will eventually win

Another day, another truly terrible person elected to Congress. America is on a roll when it comes to voting for people who are the worst.

As I write this, I'm in Chicago with my family during Pride. The Navy Pier Ferris wheel is lit up in rainbow colors. In fact, when my 7-year-old son saw it he cried, "Look! A gay Ferris wheel!"

We also saw cars with rainbow flags waving out their windows as I drove down the freeway. It's a happy time.

Or at least it should be.

Sadly, I can't help thinking about Georgia's newly elected Republican congresswoman Karen Handel. She beat the much better human being Jon Ossoff, a Democrat, but not by much.

Some are pointing at Ossoff's defeat and saying it's proof the Democratic Party is dead and that Nancy Pelosi should be buried along with it. But that's stupid and short sighted. America deserves better than that.

Okay, but why am I thinking of Handel as I gaze upon the gay Ferris wheel?

Back in 2003, according to Think Progress, Handel was a little more gay friendly — or at least, she appeared so. The Log Cabin Republicans threw their support behind her because she appeared to think



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

domestic partner benefits were not the work of Satan (LCR's standards are not high).

But no more!

In 2010 she told a local Georgia news station that she not only didn't know any gay couples with children, but that she said that a same-sex couple raising a kid "is not the best household for a child." When asked why she thought "gay parents aren't as legitimate as heterosexual parents" she answered, "Because I don't."

Well, then.

But that was seven years ago! Surely she's come around since then, right? Ha. No.

In June, she was again asked about same-sex couples adopting, and she said she still opposed it because of "her faith."

"My faith at the same time calls me to be compassionate and what I have always believed is that what has to be paramount is what is the best interest of the child," she told The Reporter Newspapers.

But what does that mean, "best interest of the child"? Surely Handel can be more specific?

"The best interest of the child. Period, end of paragraph," she said. "That's not for you

to decide. That's not for me to decide. It's for the child advocates to decide, whether that be the court or the child's guardian. The child's best interest must be paramount."

Got it. The best interest of the child is some impossible-to-define thing that only "The Child Advocates" (which sounds like a group from *The Handmaid's Tale*) can dictate.

Well, I'll tell you what. I sure as hell am an advocate for my child, and I don't take kindly to anyone claiming that my wife and I are unfit parents. I especially loathe the fact that Handel is joining the anti-LGBT scum that is creeping across D.C.

It's hard not to feel hopeless, to look at the anti-LGBT backlash across the country and feel exhausted and want to give up. Or just ignore the news and watch nothing but RuPaul's Drag Race (everything in moderation, dears).

But then I look up and see a gay Ferris wheel shining in the night sky, and hear my son in the back seat declaring that "Today was one of the funnest days of my life." And I know that love will win.

It's going to be a bumpy ride, and oh, it's going to hurt sometimes. But love will win.

■
D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.

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That's the spirit

A mecca of progressivity in the Southwest, neighboring New Mexico is an oasis of beauty, culture and acceptance



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

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For many progressives living in Texas, the 2016 presidential election resulted in a double gut punch: Not only did the nation turn to the fringe right, it left many feeling claustrophobic — even in a bluish city like Dallas — to be surrounded by Trumpeters. It was enough to make some want to escape to a haven of liberalism... without giving up entirely what makes Texas home. Ah, to dream.

But such a fantasy land *does* exist — and neighboring New Mexico is that oasis. Sandwiched between the right-leaning states of Arizona, Utah, Oklahoma and Texas (with flippable Colorado along its northern border), New Mexico has long stood out as a stronghold not just of progressivity, but of cultural awareness, natural beauty and the embrace of diversi-

ty from politics to sexual identity.

New Mexico is a peculiar gem of the union — a hybrid, in multiple ways: Immense (the fifth largest state by area), secluded (the entire population is about 2 million — by comparison, Dallas County's is more than 2.5 million), beautiful (it's more than desert) and culturally rich, it's also a free-thinking bulwark of be-yourself appeal. In fact, it offers so many experiences at once, you'll be tempted to make it a second home.

The state's reputation for openness extends beyond its desert landscapes. The presence of a large Native American heritage informs the widespread Earth-Mother attitude about nature — not just the environment, but the peoples as well. The indigenous population has long

countenanced the "Two Spirits" tradition of sexual inclusiveness.

If you have an image in your mind of the 47th state, it's probably of sweltering heat along an ocean of sand, where cattle are herded through town squares and large cacti dot the land like bluebonnets along a Texas highway. But in fact, all of those clichés are wrong, or at least overstated: saguaro cactus are almost exclusively in Arizona; Albuquerque itself rarely hits 100 degrees, even in the summer; there are a number of national forests, and mountain enclaves can get downright chilly, even in the fall (there are several notable ski resorts); and you'll see more cowboys on Cedar Springs on a Friday night than in Santa Fe, one of the premiere artistic communes in America. New Mexicans want to dispel

those outdated myths, while cultivating an appreciation for the richness of a state that manages to surprise at every turn.

Situated largely opposite the Texas Panhandle, and abutting the northern portion of Mexico's Sonoran Desert, the state is divided into relative population concentrations near the center (Santa Fe, the state's second-largest city at about 65,000, is about an hour away from Albuquerque), versus the more sparsely-occupied smaller communities in the southern half (Las Cruces, Roswell, Ruidoso) and destination resorts farther north (including the "Enchanted Circle" of Taos, Angelfire and Red River).

Albuquerque

The state's largest city, Albuquerque, has in recent years been best known as the

The Sandia Mountains, above, loom like a watermelon over the central New Mexico landscape ("sandia" means "watermelon"); the chile relleno exemplifies the modern urban style of Albuquerque's Zacotecas Tacos & Tequila, opposite top; the Inn of the Turquoise Bear, opposite below, is Santa Fe's premiere gay B&B.

fake meth mecca of *Breaking Bad*. Make no mistake: The town revels in the attention (and income) from having acclaimed TV shows filmed here (you can visit some of the filming sites on the ABQ Trolley Tour, which, though predictably touristy, is informative and fun). But this mild-climated, high-elevation (nearly 5,000 feet, a hair under Denver) vibrant small city has a buzz to it.

Much of the older architecture is Mid-Century Modern, as compared to the more adobe style in smaller towns, but there many neighborhoods have design appeal, especially in the area around the University of New Mexico, where the famed home of architect Bart Prince — a futuristic hodgepodge that looks like a spaceship — is located.

You might even like to get your architecture fix with walk around the Hotel Andaluz, a gorgeous full-service hotel that's stunning, comfortable and unique. About 15 minutes outside of ABQ, the Tamaya Resort offers amazing vistas and excellent service — it's a great place to stay especially if you're planning a destination wedding. (See sidebar, Page 21.)

You can discover more landmarks in Old Town Albuquerque, a small, walkable square that was once the hub of the city. From there, it's a quick drive to Golden Crown Panaderia, one of the best local



bakeries you'll find anywhere. Unassuming on the outside, go in to delight in pizzas made with blue corn crust and wonderful pastries, as well as sandwiches, all served by 80-year-old founder and force of nature Pratt Morales and his son Chris.

Food options abound, from Zacatecas Tacos & Tequila, with its modern, urban and satisfying take on tacos, chile rellenos and the like; and the funky Grove Cafe & Market in the trendy Edo neighborhood, a casual but cheffy breakfast and lunch cafe

focusing on local, organic and fresh healthy dishes.

The Rail Runner connects the cities of ABQ and Santa Fe with a train that sets you off in the downtown of each, so why not take it from ABQ and explore the state's other great destination city.

Santa Fe

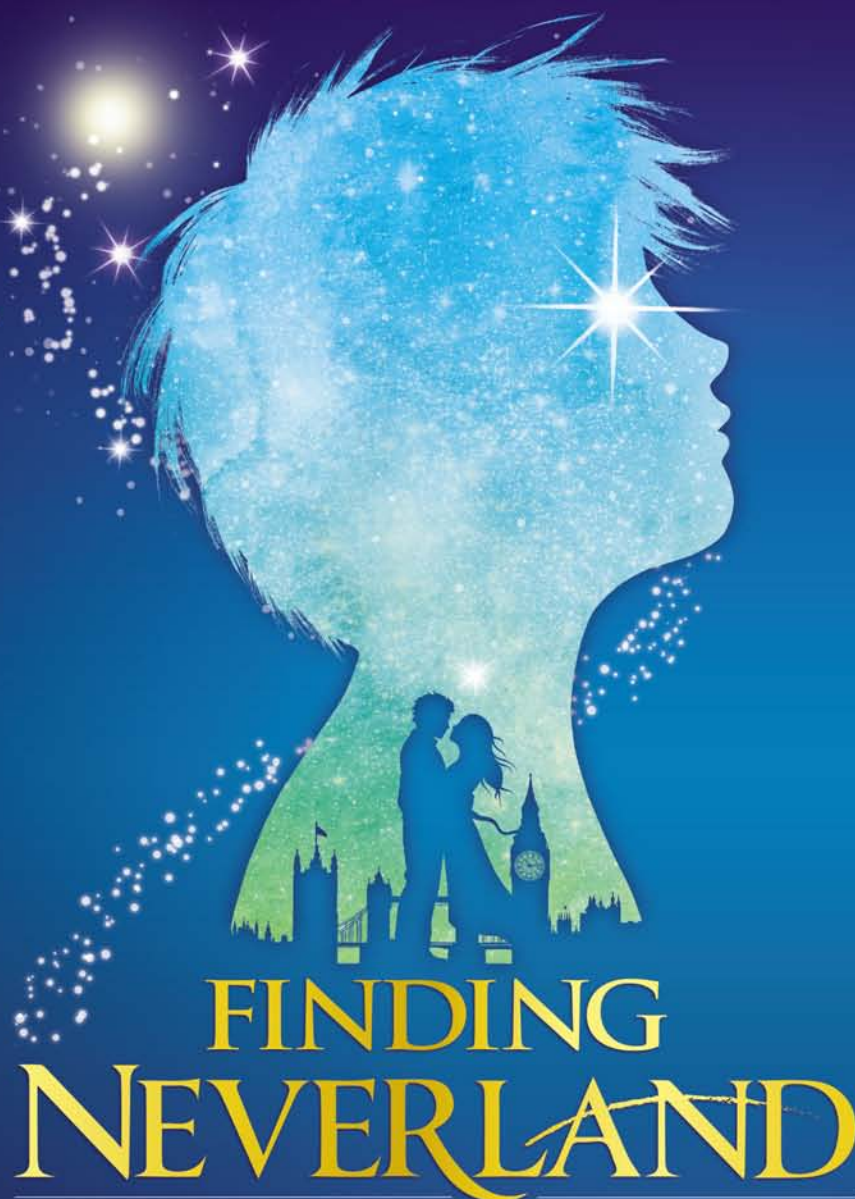
While known internationally as a focal point for the artsy — the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum celebrates its 20th anniversary all summer long, and its open-air summer opera festival is one of the most acclaimed in North America — Santa Fe is more than turquoise jewelry, woven rugs and paintings of orchids and sunbleached skulls (although you can definitely find all of those in abundance). There's a strong hipster vibe that informs the way of life here — not just the central plaza where galleries and museums proliferate like mushrooms in the dark, but in many of the



NEW MEXICO, Page 20

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A close-up photograph of a man's torso and upper chest. He is shirtless, showing well-defined abdominal muscles and pectorals. An American flag is draped over his shoulders, with the blue field and white stars visible on the left and the red and white stripes on the right. The background is dark and out of focus.

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businesses and attractions.

Take, for instance, the art collective Meow Wolf. Located in a converted bowling alley, it's the spiritual child of *Game of Thrones* creator George R.R. Martin, who helped fund this strange, amazing space. The centerpiece is an interactive amusement park-like attraction called The House of Eternal Return — a full-sized Victorian house and grounds constructed inside the building, which boasts *Twin Peaks*-esque phantasms, secret corridors, mysterious clues and *trompe-l'oeil* effects. You could come 20 times and never fully interpret and uncover the otherworldly, interstellar appeal of this weird and wonderful art experiment.

The chill atmosphere is reflected in how the city casually addresses LGBT visitors — in short, everyone is invited and accepted. (Its Pride, like Dallas', is held in September — this year, on the 15th and 16th.) One city rep noted to me — with some degree of pride — that last year, Santa Fe's last remaining gay bar closed. This was not a weakness of the gay community, he said, but a sign that whatever your orientation, you would feel entirely comfortable at an place. The welcoming vibe means nobody feels pigeonholed. (Many restrooms in

hotels and other public spaces proudly welcome "all genders.")

Of course, if you prefer some gay-exclusivity, on the edge of downtown is the Inn of the Turquoise Bear, a roomy gay-owned bed and breakfast catering to the LGBT market. The main structure, the Witter Bynner House, was designed by the celebrated architect Witter Bynner, who pioneered the Spanish Pueblo Revival style that distinguishes much of the architecture across the state. (The house is on the federal National Register of Historic Places, as well as an historic property recognized by the state and city.)

Santa Fe is as foodie a city as you're likely to encounter, which is especially evident in the local culinary specialties: pinon nuts, green chiles (and chiles in general), lavender and indigenous-style preparations.

Lumineria, the restaurant inside the Inn at Loretto, is one of the jewels of the city's dining scene, with high-end dishes like pan-roasted foie gras and duck confit

A neon forest is merely one of the amazing attractions inside Santa Fe's Meow Wolf art collective experimental installation, right; the Taos Pueblo, opposite, is perhaps the oldest continuous community in the U.S.



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wontons, Colorado lamb chops with porcini risotto, slow-braised buffalo short ribs and elk tenderloin. And while a restaurant named The Compound may sound homey, the dishes served here are of the fine-dining variety.

On the other side of the fancy scale, but no less appealing, The Shed has served up New Mexican food since it was, quite literally, a shed, starting in 1953. The enchilada plate and huevos rancheros are stars, but every dish looks tantalizing. Similarly, Tia Sophia's in an unmissable breakfast destination on the plaza, famed for its enormous breakfast burrito (the restaurant claims to have invented the term).

Kakawa Chocolate House is its own destination — a small building about half a mile from downtown where you can enjoy coffees, truffles and other handmade treats that are simply delectable. Both pinon and Mexican versions of coffee and hot chocolate are popular in Santa Fe (try a Mexican mocha at the homey Plaza Cafe).

Speaking of coffee, liquid refreshment is its own, separate reward here. More than

30 area bars and restaurants — among them, Coyote Rooftop Cantina, La Fonda on the Plaza, Luminaria, Secreto Bar and Lounge and The Shed — participate. Buy a “passport” for three bucks, and you get a dollar off the specialty margarita at each stop on the trail, and a “visa” showing where you visited. You can only get two stamps per day, but that just encourages you to stay longer.

If tequila isn't your thing (sad!), you can sample a variety of other liquors at the hipstery Santa Fe Spirits Tasting Room. There, you can experience some amazingly locally-distilled gins, whiskeys, vodkas and brandies. And Albuquerque-based Gruet Winery serves a full slate of its exquisite sparkling wines at its tasting room inside the Hotel St. Francis.

The Hotel St. Francis is also a charming place to hole up. A boutique inn in the best sense, its cozy rooms provide for an intimate, almost European flavor. For more amenities, La Fonda and The Inn at Loretto are larger, full service hotels with modern amenities.

Taos

There's no Rail Runner connecting Santa Fe and Taos, but then, the drive is something to savor. Not only can you absorb



the landscapes, but there's the opportunity to explore and visit off-the-beaten path shops and restaurants, like Rancho de Chimayo (a 52-year-old institution, recognized by the James Beard Foundation for its hearty, rustic cuisine, like carne adovada and posole). Be sure to stop into one of the shops where local artisans weave native-style rugs and placemats, or throw pots. And take is the massive Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, which spans the famed river.

If you're near the bridge, it's just a quick drive to Taos Mesa Brewing Co., an unpretentious honkytonk with daily

happy hours, serving up local beers. For a more refined dining experience, you can't beat Love Apple, a chef-driven gem where regional, organic dishes are prepared with exquisite care in a lopey converted Catholic chapel. The menu changes seasonally, but consider yourself lucky if you can score some buttermilk cornbread, raw beet salad and baked tamale in red mole.

De La Tierra, the restaurant inside the magnificent El Monte Sagrado Resort, serves a host of local, seasonal dishes from breakfast to dinner. It's well worth a stay too, with large, private suites (many looking into a soothing natural courtyard),

NEW MEXICO, Next Page

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

For additional photos of New Mexico, visit DallasVoice.com/Photos or search for Travel



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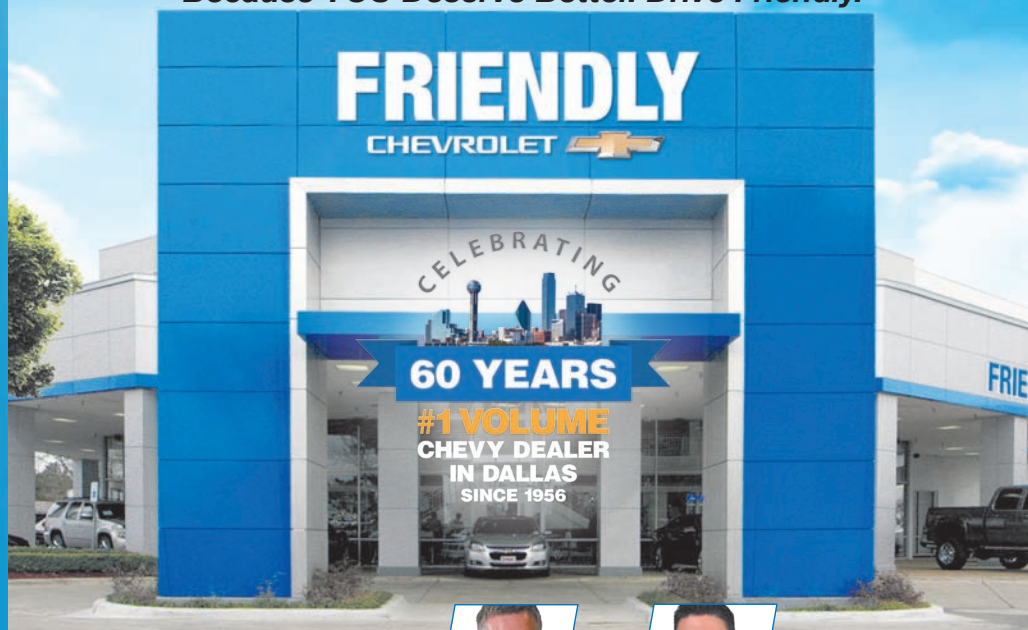


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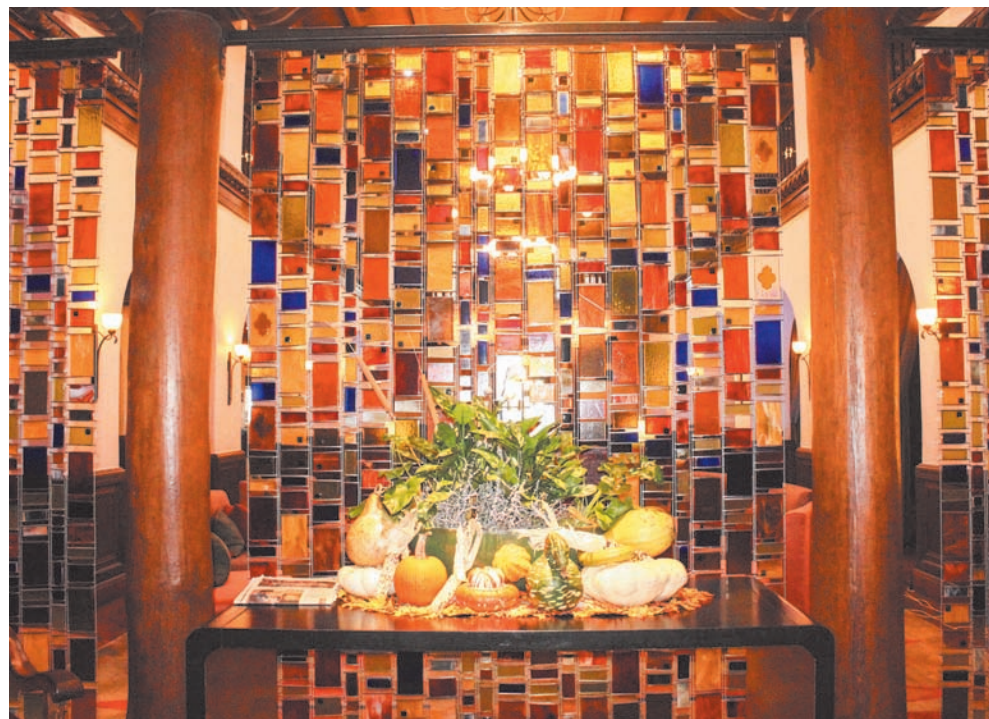
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L+S travel



The design at Albuquerque's Andaluz Hotel is colorful and astonishing.

NEW MEXICO, From Previous Page

huge walk-in showers and comfy beds

If you're not skiing, a visit to the Taos Pueblo is both enlightening and somewhat mystical, with its history of survival in the face of terrible mistreatment. Families continue to live on the land (buildings date

back as much as a millennium; Taos is believed to be the oldest continuously-occupied community in North America), which has preserved the ruins of a burned church as a sacred reminder of their struggles ... and their endurance. That's a message we could all benefit from. ■

LITTLE BLACK BOOK

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Andaluz, HotelAndaluz.com. El Monte Sagrado, ElMonteSagrado.com. Inn of the Turquoise Bear, TurquoiseBear.com. Hotel St. Francis, HotelStFrancis.com. Tamaya Resort, Tamaya.Regency.Hyatt.com.

FOOD & DRINK

The Compound, CompoundRestaurant.com. Golden Crown Panaderia, GoldenCrown.biz. The Grove Café & Market, TheGroveCafeMarket.com. Kakawa Chocolate House, KakawaChocolates.com. Love

Apple, TheLoveApple.net. Lumineria, HotelLoretto.com. The Plaza Café, SantaFePlazaCafe.com. Rancho de Chimayo, RanchoDeChimayo.com. Santa Fe Spirits Tasting Room, SantaFeSpirits.com. The Shed, SFShed.com. Taos Mesa Brewing Co., TaosMesaBrewing.com. Tia Sophia's, TiaSophas.com. Zacotecas Tacos & Tequila, ZacatecasTacos.com.

ATTRACTIONS

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, OkeeffeMuseum.org. Meow Wolf, MeowWolf.com. Santa Fe Opera, SantaFeOpera.org. Taos Pueblo, TaosPueblo.com.

RESOURCES

Albuquerque CVB, VisitAlbuquerque.org. New Mexico CVB, NewMexico.org. RailRunner Express, RioMetro.org. Santa Fe CVB, SantaFe.org. Taos CVB, Taos.org.



DESTINATION WEDDINGS: NEW MEXICO

With the second anniversary of national marriage equality just behind us — and since June is a traditional month for thinking about weddings — planning your nuptials in New Mexico is a natural fit.

In downtown Santa Fe, **the Inn on the Alameda** has celebrated same-sex weddings since 2013, when marriage equality became state law, and offers a “love package” that embraces gay and lesbian couples. The inn’s wedding garden accommodates 20 guests in an intimate setting of aspens. The locale is a quick walk to both the central Plaza as well as Canyon Road, the fulcrum of galleries in the city.

The Rainbow Riders is one of many ballooning enterprises in New Mexico, where hot-air balloons speckle the air like stars in the night sky. A hot-air ride is definitely a fun excursion, but you can make it more special by actually getting married in or around a gondola and celebrate by soaring over the land. (They can accommodate up to 75 guests and, as the name might suggest, welcome same-sex weddings.)

The Tamaya Resort and Spa welcomes same-sex couples to its lovely grounds with numerous packages. But even without marriage plans, it’s an excellent getaway destination.

Although managed by Hyatt Regency, the resort itself is located on the Santa Ana Pueblo (about 15 minutes north of ABX) — one of 19 such native lands that crisscross the state. The property not only benefits the ancestral tribe financially, but its operation reflects many of the principles of the Santa Ana people, including sustainability and respect for the land.

The main building is far removed from the main road, lending a secluded air that emphasizes one of the principle draws of New Mexico: Its peaceful aura. The decor mimics the adobe-style architecture and rustic appeal of the region, with woven rugs, exposed stone, brick and stucco and earth tones. It’s small enough that a wedding party could remain close without stepping on top of each other. Rooms are spacious and quiet, many with lovely balcony views of the mystical Sandia Mountains to the east. Elsewhere on the property, you can enjoy the huge pool area (a nice way to cool down, including a spiral slide for adults), wander the forested areas and trails on foot or bike, or take a jaunt to a stable where horses and other livestock are tended. Horseback rides can also be arranged. You can also relax by luxuriating at the Tamaya Mist spa, enjoying an invigorating “ancient drumming” massage that include a detoxifying red chile and mud scrub. Then soak in the outdoor hot tub for as long as you like — probably to seek out a meal.

The Corn Maiden restaurant, located at the foot of the backside of the hotel, serves regionally-inspired cuisine with excellent service and an impressive wine list, ideal for celebratory dinners. The Santa Ana inside the main hotel offers inviting fare from breakfast to dinner to cocktails, and the Rio Grande Lounge is an excellent late-night watering hole. Visitors can enjoy the benefits of the open-air Cottonwood Pavilion (ideal for a wedding reception and even ceremony), or keep things more traditional in one of the ballrooms.

The Rail Runner has a stop near Tamaya, for when your guests want to go into SF or ABQ. But with so many perks on the grounds, you could spend a long weekend here and never need — or want — to leave.

— A.W.J.

Inn on the Alameda, 303 E. Alameda St, Santa Fe. InnOnTheAlameda.com.

Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa, 1300 Tuyuna Trail, Santa Ana Pueblo. Tamaya.

Regency.Hyatt.com.

RainbowRiders.com.



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**Friday 06.30 –
Sunday 07.23**

**Wanna see a theatrical ‘Disaster?’
We’ve got a recommendation**

In the 1970s, disaster movies were da bomb... sometimes literally. Earthquakes, tidal waves, hotel fires, bees, bombers and volcanoes were everywhere. Queer pals Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick loved those films as only gay men can and came up with Disaster!, a musical send-up of the genre. Onstage in Bedford delivers the regional premiere of the show, starting this weekend.

DEETS: Trinity Arts Theater at Bedford Boys Ranch,
2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford.
OnstageInBedford.com.

LIFE+STYLE

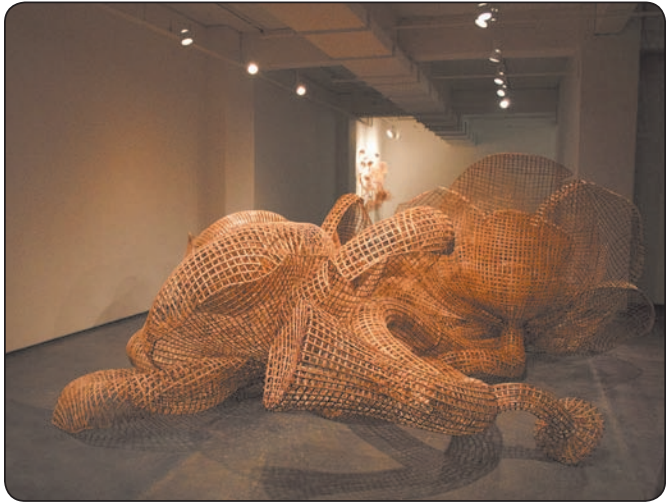
best bets

Friday 06.30 — Sunday 08.06

DTC’s world premiere ‘Hood’ finally opens

We wrote about the making of Hood — a world-premiere musical about the legend of Robin Hood — a few weeks ago, and now’s your chance to see what we were talking about. The hotly-anticipated show by partners Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn is set in a barn, while 12 troubadours put on a seemingly impromptu show about the hero of Sherwood Forest. It’s in previews through July 6.

DEETS: Wylly Theatre,
2400 Flora St.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.



Friday 06.30 — Sunday 01.07

Famed Cambodian sculptor Sopheap Pich solo show at Crow Collection

An acclaimed contemporary sculptor, Cambodian artist Sopheap Pich is noted for his large-scale works, including one called Rang Phnom Flower, which spans 25 feet! You can see that and other pieces at the Crow Collection of Asian Art. The exhibition will continue through January.

DEETS: Crow Collection of Asian Art,
2010 Flora St.
CrowCollection.org.



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calendar highlights



Addison Kaboom Town, a free event, previews the fireworks of Independence Day, occurring on Monday, July 3.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

New Works Festival. Kitchen Dog Theater presents its annual festival of new plays, including student works and staged readings. The centerpiece production is *Br'er Cotton*. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 Stemmons Freeway. Through July 1. KitcheDogTheater.org.

Disaster! Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick developed this musical that parodies disaster movies. Trinity Arts Theater at Bedford Boys Ranch, 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. June 30–July 23. OnstageInBedford.com.

Hood. A world premiere musical about Robin Hood, by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Aug. 6 (in previews through July 5). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

A Little Night Music. Stephen Sondheim's classic musical comedy of provincial life in turn of the century Sweden. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Ann. Linda Leonard as Texas Gov. Ann Richards. Presented by Stage West. Irving Arts Center, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Through July 8. StageWest.org.

Cabaret. The new Brick Road Theatre presents the decadently delightful musical, with Janelle Lutz as Sally Bowles, directed and choreographed by Jeremy Dumont. *Final weekend.* Courtyard Theater, 1509 H Ave., Plano. BrickRoadTheatre.org.

King o' the Moon. The Apollo 11 moonlanding is the central focus of a family in this play by Tom Dudzick. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through July 15. CircleTheatre.org.

The Merry Wives of Windsor. Shakespeare Dallas kicks off its 2017 with this comedy about Sir John Falstaff. Performed in repertory with an adaptation of Cervantes' *Quixote*. Samuel Grand

this week's solution

P	S	S	T		B	O	L	T		A	B	A	S	H
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Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. Through July 21. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale.

A touring musical, inspired by Cinderella but set in Africa. Intended for children 5 and up. Presented by Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through July 9. DCT.org.

Nobody's Perfect. Theatre Britain continues its final season, with artistic director Sue Birch taking to the stage in this romantic farce. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through July 16. Theatre-Britain.com.

Quixote. Shakespeare Dallas continues its 2017 with this stage adaptation of Cervantes' *Quixote*. Performed in rep with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Samuell Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. Through July 22. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

Sex with Strangers. Two writers end up sharing a remote location in this comedy, presented by Stage West. Through July 23. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.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.

Sopheap Pich. The Cambodian sculptor's work, including the massive *Rang Phnom Flower*, on display at Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 7, 2018. CorwCollection.org.

Targets. A solo show by Texas-based artist Eilene Carver, honoring the victims of the Dallas ambush and Pulse shootings of 2016. MCL Grand Main Gallery, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Through July 29. MCLGrand.com.

Iris Van Herpen: Transforming Fashion.

A must-see show of the designer's wondrous garments. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 20. DMA.org.

Landscape Relativities: The Collaborative Works of Arnold Chang and Michael Cherney.

This exhibition highlights the blurred line between photography and Chinese ink painting from two contemporary artists. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through June 25. CrowCollection.org

FRIDAY 06.30

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 07.01

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park at Hall

Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

MONDAY 07.03

FESTIVAL

Addison Kaboom Town! Annual celebration of the Fourth with food, music and fireworks. Addison Circle Park. Free. 5 p.m.–midnight.

TUESDAY 07.04 — INDEPENDENCE DAY

FILM

Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home. Celebrate America with this hugely successful entry in the *Star Trek* franchise, which time travels to 1980s California. Directed by Leonard Nimoy. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 07.06

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.



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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Ah, summer (toys and boys) when they sizzle! With July heat on the way, temperatures of my overheated dear readers' panting libidos will also merciless rise with the mercury. Howard's most-off received scorcher questions burn a hole in my mailbox this time of year — they come, in fact, in three frostily iced flavors: 1. How do I stealthily harm my cheating asshole of a spouse? 2. How do I sobbingly wound my disobedient asshole boy-toy? 3. How do I successfully destroy you, Asshole Howard, with confounding questions? (This third one actually arrives irrespective of the season.)

Dear Howard,

My husband says we either need couples' therapy to "rekindle our burnt-out passions," or else risk becoming yet another failed gay marriage statistic with the word "doomed" all but tattooed on our foreheads. Hypothetically, we're still monogamous, but of course after six-plus years together, I'd instead label our relationship as something more like "monogam-ish." I travel a lot, so we're at that Seven-Year-Itch stage where it's basically, "Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies." Neal's strictly a bottom; I'm totally a top — correction, I'm *obligated* to top when performing my conjugal duties with him. Here's mv question: Whenever I'm out of town

for work, should I insist Neal be 100 percent faithful to me, even though I'm not with him? He's poz, but he doesn't know I am. — **D.J. Lenny**

Dear Jenny Lind,

Oh, fuck me (sigh!).

OK, are you asking me if I *sanction* you playing fast-and-loose with your marriage vows — as a bottom groupie 'ho on the down-low — seeing as how Neal's status won't change until you return home again to Pleasant Valley Sundays in the 'burbs? Cardinal Howard naturally passes no moral judgment (hence, my column's tagline: "How to do the wrong thing right"); nonetheless, to insist Neal stay faithful to you, while you're chasing loads on the road, doesn't exactly peal with the promise of celebratory, double-digit anniversary bells ever ringing for either of you. Personally, Jen, I think you should insist your partner (of these past six-and-three-quarters' years) be every bit as faithful to you as you are to him... whatever mutually agreed upon level of honest, upfront, shared "monogam-ish-ness" that entails.

Dear Howard,

An ex-Army bud of mine down in Galveston and me (we're both married, longtime, to women) keep private boy/toys on the sly. His own beauty sports just the most beautiful, wavy, shoulder-length blond hair ... or he did until yesterday. Seems this poor kid made the unforgivable sin of getting it trimmed a friggin' half-inch without first asking Daddy for permission; naturally, the impertinent little bastard immediately got marched straight back to the salon and ordered to get his entire head shaved, cue-ball bald! If that wasn't punishment enough, the kid's electronics given to him by my friend were all confiscated. I tried to talk reason with "Percy:" "Aren't you being a little too strict on your boy? Hell, he was only trying to make himself look nice for you — come on, man, it was a friggin' hair trim, it's not like you caught him suckin' off one of your wife's secret boyfriends!" Howard, just how do I delicately inform my bud that this punishment he's dealt his boy doesn't in any way fit the kid's alleged crime—especially since he didn't even *commit* a "crime" in the first place? — **Kash**

Dear Kash,

This thoroughly humiliated young man's formerly golden surfer locks will require six months minimum to grow back, so screw treating your ex-Army "fuck buddy" with kid gloves! Here's what you're to *verbatim* inform this shitwad sadist whom, I've no doubt, is uglier than even a sink full of his wife's boyfriend's used dildos: "Percy, you high-ballin', low-trash

hillbilly! Your kid was only making an effort to look more beautiful for you, not *against* you! There isn't a boy on this Earth your limited resources can purchase, you petty, dunder-head, that kindness shown to him can't poach away: Empathy gets *anything*; whereas money will only get you some things, and when ugly narcissists mishandle lovely things they don't deserve, they always end up only losing them. Ultimately, Percy, I wouldn't fret too very much about teaching your boy a lesson, as he'll not be hanging around any such stupidly shallow a sociopathic fiend fool as you long enough anyhow, to harbor even one sweet memory of you at all."

Dear Howard,

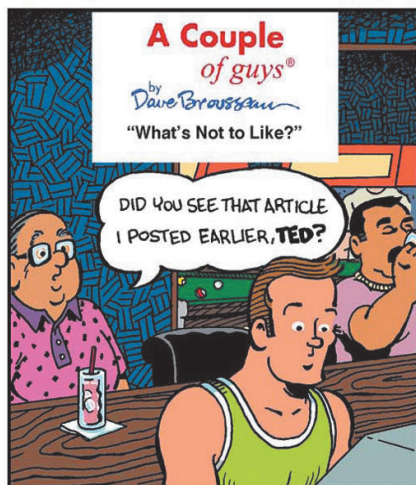
I follow your column feverishly, but you *never* answer sports questions, and I've sent you a lot: It's high-summertime, Gayward—peak baseball season! Gays worship The Rangers same as breeders: What's your lame-sissy deal? — **Toby**

Dear T'baccy Spit,

Here I stand, too, cocked bat in my hands — ready to knock a homer out of the fuckin' park for you any curve-ball sports question you wanna fever-pitch Gayward's way, and you can't even pull those ben-wa balls out of your butthole long enough to hurl something/anything filthily meatier than just *this* lame, sissy-toss for me to punt?

— **Howard Lewis Russell**

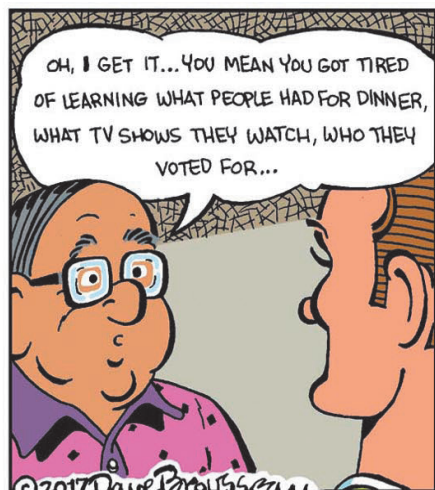
Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs a special spin from Howard? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.



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Cyran and his dino on The Strip



Mark, Cristal, Donna and Chad at Crickles & Co., the newest eatery on The Strip

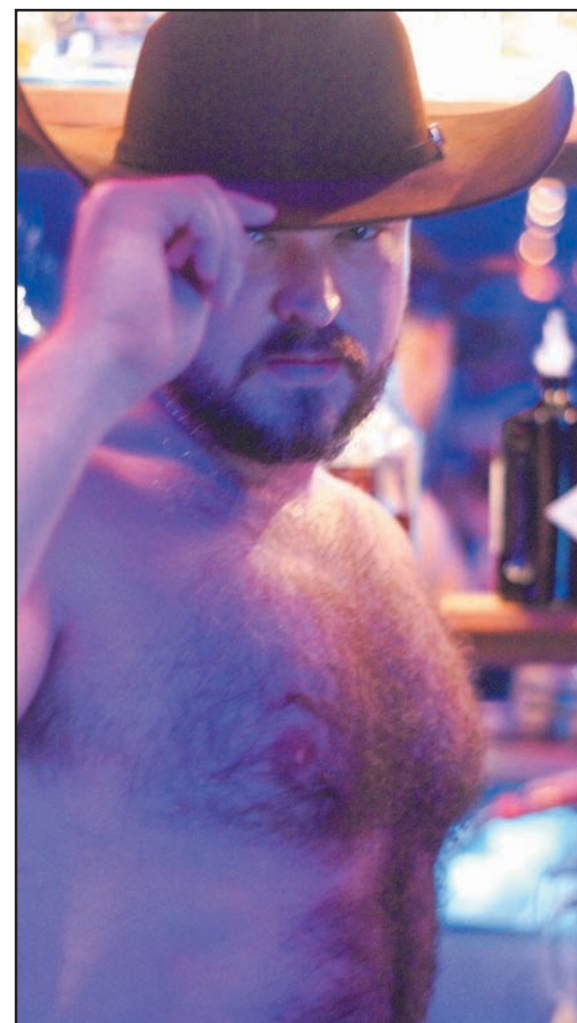
Making the **SCENE** the week of **June 30–July 6**:

- **Alexandre's: Three Drunk Monkeys** on Friday. **Walter Lee** on Saturday and Tuesday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **Bianka** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXS: Boom Goes the Dynamite** hosted by **Mr. and Miss Charity America** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Changes: Lova Cochran's Retirement Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Wall of Food show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection: TGRA meeting** at 2 p.m. on Sunday. **First Sunday Cowtown Leathermen Cookout** at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Adventures in Wuzzieland** at 8 p.m. on Friday and **Drag Bag V** on Saturday at 7 p.m. **Dallas Bears club night** on Saturday. Cigar & Scotch Social from 5 p.m.-2 a.m. on Monday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Liquid Zoo: Wayne Smith** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
- **Mable Peabody's: Comedy variety, improv, stand up show** on Friday.
- **Marty's Live: Voice of Pride Quarter Finals** on Thursday.
- **Pekers: Karaoke** at 9:45 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon: Mancandy** at 8 p.m. on Sunday. **Boys, Boots and Boxer Briefs** at 10 p.m. on Monday.
- **S4: Independence Party.** Doors open at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **The Rose Room: Kennedy Davenport** on Friday and Saturday. **Mr. Gay America** featuring appearances by **Forever Miss** and **Mr. Gay Americas** at 10 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets at MGATickets.com.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon: The final World Series Benefit Show** hosted by **Korina Duvalle** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Show tunes** at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

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



Got jokes?



"Howdy sir," from The Round-Up staff



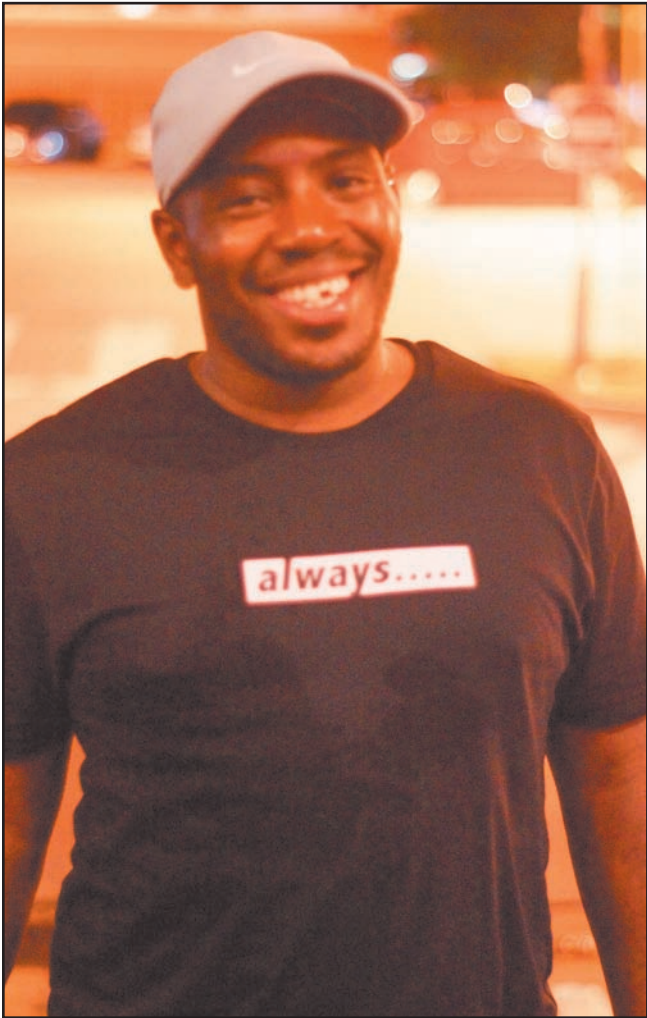
BFFs on The Strip



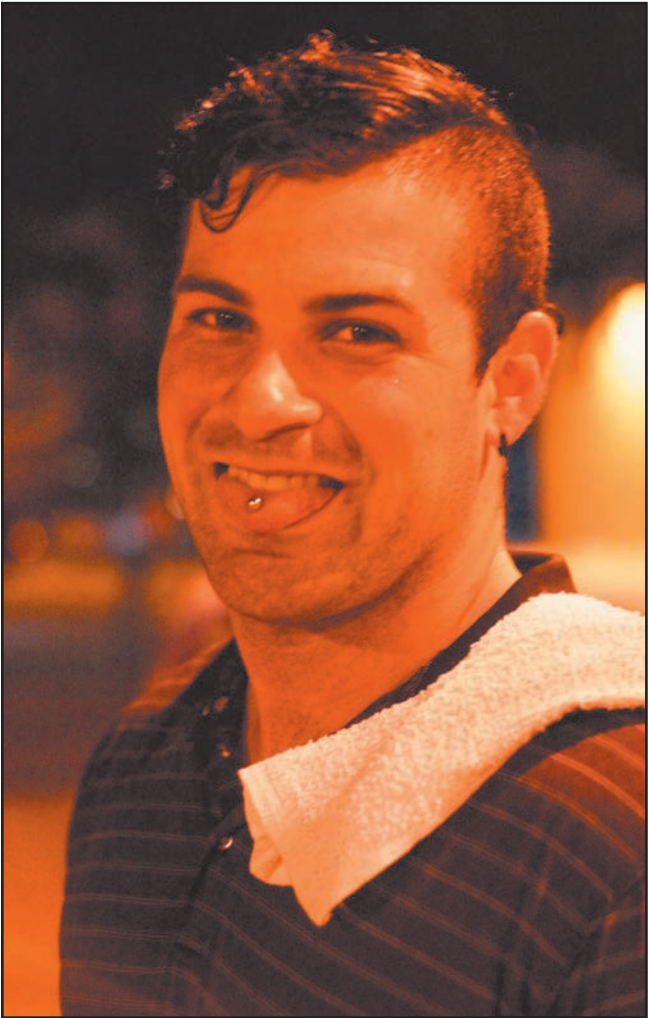
Bachelorette party at Sue Ellen's



Keeping The Strip safe for fun



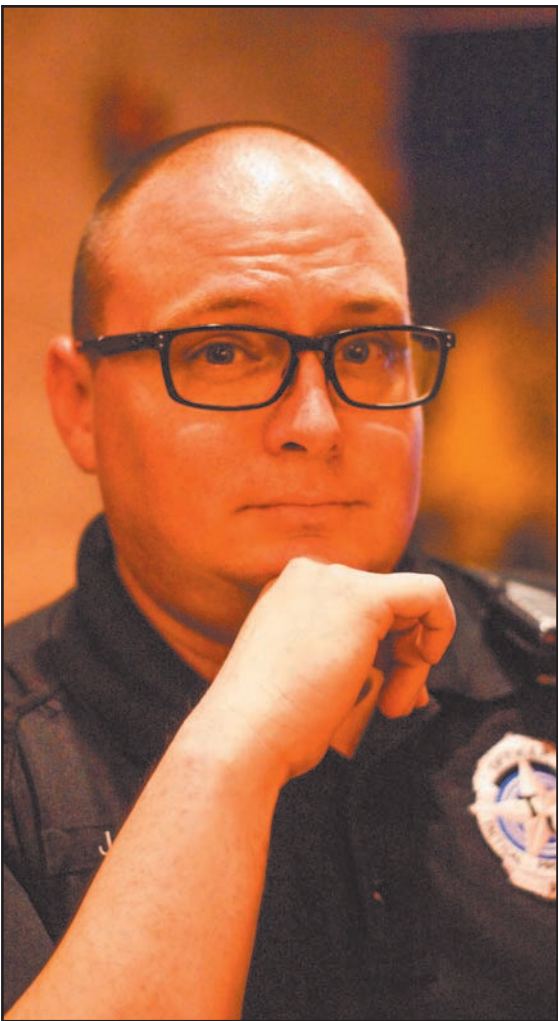
Always ... smiling on The Strip



Tyler and his tongue



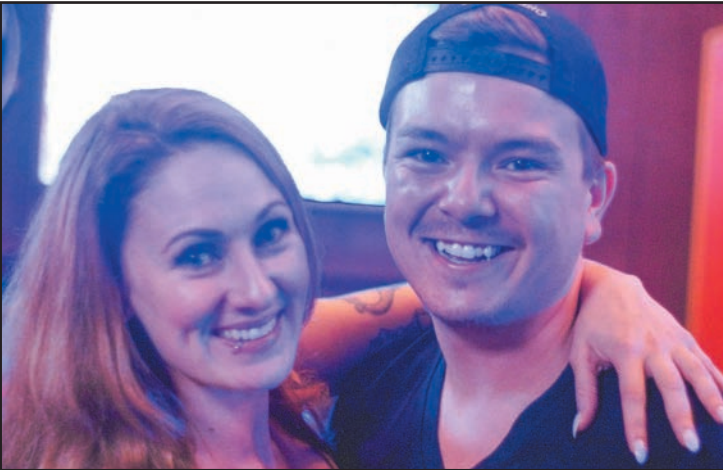
Muscle man on The Strip



Did someone call security?



Guys' night out on The Strip



Hugging it out at The Round-Up



John and Linda on The Strip



Time for a late-night snack

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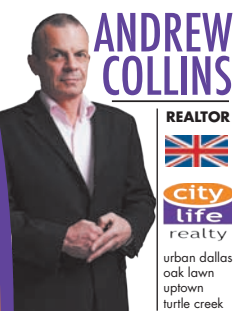
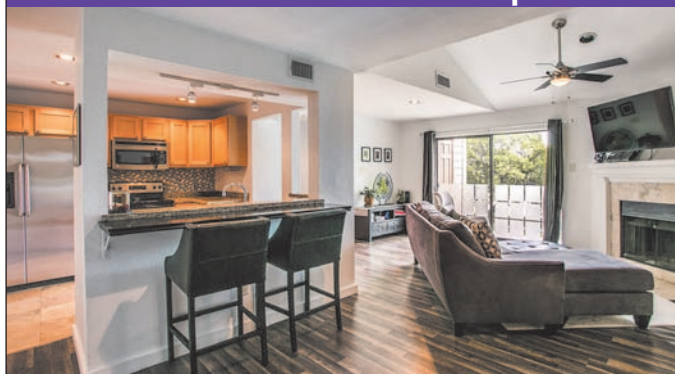
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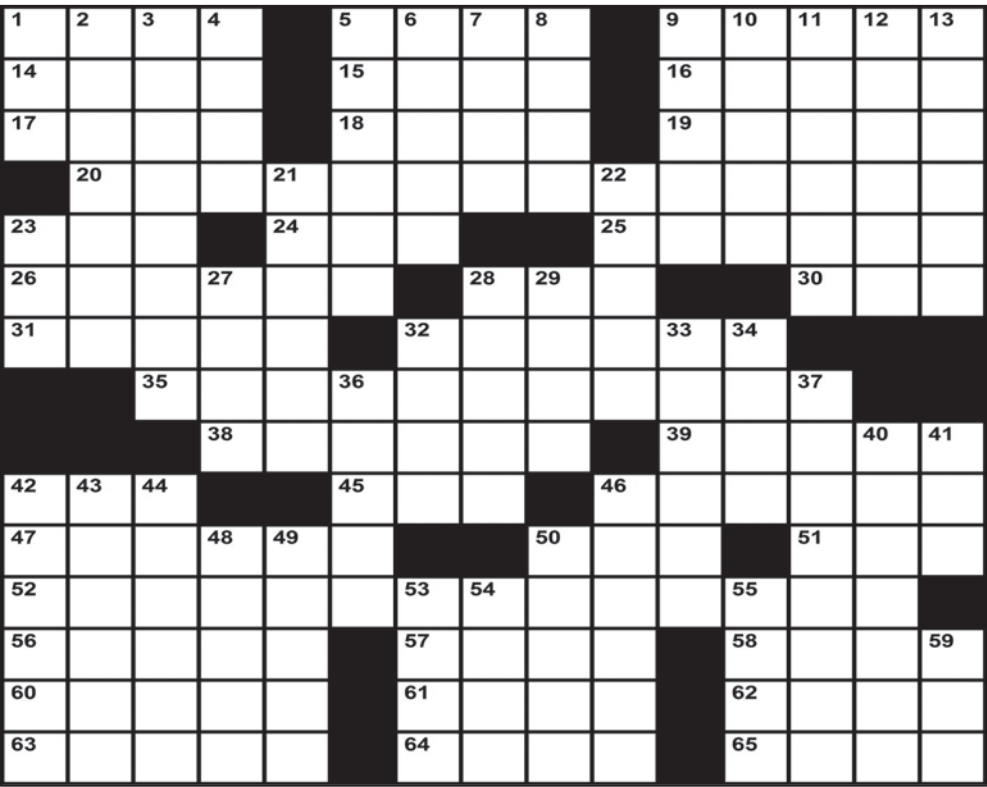
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Gay Bogeyman

Solution on Page 27

- Across
- 1 Head-turner

5 Hightail it

9 Mortify with porn, perhaps

14 Palindromic fellow

15 Architecture, to Philip Johnson

16 Keep moist in the kitchen

17 Cordial as a welcome

18 "The ___-splitter" (Lincoln nickname)

19 Where to find your first mate

20 Nursery rhyme in a gay horror film?

23 He made boxers more visible

24 Fleur for Foucault

25 Joan of Lesbian Herstory

26 Show a really good time

28 Poem of Sappho

30 Rock guitarist Barrett

31 "Come, come!"

32 Mychal Judge, e.g.

35 Horror film with a gay title character

38 Dictator of Nureyev's land

39 Limp body part, allegedly

42 ICU amounts

45 Point between "gay" and "com"

46 Granola lesbian's concern

47 Pinball Wizard's game venue

50 The Batmobile, e.g.

51 One-night-stand partner, crudely

52 School where actors study to be in a gay horror film?

56 Day of many Hudson flicks

57 Cucumber wasted on the kitchen?

58 Gently sloped hill

60 Not potent

61 Off-Broadway prize

62 Cole Porter's "___ Love Again"

63 Francis Bacon work

64 Come across as

65 "___ in the Clowns"

Down

1 Blow in a comic book

2 Stallion sheds

3 Like a beard

4 What Lara Croft raids

5 Ken's fag hag?

6 Face-to-face tests

7 Carrie in *Star Wars*

8 It might go right to the bottom

9 Take down a peg

10 Sites for three men in a tub

11 Nice buns, e.g.?

12 Rock's ___ Dan

13 In a mound

21 Cockeyed

22 Hit in the family jewels

23 Dadaist Jean

27 Sounds of "Baby, that was good!"

28 Circle of Uranus

29 *Gorillas in the Mist* author Fossey

32 Lorca's stick

33 They scatter their seed afar

34 Scroll for the cut

36 Boy Scouts founder ___-Powell

37 Screw around without having sex

40 Doesn't leave the closet

41 Leonard Bishop's *Creep Into ___ Narrow Bed*

42 Bag carrier for Sheehan

43 Sings "White Christmas," maybe

44 Bernstein manuscripts, e.g.

46 Audre Lorde's birthplace

48 *The Seven Samurai* director Kurosawa

49 Singer Springfield

50 Whoopi's role in "*The Color Purple*"

53 Vows now legal for all

54 It's a sensation

55 *The Unicorn* author Murdoch

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