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Tarrant County PRIDE

by David Taffet, Page 10

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What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

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

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems**, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.


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

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

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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

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



We're open, not unprepared.

We know who we are. And we make choices that fit our lives.


TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

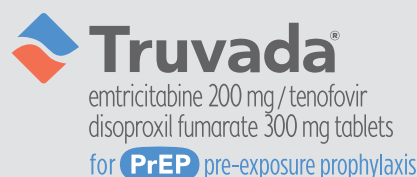
- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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

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MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
 - **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
 - **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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Celebration Community Church's 2014 Tarrant County Pride entry. Photo by Tammye Nash; design by Kevin Thomas

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No Tie Dinner kicks off with Design District event



Don Neubauer, Richmond Morris, Don Maison, Kristi Holman, David Nelson, LeeAnne Locken, Leslie Frye at the No Tie Dinner kick-off party. (Photo by Sergio Delgado)

The No Tie Dinner & Dessert Party kickoff event was held on Sept. 19 at the Scott + Cooner furnishings showroom in the Design District. The event raised \$14,000 for AIDS Services of Dallas, which provides affordable housing for individuals

and their families living with HIV.

The 2018 No Tie Dinner & Dessert Party, presented by The Purple Foundation, will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. Tickets are \$150

for VIP admission and \$75 for general admission. Information and tickets are available at NoTieDinner.org.

David Nelson, who has served as No Tie chair for the last eight years, passed the "tiara" to Leslie Frye. Dr. Steven Pounders is this year's honorary chair.

— David Taffet

Man arrested after stand-off at The Springs is identified

Dallas Voice has learned the identity of the man who was arrested at The Springs apartments Monday, Oct. 2, after a stand-off with police:

Richard Ernest Roan, a 63-year-old white man, remained in the Dallas County jail as of Thursday afternoon, Oct. 5, on a charge of deadly conduct/ discharging a firearm. Bond has been set at \$25,000.

Public records indicate that Roan lived at The Springs, 4810 Cedar Springs Road. Prior to Monday, he had no criminal record that Dallas Voice was able to find.

Officers responded to a call for police at the apartment complex shortly before 5 a.m. Monday, according to a statement released Monday. When police arrived, they heard shots being fired from inside the apartment, so they retreated and called for SWAT. SWAT took over the scene and closed down a section of Cedar Springs in front of the complex.

Roan was eventually taken into custody "without incident," and without anyone being injured some four hours later, at 9:10 a.m.

Dallas Eagle manager Adam Lynn said he used to live across the hall from Roan at The Springs.

"I always thought he was an odd duck," Lynn said. "Not very friendly when you would see him out walking his dog. Seemed to be very much a loner."

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice recognized by Dallas Press Club's Hugh Aynesworth Awards

Robert Moore, the co-founder and former publisher of Dallas Voice who was present at the July 7, 2016 by Dallas police ambush, has been recognized for the reinstalled awards from the Press Club of Dallas. Now called the Hugh Aynesworth Awards for Excellence in Journalism, the awards recognize achievement in investigative reporting, spot news and photography in radio, print, television and digital.

The photo of officer J.D. Smith, below, taken taken in the midst of the shooting that killed four officers, was published by Dallas Voice and elsewhere, went viral. Since his retirement, Moore has been active in photography. He was also named by the PCD as a North Texas Legend in 2015.

In the last few years, Dallas Voice has met with numerous awards and nominations for its reporting, opinion and photography from the Houston Press Club and the North American Travel Journalists Association. The DPC awards will be presented during a ceremony on Nov. 30 at the Sixth Floor Museum.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

U.S. opposes UN resolution against death penalty for same-sex relations

The U.S. on Sept. 29 voted against a U.N. Human Rights Council resolution that includes a provision condemning the death penalty for those found guilty of committing consensual same-sex sexual acts.

The resolution — which Belgium, Benin, Costa Rica, France, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia and Switzerland introduced — passed by a 27-13 vote margin.

Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Slovenia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland and the U.K. supported the resolution. Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, China, India, Iraq, Japan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined the U.S. in opposing it.

The resolution specifically condemns "the imposition of the death penalty as a sanction for specific forms of conduct, such as apostasy, blasphemy, adultery and consensual same-sex relations" and expresses "serious concern that the application of the death penalty for adultery is disproportionately imposed on women." It also notes "poor and economically vulnerable persons and foreign nationals are disproportionately subjected to the death penalty, that laws carrying the death penalty are used against persons exercising their rights to freedom of expression, thought, conscience, religion, and peaceful assembly and association, and that persons belonging to religious or ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented among those sentenced to the death penalty."

— Michael Lavers | Washington Blade
Courtesy LGBT Media Association



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Trusted:
To be trusted
In our world, trusted means everything.

For reporters, columnists and editors, trust is the standard they live by. And as members of our community, they understand how important it is for you to trust your local newspaper.

David Taffet is one of the most trusted names in LGBT media. He has written for Dallas Voice for 27 years. This year he was awarded the Houston Press Club's Lone Star Award for Newspaper Journalist of the Year and Newspaper Feature Story of the Year.

He grew up in Yonkers, N.Y., graduated from SUNY Albany and moved to Dallas in 1979. He's owned several businesses, including a travel agency. His extensive world travel led to his writing a travel column for Dallas Voice that continued for 10 years followed by freelance assignments and ultimately a staff position. Since 1990, he's been a host of Lambda Weekly, the oldest, longest running LGBT talk show in the U.S. currently airing on Sundays at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-fm.

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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 **Brandi Amara Skyy**; 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 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, 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.

OCTOBER

• Through Oct. 8:

Dallas Southern Pride

Dallas Southern Pride presents Black Pride Weekend, Black by Popular Demand, which will include the State Fair Classic (Grambling vs. Prairie View A&M), the Ball/House and Pageant

Communities Conference, and parties across the Metroplex all weekend. Visit DallasSouthernPride.com for information.

• Oct. 6: Burgers + Burgundy

DIFFA/Dallas presents a culinary evening with silent auction and sneak peek at House of DIFFA from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Eyeball at the Joule, 1601 Main St. \$150. DIFFA.org.

• Oct. 7: Tarrant County Pride

Tarrant County Pride Parade takes place along Commerce Street from Weatherford to Lancaster streets in Fort Worth. The festival is in the Water Gardens park at the end of the parade route. Parade at 11 a.m. Water Garden Festival from noon-8 p.m.

• Oct. 7: Beta Phi Omega, Omicron Psi Omega

The women of Beta Phi Omega Sorority Inc., a national sorority for feminine-identifying lesbians, and the women of Omicron Psi Omega Inc., a national sorority for masculine-identifying lesbians, host a joint interest meeting at 1 p.m. Location and other information will be sent to those who RSVP online at EliteDiamondBall.com for Beta Phi Omega and at OmicronPsiOmega@gmail.com for Omicron Psi Omega. Professional attire is mandatory.

• Oct. 7: Elite Diamond Ball

Beta Phi Omega Sorority Inc. presents its annual Elite Diamond Ball: The Journey of the Queen (Coming to America Inspired), from 7 a.m.-midnight at the Crowne Plaza Dallas Galleria, 14314 Midway Road. Tickets start at \$45 and tickets and information are available at EliteDiamondBall.com

• Oct. 8: Tarrant County Pride Picnic

From noon-6 p.m. in Trinity Park, 2401 S. University Drive, Fort Worth.

• Oct. 8: Spanke's TP Party

Friends continue the annual party, founded by the late Spanke Studer, collecting grooming supplies and more for residents of AIDS Services of Dallas, at 3955 Hawthorne Ave. For information visit [Facebook.com/dmask2](https://www.facebook.com/dmask2).

• Oct. 9: Disaster relief for Puerto Rico and Mexico

DFW Pride fundraising Happy Hour to



support our friends in Mexico and Puerto Rico affected by the recent disasters from 5-8 p.m. at Lakewood Brewing Company, 2302 Executive Drive, Garland.

• Oct. 10: Outrageous Oral

The Dallas Way, UNT's Pride Alliance and LGBT Studies Program present Outrageous Oral at 6:30 p.m. at The Forum (Room 140) of Willis Library. 1506 Highland Ave., Denton.

• Oct. 10: Family Equality Council

National organization for parents and their families fundraiser at the home of Bryan Carr and Mark LeDoux from 6-8 p.m. Childcare provided. RSVP at rsvp.familyequality.org/dallas2017.

• Oct. 11: National Coming Out Day

• Oct. 11: Gay Day at the Fair

Unofficial Gay Day at the State Fair of Texas. Best way to get there is the Green Line on DART. Admission \$18. Online price is \$16.50. BigTex.com.

• Oct. 12: Chamber's new member showcase

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents a new member showcase from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Dallas - Market Center, 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway.

• Oct. 12: Preston Hollow Democrats meeting

Preston Hollow Democrats meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Walnut Hill Recreation Centre, on the northwest corner of Walnut Hill Lane at Midway Road. John Greenan of City Square Housing and Joe Dingman of St. Jude Inc., will discuss the lack of affordable housing in Dallas, obstacles encountered, successes achieved and plans for the future. The meeting is free and open to the public.

• Oct. 13: DFW Pride Happy Hour

DFW Pride Happy Hour, an LGBT+ community sponsored by Texas Instruments, joins with the UT and OU LGBT alumni organizations to host the second annual OU/UT Alumni Happy Hour, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 100

• Oct. 14: Texas Latino Pride

The annual Texas Latino Pride festival, with live entertainment and special guests from 2-9 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. \$5. For information visit [Facebook.com/events/429365350783238](https://www.facebook.com/events/429365350783238).

• Oct. 19: GALA Ally Awards

GALA honors allies who work for equality in North Texas from 5:30-8 p.m. at Holiday Inn Plano, 4301 Paige Road, The Colony.

• Oct 20: Turtle Creek Chorale

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents After Dark, a special event, at 8 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves 3015 Gulden Lane. \$75-125.

TurtleCreekChorale.com

• **Oct 20: Spooktacular IV**

Presented by the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

• **Oct 20: Bowling league registration**

New LGBT bowling league registration from 6:30-9 p.m. at AMF Garland, 1950 Marketplace Dr., Garland. League runs Nov. 3-Feb. 9. \$20. 214-704-3531.

• **Oct. 21: My Haunted 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.

• **Oct. 22: Hope Walk**

The 26th annual Hope Walk, a pet-friendly 5K benefitting AIDS Outreach Center in Tarrant County will be held 1-5 p.m., beginning at the Trinity Park Pavilion, just off 7th Street in Trinity Park in Fort Worth. There will also be a Pooches on Parade costume contest. Visit AOC.org/walk.

• **Oct. 23: LGBT Grief Support Group**

Anyone who has lost a same-sex spouse is

welcome to join at 6:45 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. For more info raymond.sablack@gmail.com.

• **Oct. 24: Profiling and Situational Awareness seminars**

Seminar for non-profit staff and administration at 9 a.m., business owners at 1 p.m. and professionals at 3 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Oct. 25: PositiviTea 2017**

Champagne Imperial Tea benefits Legacy's Grace Project for women from 3-4:30 p.m. at La Duni NorthPark, 8687 N. Central Expressway.

• **Oct. 28: Outing LGBT Domestic Violence**

Candy Marcum moderates a panel discussion and Q&A session with Criminal District Court Judge Brandon Birmingham, DPD Domestic Violence Unit officer Kylee Hawks, trans activist Aricles James, Angela Lee of the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Roy Rios from the Texas Council on Family Violence from 1-3 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

▪ **pet of the week / ACROBAT**

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Tarrant County Pride is living life bold in 2017

Fort Worth Pride steps off an hour earlier this year; annual Pride picnic follows the next day

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

This year's Tarrant County Pride Parade starts an hour earlier than past years — at 11 a.m. instead of noon — on Saturday, Oct. 7. Longtime parade committee member Tony Coronado said the change was made for traffic control purposes.

Since moving to downtown Fort Worth, Texas' second-oldest Pride parade has changed routes a couple of times — once because Sundance Square cut Main Street in half. That year, in 2015, the parade ran down Houston Street.

Last year the parade moved to Commerce Street so it would end at the new Pride Festival location — the Fort Worth Water Gardens. Coronado said organizers made that change because the festival had outgrown its previous location on the north side of the Fort Worth Convention Center.

Admission to the festival is \$5, and it runs from noon to 7 p.m.

Coronado said this year's parade — built around the theme "Live life bold" — will be a little larger than last year's. Many groups are returning, but a number of political candidates will be participating this year, too. Among them are John Duncan, a candidate for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives currently held by Joe Barton. That district includes parts of Tarrant County.

Allison Compolo, who is challenging Texas State Sen. Konni Burton, also will

participate, he said.

Other additions to the parade this year include a number of new LGBT-friendly religious groups, Coronado said.

The headline entertainer at the festival is Jason Dotley, who performs at 2 p.m. The annual Pride Picnic takes place in Trinity Park, 2401 University Drive, Fort Worth on Sunday, Oct. 8.

Grand marshals

This year's Pride grand marshals are Nancy Peoples, Kiana Lee and Finnigan Jones. The honorary grand marshals are Fort Worth Councilwoman Ann Zedah and Arlington's 1851 Club.

Peoples got involved in the community through bowling more than 25 years ago. When bowling friends contracted AIDS and lost their homes, she joined Michael Champion and Bill Lindsey who started what she called "this little drag group" — Glitz and Glitter — to help bowlers get by. Now, 25 years later, she's still raising money.

Peoples has been Ms. Texas Gay Rodeo Association twice and is in-

volved in the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington, the Trinity River Bears and Wall of Food, a fundraising effort that helps fill the AIDS Outreach Center's food pantry.

Kiana Lee served four years in the Air Force before moving to Arlington. She has performed all over the DFW area since 2001.

In addition to performing, she's a freelance makeup artist and, "I enjoy creating costumes and gowns for shows and pageantry," she said.

On Friday and Saturday nights, Lee hosts the shows at 1851 Club in Arlington. But she hasn't just performed at LGBT clubs in Dallas, Fort Worth and Arlington. She's also appeared at Billy Bob's.

She's raised money over the years for AIDS Outreach Center, Toys for Tots, Home for the Holidays and food pantries and homeless shelters. And she's won or placed first alternate in a number of pageants — including Miss Gay Texas



National 2007- 2008, Miss Arlington National 2003, Miss North Central Texas America 2003 and Miss Texas Cinco De Mayo 2003. She was named one of "The 100 of the Most Influential Gay Entertainers" in the U.S. in 2014.

Finnigan Jones is the executive director and co-founder of Trans-Cendence International, Inc. He sits on the advisory boards for The Diversity Center of Oklahoma Inc. and LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S., Fort Worth's LGBT youth organization.

Jones works with community leaders to further education on transgender and

Reina Lea awards

The nominees for The Reina Lea Community Service Award are Becky Lucius and Richard E. Burrow.

Lucius moved to Tarrant County in 2006, becoming an active member of the LGBT community as a straight ally and volunteer. She joined the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association and was named new volunteer of the year in 2010.

Lucius participates in Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food and is a member of the Fort Worth chapter of TGRA. She has held sev-



Grand marshals Finnigan Jones, Kiana Lee and Nancy Peoples

gender diversity issues and policies. He's a motivational speaker, ally training consultant and transgender/gender identity consultant.

He's also a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and lives in Arlington with his wife, Susan.

Honorary Grand Marshal Ann Zedah was elected to the Fort Worth City Council in 2014 after the city's first openly-gay councilman Joel Burns resigned. She was appointed to the zoning commission in 2008 and remains an active member of the American Planning Association that empowers citizens to be engaged in the development and sustainability of Great Communities in Texas.

Zedah has been married for 25 years to her husband, Jim, and they have two sons.

Established in the 1970s as the 651 Club, 1851 Club — which changed its name when it changed its address — is one of the oldest gay bars in the country. In 2005, Bill Glad- en took over as owner, keeping the idea of love, pride and acceptance in the neighborhood bar with a dedicated staff that makes it one of the friendliest LGBT bars in North Texas.

eral positions in the Imperial Court, where she's now an active board member. She organizes an annual breakfast with Santa and a Samaritan House Monthly Dinner, and she currently holds the position of Imperial Crown Princess for Reign 38 of the Imperial Court. She has earned three lifetime title awards in the Fort Worth court.

Through his church, Burrows began going to Unity Park to feed and clothe the homeless. From there he began the Ricky Sparkles Homeless Outreach, targeting LGBT homeless youth.

Along with FWPDP officer Julie Cox and Fort Worth Independent School District, Burrow helped create The Care Closet in four Fort Worth high schools. Ricky Sparkles Homeless Outreach collects donations of clothing, hygiene products and school supplies and distributes them to homeless youth through the high school resource rooms.

"This is a place for homeless and at risk kids to come and shop for free," Burrow said. ■

The nominees will be featured in the parade on Sunday, and the winner will be announced at the picnic on Sunday.

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Gays of the Midway

Finding the LGBT folks behind the scenes that help make the Texas State Fair happen

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

We know we're everywhere. But finding this year's gays of the Midway was easier than ever. A simple email to the public relations department of the State

Fair of Texas to find some interesting stories about LGBT people involved in the fair got a quick response: "What about me?" Kellye Tallent asked in response.

Tallent is a media relations coordinator handling requests for CW33 and local radio stations. She handles interviews, suggests ideas and angles and coordinates whatever coverage media outlets want to do at the fair.

OK, so — not everything we hair-brained reporters suggest. Channel 33 wanted to milk a cow in their studio.

A cow weighs about 1,000 pounds over the weight limit of an elevator, not to mention the animal wouldn't actually fit into a regular office building elevator very well anyway. Tallent said she did manage to find a miniature cow, but that cow hadn't given birth recently and wasn't lactating.

So she provided the station with a goat to milk instead.

Most media outlets let Tallent know when they are headed to the State Fair and have special requests. But even "if media make a surprise appearance, we make it happen," she said.

She got a KRLD reporter on the Mattress Firm stage on the Esplanade with a Zuzu African acrobat.

During the Wild West Pet Palooza in the Band Shell, she arranged for a dog that jumps rope to jump over the head of a reporter.

For another, she arranged for the reporter to help clean out a pigpen. (We assured her she wouldn't need to arrange anything like that for Dallas Voice.)

This is Tallent's first year at the State Fair of Texas. She and her partner moved here from Oklahoma where, she said, the fairgrounds are about the same size as those in Dallas, but the fair itself is much smaller. Another interesting stat she men-

Athena O'Hara

MIDWAY, Page 14

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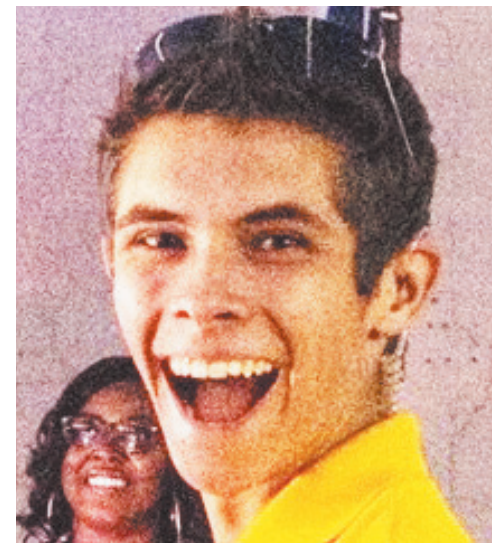
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MIDWAY, From Page 12



Kellye Tallent



Vincent Deluna

tioned is that at 131 years old, the State Fair of Texas is older than the state of Oklahoma.

Tallent said she was a little apprehensive about moving here, but has been delighted with the welcome she and her partner have gotten from the fair and around the city. She also said the unofficial Gay Day at the fair is Wednesday, Oct. 11, which is National Coming Out Day.

PARADE: Deluna and O'hara

Vincent Deluna, 21, has worked at the fair since he was 15. Actually, he's been around the fair his whole life, since his family has had a food and beverage stand there since 1936.

But Deluna's job for the last few years has been pacing the nightly State Fair parade.

Each night the fair stages a parade at 7:15 p.m. Deluna said he paces the parade by taking into account how busy the grounds are and where the "crowd bubbles" are.

"We have the U.S. Marine Band for the first half of the fair," he said. They're professionals, but sometimes the high school bands need to be slowed.

Then he spaces the floats, which are built and driven up from San Antonio, and then other acts that participate.

If the parade goes by too fast, the crowd won't feel like it's had a parade experience, Deluna explained, adding that he shoots for a 25-minute parade.

That's far shorter than the other parade Deluna helps stage — the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, where he serves on the steering committee and this year, for the second time, was in charge of logistics.

Deluna lives in San Marcos where he works as a 911 dispatcher during the year. He moved there from Dallas to live with his

fiancé who goes to Texas State University.

But parades are Deluna's passion, and he said he may be involved in staging this year's Veteran's Day parade as well.

Athena O'hara, a popular drag entertainer here in Dallas, will be appearing in the state fair parade this year. As a scarecrow. On stilts.

O'hara's been stiltwalking for only a few years, saying that she learned to walk on stilts when a friend dragged him along. A woman who was a costume designer and entertainment coordinator for an entertainment company had her friend try walking on stilts and he wasn't doing very well.

"You look like a hot mess," O'hara told her friend. So the teacher asked if she'd like to give it a try. O'hara signed a waiver, climbed up and took off like she'd always been walking on stilts.

O'hara credits stiltwalking with getting her into drag. Her first year on stilts in the parade, she was a tribal goddess in green and blue makeup — and that hooked her.

O'hara described walking in the nightly parade as a special challenge. She said she has to be careful of speed bumps along the route, as well as cracks in the pavement, while remembering to smile and wave at the same time.

"It's a rush, but also you have to be careful," she said.

Being on stilts has its advantages, though. O'hara said she can see over the fences when she's on the stilts, and that has given her the chance to see some celebrities — like Kelly Rowlands and Chris Brown — while they were hanging out and relaxing before their shows.

After the parade, O'hara said she enjoys getting off the stilts and walking around the fair while still in her parade makeup.

"People look at you like you're crazy," she said. ■

Celebration dedicates new community center



The congregation of Celebration Community Church in Fort Worth dedicated the new Rev. Carol A. West Community Center, Sunday, Oct. 1. (Photo courtesy of Celebration Community Church)

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The congregation of Celebration Community Church formally dedicated the church’s new community center on Sunday morning, Oct. 1, after their weekly worship service.

The Rev. Carol A. West Community Center, located just north of the church’s historic sanctuary at 908 Pennsylvania Ave. in Fort Worth, is intended to serve the entire LGBT community in Tarrant County, church officials said.

The new building is part of a master plan to double the amount of meeting space available in the church’s fellowship hall. And the church’s board of directors voted to name the new facility in honor of the Rev. West, who recently celebrated her 19th anniversary as the church’s pastor.

“Quite often, the Rev. West speaks to us about stepping out on groundless ground,” explained Building Committee Chairman Ron Hill. “As a congregation, we kept that message in the front of our minds as we stepped out in faith to build a church facility that accommodates not only our growing congregation but the increasing number of community groups that rely on

Celebration for meeting and event space.” Celebration Community Church owns most of a city block, just south of downtown Fort Worth, in the Medical District. The new community center stretches northward from the already-existing fellowship hall and will eventually be linked to the sanctuary via a landscaped and covered walkway, church officials said.

The new community center encompasses 5,300 square feet of space and will accommodate up to 300 people at once. It was designed in an open concept, with a unique “cloud” ceiling, large custom sliding bard doors and a separate entrance for catering staff.

The project cost \$1.3 million. The architect was Tom Guerin of Jepsen/Guerin Architects in Dallas, and Nan Faith Arnold of Nan Faith Arnold Co. in Dallas was the project manager.


Church officials called the new center “ideal for wedding receptions, business meetings and many other types of events.”

Celebration Community Church is the largest church in Tarrant County with a primary outreach to the LGBT community. It is a non-denominational Christian congregation, with more than 400 members who come from more than 50 religious faith traditions.

For information, visit Celebration-Community-Church.com.

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The importance of being you

Football player Michael Sam speaks at UTA Pride Week event

MATHEW SHAW | Contributing Writer
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Michael Sam, who made history in 2014 as the first openly-gay man drafted into the NFL, used personal sto-

ries of his life before and after major league football to stress the importance of being true to one's self during an appearance this week at the University of Texas at Arlington.

UT-Arlington's LGBTQA Program invited Sam to speak at the school on Wednesday, Oct. 4, as part of the organization's annual Pride Week celebration. Sam's address was the first keynote address in several years, said Leticia Martinez, program director for UTA's LGBTQA Program and Multicultural Affairs.

"This year, we really wanted to bring a

new revived focus to Pride Week and try to bring someone special," Martinez said.

Before he began his speech, Sam spent 10 minutes just sitting at the edge of the stage, chatting with audience members in the front row. Then he asked that his audience of about 50 people move in closer before he started talking about coming out to his teammates during his last year at the University of Missouri.

The football players were introducing themselves, he recalled, with each one giving their name and major.

"I said, 'I'm Michael Sam. I'm from Texas,' and I paused," Sam said. "I never said these words before in my life. I said, 'I'm gay.' The looks on my teammates' faces — 'Holy shit, Michael Sam just came out.'"

Sam described his childhood in Hitchcock, Texas as tragic. He was the seventh of eight kids between his mother and father. His older sister drowned as a baby before he was born. In 1995, his older brother was shot and killed, and his father walked out of the family afterward. Then in 1998, he and his little sister stood at a bus stop, waving to their other brother as he boarded a bus then disappeared from their lives forever.

Left without a father and with a mother that had to work nonstop to support the family, Sam's two remaining older brothers got involved with gangs and drug dealing. Then they became abusive toward Michael and his sisters.

"When you have a brother — your own flesh and blood — threaten your own life if you ever tell, it can be frightening," he said. "My brothers did unspeakable things to me and my sisters. They were supposed to protect me. They were supposed to love me. And they betrayed our trust. They betrayed our love."

When he was in the seventh grade, coaches at Sam's school wanted him to play football. But he came from a Jehovah's Witness family, so his mother said no, at first. She had to be persuaded, he said.

Sam started out playing defense. All he had to do, he said, was tackle whoever had the ball.

"My very first play as a football player, I tackled my teammate," he said. "I layed his ass out like it was nothing. My teammates start hitting me and cussing me."

Sam made the varsity team his freshman year in high school. But when he realized during his sophomore year that his grades were not good enough for college, he began to apply himself in his schoolwork. He took the SATs four times. It was, he said, the hardest test he has ever taken.

Sam said he initially wanted to go to Arizona State University. But he changed his mind after visiting University of Missouri. Something, he said, made him feel that Missouri was where he belonged.

On June 6, 2009, Sam became the first of his parents' sons to graduate from high



school. He remembers that day well.

"I was walking across that stage, and when they called my name, I saw my mom drenched in tears," he said. "To this day that is the proudest moment of my life."

The next day, he was off to University of Missouri to begin a new chapter in his life.

Sam said he started realizing that he was attracted to other guys in high school. But he couldn't be sure, he said, until he experimented. The summer that he left for University of Missouri, he finally experimented — and knew right away that he was "pretty damn gay."

He said it was Vito Cammisano, his former boyfriend and fiancé, that made him realize how afraid he was to be his true self. And feeling welcome at St. Louis Pride and in local gay bars gave him the courage

detest bullies, because I was bullied by those who were supposed to protect me and love me. My brothers were the biggest bullies. I know how it feels."

Right then, Sam said, he resolved to go forward doing what he was doing for everyone else rather than for himself. He told his teammate's cousin: "If you need me to be there for you, I'll be whatever you need me to be. If you need a brother, I'll be a brother. If you need a cousin, I'll be a cousin. If you need a feminist, I'll be a feminist."

Sam was drafted by the St. Louis Rams but released after one season. Later, he got a call from Jerry Jones asking if he wanted to be a Dallas Cowboy.

Sam played for the Cowboys' practice team, but then was once again released. He has not played on an NFL team since, but



to finally come out to his teammates.

"In August of 2013, I stood in front of my teammates," he said. "It was the first time in my life I was truly Michael Sam."

After coming out, Sam began preparing for the draft. When he came out nationally in February 2014, he thought it would only be a big story for a few weeks. He was wrong.

While training for the draft, Sam said a teammate pulled him aside and asked him to call his cousin. Sam called, and the conversation quickly got serious. The young woman told him he had saved her life. Before the call, she had tried twice to kill herself because she was bullied.

"I couldn't really speak. I couldn't think," Sam said of how her revelation affected him. "It was just like the whole world just stopped. This was going on in our country? I'm just living my life, and here you're struggling and you try to kill yourself because of others?"

Even years later, Sam choked up as he told the story of that phone call. "I detest bullies with all my heart," he declared. "I

he said he has made peace with no longer playing football.

Right now Sam speaks at events across the country. But he said he still hasn't figured out what he wants to do with his life.

"I'm not a religious person, but I am very spiritual," he said. "And I believe with all my heart that God is testing me. He is testing me to see how strong I am. I have been through adversity and adversity and adversity, and I am only 27 years old. Every time I have triumphed."

Angela Brown, a native of Columbia, Mo., came with her girlfriend to hear Sam speak this week at UTA. She said she could relate to his stories and how he's surprised he hasn't gone insane because of everything the LGBT community has to go through.

"Even though he's not in football, he encouraged the gay community," she said.

Before leaving for the evening, Sam encouraged the audience to go home and show their families, friends and pets love. Then he ended with his his favorite quote, by Horace Mann: "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." ■

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Jeff Mateer — yet another right-wing judicial nominee



Most Americans don't spend a lot of time thinking about this country's court system. If you're lucky, you don't have a lot of direct contact with the courts. The most privileged among us don't even really have to think about it at all.

The judicial system is like a sewer system: If it's working okay, then it's largely out-of-sight out-of-mind. But when it gets clogged up with garbage, everybody is sorry they didn't take better care of it and check on it sooner.

And clogging our courts up with garbage is just what Donald Trump is doing.

He's outsourced the judge-picking to far-right groups, who give him names of extremists that he then dutifully nominates.

His nominees are unfit for the bench. But when you're the president, they let you nominate those people anyway.

One of these unfit nominees is Jeff Mateer, who has been nominated for a lifetime seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

And he is a nightmare.

In a video put together by the People for the American Way, Mateer calls homosexuality "the elephant in the room," and bemoans "the agenda that this small group is seeking and imposing on the rest of us." According to this man, who Trump wants to make a judge forever, LGBTQ people are not protected by the Constitution.

"I've read the 14th Amendment thousands of times," Mateer says in a recording. "I don't see anything about right to same-sex marriage. I don't see anything saying right to homosexuality. I don't see anything about right to privacy."



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

No doubt he thinks it perfectly all right to tell a lesbian couple, "We're not going to rent to you," or to refuse to make a cake for a gay couple's wedding, just by citing religious freedom.

He also believes in so-called "reparative therapy," which has been thoroughly debunked by medical experts but is still embraced by those who believe that you can just "pray the gay away."

The worst of it is what he has to say about transgender kids and their audacity to fight for the right to use the restroom at school: "It just shows you how Satan's plan is working and the destruction that's going on," Mateer says.

Mara Keisling, the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, isn't having it.

"How dare he?" Keisling asks. "How dare anyone talk about children this way? This nomination is another slap in the face to hundreds of thousands of families across the country and their children who are transgender. How can they explain to their children that a public official, let alone a judge, speaks about them this way?"

"This nominee simply cannot be confirmed."

And yet, he probably will be.

Republicans have been rubber stamping Trump's nominees. The Democrats are op-

posing them, but they are in the minority.

In a letter signed by 278 parents of transgender children from 36 states, Mateer is encouraged to apologize and invited to withdraw his nomination.

"Hundreds of thousands of children and adolescents throughout this country are transgender, like our kids," the letter reads. "Like all children — like your children, Mr. Mateer — they deserve to grow up knowing that they are loved and supported."

"Your statements about children like ours are the opposite of love — they are cruel. We urge you to apologize sincerely and without reservation to us and our families and all the others like us, and to clearly articulate how wrong and damaging your words are to children like ours — or to withdraw your nomination."

Of course, that's like imploring the fox to be nice to the chickens now that he has the key to the coop. The radical right doesn't exactly have a history of showing mercy to LGBTQ people.

Quite the opposite, in fact.

Elections have consequences. And when Trump is finally gone, his legacy will live on in conservative anti-LGBTQ judges across the country and in the Supreme Court that will shape the legal landscape for generations to come. Some of the battles we thought we won will have to be fought again.

The most effective weapon against this? Vote.

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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Un break able Kim Chi

Drag Racer Kim Chi is an undeniably spicy dish who went from drag to riches

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
 Scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

Five years ago, Sang-Young Shin's initial foray into the world of drag was little more than a lark. It was Halloween — “drag queen Christmas,” he quips — and his best friend, Matt, wanted to go out in a wig, dress, heels and makeup. When Matt asked Shin to join in, he casually agreed. Both were drag novices, and neither, it seems, had an inkling as to what was about to unfold in their lives.

“The first night we went out, we got booked for a show,” Shin recalls. “A few weeks after that, we went to Neverland, which is a production company in Chicago. They were throwing this crazy party. At that party, they hired me to be their host. A year later, I was hired to be their art director. It’s been nonstop ever since.”

Today, we know Shin by his *nom du drag* Kim Chi, a Season 8 finalist on *RuPaul’s Drag Race*. We also now know Matt as Pearl, a Season 7 finalist. Given their incredible successes, one is hard pressed to contend that the Halloween escapade could have been anything but fate. Shin, in fact, eloquently describes his early drag experience as “discovering a passion I didn’t know I had.”

Although Kim Chi — a name Shin chose for both its femininity and the dish’s importance as a staple in Korean cuisine — did not ultimately take his season’s crown, he acknowledges that the competition was a major turning point in his burgeoning career. As the first Korean-American contestant in the program’s history, Kim Chi quickly garnered fans from around the globe. The attention also created a stream of interesting — and welcome — work opportunities for the struggling entertainer.

“Right before going on *Drag Race*, I was spending so much money on my costumes that I was always broke,” Shin says. “There was one time I was trying to dig quarters from the bottom of my couch to find money to buy a McDougle to eat for dinner that night. So, from a financial aspect, it’s been helpful. Not only has it been helpful, but I’ve been able to help out my family and charities as well, which is amazing.”

Such triumph, however, also exacts a toll. Last year, Shin’s travel schedule grew so taxing that *any* down-time became a rare luxury. With countless appearances, he found himself in drag so frequently that the line dividing Shin from his Kim persona began to blur.

“That was a big deal last year,” Shin says. “I was working sometimes seven days a week in seven different cities, like nonstop. This year I decided I’ve got to be me, too, and not just Kim Chi. I’ve taken some time off. I’ve gotten Lasik surgery for myself so that I don’t have to worry about wearing glasses or wearing contacts. I’m in a much better place this year ... not that I was in a horrible place last year, but I’m eating better and finding time to work out.”

Just how much the rest has impacted his performance you’ll soon be able to judge for yourself. On Oct. 19, Shin will appear for a Dallas stop of the Werq the World Tour. The show is hosted by *Drag Race* judge (and RuPaul bestie) Michelle Visage

whom, according to Shin, many of the queens consider “a mother figure.” The cast also includes, among other former Drag Racers, Peppermint, Valentina and Dallasite Alyssa Edwards.

“This summer we toured Europe with [the show], but the American version is going to be bigger and better,” Shin promises. “We went from two backup dancers to four backup dancers. There are going to be more queens. A lot of people are doing completely new numbers. So if you’ve seen the number online or whatever, it’ll be something completely new. All the queens come out in a different country’s outfit. I’m obviously going to come out in a Korean outfit representing my country.”

His background even affected his drag name choice. When they came to the U.S., Shin’s parents gave him the “American” first name of Eric — a common tradition in Asian-immigrant families ... and not one he feels altogether comfortable with.

“I guess it’s kind of like whitewashing in a way, when you think about it,” Shin says. “It’s just for American people to pronounce your name correctly and easily. And my parents gave me the name Eric because, growing up, my favorite movie was *The Little Mermaid*. I would get really excited when Prince Eric would come on. How they didn’t know I was gay back then is still a mystery to me. So I went with Eric until I got into middle school, and my last name is Shin. So when you say Eric Shin really fast, it sounds like erection. I got made fun of a lot, so I just went back to my Korean name, Sang.”

Korean pride or not, drag ensembles are something Shin, who claims to “eat, breathe and live fashion,” takes quite seriously. He regards all fashion, especially looks from high-end conceptual designers, not as clothing but as “sculptural art.” Fashion, he says, is a main reason he got into drag.

“When I first started to do drag, in every

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Nice to meat you

First look: Open barely a week, we boot-scooted over to the new Design District BBQ joint Ferris Wheelers

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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When Dallas Voice moved into its current offices about three years ago, we were almost immediately met with a slew of new restaurants, all within walking distance, opening in succession; the trend has continued to do this date.

Joining already established go-tos like Meddlesome Moth to Mama's Daughter's Diner, the neighborhood quickly added El Bolero, Flying Fish, Pie+Tap, and one of the most recent, the so-hot-good-luck-getting-a-table Town Hearth.

Probably the first restaurant to start the latest trend, though, was Rodeo Goat, Shannon Wynne's upscale-but-down-home burger joint, which sits directly across the street from our building. In addition to helping ignite the growth in the Design District, its location was also a shot across the bow of the place next door, an old-school hamburger joint that had clearly seen better days. A comparison of the two seemed almost cruel; hardly more than a truck stop, that restaurant lacked invention, atmosphere, craft. I'm almost surprised it lasted as long as it did. (It certainly didn't benefit from any foot traffic from my office.)

Into that space has now appeared Ferris Wheelers, itself seeming to pick up the gauntlet thrown down by Rodeo Goat to be the avenue's prime location to enjoy for meats served in a sheet pan at campy hightops sitting on raw concrete floors. The main difference though — and where you can't really compare the two — is that Rodeo Goat is first and foremost a burger joint; Ferris Wheelers is definitely a barbecue pit. Yes, both have cows in common, but that's where the similarities end.

Well, not end, but diverge. Both wallow in an aesthetic of corrugated tin and unpolished metal accents, with kitschy signage and retro styling touches (for example, mismatched squirt bottles housed in reused six-pack cartons). Both have gravelly outdoor patios. Both pipe in redneck Muzak. But the menus, both basic and predictable for their segments, feed different appetites.

Foremost, Ferris Wheelers is a smoked meat Mecca (led by executive pitmaster Doug Pickering): Pulled pork, brisket, honey-brined turkey, plus a portman-teau platter that would send a caveman into a seizure. (Meats are also sold by the half-pound.) And it's conducive to a quick work lunch; at one lunch-rush visit, despite plenty of diners, I spent only 21 minutes between walking in to waddling out.

The mark of great barbecue is that sauce acts as a welcome accessory, not a necessary overcoat. Often, sauces are used like cudgels to mask defects and inconsistencies in the proteins themselves, providing an external source of moisture to dehydrated meat occasioned by a flawed smoking process. My favorite local barbecues — Pecan Lodge, Lockhart, 18th and Vine — are perfectly flavorful even when served naked as a newborn. And so far my experience at Ferris Wheelers is close to those.

The pulled pork sandwich (\$9) reveals its countryfied roots: It arrived already crowned by a scoop of coleslaw, the way Southerners like myself routinely serve it. (I'm sure you can ask for the slaw on the side, but why?) The pork is juicy, and the bun — a whole-wheat brioche — stood up unexpectedly to the sloppy-joe-style sandwich.

The daily special on one visit was burnt ends (\$12), which to an untrained BBQ patron could sound like cast-off of culinary mistakes; but the opposite is true. They can be prized tips that strike an ephemeral balance between smoky char and succulent pink flesh. That's what I was delivered, with just enough fat along the periphery to know I got a good cut. When my server fetched silverware for me that I had forgotten to pick up, he returned armed solely with a fork; as it turned out, no other utensil was required. If there had been a bone, this beef would've fallen off of it.

Even so, I sampled the selection of four sauces — two traditional red barbecue blends (sweet, runny, the color of oxblood), and two golds (mustard-based — more savory and usually more viscous variants). The house sauce, a mildly sweet red, certainly provides versatility for most meals. The hot version — basically the same, just with more spicy stuff — is more along my style, though only mildly hot anyway and safe for all but Yankees.

There's greater difference between the golds. The Carolina is a staple with South



Where to eat on your day off? Try the succulent BBQ at the brand-new Ferris Wheelers. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones)

Carolina barbecue, which notably emphasizes pork over beef. It's powerful and aromatic and a saffron-speckled color. The Texas variation basically combines the red sauce with the Carolina, negating some of the savoriness and turning it in less vibrant color. (Of course, you could make that yourself on the plate, mixing the way a child fingerprints, but you be you.) I probably liked the hot sauce best for the beef, the Carolina ideally more suited for pork.

The menu takes a peculiar, near-fatal turn, however with the preparation of some of the sides (all \$3), especially the fried okra. Okra goes with barbecue like a gay kid goes with a family of Christian ministers. But here's the thing about okra: While I'm a fan, it hovers in the bland realm. That is why it is all but impossible to over-salt the batter, Ferris Wheelers' kitchen must not have heard that. In texture, the breading is on point — rough and not overly dense, clinging tempura and fried to a hard crisp. But it might as well be wrapped in daydreams: There is no detectable salt, or pepper, or buttermilk, or anything else that might impart a whiff of personality. I could just as easily been loaded up with Novocain and chewing

on green bell peppers wrapped in rubberbands. The mac-n-cheese also arrived undersalted, though that could be remedied with a dash from the table shaker (salt clings to the moist cheese easier than to the hermetic pods of okra).

The vibe skews good-ol'-boy, though in Texas, that could describe half the gay bars. The "backyard" — a patio that includes a small, working Ferris wheel, stage for live music and more license plates and street signs than a cattle fence in East Texas — opens at 4 p.m., and making it a good happy-hour spot to straight-people-watch. Sure, it's a heteronormative honkytonk at heart, but it also has a sign declaring "Put our meat in your mouth." Backyard or bathhouse, men are men. Bring on the meat!

Ferris Wheelers Backyard and BBQ, 1950 Market Center Blvd. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. (indoors), 4 p.m.–late (backyard). 214-741-4141. Ferris-Wheelers.com.



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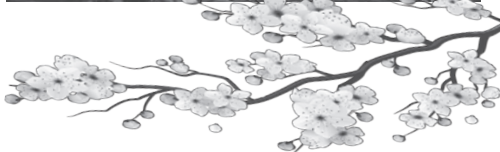
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L+S stage

What's happening now



The circus-like atmosphere of 'Hair' manages to be joyous but never condescending.
(Photo by Karen Almond)

DTC's 'Hair' threads the heroin
needle in an immersive,
dazzling production

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

When the original production of *Hair* debuted on Broadway nearly 50 years ago, the actors populating the cast weren't faking the counterculture — they were living it. The show was as contemporary as a book-musical can be: The Summer of Love wasn't

even a year past, and the librettists/stars were practicing what they preached: Anti-war sentiment, sexual freedom, recreational drug use and defying the conventions of their squarents. They might as well have been singing the headlines of the New York Times. It was iconic.

By the time the film version opened in 1979, the Vietnam War was over (and had been lost), and hippies had given way to Reagan Republicans. It was an anachronism, a period piece.

The music might endure, but the message seemed naïve, retro.

And on each subsequent version, my

HAIR

Wyly Theatre,
2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 22.
DallasTheaterCenter.org

concern has been the same: If the folks making the musical think of the revolution of the 1960s with the same remote quaintness as the Old West or the Jazz Age, you get *Annie* with beads and headbands. The temptation to commoditize counterculture, to diminish the passion of the protest ("Keep Calm And Smoke Weed") lurks in every revival.

And for a few moments in the DTC's production, that feeling began to seep in. You enter the Wyly Theatre space and it has been transformed. The uncomfortable green torture devices known as their standard seats have been replaced by couches and recliners. The balconies are now tiered performance spaces. In the center, a whole in the stage houses a band all dressed in dashikis and bell-bottoms while the actors roam for a pre-overture "Happening," getting audiences members to tune in, turn on and drop out. Will this become a circus, where the clowns are besandaled junkies ... or worse, *faux*-junkies?

Not. At. All.

It doesn't take long for you to groove to the vibe, man. Yes, there *is* a circus atmosphere, but it's not a side-show, instead in service to the fun and humanity (and in contrast to the serious turn the story takes at the end). Director Kevin Moriarty, who seems psychopathic in his desire to "reinvent" theater with each production — sometimes successfully (*Electra*), sometimes disastrously (*Inherit the Wind*) — has threaded the heroin needle. This *Hair* never condescends but flows like the tresses on a Breck Girl. It's exciting, energetic, dazzling. More than with almost any show Moriarty has directed, he achieves that most elusive goal of modern theater: To form a real community, if just for a few hours.

There's not much of a plot here. In many ways, *Hair* prefigured *The Rocky Horror Show* while looking back to vaudeville — it's like the stage-musical manifestation of the *Sgt. Pepper's* album, from the hodge-podge costumes to the rangy song choices. Loosely, best friends Berger (Chris Peluso) and Claude (Jaime Cepero) live a free-wheeling existence in NYC's West Village, getting stoned, sleeping around, trying on new personalities (Claude affects a British accent, though he's a middle-class kid from Queens). They plan to burn their draft cards and show their contempt for the Establishment, but Claude's inherent bourgeois upbringing stands in the way of truly breaking free from society, with predictable consequences.

The cast of two dozen (including the

band, who are part of the action) are more like athletes through the space, which is pretty apparent during the famous nude scene that ends Act 1. Sometimes, it's played like *The Full Monty* — a coy "moment" of freedom. Here, it's slow striptease of sorts, not erotic so much as sensual and freeing. It really captures the essence the era, even for those of us who did not live (and die) through it.

ADDING MACHINE

Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St.
Through Oct 22.
Theatre3Dallas.com.

Over at Theatre 3, a very different musical deals similarly with matters of humanity. *Adding Machine: A Musical* is a recent adaptation of Elmer Rice's prescient 1923 play, in which a lowly office worker (Thomas Ward) with 25 years at his company finds himself replaced by a dull piece of technology, and exacts his frustration on his boss. Rice was writing during an era when the industrial revolution had led to renewed interest in the role of mankind in the world; the Russian Revolution just a few years earlier was a "workers' rebellion," and one's soul was largely tied up in a man's (and perhaps a woman's) ability to participate meaningfully in society. (The theme would be revisited in the 1950s in works like *Death of a Salesman* and *The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit*.)

Adding Machine strikes me as of a piece with two other works of its era: Maurine Dallas Watkins' 1926 *Chicago* and Joseph Moncure March's 1928 poem *The Wild Party*, both of which were made into musicals: They all prefigure the "Well, it was good while it lasted" malaise of modernity, and the psychological costs of living in it. (You could add *The Great Gatsby*, *An American Tragedy* and the film *The Crowd* to that list, and others as you see fit.) And the production of this 2008 musical, staged with intelligence and an appreciation for its structure as a virtual chamber opera by director Blake Hackler, fearlessly delves into the psychology with a number of daring details. For once, the "hero," Mr. Zero, is hardly heroic, but a selfish bigot; his wife is a shrew; his boss heartless; his cellmate a sociopath. In short, there are not many likable characters here.

But that seems as it should be. Though set nearly a century ago and written a decade ago, something about it taps into the Angry White Man ethos of the Trump Era. You might not sympathize, or even empathize, but you begin to understand. The music, largely discordant and modernist, is nonetheless evocative, and while the script veers wildly into fantasy, spirituality and satire, it never loses its thrust. It's certainly one of the most unusual musicals of its kind, but undeniably provocative. ■

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A Dick movie

Murky but compelling, 'Blade Runner 2049' poses more questions than it answers, but does so in high style

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The most recent time I saw the original film *Blade Runner* was a few years ago on cable, but I wonder if anyone can honestly say they have seen the original film ... or have any meaning to that phrase. *Blade Runner* was a notorious flop when it first hit theaters in June 1982, plagued by production problems and a then-huge budget that was not recouped theatrically. It received two minor Oscar nominations, but lost both (visual effects to *E.T.* and production design to *Gandhi*, both of which seem laughable choices today). But despite its ambivalent box office, the movie lived on in the minds of fans and filmmakers alike. It developed a loyal cult following on the then-still-newish home video market. It was taken away from director Ridley Scott, gained a voice-over, was reedited, rereleased, and got at least two "director's cuts" over 25 years.

It also set a style for sci-fi that endures to this day: The wet, dark, neon cityscapes; the industrial but shabby futurism; the bleak wastelands of the country; and a tone that exudes sadness. But it also looked backward for inspiration.

The much-despised voiceover narration conjured the hard-boiled detective novels of Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett; the loner title character, Deckard, played by Harrison Ford, might have been foisted on Humphrey Bogart in the '50s: He's a cop-slash-bounty hunter, or "blade runner," tasked with tracking down and killing rogue "replicants" — artificial lifeforms who resemble humans in every way ... except they are aren't human, are super-strong and are in rebellion against their meat masters. It's film noir with anti-gravity vehicles and sexy androids.

It was not in need of a remake. But a sequel ...?

Which is, of course, what we have in *Blade Runner 2049*, set 30 years after the original (which was set in June 2019, or roughly 20 months from today). A new version of replicants has been designed that *don't* rebel, but a few of the older models still need to be hunted. I'm not sure why that's a priority in the film, and I seriously doubt the filmmakers know, either — ageing android anarchists who are no longer organized and living quiet lives are like cold case files, or feeble Nazis living in South America: We'll arrest them if we need to, but nobody should be losing sleep over it. So how does Officer K (Ryan Gosling), himself a new-model replicant (you learn that in the first 10 minutes — don't throw a fit) keep busy sniffing out old robots for decommissioning? (He doesn't really *seem* to, but that might be

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Like the original, *2049* is a somber but not overly-reflective rumination on the nature of identity. It's based on Philip K. Dick's novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, a title which itself sets up its moral dilemma. Think of it like a new take on veganism: What creatures have souls — androids, even those with bones? How about holograms and VR programs? Clones?

Frankly, these are issues that have been raised in other productions like HBO's *Westworld* reboot and Spike Jones' *Her*, the recent *Marjorie Prime* and even *The 6th Day*, with varying degrees of success. And *2049* director Denis Villeneuve has already established himself as thoughtful on the issue of what and who we are in last year's *Arrival*. But this film is more action than essay... or at least, it tries to be. Clocking in at two hours and 43 minutes, it's a bit of a slog at times, considering how little actually happens. And when you add that the screenplay is not exactly a model of clarity, you can imagine they could have trimmed an easy half-hour if they'd had a mind to.

And yet, despite being a bit too in love with its own technology, I didn't hate it. In fact, it was perpetually compelling. There's not much by way of mystery, but there are blind alleys, and red herrings, and mood-setting moments that create a woozy meta-reality. I was reminded at times of flawed-but-engaging sci-fi films like *Children of Men* as well as *Her*, but also

The Big Sleep and *The Maltese Falcon*. It's not boring, though it should be.

A major problem is the diffuse and jumpy screenplay (co-written by the original's co-writer, Hampton Fancher), which introduces, and then largely abandons, several characters, including Jared Leto as the Evil Corporate Overlord *a la* Guy Pearce in *Prometheus*, a "dream creator," Dave Bautista as a replicant on the run, a hoard of outlanders, and even Harrison Ford himself, who doesn't appear other than as a voice until two-thirds into the film. That lays a lot on the square-jawed-but-implacable face of Gosling, a pretty boy who has always had the chops for Method character parts (like Leto himself). Even replicants aren't entirely machines — they cry and bleed and respond to memories, even if implanted. Gosling plays it cooler than he needs to, registering little. But he also grounds the humanity (ironically) amid all the eye-popping visuals, especially as relate to a major holographic character. It's like a sizzle-reel for the Oscar votes, spread out across a late evening.

Is *Blade Runner 2049* the movie sequel we've all been waiting for? Heck, it's not even the sequel-to-a Harrison-Ford-sci-fi-classic we have most wanted (we got that with *The Force Awakens*). But not for nothing, it could be considered a step forward from the original. And hey, at least there's no voiceover.

Now playing in wide release.

■ KIM CHI From Page 21

look I came up with, the makeup was inspired by a specific runway collection," Shin says. "My outfits [also were] inspired by a specific runway collection. I thought of myself as a drag queen version of a model in a show who just walked off the runway and went to a club afterwards."

If he hadn't found success in entertainment, Shin — who attended school to study graphic design — feels he would likely have worked instead as an artist. He fears, however, that this choice might have left him dissatisfied.

"Graphic design is an amazing profession, but it wasn't for me," Shin says. "Instead of making your own art work, you are making someone else's vision come true. A lot of the time, your clients don't have the same artistic background you do. Even though you make something artistic and amazing, the final product you end up with is a boring simple thing. I don't think I would have liked that in the long run."

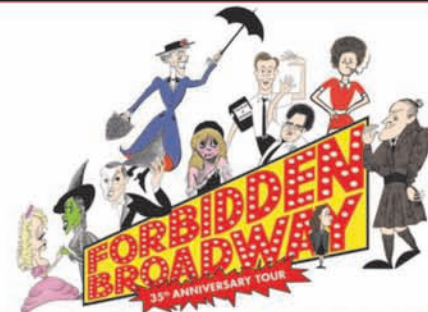
Deciding what advice he might give his younger self, however, is for Shin a much easier decision. His words of wisdom echo a humorous recurring theme during his *Drag Race* appearance: The fact that Kim



Chi has two left feet.

"Take some dance lessons," he says. "That's all."

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Evoque-ative



Range Rover rips the roof off the SUV

CASEY WILLIAMS } Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

As the sweltering summer heat diminishes (in theory, at least), North Texans are going to have cooler days with clear blue skies and gentle breezes. You may be looking at your SUV thinking, "I sure wish I had a convertible instead of this hulking beast." Apparently, the designers at Range Rover had the same thought, because they took the compact Evoque crossover and ripped off its top.

As goofy as I first thought the idea seemed, especially after seeing competitors' horror shows, the Evoque Convertible looks pretty hot. It certainly received its share of catcalls and break-neck second glances as it rolled by. There's a bit of VW Cabrio in its profile, but clean lines over 20-in. alloys and with a rear spoiler add snazz. A swept version of Range Rover's traditional front, black accents, wrap-around taillamps and elevated ride height convey upscale capability.

■ **EVOQUE** Page 30

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Community leaders, because they are leaders, have an obligation
to take a public stand against hate and violence
– whenever, wherever, and to whomever they occur.

We commend the City of Arlington for expressing appropriate
thoughts and condolences to the victims and families of the
Las Vegas shooting. We share those sentiments for each victim
and each life they touched.

We only wish that the same respect had been shown following the
Pulse Nightclub massacre – at the time the deadliest mass shooting
in our nation’s history. Unlike those in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston,
Austin, San Antonio, and El Paso, the Arlington leadership was
silent when the victims of horrific violence were members of the
LGBT community.

Why, you might ask, were the victims of the Pulse Nightclub
tragedy and their families less worthy of sympathy
or concern?

We encourage you to direct that question to the
City of Arlington leadership:

Jeff Williams, Mayor 817-459-6121
Trey Yelverton, City Manager 817-459-6100

DeeJay Johannessen
Executive Director



There are more expensive convertibles, but none that *feel* more expensive outside of a Bentley showroom. The interior feels more like it came from a small Range Rover than expensive entry-level crossover. Soft Oxford leather seats are heated, as is the leather-wrapped steering wheel. Stitched dash materials are soft and feel authentic. The sweeping center console echoes the larger Range Rovers and contains the touchscreen for audio/navigation, dual-zone automatic climate control and buttons for the configurable powertrain. Bluetooth, blind spot detection, and rear cross path detection add convenience. Right in the console is my favorite button: The one that puts the top and windows down with one press.

Moving out makes out with a 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine that delivers 240 horsepower and 250 lb.-ft. of torque ... all sent to the wheels through a 9-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters. Land Rover claims the drop top will scoot from 0–60 mph in 7.8 seconds on the way to a 112 mph top speed. The throttle is a bit twitchy, and the turbo takes time to spool, but those numbers seem real. Fuel economy is rated 20/28-MPG city/hwy., which is not bad for an all-wheel drive SUV.



And being a Range Rover, that all-wheel-drive system is pretty sophisticated. The Terrain Response System can optimize it and the rest of the powertrain for General driving, Snow, Mud and Sand. Torque vectoring allows it to sachet through corners. Hill Descent Control and Hill Start Control help on trails. You're never going to take the Evoque Convertible

deep into challenging trails, but it can tackle more than your average beach buggy.

Almost all Range Rover Evoque Convertibles will spend their lives in California and Florida, carting rich housewives and affluent gay men to the spa, dinner and the beach. But it is also a great vehicle for tackling long winters in other parts of the country. It's the ideal

EVOQUE CONVERTIBLE

Range Rover. 240 horsepower, 2.0 liter Turbo-4. 20/28-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$58,270.

vehicle in which you and three of your tribe can enjoy perfect sunny days. Press one button, flip your lid and enjoy.

While the Evoque starts at \$42,000, convertible versions rise from \$52,000 and reached \$58,270 as driven. Competitors include the Mercedes-Benz E-Class Cabrio, Jeep Wrangler, BMW 4-Series Convertible Audi A5 and Volkswagen Beetle Convertible.



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Friday 10.06 —
Sunday 10.08

**Dallas Black Pride Weekend continues
gay celebration**

Pride didn't end last month on Cedar Springs. In fact, Pride means a lot to many folks year round, and North Texas' African-America community celebrates its own way with Dallas Black Pride Weekend, this year subtitled "Black by Popular Demand." Tons of events, parties, music and fun are planned so visit the website for a full list of ways to turn it up this weekend. Presented by Dallas Southern Pride.

DEETS: For full lineup of events, visit DallasSouthernPride.com.



Friday 10.06 —
Monday 10.31

Freak out for Halloween

It's October, which means Halloween, which means queens plotting their sexy, scary, campy and outrageous costumes for the street parade later this month. But it also means you can get yourself psyched up with a visit to a haunted house. North Texas has two good ones: Screams in Waxahachie, and gay-owned Dark Hour Haunted House in Plano. Either one should chill you to your bones.

DEETS: Screams, RenFest fairgrounds, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. ScreamsPark.com. Dark Hour Haunted House, 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. DarkHourHauntedHouse.com.

Friday 10.06 — Saturday 10.07

DanceAfrica returns with multicultural celebration

Celebrating peace, love and respect for everybody, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre presents its annual DanceAfrica, a colorful celebration of African multiculturalism. Saturday is a day-long, family-friendly and free outdoor event, but both Friday at Saturday at Moody Performance Hall, the Bandan Koro African Drum and Dance Ensemble pulls out all the stops.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Annette Strauss Square, 2403 Flora St. Saturday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. (free). ATTPAC.org.





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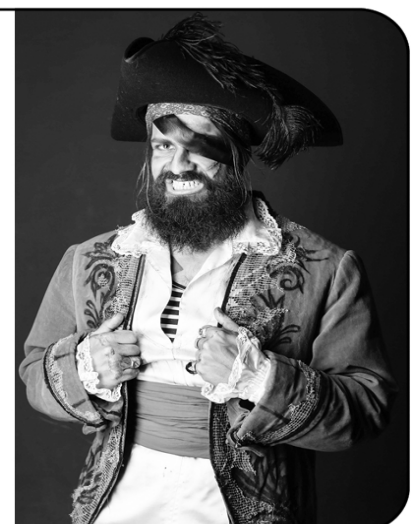
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Adding Machine: The Musical. A darkly comic musical adaptation of Elmer Rice's incendiary 1923 play about the effects of automation on the modern American male psyche. Directed by Blake Hackler. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Oct. 22. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Bat Boy: The Musical. Campy take on the notorious "fake news" tabloid story. Presented by Outcry Theatre. Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Oct. 6–15. OutcryTheatre.com.

Hair. The hippie musical. *Reviewed this week.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 22. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Occupant. WingSpan Theatre opens its 20th anniversary season with a late play by multiple Pulitzer Prize-winner Edward Albee. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Oct. 21. WingSpanTheatre.com.

PRIDE

2017 Dallas Black Pride Weekend. North Texas' major black gay Pride celebration. Presented by Dallas Southern Pride. Through Sunday. For details, visit DallasSouthernPride.com.

'Bat Boy' tells the tale of the tabloid topic with a catchy score. Presented by Outcry Theatre at Addison's Studio Theatre. (Photo by Jason Johnson-Spinos)



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FINE ART
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. CrowCollection.org.

Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony. The Nasher presents this exhibition of Sachs' reworking of Japanese traditional tea service. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through Jan. 7. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

Yayoi Kusama: All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins. The DMA features the only Infinity Mirror Room of its kind in a North American collection, this tribute to the gourd by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Oct. 1–Feb. 25. DMA.org.

EXHIBITIONS
Pumpkin Patch Village. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Through Nov. 22. DallasArboretum.org.

State Fair of Texas. 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. Through Oct. 22. BigTex.org.

HALLOWEEN
Screams. Annual Halloween-themed park on the Scarborough Faire grounds, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. Through Oct. 28. ScreamsPark.com.

Dark Hour Haunted House. Primetime for the best scary-creepy mansion tour in North Texas. 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. Weekends and Halloween through Oct. 31. DarkHourHauntedHouse.com

FRIDAY 10.06
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

Burgers and Burgundy. Chef John Tesar's annual DIFFA fundraiser, this time relocated downtown, featuring top chefs making sliders of all kinds. The Eye at The Joule, 1530 Main St. 6:30–9:30 p.m. \$150. DiffaDallas.org.

CONCERTS
Cake. The hip alt musicians perform. South Side Ballroom, 1135 S. Lamar St. LiveNation.com.

SUNDAY 10.08
COMMUNITY
Drag Brunch at Hard Rock Cafe. Two shows this month — daytime and evening — with the evening 21-up... both themed around Rocky Horror. 2211 N. Houston St. \$5 cover. Daytime at 12:30 p.m.; call for evening. 469-341-7625.

MONDAY 10.09
CABARET
Mama's Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

TUESDAY 10.10
FILM
The Omen. Along with The Exorcist, perhaps the scariest paranormal films of its era. 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 10.12
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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Girls on girls

Jenny Block wonders why we all can't get along more

I wasn't expecting any sort of profundity last weekend. I was asked to be a guest performer at the second Plezzure Island, an LGBT women-centered resort takeover. The only one in Texas, in fact. But I had no expectations.

The event is produced by the Wolf Pack, an amazing group of women who create and enhance events like dance parties and takeovers and Prides to give LGBTQ women a place to gather. At a time when so many cities are without a true gay-girl bar, it's a welcome gap filler.

I had been asked to write a funny, sexy skit that I was to perform with musician Elle G, burlesque dancer Nikki DaVaughn and former *Real L Word* lesbian Sada Bettencourt, which I did. The skit was funny. People laughed and the Sleepover dance party ensued. Just as planned.

Everything went as planned, actually. The sun shown on us for four days straight on South Padre Island at the Isla Grand Resort, despite forecasts of rain throughout the weekend. In fact, it was pouring down in torrents on Thursday morning when I flew in to Harlingen. But by the time we reached the island, it was all sunshine and unicorns.

The DJs — Citizen Jane, Snow White, GIIQ, Mo and DJ2AM — were great. Lady Cultura sang and danced and rapped at the Glow Party, all around mesmerizing the crowd. Girls were literally swooning, and there wasn't a dry... well you know, in the house.

There was speed-dating and pool games and more floaties in the pool — from unicorns to peacocks to rainbows to poop emojis — than you can imagine. It was like big girl summer camp heaven. With alcohol.



It was great. It was fun and rowdy and super sexy at times too, including during an impromptu "fake an orgasm" contest that I couldn't help but instigate. It was everything one could hope for at an event like that.

In fact, it was much more.

The event drew women from all over geographically, but more than that, it drew women from across every demographic. Women in their 20s and in their 60s. Women of every fabulous shade and color. Women with cheeky bobs and floaty locks and boi-ish close-cuts. There were high femmes and classic studs

and andro lookers and boi babes. There were transgender women among the ranks as well as those who identify as polyamorous or bi ... or whatever they choose, for that matter.

But it wasn't even just that it seemed as if we represented, if not all, than at least so many of the different shapes and colors and sizes and varieties that LGBTQ women come in. It was that those things were merely individual characteristics. They were in no way divides. There were no cliques of color, no closed circles of femmes or roped-off ranks of butches. There weren't young eschewing the old. There were just all of these ...

humans, with no time or need for division and nothing but space and openness for diversity.

Pardon me for sounding so "free to be you and me," so "I love you, you love me", so "I'm OK, you're OK." But I wouldn't say it if it wasn't so blindingly, awesomely true. And for that vision, for that hope, for that sense of peace and possibility, I am, and will remain forever grateful.

The Wolfpack should run the world. They did what so many of our "leaders" today only cannot, but more frighteningly will not, do: They led by example and left their egos at the door. They looked at their community and asked, "How can we serve you?" And then delivered without hesitation. They asked themselves, "What would the world

look like if it were by my design, if kindness were queen and play was valued, and if being generous of heart were valued above all else?"

And what looks to be a weekend long Party was born. But a promise was also formed. The Wolf Pack proved that it can be done. We can all get along. We can be totally different and still find what is the same and treasure both of those things all in the same moment. They promised that if what we want is a community, it can be delivered, and they will be the ones to deliver it.

So, yes, Plezzure Island was a lot of fun — so much, I required a daily recovery routine. I danced past when my stilettos cried uncle. I drank past when my mama would have advised. And I soaked in the pool past the hours that the sun could reach us. I also teared up watching 20something girls kiss and hold hands and giggle in the pool without fear or shame. I also felt proud seeing some of the Hurricane Harvey heroes — like Pearl bar owner Julie Mabry, who arrived a day late having spent so many countless hours fundraising and volunteering after Harvey. And I also felt unified seeing people see one another instead of the colors and religions and genders and the like that the rest of our country is so sadly and confusedly obsessed with.

It was a silly and sappy and moving weekend. It was a romantic escape for my fiancée and me. And it was a weekend of connection under no guise. It just was. We just were. It was simple. Makes a girl wonder why so many people instead make it so hard.

I am grateful to everyone who was at Plezzure Island 2017. Peace is possible. I know. It's not really as simple as planning a bunch of pool games and dance parties. Except, maybe in a way, when you pull the curtain back and the little man at the controls is revealed — it is.

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



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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LIFE+STYLE

scene



Friends out on The Strip

Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 6–12:

- **Alexandre's:** **Girls Night Out** with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Jason Dottley** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K Marie** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday.
 - **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Geeks Who Drink Trivia Contest** on Tuesday.
 - **Club Reflection:** **Monarchs' Birthday Show** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Cowtown Leathermen Cookout** at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Mr. and Miss TGRA Cowtown Pageant** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **Dallas Eagle:** **Jeffrey 4 Texas Pre-Rally Celebration** from 7-10 p.m. on Friday.
 - **Dallas Bears Club Night** at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
 - **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
 - **Marty's Live:** **Denim & Diamonds** with **Rudeboy** and **Nicole O'hara Munro** on Friday.
 - **Randi's Alternate Route 2 to 2:** **Drag Tuesdays** hosted by **Bianca Davenport Starr** from 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
 - **Round-Up Saloon:** **Sassy O'hara** hosts **Boys, Boots & Briefs** with cash prizes to the winner and first runner-up at 10 p.m. on Monday.
 - **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Athena O'hara** hosts **Lip Sync in a Bag** at midnight on Wednesday. \$100 prize.
 - **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Prism Health show** at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Green Bay Packers at Dallas Cowboys** at 3:25 p.m. on Sunday.
- Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**



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Cuddled up at JR.'s Bar & Grill



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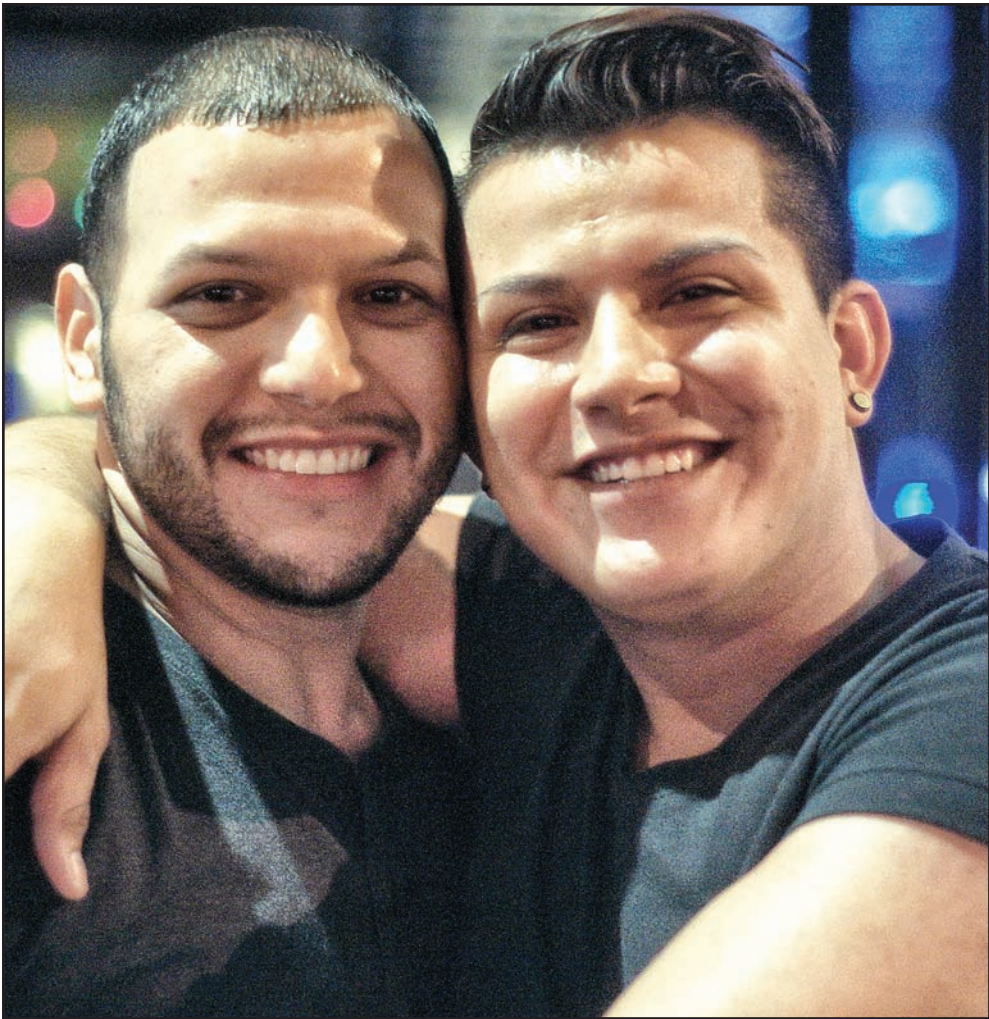


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Guillermo and Nelson at JR.'s Bar & Grill



All smiles out on The Strip



Ginda at Sue Ellen's

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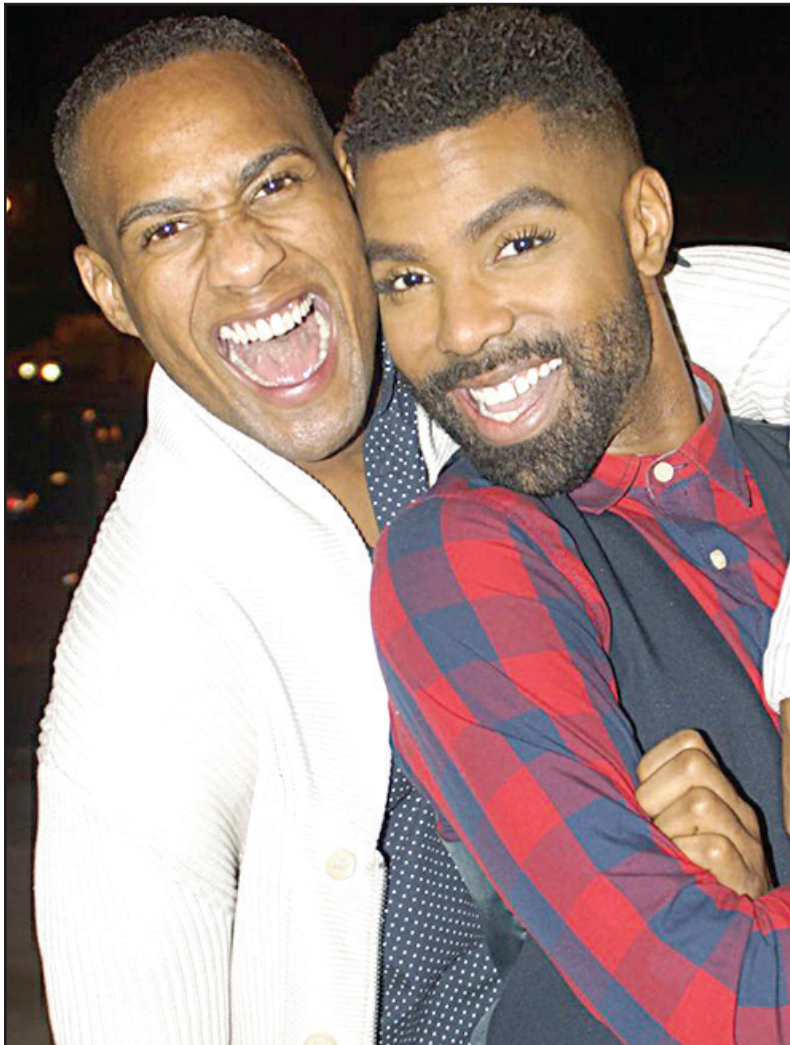
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All smiles at The Round-Up Saloon



Guys' night out on The Strip



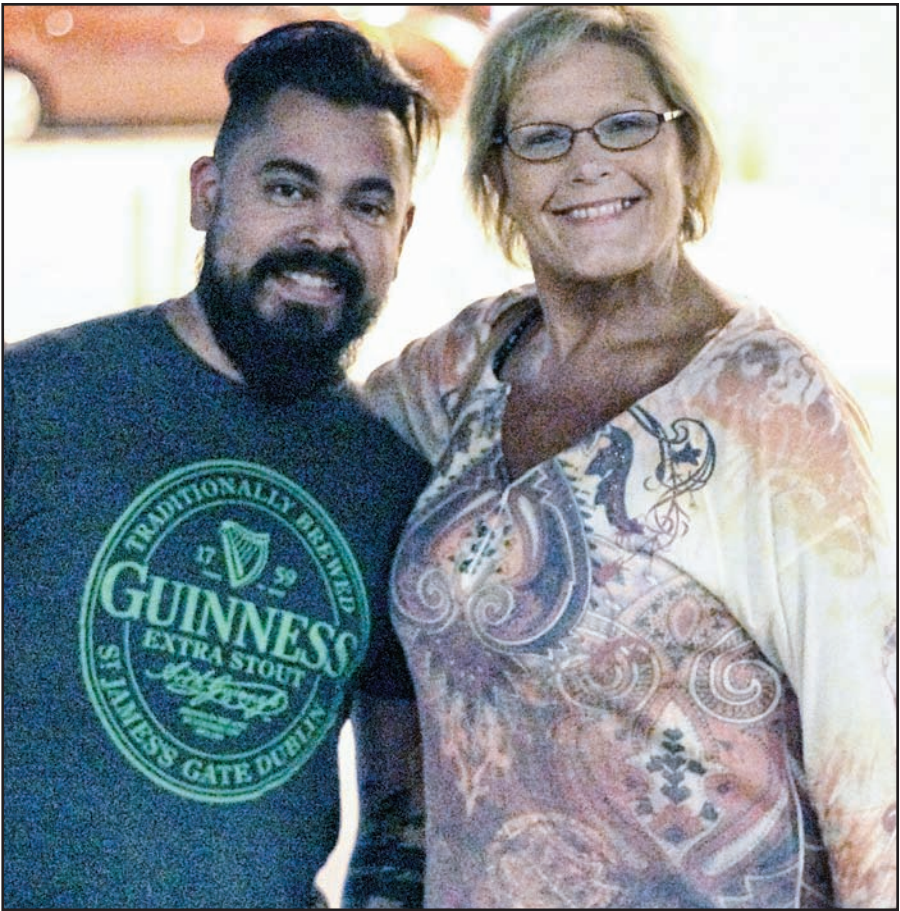
Out on the town with Madonis



Friends ready for fun on The Strip



Selfie time at Woody's



John and Linda on The Strip



Checking out The Gayborhood



Bella and Mindy at Sue Ellen's

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Solution on Page 33

Across

- 1 Come quickly
- 5 *Mamma Mia!* band
- 9 With mouth wide open
- 13 Nevada neighbor
- 14 Get dirty
- 15 Cold-cock
- 16 *Bastard out of Carolina* author
- 19 Oz city shades
- 20 Prudential alternative
- 21 Bridal bio word
- 22 Boot attachment for Jack Twist
- 23 Bottomless
- 26 Boat for Gomer?
- 29 The number of people who like it hot
- 32 Halliwell's partner
- 34 Neeson of *Kinsey*
- 36 Neighbor of Kan.
- 37 *Love, Zena Beth* author
- 40 Frat boys tap it
- 41 There is nothing like one in *South Pacific*
- 42 Item from Ted Casablanca
- 43 Mapa of *Switched at Birth*
- 45 MGM cofounder
- 47 Decent chap
- 48 Ellen, for one

- 50 Sixth word of Abe's address

- 52 Words of compassion
- 54 Like the number of an LGBT hotline
- 59 *Ferocious Romance: What My Encounters With the Right Taught Me About Sex, God, and Fury* author
- 61 Locale of valuable stones
- 62 *The African Queen* author
- 63 On ___ with
- 64 Poet Gidlow
- 65 Hairy Wall Street pessimist?
- 66 Pro follower

Down

- 1 Aerosmith's "___ (Looks Like a Lady)"
- 2 *Exotica* director Egoian
- 3 Internally pink
- 4 *Our Town* writer Wilder
- 5 Judd of *Frida*
- 6 *Gay Priest* author Malcolm
- 7 Antigay prejudice, e.g.
- 8 "I Could Have Danced ___ Night"
- 9 Foucault's farewells
- 10 Ted Allen, for example

- 11 8 *Women* director Francois
- 12 Rowlands of *An Early Frost*
- 17 ___ kwon do
- 18 Race unit
- 22 Navratilova, for one
- 23 Drink of Nureyev's land
- 24 Plath poetry collection
- 25 Some Broadway employees
- 27 You must remember this
- 28 ___ Coyote
- 30 *Chicago* producer Neil
- 31 *Your Movie Sucks* author Roger
- 33 Composer Rorem
- 35 Mardi Gras mo., often
- 38 Highsmith title condiment
- 39 Contest for sweaty guys
- 44 Eye bank donation
- 46 Karen of *Will & Grace*
- 49 Cruising locale
- 51 Shine, in ad-speak
- 52 *Spamalot* writer Eric
- 53 Unresponsive to a come-on
- 54 Buster Brown's bulldog
- 55 Top draft level
- 56 Talk show cohost Kelly
- 57 Coup target, to Cocteau
- 58 Pound of verse
- 60 Queen in *Romeo and Juliet*

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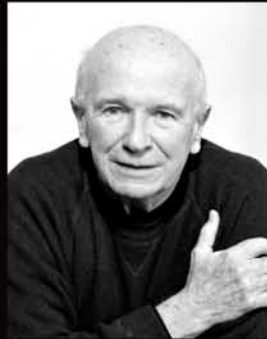
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