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THE
2017

PET
ISSUE

What is DESCOVY?

DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. DESCOVY is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. DESCOVY combines 2 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day. Because DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1, it must be used together with other HIV-1 medicines.

DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCOVY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about DESCOVY?

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Buildup of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

- **Changes in body fat**, which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems**, such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCOVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCOVY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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

Please see Important Facts about DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY® is right for you.



LOVE

WHAT'S
INSIDE

(des-KOH-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

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

ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to DESCOVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com for program information.



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DISD takes stand against bathroom bills

Dallas Independent School District board member Miguel Solis called a press conference outside of DISD headquarters to denounce the bathroom bills that have been filed for the special session of the legislature that begins on July 18.

Board President Dan Micciche also spoke calling the bills a waste of time and taxpayer money. He said the proposals would be impossible to police until the state would like to place a police officer in every bathroom in every school.

Solis said DISD supports good policy and opposes bad policy at the state house.

"Not one time has the issue of bathrooms come up," Solis said of his seven years as a teacher and school board member. He pointed out that a bill proposed by Rep. Ron Simmons, R-Carrollton, would prevent DISD from protecting children from discrimination.

"... a political subdivision, including a public school district, may not adopt or enforce an order, ordinance, policy, or other measure to protect a class of persons from discrimination," the first sentence of Simmons' bill says.

"Pragmatism has gone out the door," Solis said.

Other speakers included Resource Center CEO Cece Cox, Dallas Stonewall President Lee Daugherty and award-winning DISD teacher Johnny Boucher, who is transgender.

"Enough is enough," Cox said. "There is no problem."

She gave several statistics including 85 percent of trans students report having been harassed and called the bills an attempt to license discrimination.

Daugherty said the Texas GOP has been hijacked by extremists.

"If the GOP really cares about local control, why are they trying to strip away local ordinances?" he asked.

Boucher said he preferred to talk about school funding.

"Instead I have to talk about whether I can use a bathroom at work," he said.

He ended the press conference by calling on the legislature to flush the gender discrimination bills down the toilet.

— David Taffet

Bruce Wood Dance Project drops the 'project,' plans to tour

The last month has been a momentous one for the Bruce Wood Dance Project. It's latest

concert — which included a world premiere and two classics from the late founder of the company — was well-attended and really cemented the company's viability in the wake of uncertainties since Wood's sudden death three years ago. The company has also spent a good portion of the last year doing more than the summer and fall concerts, performing at dance events

and performing for new audiences.

The success of these efforts, in fact, has led the company to announce this morning that it will be dropping the word "Project" from its name. Henceforth, it will be known simply as Bruce Wood Dance. (The website has long been simply BruceWoodDance.org.)

"The name change reflects our permanence and strength," said Gayle Halperin, producer and board president.

In addition, Bruce Wood Dance has signed on with Austin-based KMP Artists, a management company that specializes in booking theatrical, music and dance presentations — not just within Texas, but nationally and internationally. The expectation is to expand the company's visibility and reputation. "We're excited to partner with KMP to share our invigorating, inspiring repertoire with new audiences," said Kimi Nikaidoh, the company's artistic director since Wood's death. "We are here to produce and preserve the artistic legacy of Bruce Wood, and cultivate new works," Halperin added.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

HELP announces PrEP clinic in Fort Worth

The Health Education Learning Project (HELP) announced the opening of a new Center for LGBT Health and Wellness in Fort Worth. The Center's first program — a clinic offering free access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) — will open on July 11. HELP's Executive Director, DeeJay Johannessen, said that the Center's clinic will operate under a model of care pioneered by the KIND Clinic in Austin.

Under the "KIND Model," individuals can access PrEP and PEP services for free, regardless of whether they have insurance. The Center will be open on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

The Center initially will be located within HELP's offices at 1717 S. Main Street and will move to a new space as programs and resources grow. The Center's mission is designed to address essential community resources for the LGBT community in Tarrant County. Additional programming at the Center will be determined by a community advisory committee of LGBT residents in Tarrant County.

Individuals interested in accessing PrEP services through the HELP Center should call 817-332-7722 to schedule an intake.

— 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 guest is congressional candidate **Lorie Burch**; **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.

JULY

- **Through July 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.
- **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, featuring Sydni 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's 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: Parkland garage sale** Sale items from the old Parkland hospital facility including furniture, chairs, desks, file cabinets, refrigerators, ice machines, a limited number of

flat-screen monitors and more from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 2420 Butler St.

- **July 15: Art Show and Sale** Beverages, music, art from 1-8 p.m. at Carson Art Gallery, 1710 Hi Line Drive.
- **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: One Texas Resistance Rally** A coalition of progressive activist organizations will stage the #OneTx Resistance Rally at 1 p.m. on the steps of the Texas Capitol in Austin
- **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 18: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas meeting** Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m. upstairs at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.
- **July 19: Oak Cliff Live** As Dallas continues to struggle with the issue of homelessness, Oak Cliff Live discusses the less fortunate in Oak Cliff. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Program at 7 p.m. at Bishop Dunne School Library, 3900 Rugged Drive.
- **July 20: Gray Pride** Monthly mixer from 5:30-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
- **July 20: TAG Dinner Group** The Tyler Area Gays Dinner Group dines at Pochs Rice Café, 1700 SSE Loop 323, #102 in Tyler. RSVP to DinnerGroup@TylerAreaGays.com.

Lillith Grey, pictured, emcees PolyDallas Millennium's "Voyeurotic Carnival: A Night of Circus and Burlesque" at 8 p.m. tonight at Viva's, 1350 Manufacturing. See listings for details. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

• **July 21: Federal Club mixer**
Mixer for LGBT adults and allies from 6-8 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway.

• **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 22: TAG screens**
A Very Sordid Wedding
Tyler Area Gays hosts a screening of Del Shore's new movie, A Very Sordid Wedding, at 8 p.m. at Liberty Hall, 103 E. Erwin St. in Tyler. Tickets are available online at LibertyTyler.com/events/

• **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.

• **July 23: A Very Sordid Wedding**
Screening of the film followed by Q&A with Ann Walker, Emerson Collins (producer), Rosemary Alexander, Newell Alexander and Del Shores at 5:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at CathedralofHope.com/47years.

• **July 24: Multi-Candidate Meet & Greet, Collin County**
Dani Pellett, candidate for Texas' District 32 congressional seat, hosts a multi-candidate meet-and-greet for Collin County from 7-9 p.m. at 281 Paddock Trail in Fairview. For information email Dani@DaniForCongress or call 802-392-DANI.

• **July 25: Grief Support Group**
Grief support group for LGBT people who have lost a same-sex partner meets from 7-8 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

pet of the week / CHLOE

Meet **Chloe**, a 3-year-old domestic short hair mix tortoiseshell who weighs 9 pounds. She's a shy lady hoping to find a home with patient people. She loves playing with dangling toys and chasing toys and balls, and she really likes cuddling. Though she can be particular about the way she likes to be held, she enjoys curling up next to a warm body and taking a snooze. Chloe is spayed, microchipped and up to date on her age-appropriate vaccinations. If you're looking for a cat's cat, she's the girl for you. # 152080

Chloe 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.. In celebration of 100 Days of Summer at the SPCA of Texas, you can adopt any dog, cat, puppy or kitten for only \$25. 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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SPCA of Texas has a long history of helping make our furry friends healthier, happier

The southern Dallas surge

Over the last couple of years, especially, the dangers of dogs running loose, especially in southern Dallas neighborhoods, have made headlines and focused attention on the problem. In May 2016, a woman named Antoinette Brown died after being attacked by a pack of dogs. And Dowdy Ferry Road in Southeast Dallas has become known as a dumping ground for unwanted pets, especially ill, malnourished and abused dogs.

After Brown's death, the city of Dallas hired the Boston Consulting Group, using donated funds, to "look at everything involved" and find solutions that would "truly make a difference; what would help protect people and animals and make this a healthier and happier community for all of us," Davies said.

The BCG report found that, at any given time, there are some 8,700 dogs running loose in southern Dallas, and that the number of loose dogs has increased by about 15 percent annually since 2013. The report suggested that the best way to make the biggest impact in addressing the problem is to have at 45,000 animals spayed and neutered every year over a three-year period.

That's where the SPCA of Texas and other participating agencies come in.

The aim of the Southern Dallas Spay/Neuter Surge — an effort undertaken by a coalition including SPCA of Texas, Spay/Neuter Network and Operation Kindness — has set a goal of spaying or neutering 50,000-60,000 animals per year in the 23 southern Dallas zip codes where the problem seems to be at its worst.

"This year, we've really expanded our work in offering free spaying, neutering and microchipping to people in those 23 zip codes," Davies said, noting that the agency also helps pet owners in other ways, too.

"The goal is keeping pets in homes, off the streets and out of the shelters," she said. "And when it comes to those who don't have homes, the goal is to rescue them, heal them and find them homes."

Rescue, heal, home

Pet adoptions is what most people think of then they think of SPCA, and most people think of dogs and cats when they think of pet adoptions. "We have all kinds of animals in our shelters," Davies said. At the Jan Rees location, in addition to dogs and cats, they have adoptable pets rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets and even an occasional chinchilla. "We don't have the capacity here to house birds or reptiles, so we work with other folks to house those animals," she said.

If you are looking to adopt a pet from a shelter, there are plenty of options to choose from in North Texas. But few have the depth of history and breadth of programming that SPCA of Texas offers.

Back in the days when people first started thinking about animal welfare in terms of protecting animals from people and other dangers, rather than protecting people from animals — that's going back to the late 1800s — the organizations that were talking about taking care of animals were the same ones that focused on the rights and welfare of women and children. It wasn't until after the turn of the century, according to Maura Davies, vice president of communications for SPCA of Texas.

The first U.S. organizations focused on the welfare of animals formed in New York, Davies said, including the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), which sprung from the foundation of England's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Those organizations then jumped cross-country to start organizations in California before leap-frogging back and forth to create chapters and similar organizations around the country.

It was Emilie Schuyler, who came to North Texas from New York, who brought this new idea of animal welfare to this area.

"She was advocating for animals in a very modern way, long before any other animal group I am aware of in Texas," Davies said. "She was looking at protecting the animals from people, rather than protecting people from animals. Emilie Schuyler was the one who brought that sensibility to North Texas."

Schuyler got the state charter for the Dallas Humane Society in 1938 and remained involved with the organization until her death. The organization which she helped found, Davies said, has gone through a series of name changes, including the spelled-out Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of North Texas to its current, official, name: SPCA of Texas.

Davies also pointed out that while there are a number of organizations with "SPCA" and "Humane Society" in their names, and



even though many if not all grew out of the same original organizations, each one is now its own independent entity.

SPCA of Texas has also moved through a series of facilities, and now has three locations: Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center and Myron K. Martin Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic at 2400 Lone Star Drive in Dallas; Russell H. Perry Animal Care Center and Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic, 8411 Stacy Road (FM 720) in McKinney; and Mary Spencer Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic at Village Fair, 4830 Village Fair Drive in Dallas.

Steady growth

While Emilie Schuyler and those like her were unusual in their day for the way they looked at animal welfare, Davies notes that "the way that people treat and think of animals has really grown and changed, especially in the last 10 to 15 years. People realize now that these animals really are our

family members. I mean, my human kids look at our pets as their siblings.

"I think society as a whole has reached that critical mass."

And as that perspective has changed, the SPCA of Texas has continued to grow steadily.

"In 2016, we were a \$15 million-a-year organization," Davies said. "And while I don't have any official numbers, I know we've grown tremendously this year."

All of the organization's funding, she added, comes from individuals, foundations and corporate sponsors instead of from public funds. The organization does occasionally receive a grant from a city, county or state agency, but those funds are limited to use in very specific programs and projects.

"We wouldn't be here without our supporters," Davies said. "And the tens of thousands of animals and their people that we help each year would go without that help without the generosity of our supporters."

App – solutely!

New smart toy keeps dogs active, engaged

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

You use apps. Why shouldn't your dog? Chris Watts, owner of Petropolitan, said Santiago Gutierrez came in one day and asked if Watts were interested in seeing a new toy. Watts said, sure, he was always looking for something new.

What Gutierrez showed him was Go Bone, a smart toy for dogs. It wasn't just new, it was revolutionary. Watts quickly offered his marketing skills.

Go Bone is a dog bone on wheels that can be programmed through an app for eight hours before needing a recharge. It can also be operated directly through the phone. And as far as Watts or Gutierrez know, no one has ever created a dog toy like it.

"Dogs find other ways to get in trouble," Watts said. "Go Bone will keep them

healthy and happy."

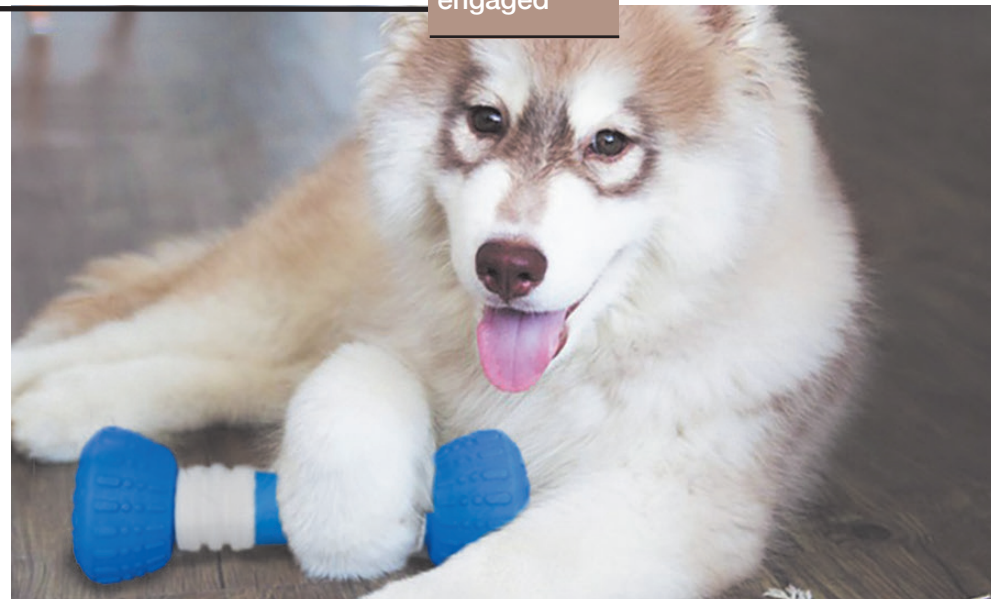
Gutierrez is an engineer who has a miniature schnauzer that he loves. A lot. He spent lots of time with the dog on weekends, but wanted to find some way to engage with his pet during the week. So he came up with the idea of creating a smart bone.

"Being an engineer gave me a leg up in constructing a prototype," Gutierrez said.

After the prototype was constructed, Gutierrez tested the Go Bone with friends and at shelters. He said dogs arrived at shelters scared and lonely, but when shelter workers put a Go Bone in the pen with them, the dogs became engaged. People who work with the animals said those dogs tended to be adopted.

At home, what happens if a dog chews up the Go Bone? At \$169, that can be expensive to replace. Gutierrez said the wheels and outer core of the bone are replaceable, and the electronics inside are well protected. So replacing parts isn't a major investment.

In addition to keeping pets who have to be left alone during the day engaged, the Go Bone is great for disabled vets and



others who think they can't have pets due to disabilities. They may not be able to exercise their dogs by taking them for long walks, but the Go Bone will help keep the dogs active, Watts and Gutierrez noted.

Watts said the Go Bone works in hospitals to help children who can't get out of

bed to play with therapy dogs.

Go Bone and its replacement parts are manufactured in Dallas. More than 3,000 have already been sold and Watts is looking for retailers to carry the item. Until then, it's available at Petropolitan, 2406 Emmett St. at Hampton Road. It's also available online at MyGoBone.com.

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DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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You can't take your newly-adopted animal home or name it, because the animals already have names, and your home probably isn't equipped to house them. But you can "adopt" some pretty exotic critters through your local zoo.

Both Dallas Zoo and Fort Worth Zoo have animal adoption programs that allow patrons to "adopt" an animal to help defray the cost of feeding and caring for that animal for a year. And both zoos hope you'll consider supporting one or more of their animals.

Dallas Zoo

Adhama and Boipelo are available for adoption at the Dallas Zoo. The hippo couple that met just before their new habitat opened are madly in love, and Dallas Zoo

A wild ass: the perfect gift?

would love for fans to adopt them.

Dallas Zoo's \$50 Adopt-An-Animal special includes a personalized adoption certificate, a zookeeper's report, a small plush hippo and a special invitation to an event at the zoo. Best of all, you'll also have the comfort of knowing you helped give some of Dallas' newest and largest residents a warm welcome by supporting their care.

On its website, Dallas Zoo lists the annual fees for adopting various of its animal residents. A Bolivian Grey Titi Monkey or a Rock Hyrax are available for a \$25 adoption fee. Among the \$50 animals are a meerkat, a mongoose or a golden lion tamarin. Just \$100 will get you an impala or an ocelot. More expensive is a giraffe for \$1,500 or an elephant for \$2,000.

Lots of other

animals at Dallas Zoo need adopting too, and annual fees range from \$25 to \$2,000. For instance, here's a perfect way of saying I love you: adopt a Somali wild ass for just \$500.

To adopt an animal at Dallas Zoo, go to DallasZoo.com and navigate to the Adopt an Animal under Support the Zoo.

Fort Worth Zoo

The Fort Worth Zoo's adoption package is available online at FortWorthZoo.org/adoptions.

Adoption packages begin at \$25 and run through \$500. Animals currently in need of

Both the Dallas and Fort Worth zoos have animal 'adoptio'n programs that contribute to animal upkeep

tions, animals may be shared by multiple adopters, so portions of larger animals may be purchased for lower prices.

If adopting as a gift, a card will be sent to the recipient along with your personalized message.

The Fort Worth Zoo spends more than \$1 million a year feeding its residents. The adoptions help defray the cost of food for one animal for one year.

The \$40 adoption package includes a plush animal, a color photo of the adopted animal, a fact sheet about the animal and an animal carrier box.

A \$75 Dive In and Adopt All the Coolest Animals Around package includes four plush animals — an alligator, clown fish, river otter and sea turtle — as well as a Big Squirt water toy, beach bucket and adoption certificate and information sheets.

Special packages are available for Fort Worth Zoo's babies — Gus, a gorilla, and Belle and Bowie, baby elephants.

Adoptions may also be done by phone at 817-759-7372.

Hippos are on sale at the Dallas Zoo and can be adopted for \$50. A similar donation will get you one at Fort Worth Zoo. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Bahati, the Dallas Zoo's new lion cub, can be adopted for \$2,000. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



adoption include lions and tiger and a hippopotamus. Unlike Dallas Zoo's adop-



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Grand marshal voting now open

2 audition dates set for the Pride Festival community stage

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Nominations for grand marshals of the 2017 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade have closed, and voting has begun to narrow the field of six finalists down to two. Online voting runs through Aug. 4 at DallasPride.org.

Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman said 30 people were nominated in all. The ballot lists the six people who received the most nominations. Nominees are Omar Narvaez, Nicole O'Hara Munro, Queen Taz/Shanequa Williams, Jalenzski Brown, Michael Hayes/Michael Lamasters and Lee Ann Locken.

In June, Omar Narvaez became the first openly gay person elected to the Dallas City Council in 10 years. He is also one of the few people who came onto the council by beating an incumbent. Narvaez works for Lambda Legal and has served as president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

Nicole O'Hara Munro bartends at Zip-pers and is show hostess at Marty's Live. She's a strong activist and educator for



Jalenzski Brown



Lee Ann Locken

transgendered rights. She currently works with A Nu Trans Movement and a LGBTQ youth group.

Queen Taz/Shanequa Williams is a survivor of the July 7 protest that ended in the shooting of DPD and DART officers. She's a bi-sexual woman who supports the LGBT community and is a strong and powerful voice for equality and acceptance in our city. She is a mother/rapper/singer/songwriter (Tru G Records) Prez of Boss 'N Up CC/Prez of Life is Valuable.

Jalenzski Brown works with Resource Center as the MPowerment programs man-

ager and co-manager of the HIV and STD prevention and treatment services. He also serves on the Mayor of Dallas' LGBT Task Force.

Michael Hayes/Michael Lamasters is involved with GayBingo and is a former Mr. Gay Highland Park, Mr. Gay Texas USofA and Mr. Gay Mid-Atlantic USofA as well as the former national titleholder of Mr. Gay USofA. He's a regional college recruiter and speaks to students on shaping and building their futures.

Lee Ann Locken is one the stars of *The Real Housewives of Dallas*. During the show's

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first season, she included quite a bit of fund-raising for HIV/AIDS causes, spending so much time working with Legacy Counseling Center that Legacy Executive Director Melissa Grove was practically a seventh housewife on the show. Even on episodes in which Grove didn't appear, Locken mentioned needing to call Grove. Locken was recently grand marshal at the Key West Pride Parade.



Michael LaMasters

This is the fourth year grand marshals are selected entirely by nominations and a community vote.

Auditions

Open auditions for local talent to perform on the Community Stage at the Pride Festival take place in the Rose Room on two consecutive Saturdays — July 22 and



Shanequa Williams



Omar Narvaez



Nicole Ohara Munro

July 29. The auditions will be held in the Rose Room from 1-4 p.m. Enter through the patio entrance off the parking lot behind S-4, and come up the stairs to the Rose Room.

Doughman said the festival committee will select up to a dozen acts to perform 15-20-minute sets from 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

He said they're looking for a variety of acts — dance, drag, stand-up comedy, two or three actors doing a scene, acoustic groups.

"We're open to any talent," he said.

But there is a limit to what they can accommodate: "We have no facilities for a full-scale band," Doughman said, simply due to limitations in the park for electricity. So that means no large bands that need multiple outlets.

"We can accommodate a guitar and a drum set, though," he said.

This is the first time there will be a community stage in addition to the main stage.

Audition at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road on July 22 and 29 from 1-4 p.m.

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Investigation continues into Covington murder

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Lee Covington, 54, was found dead in his condo by a friend late Friday afternoon, July 7.

Covington was executive assistant to the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas at Cathedral of Hope, and had worked for the church for more than 10 years. He was first hired by the Rev. Jo Hudson as a receptionist. Hudson then promoted him to his current position, and he served the Rev. Jim Mitulski, interim pastor, in the same position.

A friend called police after finding Covington dead inside his locked home. The friend told police to look for a Rolex watch, car and house keys and a cell phone, and according to police, all of the items were missing from the home.

Police spoke to neighbors who said they had written down the license plate number of a suspicious man they saw walking in the complex. While police were processing the crime scene, neighbors saw the same man return, this time driving a U-Haul.

The license plate number led police to Yevin Rushing, 22. On Saturday, they

brought Rushing to police headquarters as a person of interest. Rushing waived his Miranda rights and agreed to talk to police, admitting that he met Covington on Craigslist and that he was at Covington's condo on Friday.

After police found a Rolex watch in Rushing's car, he claimed Covington gave him the watch during an earlier visit.

Although the police report is heavily redacted and detectives have not released additional information while the investigation continues and to protect "the privacy of the victim," Rushing also had Covington's keys. He apparently locked the door behind him as he left the condo and, presumably, planned to continue the robbery when he returned with the U-Haul, not expecting the body to be found that quickly or for neighbors to have been so observant.

After the medical examiner performed an autopsy and declared the cause of death "homicide due to suffocation and affixation," police arrested Rushing for capital murder. He is being held in Lew Sterrett on \$500,000 bond.

In honor of Covington, who was a beloved figure at Cathedral of Hope, many people wore bowties to Sunday morning services at the church. Covington always wore a bowtie when he was at the church.



Lee Covington (right) with Cathedral of Hope's Chris Chism, left, and the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas. (Courtesy Barb Nunn/2nd2Nunn Photography)

Mitulski, who served as interim pastor of Cathedral of Hope after the resignation of Hudson, said his success at the church was largely due to Covington. He said he relied on Covington's personal and professional support.

"I came to work at the cathedral at a delicate time in its history, a transition time after serious conflict that had been many years in the making," Mitulski said. "I didn't know anybody very well, and I needed someone who I could trust and who the various estranged parties also trusted. Lee proved himself time and again to be a person of impeccable integrity and a natural ambassador and bridge builder."

Because people trusted Covington, Mitulski said he was able to connect with people he wouldn't have otherwise been able to meet. Covington, he added, treated people courteously and fairly, even if they were not always polite with him.

"He was calm, and helped me navigate some of the cultural ways of Texas and southern culture that were new to me as an outsider," Mitulski said, calling Covington "the through line that kept the cathedral running."

When he heard Covington had been murdered, Mitulski said, "I held it together for a day, and last night I went to a gay church in Boston where I felt I could be myself and I cried and cried."

Hudson said she hired Covington to be the front desk receptionist after he retired from another job. She said he loved the

church and wanted to give something back. She described Covington as a cordial, kind and good man who was professional and "could handle difficult situations."

Hudson said after her administrative assistant left, the position stayed vacant for awhile because she wasn't sure how to fill it. "Then I walked in the church one day and there he was, right in front of my eyes," she said. "So he moved upstairs."

Hudson said she and Covington quickly synched their work patterns, and "he was always at my right shoulder. He was there with me before and after worship."

Covington had a knack for making sure everyone's needs were taken care of, Hudson said. When someone would come up to the pastor to tell her about an upcoming hospital stay or a sick relative, Covington reminded her and made sure she followed up.

"I'm heartbroken over this," Hudson said. "I will miss him a lot."

Cazares-Thomas, calling Covington an incredible man, said, "I've been in Dallas two years. I never would have gotten into the community as well as I have without his assistance. He always made sure I was in the right place at the right time with the right information."

He said he didn't know how to replace him, but then quickly corrected himself and said he couldn't really replace him.

Mayor Mike Rawlings called Cazares-Thomas to express his condolences as have religious leaders from around the world. ■

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A large part of the SPCA of Texas' work is in rescuing lost, neglected and abused animals, and the organization's investigators often work with animal cruelty investigators from city and county agencies to do that.

"Our animal cruelty investigators are a great team, and we have increased more than 90 percent in terms of the number of animals we have rescued," Davies said. "We received just over 3,000 reports of abuse or neglect in 2016, and out of those, we rescued almost 2,300 animals. It was mostly dogs and cats, but there was a lot of livestock in there, too."

When SPCA gets a report of animal neglect or abuse, the first step is to work with the owners, educating on how best to care for their animals, Davies said. "If that doesn't work, we ask them to surrender the animals to us. But if that's not possible or if the situation is dire, we work with law enforcement to get a warrant and go in and seize the animals," she said.

There have, she added, been some unusual cases: "We rescued a stray tiger once,"

Davies mentioned nonchalantly. "It was about 15 years ago. Someone called in to the sheriff's office in Collin County and said, 'Hey, there's a stray tiger running around out here.' The sheriff's office deputies just laughed — yeah, right. But the caller's like no, really. There's a stray tiger."

So SPCA of Texas workers helped catch the big cat and arranged to send it to a wild animal sanctuary.

"We have helped some other wild animals, too. And SPCA of Texas was part of what is still the largest rescue of its kind in the world," Davies said. She explained that PETA had sent someone in undercover to investigate an exotic animal importer in Arlington. After finding what Davies described as "some of the most horrific abuse we've ever seen," that undercover investigator notified law enforcement, who called in SPCA for help.

The rescue, which took place in December 2009, involved 26,411 animals of more than 500 different species. "There were mice, rabbits, sloths, ring-tailed lemurs, wallabies, lizards, snakes, turtles. There were even some hermit crabs," Davies said. "It took dozens and dozens of animal

care technicians and veterinarians and zoo workers all coming together to handle it," she added. "The hardest part was finding a spot where they could all be cared for. But when you get that many really caring, compassionate people together, you can do amazing things."

Volunteering

And bringing together caring, compassionate people is how SPCA of Texas manages to do what it does. To help facilitate that, Davies said, the organization has recently revamped its volunteer programs.

"It's pretty wonderful," she said. "The new way is already making a huge difference. It's really easy to register as a volunteer, and the number of volunteer hours is going up already."

One of the most interesting new volunteer programs, Davies said, is the Borrow a Buddy program. "It is my favorite," she said. "Once you are registered as a volunteer, you can be a Borrow a Buddy foster. That let's you take a dog home for a night, or a weekend, or however long. It's a short-term foster. It gives the dogs a chance to get out of the shelter for a bit, and it gives the volunteers the chance to give some love to a dog in need and help them stay healthier



and happier.

"This shelter is a great place," she added, "but we think all the pets really need to be in a home."

The newly-revamped volunteer programming includes "a lot more cool stuff that's coming but just isn't ready yet," Davies said. "We will soon have even more ways to help these pets be healthy, and happy, and find homes."

For more information on the SPCA of Texas and its many programs and volunteer/sponsorship/donations opportunities — from adopting a pet to spaying, neutering and microchipping to grief counseling for those who have lost a pet — visit SPCA.org.

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Beware the bitchy queen game

As far back as I remember, some young, gay shop clerks have often engaged in a behavior I call “the bitchy queen” when it comes to dealing with some of their gay male clientele. I’m not quite sure why that seems to be an appropriate behavior to indulge in with their client base, and I have a little bit of advice to share:

You are a clerk, not a beauty contestant. Your clients aren’t in your shop to access your ranking on the male food chain and see if they measure up. They want to purchase a product, not clamor for your phone number.

Really, it’s not about you, at all.

But if you insist on continuing such behavior, be cautious. I suggest you only try serving up the attitude to your younger clients; their inexperience with nastiness may be limited, so you might have a better chance of hitting your mark.

But you really should curb the impulse to play “bitchy queen” with older gay men. They may look like an easy mark on the surface, but appearances can be highly deceiving.

This is often actually an extremely dangerous specimen you are confronting. Always treat this one with courtesy. Your own safety and survival could be in jeopardy. You are swimming in dark, murky waters where some perilous creatures live.



Gary Bellomy
Contributing Columnist

Consider this: this person you are being bitchy to could be a close friend of the business owner. Or, even if you are actually the shop owner and think your own celeb status allows you to be a bitchy queen, consider that your target may have enough societal influence to shut your doors.

Or maybe you’re sleeping with his husband. You could be unaware of his existence, and your cheating boyfriend could be unaware that his husband knows of your existence. But this man in your shop may know full well who you are and decided to drop by to size you up. So play nice. The continued success and existence of your affair could be riding on your behavior.

Gay men pretty much control the retail environment you depend on for your livelihood. Future job advancement in retail or a crossover into the wholesale world of design, which gay men also heavily influence, may very well be determined by the older gay men that venture into your shop, so keep that in mind before you decide to

turn on the bitchiness.

I have had the unfortunate experience of witnessing this very type of scenario play out, with sad effect on what might have been a promising a career.

A few years back, a male couple wandered into their friend’s resale shop. Their friend was not present, and the clerk chose to be dismissive toward the gentleman asking for the owner, and that man’s partner was highly offended to see his husband treated with such disrespect.

Fast-forward a couple of years, and an associate of the man who had been offended asked for his opinion regarding a potential new employee in the associate’s wholesale design business. Turned out, the potential new employee was the same former shop clerk who had insulted the man’s husband. The former shop clerk was not offered a job.

The point here is, just do your job. Treat all your patrons in a friendly, professional manner. Gay men are there to shop. That’s all. Do your best to facilitate this.

But if you insist on playing the bitchy queen game, be forewarned: No good will come of it, and you could well end up on the losing end. ■

Gary Bellomy is a longtime Dallas activist working on issues of LGBT equality, HIV/AIDS services and family violence prevention. He is a war resister and a Trump resister.



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R&B diva Deborah Cox takes on 'The Bodyguard'

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Most performers would shudder at the task of tackling the iconic role of Rachel Marron, a character portrayed legendarily by Whitney Houston in the 1992 movie *The Bodyguard*. After all, the film is probably better remembered for its wildly popular soundtrack and for its co-stars or plot. Following in Houston's startlingly tall stilettos as the diva in need of security is a daunting task ... especially for a musical stage version like the one opening this week at Fair Park Music Hall (then moving to Bass Hall in Fort Worth).

As luck would have it, though, R&B chart-topper Deborah Cox — herself a queen of the night — was up for the challenge.

"I think [North Texas] is going to be surprised," Cox says of the national tour, which she's headlining. "In every city that we've gone into, I think people have

a preconception of what [the musical] is because of the film. But I think the show is a lot more of a thriller and a love story. [It's] different than the film."

In his stage adaptation of the movie, book writer Alexander Dinelaris enhances the roles of Marron, her sister, and even the stalker. The story dives deeper into Marron's personal relationships and explores a resulting love triangle. And from a musical perspective, the stage version offers something different from the film as well.

"We [incorporate] songs from some of Whitney's early catalog in the show, like 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody,' 'How Will I Know' and 'The Greatest Love of All,' which weren't in the movie," Cox explains. "I think these songs help to propel the story. People get a much bigger production

than I think they feel they will get when they go in."

Interestingly, Cox's favorite moment in the show (which she admits can change from time to time) is performing one of these songs. That moment is one that closely parallels Cox's personal life — like Rachel, Cox is a working mother.

"'The Greatest Love of All' is a moment when you really get to see Rachel pour her heart out about her maternal love for her son," Cox says. "You see her the most relaxed in that scene. She's just her true self. She's just a mother ... a woman who has a very demanding career. And you see her at a really vulnerable time."

Cox, best known in gay circles for the popular clubland remixes of her 1998 single "Nobody's Supposed to Be Here," has been an LGBT favorite for years. The diva has

been a staple performer at circuit parties, fundraisers and Pride events (as well as starring in the 2013 revival of *Jekyll & Hyde*, which also played in Dallas). Cox recently appeared in Dallas to perform at the 2016 Black Tie Dinner, and the singer is quick to credit the LGBTQ community for her success.

"Oh my gosh!" she exclaims. "I would say that the gay fans have probably been the most loyal in the sense that when I came out with the first album, the base was there. But when I did the remixes, and when I started to perform in *Aida* and do other things like my jazz album, it was almost like the LGBTQ audience understood me as an artist more than ever. They understood this was not just about being pigeonholed. It was me being my authentic self. I think the gay community tapped into that first. It's been this amazing marriage."

Once a backup singer for Celine Dion,

■ COX Page 28

THE BODYGUARD

Fair Park Music Hall,
901 First Ave. July 18–30.
DallasSummerMusicals.org.
Bass Performance Hall,
525 Commerce St., Fort Worth.
Aug. 1–6. BassHall.com.



Gorilla warfare

'War for the Planet of the Apes' is the best Hollywood film of the year. Seriously

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The 1968 film *Planet of the Apes* was one of those game-changers in filmmaking: A smart but thrilling sci-fi action movie with a great twist and makeup effects that revolutionized what audiences would come to expect. Its four immediate sequels — *Beneath*, *Return*, *Conquest* and *Battle* — despite varying levels of quality dipped continuously in box-office draw. The last two were just sad. A remake in 2001 drew widespread ire, and the franchise died.

At least it seemed that way. Then someone got the notion to do *prequels* to the original — not to trod the same ground as before, but set the scene for how we got ourselves in this mess as the subversive species. The 2011 re-launch, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, was cliché-ridden nonsense, entertaining technologically but sloppily conceived. But when Matt Reeves took over as director — with 2014's *Dawn* and now *War for the Planet of the Apes*, which he also co-wrote — the game has changed again. There is moral weight as

well as emotional ambiguity in this tale of Darwinism let loose: Humans are nearing extinction as always, but the apes seem less like conquerors than slaves in revolt. All that's missing is a gibbon named Spartacus to make the metaphor clear: Mankind's desire to survive is irrelevant. Our species is doomed, and being assholes about it doesn't improve anything. Claiming superiority as you attempt your

own brand of genocide can only be called origin of the specious.

It's strange, that compulsion to cheer for the primate whose destiny, in the universe of all the

Apes movies, is to eventually enslave humans. But as any vegan on the street will tell you, welcome to the eco-system from downstream. Makes you wish you'd been nicer to the earth's fauna, doesn't it?

It's not an exaggeration to say this new *Apes* film is, amid this summer's sea of disappointing and even insulting studio whizbangs (*Baywatches*, *Mummies*,

■ GORILLA, Page 29



War for the Planet of the Apes.
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The Ruby diaries

Advice on parenting a tortoise

PAMPER YOUR PET

JAMES LOVE | Special Contributor
askcassienova@gmail.com

When I was born, my mother thought I was ugly. She told my grandmother that I looked like a turtle. Upon hearing that story at a very young age, instead of seeking a therapist immediately, I instead became obsessed with turtles and tortoises. I have always thought they were the coolest creatures on the planet. I'm sure there is some deep-seeded reason for that, but for the life of me I don't know what it is.

My fascination with turtles grew throughout my life, thanks largely to



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Stephen King. In *The Dark Tower* series, there is a running theme with turtles. "See the turtle of enormous girth! On his shell he holds the earth. His thought is slow but always kind; he holds us all within his mind!" Also in *It*, a turtle represents good where Pennywise is evil. Way too many turtle references to mention. I knew one day I would have a turtle to call my own.

Nine years ago, my husband Jamie and I went to a new pet store in Waxahachie. In one of the terrariums, there were these two adorable little Sulcata tortoises. They were no bigger than a silver dollar. We almost left that day with one, but they were kind of expensive so I talked myself out of it ... for a while. I couldn't stop thinking about how damn cute they were and how badly I wanted one. A few weeks later, on Christmas, Santa Jamie granted my wish and gave me a new little baby.

I knew her name was going to be Ruby, even though she was actually too young to know the sex for sure. Truth is, I actually think Ruby is "Rudy," because I saw something that looked suspiciously like a penis under her one day. Who cares — I usually call all of my guy friends "girlfriends" anyway. So Ruby is her drag name.

Ruby doubled in size for the first five or

six years we had her. She is now a whopping 103 lbs. The first few years we had her, she was in a terrarium; when she outgrew that, we kept her in a kiddie pool in the dining room. That didn't last long, because have you ever smelled vegetarian poop? It is literally the worst smell I have ever smelled. If she pooped during the night, the odor would wake me up. So my wonderful husband, who can build absolutely anything, built me a greenhouse with a door for Ruby. Inside, she had a nice heating lamp to keep her warm, and outside she had a nice enclosure where she could run loose. She loved it. If the sun was out she was making the rounds. She grazed on grass, ate lettuce and other vegetables I would get her and loved her tortoise chow. (It's like dog food but it is a low protein grass pellet.)

This past year, she outgrew her enclosure so now she runs the whole back yard. We did have to Ruby-proof a lot of things. She is like a tank, so we had to reinforce the fence to make sure she didn't dig it up. We hammered a bunch of three-foot spikes in the ground to keep her out of the garden and away from the pool. She is persistent though; if she wants to be somewhere badly enough, she can usually find a way.

She has a lot of personality for a

cold-blooded animal. Sometimes she gets in a mean mood and will chase the dogs all over the yard. She is nosy as hell, too — if we are working in the back yard, she has to be in the middle of whatever we are doing. A few weeks ago, I was planting flowers in a pot and she was right under my feet the entire time.

She gets in destructive moods. She has pushed our outdoor love seat and fire pit completely off the porch. She is so freakin' strong! I had to pick her up recently and move her out of our rock garden and she kicked me. It felt like I had been kicked by a cow. I still have a huge bruise on my leg.

She can be hateful. We have a huge gnome collection in our back yard. My husband loves them and we have gotten many as gifts over the years. Ruby decided about a year ago that she hates them. If there was a gnome that caught her eye, she would knock it over. We would put it back upright and an hour later she would knock it over again. It was like some crazy game of tortoise/gnome bowling. She even decapitated Gnomeo and Juliet. Oh, the horror! It's OK — we glued their heads back on and moved them out of her way.

Here are a few fun facts about Ruby... and things you should think about before getting a pet like her. She is an African

spurred Sulcata tortoise. They are found in central Africa but thrive here in Texas as long as they have a warm place to winter. She has big spikes on her thighs that look almost dinosaur-like. The spikes protect them from predators (in the wild, mostly lions). They don't need a lot of water; they get most of their hydration from the vegetation they eat. They should never be given dog food or food high in protein, especially while they are growing; a high-protein diet could make their shells grow too fast and become misshapen. Their eyes almost always look like they are crying; that is normal. They are sometimes called "the crying tortoise."

Even though most people call refer to her as a turtle, she is a tortoise. It's not just about size. Tortoises are land-dwellers whereas turtles are mostly aquatic. I don't mind which word you call her; I'm not one of those assholes. But technically she is a tortoise, and technically she is a he. I am loose with my words. I know I love my big, clumsy, kind of a bitch tortoise. I am surprised by how much I love her.

I found out just how much I love her a few weeks ago. I left to go to the grocery store one afternoon, walked out the back door and went through the gate to the car

■ RUBY, Page 29

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DTF — that's Down to Float 3 — splashes into the jungle



Impulse Dallas is an association of gay men dedicated to serving the LGBT population with education, support ... and fun. For the third year, the group's Down to Float party returns with Speedos and Stoli, music (by DJ Benson Wilder) and Miller Lite, HIV testing and more. The theme this year is Jungle. So come to float and flirt!

DEETS: 7044 Royal Lane. 3-8 p.m. \$20-\$60. DTF3.com.

Friday 07.14 — Saturday 08.05

Have a FIT at the Bath House



The Festival of Independent Theatres — FIT — is one of best ways to consume theater that is not only reasonably priced, but also edgy and unique. Now in its 19th year, FIT welcomes eight smaller companies — Echo, WingSpan, Bootstrap, Risk, Audacity, Basement, L.I.P. Service and self-producer Dustin Curry, pictured — for 14 days of shows. Among the entrants are Curry in his one-man clowning performance, the return of Matt Lyle's award-winning tribute to silent films, *The Boxer* with Jeff Swearingen, who also wrote one of the entries (*The Caveman Play*) and Edward Albee's *Finding the Sun*. And visit DallasVoice.com throughout the festival for updates and reviews.

DEETS: Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. BathHouseCultural.com.

Friday 07.14 — Sunday 07.30

The best of times is now! 'La Cage' opens at Kalita

A happily gay couple who run a nightclub, complete with drag show, find they have to "straighten up" when their hetero son, who is dating a girl with conservative parents, invites his future in-laws to dinner at Chez Camp. What could possibly go wrong? The legendary musical *La Cage aux Folles* comes to the stage of the Kalita courtesy of Uptown Players — remarkably, their first time presenting the show — with Mikey Abrams and Bob Hess starring.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

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ARTSWEEK
THEATER

The Festival of Independent Theatres (FIT). Eight small companies perform for the 19th annual fest. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. July 14–Aug. 5. BathHouseCultural.com.

La Cage aux Folles. The groundbreaking musical about a gay couple with a straight son forced to “straighten up” for his fiancée’s conservative parents. Presented by UptownPlayers.org. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. July 14–30. UptownPlayers.org.

Divine — Live at the Boom Boom Room. A new play by Benjamin Lutz, about the famed drag queen. Margo Jones Theatre inside the Magnolia Lounge at Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. Preview performance and party on July 15; runs July 20–30. DivineLifeAtTheBoomBoomRoom.bpt.me.

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. Through July 23. OnstageInBedford.com.

Hood. A world premiere musical about Robin Hood, by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn. *Reviewed this week.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Aug. 6. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Bible: The Compete Words of God (Abridged). Amphibian Stage Productions presents the return engagement of this comedy. 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 13. AmphibianStage.com.

Finding Neverland. Stage musical adaptation of the Oscar-winning film about the inspiration for

Peter Pan. Presented by AT&T Performing Arts Center. *Reviewed this week.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through July 23. ATPAC.org.

The Life and (Cruel) Times of Conchita Zaragoza: A Mambo Musical. Comedy by Mark-Brian Sonna about a Mexican girl obsessed with being the next big star in America... despite being undocumented. Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. July 14–Aug. 6. MBSProductions.net.

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*. Samuell Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. Through July 21. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

The Necessities. A world premiere from local gay playwright, director and actor Blake Hackler, about four strangers in a small Texas town whose lives converge. Closes Second Thought Theatre’s season. Joel Ferrell directs. *Reviewed this week.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 29. 2TT.co.

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.

FILM

Asian Film Festival of Dallas. The 16th annual festival, including some gay content. Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through July 20. AsianFilmDallas.com.

■ COX From Page 22

Cox released her self-titled debut album in 1995. The lead single from the album was “Sentimental,” and the singer vividly remembers the first time she heard it on the airwaves. Cox had just returned from touring overseas and was driving on an L.A. freeway. Hearing her song on the radio was such a surprise that she “nearly swerved off the road.” A year later, Cox was nominated for an American Music Award for Favorite New Artist. It was then she first felt that she had made it as a performer.

“I lost to D’Angelo,” Cox recalls, “but I just remember that moment... my peers at the time and the people I was nominated with. They were also people I listened to myself and was a fan of. When I saw my name up there on the screen with all these other people, it moved me. I think that was the moment when I was like, ‘Well, I’ve arrived. If it doesn’t happen after this, I’ll be OK.’”

Despite her numerous professional successes, Cox feels the achievement she is most proud of is having a family. With her husband, she manages a career, businesses and children. The secret to success, it seems, is the constant “juggling act” of striking a careful balance between work

and home.

“At the end of the day, I have three beautiful children,” Cox, who resides in Florida, says. “I have a family. Ultimately, the career is amazing and I’m doing what I want to do. But when I see their accomplishments and when I see them do things for the first time, that’s the part that gets me. That’s what I feel most proud of.”

On June 30, Cox released “Let the World Be Ours Tonight,” a new single she recorded last year but was holding until the right moment came along. Cox had earlier in March released *I Will Always Love You*, an 8-track EP in homage to Whitney Houston and *The Bodyguard* project. But after collecting a number of anthemic dance remixes for the single and getting pressure from her fans during Pride appearances, Cox decided to release it as well.

“It’s finally done now and ready for the world to hear,” Cox says of the single. “I think it’s an amazing message. I am now in the business of doing message music. Now it has to have even more meaning. I want to put something positive in the world. It’s my mission.”

Indeed, Ms. Cox. Mission accomplished.

— Scott Huffman

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Transformers, Spider-Men, Carses and Aliens), not only stands tall against its competition, it holds its own as fully satisfying filmmaking on its own — that is, *War* isn't just good by comparison, it's damned good, period.

Being the third installment, the filmmakers are empowered to take more risks and challenge expectations. That means killing off major characters, upping the stakes, ending on a period instead of an ellipses. And Reeves indulges in all of that.

When it opens, Caesar (Andy Serkis again in a masterful acting job via motion-capture and digital enhancement) is weary and resigned to let his colony survive separate from humans in the forests of Northern California. He's hoping for détente if not outright brokered peace. Except a rogue military man known as The Colonel (Woody Harrelson) will have none of it. When the humans fortify themselves with simian slave labor and attack the apes' compound, killing one too many chimps, Caesar sends his tribe on a trek to safety and engages in a suicide mission to destroy the last stronghold of humans. (Think *Lord of the Rings* without the jewelry.)

The mythic nobility of the quest trope can feel cliché, but Reeves imbues the journey with the weight of Native Ameri-

can self-preservation against the onslaught of the American West — Caesar as Sitting Bull to The Colonel's insane, Kurtzian Custer. With his small band of loyalists, Caesar befriends a young human who has lost the power of speech (a portent for why humanity is seriously disadvantaged in this battle) and learns something of higher-level civilization: He embodies human values more than the humans themselves.

All the while, Reeves plants seeds that serve as Easter eggs to the old franchise (names like Nova and Cornelius get their origins) and comments on present-day politics (The Colonel is building a great wall... and he's gonna make the monkeys pay for it!). Visually, he concentrates so much on the eyes of the actors (human and ape) that he fills the screen not always with violence and action, but with real connection. There's even enough content to see it as a religious allegory without drowning in Christian symbolism.

In the post-Trump, post-Brexit era of cultural self-immolation, *War for the Planet of the Apes* posits that mankind is not only doomed, and not only did it set the pattern for its own fall, but it isn't worth saving anyway. In the right moment, it's hard to argue with that kind of reasoning. *Apres nous, le deluge.* ■

and left. I didn't see Ruby in the back yard but didn't think anything of it — when she is making her rounds, she can get behind things or down the hill. When I got back with my groceries I still didn't see her, so I went looking for her. I noticed the gate on the other side of the house was open. My heart sank. I ran through the gate freaking out. I called Jamie and made him rush home from work. I went running up and down the street frantically searching, when I heard a lady ask if I had lost a great big turtle. She pointed into the woods near out house.

She and another neighbor, Chris, were in his warehouse when they say bushes and grasses started moving like something big was walking through the woods. They decided to check out what was making so much noise. She said when they saw it was a huge turtle, they knew it belonged to someone. She said, "them thangs don't get that big round here, I knew it hadta be a pet." (We live in the country.) They had taken a big wire dog crate and put over

Ruby to keep her from going any further into the woods. Jamie had to back his truck into the woods to get her. I thanked them both; she said, "No problem — it's not every day you see a monster dinosaur in the woods." I'm not sure how the gate got open, so now we keep a padlock on it just in case. Maybe she is a ninja turtle! I am just thankful my baby is back home. I love my Ruby! ■

James Love aka Cassie Nova is host of the drag show at The Rose Room and a regular columnist for Dallas Voice.

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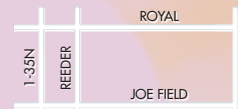
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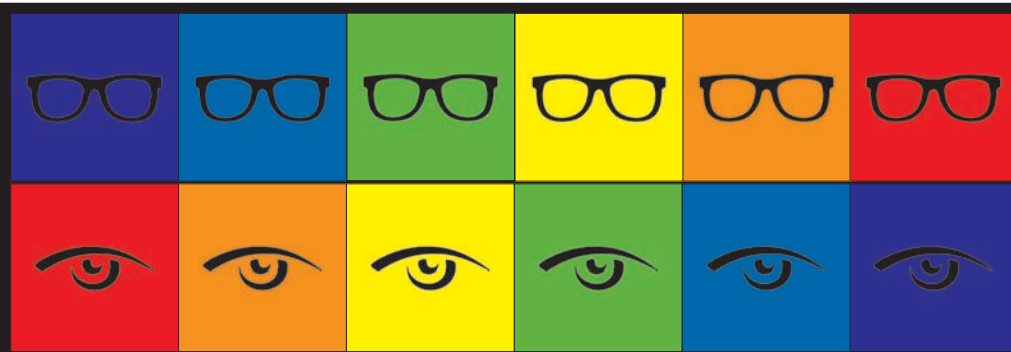
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Girl on girls

Jenny Block talks about dieting ... on FOMO

Everyone is always talking about dieting. But the one kind of diet I never hear people talking about going on is a media diet. Just like we can overeat when it comes to food, we can also overindulge when it comes to images of what the world supposedly looks like. And I do mean supposedly. Because from reality TV to Facebook to the latest movie romcom or sitcom, not only is none of it real, it's not even close.

It can be easy to get FOMO these days (fear of missing out), to compare ourselves — and especially our relationships — to all of the media to which we are constantly exposed. The thing is, I believe that many (if not most) of us know deep down that it isn't real. But somehow that knowledge doesn't help us ... at all. Despite knowing how fake it is, we still long for it.

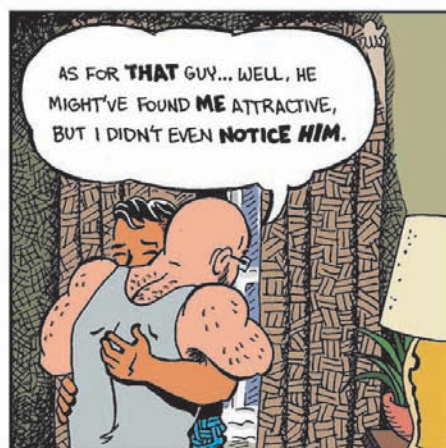
We come by that longing honestly, to be sure. It starts when we are very, very young. Our existence is idealized. The apples of our

parents' eyes. Destined for greatness. Poised to find true love. We have little or no sense of the reality of our parents' relationship. All we know is Disney and its princesses. Barbie and her Dream House. Storybooks and their happily-ever-afters.

And so it goes.

We read more magazines. Gobble up more books. Get lost in movies and TV. Even in the most tragic of movies, there are the truest of loves — the magical connections, the partners who will go to any lengths. And therein lies the problem. The media defines the perfect relationship with no basis in reality. We are told those movies and books are just for fun, just an escape. Still, somehow we believe.

It's not just relationships; it's sex, too. The perfect "first time," the almost-exclusively-straight sex in pop culture, the instant orgasms. All of it leaves us wondering, What's



wrong with *me*? And that's the thing — nothing is wrong with you... except for your diet.

If we are constantly taking in unrealistic models of the way love and sex will work, there is very little that can realign our thinking. But if we stop that constant influx of fake love and fake sex and fake relationships, well, then we have the chance for our brains to do their own thinking, their own research, and to come to their own understanding about not only what love and relationships do look like, but also what they can look like. That is, the quiet can help us to come to know what it is we really want from a partner.

You don't *have* to want to be by your partner every second. You don't *have* to want time apart. You don't *have* to enjoy the same hobbies or more separate interests than similar ones. You don't have to love all the same people. You don't have to have separate stables of friends. You don't have to do *anything*. Not really.

I mean, love and respect and trust and communicate. I personally think those are must haves and must-dos. But how and where you choose to live and work and play and with whom is actually 100 percent up to you and the person (people) with whom you are involved.

Don't believe me? Give in a try. Don't watch any TV or movies that touch on relationships. I realize that leaves you very little to consume. But so what? Go for a walk. Go outside and paint. Play with your dog. Finally learn to speak Spanish. Call your mom. Put down the magazines and books that are should-ing all over you about what love and sex and dating and relationships "should" look like.

Replace media with reality. Spend time with other couples you enjoy and admire. Speak

openly and honestly with friends and family about how they make their relationships work and share your experiences as well. Stop worrying about how it will look if people know everything isn't perfect in your world. Trust me, it's not perfect in theirs, either. When you start to judge yourself and your partner against the truth instead of against the fairy tale, you will likely be very pleasantly surprised about what you discover.

It's all about perspective. I don't think there's anything worse for one's happiness in a relationship than longing for something that doesn't exist. Love is wonderful. It's also messy and revealing and soul baring and challenging. Humans are complicated beings. When you combine them, it only stands to get more complicated.

My relationship is perfectly imperfect. We are two real people who bicker and get grumpy and mess up. We are also two real people who apologize and ask forgiveness and learn from our mistakes. I admit, we do watch our share of romantic movies and television and I have been known to get lost in the black hole of the internet. But I also remember to shut it all off and come back to center — the place where she and I live.

The place where mascara runs and tears fall and no one wakes up ready to go to the ball. I am grateful every day for someone who stands beside me no matter what and who knows that I'm no fairy tale princess. And I look forward every day to writing our own happily ever after ... no prince or fairy godmother or glass slipper required.

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

Dallas Voice's pampered pets

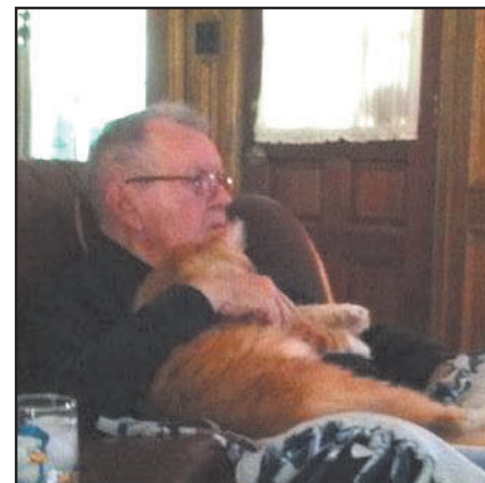
PAMPER YOUR PET



Michele and Pez



Shaun, Chandler, Alyssa and Elizabeth Taylor



Frank and Samson



Victoria, Anderson Cooper the dog and Cricket



Linda's Lily



Holly and Sophie

Making the **SCENE** the week of **July 14-20:**

- **Alexandre's:** **Stephanie Sallie** on Friday. **No Label** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Ma-rie Broadway** on Tuesday. **Bianka** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXS!:** **Voice of Pride Quarter-Final** on Sunday.
- **Club Changes:** **Treehouse meeting** at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food Bastille Day Ball** benefits the **AOC Food Pantry** with buffet at 6 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. **TGRA cookout** at 4 p.m. and show at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Damn It's Hot** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Discipline Corps club night** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **UCLSE Turn-About show** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Onyx:** **Central Southwest Chapter club** night at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Kaliente:** **Voice of Pride Quarter-Final** on Tuesday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Chanel Champagne** presents **Showcase** Mondays.
- **Pekers:** **Karaoke fundraiser for Lifewalk Team ASD** from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Boys, Boots & Boxer Briefs** at 10 p.m. on Monday. **Round-Up presents BearCity 3 in Dallas** at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday at **Studio Movie Grill**, 11170 N. Central Expressway. **Project Funway** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Cherry Bomb** on Saturday. **Kathy and Bella** at 3:30 p.m. and **Jennie Dale Lord** at 6 p.m. on Sunday. **Miss Silver Star State** and **State at Large** on Sunday. **Kathy and Bella open mic** at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** **DFW Pride Happy Hour** 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **TGRA state meeting** at 9 a.m. on Saturday. **TGRA show** at 9 p.m. on Saturday. **Wall of Food show** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **PSSA Spring Awards** from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday.

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



Terrie and Nina



Simba and Josh



Marlene with Moo, Justin, Audrey and Patrick



Mom Brenna with human daughter A'Niyah and 4-legged daughter Rosie



Scott and Magnus



Olivia and Fern



Nick's kitty June



Chris and Jose with Kylo



Bruce and RayRay



Brian's Smokey T. Bandit



Carolyn's Sophie Bell



Edward and Marley



Dana's Maddie Lou, top left; Tommy Lee, bottom, left; Randa's Guapo, top right, and Arlen's hens.



Jenny and Walter



Michael and Bonnie



Will and Wagner



Tina and Fern



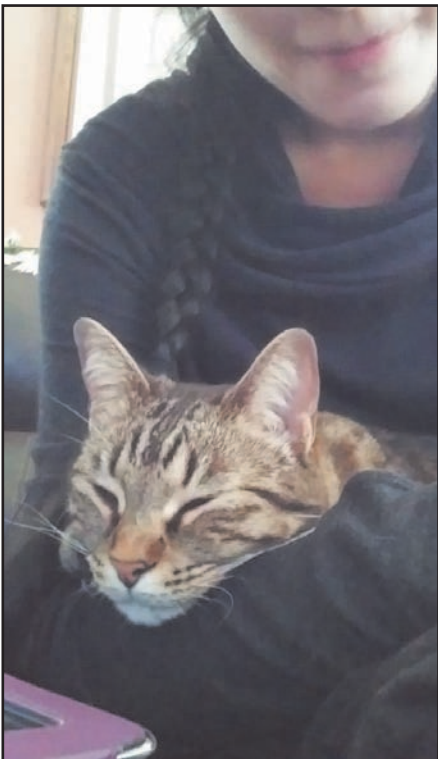
Angela and Misty Carmelita Ikea



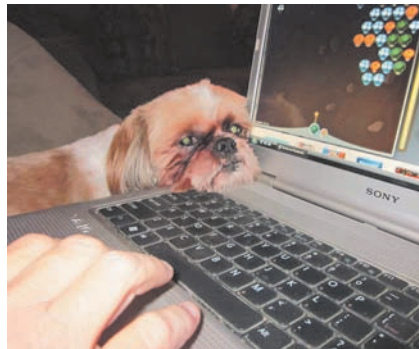
Seth and Ambrose, top, and Arlen's Flaco, below



Kathy's Izzy

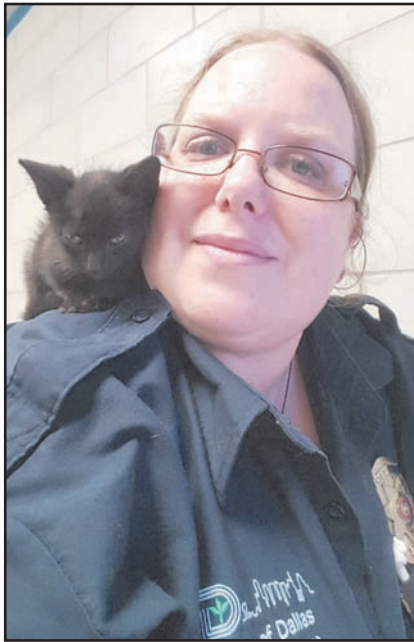


Jennifer and Nala



Lisa's Charlie Beasley, above, and Steve and J.D.'s Spooner, below





Amanda and a rescue kitty



Edward and Baxter



Lars, Israel, Wellington and Maddie



Tucker, of Tucker's Gift



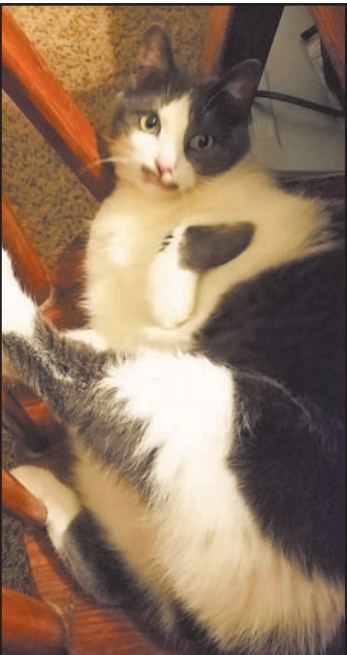
DeeDee and Terri with Little LuLu Barnes



Lorrie with Judy



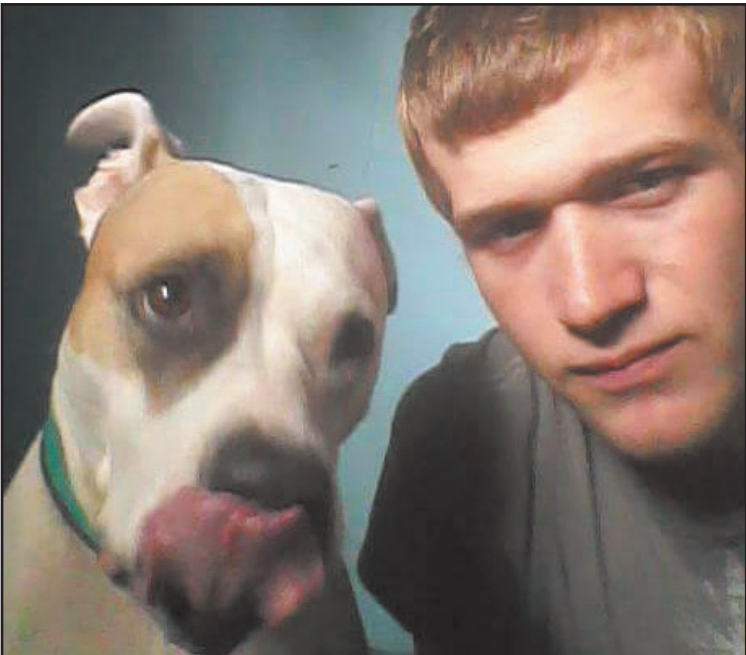
Klaus and Lulu



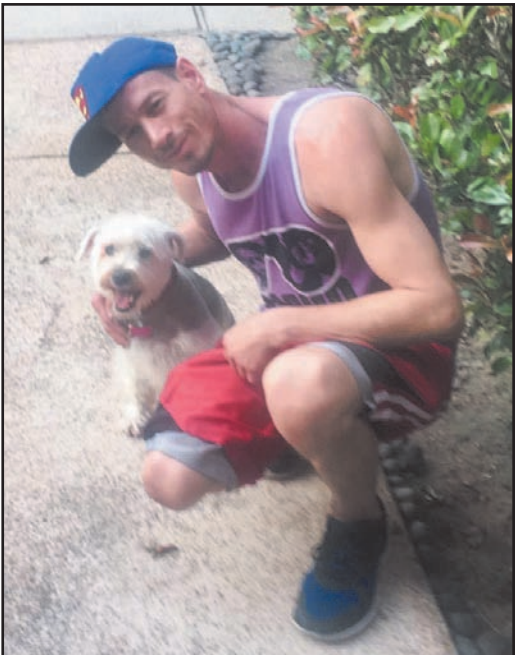
Ann's boy Koko



Will and Fern



Athena and James



Army and Garza

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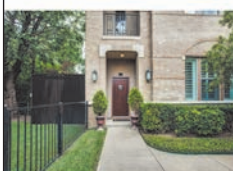
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Hell of a Choice

Solution on Page 29

- Across
- 1 Opponent of Caesar

5 Position in Bernstein’s orchestra

10 Deep pink

14 *Exotica* director Egoyan

15 Like bell-bottom jeans

16 Jannings of old films

17 Petty of *Orange Is the New Black*

18 Patronize, as a Star Canyon restaurant

19 Cucumber wasted on a hamburger?

20 Portrayer of Bennett, the one-time companion of 38-Across

23 Butts

24 Prefix with European

25 Hit from *Cats*

28 S&M namesake

32 Cockamamie

33 With 38-Across, movie about a gay activist who became an anti-gay minister

36 Norse race

37 Unknown degree

38 See 33-Across

41 “Get thee ___ nunnery”

42 Renege, slangily, with “out”

44 Takano and Baldwin hold them

45 Sea eagles

46 Amelia recently in the news

48 Initial phase

50 Greek city of tough guys

51 Pulled on a stallion’s strap

52 Portrayer of 38-Across

56 Favorite holiday ending

58 Rest atop

59 Stone of *Easy A*

62 Masseuse’s target

63 It dangles on a private

64 Songwriter Holly

65 Give some lip

66 Rendezvous request

67 Greek love

Down

1 James Dean’s *East of Eden* role

2 The whole shebang

3 Scroll at Beth Chayim Chadashim

4 “O” of Sapho

5 Smooth

6 Enjoys phone sex

7 Firm member (abbr.)

8 Baghdad resident

9 Equatorially ample

10 Clown accessory for Cam Tucker

11 Cut

12 Hole entered by

a Minuteman

13 Allen-wrench shape

21 Place for women who live together

22 Rupert Everett’s *An ___ Husband*

25 Chops finely

26 Lure into wrongdoing

27 Big Indians

29 One who looks at Uranus

30 “I Say a Little Prayer” singer Warwick

31 Used rubbers

33 Thespian rapper

34 “So, it’s YOU!”

35 Sweaty guys get pinned to them

39 A guy named Sharon and others

40 Queer online?

43 “Lesbians Ignite” and such

45 Androgynous

47 It swallows plastic and spits cash

49 Fabric suffix

53 *West ___ Story*

54 Lavish party

55 Knock around

56 “Jumpin’ Jack Flash,” to Mick Jagger

57 Zenith rival

60 Noted Warhol subject

61 Pirate interjections
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