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‘Together’
2017 Black Tie Dinner

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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.



I'm active, not unaware.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.


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.

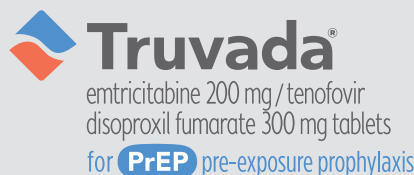
- ◆ **TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.**
- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**

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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(tru-VAH-dah)

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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Version date: April 2017

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The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number CA-NAV-15-001 from the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies. 8/17



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Childress man convicted in murder of trans woman sentenced to 20 years

JonCasey Rowell, 30, convicted earlier this week of murdering Austin trans woman Monica Loera in January 2016, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison. Prosecutors had asked for 45.

Jurors in Travis County on Monday, Nov. 6, convicted Rowell of murdering Loera, rejecting Rowell's claim that he killed Loera in self defense.

According to testimony during the trial, Rowell — who lived in Childress with his wife and, at that time, 10-day-old child — was working in the Travis County area when he contacted Loera online and arranged to pay her for sex. He went to her home then left to get condoms. When he realized he had left his vest, wallet and keys inside her house, he went back to the door and she gave him those items. He left again, but went back to Loera's door again because he thought his wallet was not included in the items she had given him. As it turned out, though, his wallet was in fact in the pocket of his vest.

Rowell claimed that Loera had shouted through the door that she had a baseball bat, so when she opened the door, he shot her — in the neck — in self defense because he thought she had robbed him. Jurors, however, agreed with the prosecutor, Travis County Assistant District Attorney Mark Pryor, who said that the facts of the case and "common sense" showed Rowell's claim to be "preposterous."

Pryor said, in his closing arguments, that Rowell

shot Loera to cover up the "dirty little secret" that he was paying for sex — from \$100 to \$400 per encounter — from his family and his church in Childress. He pointed out to jurors that by the next day, Rowell was using his phone to look online for information on how many people are able to get away with murder, and by three days later, he was back in the Austin area and again looking online for women in the area that he could pay for sex.

— Tammie Nash

Man denied marriage license may challenge Kim Davis

David Ermold, an English professor at Pikeville University, said he may challenge Rowan County, Kentucky Clerk Kim Davis next year. Ermold was one of the people denied a marriage license by Davis in 2015.

Davis announced she will seek re-election as county clerk in 2018. One reason Ermold believes he will win is the \$220,000 on judgments against Davis as a result of her refusing to do her job. That money will be paid by county taxpayers.

Davis won her race to be county clerk as a Democrat in this Democratic-leaning Kentucky county. After the *Obergefell* marriage equality decision, she refused to issue marriage licenses and was jailed for five days for contempt of court until a compromise was reached. After that, she removed her name from marriage licenses issued by the county and had someone else in her office issue them to same-sex couples. She also switched parties.

Davis has been involved in a number of publicity stunts since her days in court for refusing to do her job. She managed to be among a group greeting the Pope. That incident led to the resignation of the Vatican's U.S. envoy that arranged the meeting.

— David Taffet



Sheriff Lupe Valdez

Lupe Valdez exploring run for governor

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez has told The Texas Tribune she's exploring a run for governor.

"I've been approached and I'm listening," she said Monday, Nov. 6, in an interview with the online Texas political newspaper.

Valdez has another 35 days until the filing deadline for next year's November race.

Valdez would be the second Dallas candidate for governor from the LGBT community. Jeffrey Payne announced his candidacy in October and has been crisscrossing the state since then.

The filing period runs from Nov. 11 through Dec. 11.

— David Taffet

Resource Center expands PrEP program

Resource Center is expanding its PrEP program at the Nelson Tebedo Clinic beginning Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday hours are in addition to the program's Tuesday and Thursday hours.

When combined with other prevention methods such as condoms, PrEP can be a powerful prevention against contracting HIV and consists of taking Truvada, a once-daily pill also used as part of a medication for controlling HIV.

Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell said he'd encourage anyone who isn't sure if PrEP is right for them to make an appointment.

"We'll go through the risk factors," he said. "This might be right for you. This might not be right for you."

Most insurance covers the cost of PrEP.

"But Gilead has a generous assistance program," McDonnell said. "You may qualify for additional assistance and if you're low income, you may get it covered at no cost."

Once on PrEP, you'd come back to Nelson Tebedo about every three months for blood work to check liver function.

"There are concerns in some people," McDonnell said, but the vast majority of people do fine.

Since launching the program last spring, about 150 people are getting PrEP through Resource Center.

Call 214-540-4477 for appointments and fees.

— David Taffet

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- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
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- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

**For Copay Savings Card and
Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com**

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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.

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.

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

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guests are community activist **Erin Moore** and **Suzanne Taffet Romano** of New York; **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 pegassussquares@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.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Lee Helen Johnson Willis, younger sister of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, passed away this week. Visitation was on Nov. 8 at Golden Gate Funeral Home in Dallas. The wake was held that evening. The graveside burial service took place in Waco on Nov. 9 at Oakwood Cemetery, 2124 South Fifth St., Waco.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her memory to the Baylor College of Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund c/o University Development, One Bear Place #97050, Waco, TX 76798-7050. Congresswoman Johnson and her family thank everyone for their kindness and warm-wishes.



Painter Matthew Mayes of Birmingham is one of the 100 artists — representing a diverse array of styles and media — participating in the first Turtle Creek Arts Festival on Saturday. See listings for details.

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.

NOVEMBER

- **Nov. 10: Jubilee Theatre fundraiser** Al Green and Demille Cole-Heard perform in a benefit for Jubilee Theatre at 8 p.m. at W.E. Scott Theatre, 3505 W Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth. \$75. JubileeTheatre.org.
- **Nov. 10: DFW Pride Happy Hour** Pride Happy Hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. followed by a showing of the classic film *The Women* at 7:30 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W Jefferson Blvd.
- **Nov. 11: Black Tie Dinner**
- **Nov. 11: Gay4Good** Service organization G4G volunteers at the North Texas Food Bank Eden's Organic Garden from 10:45 a.m.-2 p.m. at 4710 Pioneer Road, Balch Springs. Sign up under events at GayForGood.org.
- **Nov. 11-12: Turtle Creek Arts Festival** The Turtle Creek Arts Festival debuts

Saturday and Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave., from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free and open to all, and dogs are welcome. For information visit TurtleCreekArtsFestival.com.

- **Nov. 13: Thank you for helping make history in Texas** Human Rights Campaign reception from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.
- **Nov. 14: Aging Transgender** Bridge Building Network presents Aging Transgender with guest speaker Finnigan Jones from 6-8:30 p.m. at Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. RSVP for dinner and event at EduCareDallas@gmail.com.
- **Nov. 14: LGBT Grief Support Group** Support group for people who have lost a same-sex spouse at 6:45 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Raymond.sablack@gmail.com.
- **Nov. 14: PFLAG East Texas** Group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N Broadway Ave, Tyler.

- **Nov. 14: InterWaco** The Central Texas LGBT community group will screen a new David France documentary *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* at 5:30 p.m. at The Waco Hippodrome, 724 Austin Ave., Waco.
- **Nov. 16: DIFFA/Dallas Wreath Collection** The 22nd annual holiday wreath collection features more than 80 one-of-a-kind wreaths as well as art and accessories from 7-10 p.m. at Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. \$50. DIFFADallas.org.
- **Nov. 18: Ugly Sweater 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.
- **Nov. 18: Transgender Day of Remembrance** Annual observance honoring the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence from 7-9 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.
- **Nov. 19: Bark+Build Doghouse Design/Auction**

11.10.17 ■ dallasvoice 9

Putting \$ to good use

Rainbow Roundup families recently spent a day at the Dallas Zoo.

Four new beneficiaries will receive funds from this year's Black Tie Dinner

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Each year, the Black Tie Dinner Board of Directors selects up to 20 North Texas beneficiaries to split proceeds from that year's dinner with the annual national beneficiary, the Human Rights Campaign. This year, four new beneficiaries are among the mix of North Texas organizations that will receive money from the dinner, taking place Saturday night, Nov. 11.

Trevor Project, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Rainbow Roundup and Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas (SCCenter) are Black Tie's newest beneficiaries.

Every beneficiary must reapply to participate each year, and funds are distributed based on the organization's participation throughout the year, including filling at least four tables, selling at least 25 tickets in this year's raffle for a 2018 Mercedes Benz C300, volunteer hours and donations to the silent auction.

Although Trevor Project and Big Brothers Big Sisters are national groups, both have a local presence, and it's their local offices that will receive Black Tie funds.

The local Big Brothers Big Sisters agency is one of the organization's largest chapters in the country. Trevor Project, a suicide prevention organization founded in memory of a young gay man who killed himself about being bullied, established a local office because, officials said, the youth hotline receives more calls from this part of the country than anywhere else. Rainbow Roundup is a local group for LGBT families, and SCCenter runs a hotline for people in crisis or having suicidal thoughts.



Hotlines

Jonathan Foulk, senior corporate development officer of Trevor Project, is on a mission.

"Everyone needs to learn about Trevor Project," he said. "I'm invested in it because we need to save more young lives."

Foulk said he did not have an easy time coming out. As a child, he was in foster care and "lived with 33 different families," he said. "At times I thought about suicide, so I have a personal connection."

But Foulk doesn't dwell on his own story. He said he has a strong background in fundraising and development. When his current position came open two years ago, he found his dream job — something he could be passionate about.

Next year marks Trevor Project's 20th anniversary, and Foulk wants to see the organization double in size.

"The need is greater now than before," he said.

The highest call volume Trevor ever received was after the massacre at Pulse in Orlando. "Then the election happened and the phones started to ring" again, he said.

That week, the call volume was four times

as high as after Pulse, and the phone calls haven't stopped coming, he said. Teens began calling out of fear, and Foulk said Trevor's message to young people calling is that they're loved, safe and not alone.

While Trevor Project's hotlines are located in New York and Los Angeles, SCCenter is a local hotline for people in crisis or having suicidal thoughts. The organization will use Black Tie funds for additional staff training on LGBT issues and to allow them to do more marketing in the LGBT community.

Executive Director Margie Wright said her hotline also received a dramatic uptick in calls after the election. While her phone volunteers don't take any political position during calls, she said mostly people just needed to talk when they heard others around them spewing hate.

In addition to 24-hour crisis intervention hotlines, SCCenter offers survivors of suicide support groups and screening for suicidal tendencies and depression in schools.

She said the survivor of suicide groups, which are for people left behind after someone has committed suicide, often include a same-sex partner.

Suicide is often referred to as "the S

word," because it carries a stigma that other forms of death don't. Wright said she's heard a lack of compassion from those who lost a spouse to disease directed to the survivor who lost a partner to suicide — implying, "Your partner wanted to leave you and mine didn't."

Wright said all services of SCCenter are offered at no charge and as part of its training, the agency makes sure volunteers will help anyone on the line, regardless of that person's sexual orientation, gender identity or other characteristic.

Volunteers who can't help anyone who calls are not allowed on the phones.

Families

Rainbow Roundup started as a Facebook group but has grown to almost 2,000 members representing hundreds of LGBT families.

Co-founder and Executive Director Kimberly Kantor said the group connects families to resources for support and provides social and educational programming monthly. She said the group refers families to everything from fertility clinics to coun-

Growing community, growing Black Tie

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

On Saturday night, LGBT Texans and their allies will gather at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel for the 36th annual Black Tie Dinner, one of the largest black-tie events in the country benefitting LGBT organizations and programs. And while the event has been around since 1982, board co-chairs David Gifford-Robinson and Nate Robbins said this week that guests this year can expect some exciting new additions as well as favorite old traditions.

"From the moment the guests enter on Saturday, and throughout the evening, we have a number of new experiences and surprises for them," Gifford-Robinson said.

One of the biggest changes this year, the co-chairs said, is the check-in process guests will go through when they arrive.

In the past, table captains have received all the tickets for guests sitting at their tables and were themselves responsible for doling those tickets out. But this year, no tickets have been distributed in advance. Instead, each guest will check in individually and be issued a pass at that time.

Part of the reason for the change, the co-chairs said, is to help improve security at the event. But the new check-in process will also give Black Tie board members and volunteers and chance to interact more with each and every guest.

"It will be a quick process," said Robbins. "Each guest will go through the ticket line. We will verify their identity, give them their pass and they'll be off to one of our three welcome receptions."

Guests will also have a chance to take advantage of a "special photo opp" during the check-in process, they added.

Robbins noted, "This allows every single guest to have direct communication with us. Now we can make sure every single guest gets the best Black Tie experience possible."

The three receptions, Gifford-Robinson explained, are based on sponsorship levels. The general reception is open to all Black Tie attendees. Then there is the VIP reception, and for those higher up in the sponsorship levels, the speaker's reception.

But whichever reception guests attend, Gifford-Robinson said, they will have fun. "Every reception will have great music and open bars. It just gets a bit more intimate with the higher levels of sponsorships," he said.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., giving attendees a chance to check out the silent auction items on display in the lobby outside the ballroom before the program begins a few minutes prior to 7 p.m.

The silent auction, Robbins noted, will have "a wide variety of items, from fine arts to furniture," and there will also be a "premiere auction" as part of the silent auction, featuring items that are a bit higher in value.

Then, inside the ballroom in the middle of the program, auctioneer Robbie Gordy with Christie's will conduct the luxury auction, featuring a number of destinations



Edith Windsor, top, Eric Folkerth, above

including Costa Rica and Puerto Vallarta, a seven-day Mediterranean cruise, a guitar autographed especially for Black Tie by Taylor Swift and, what Gifford-Robinson

BLACK TIE, Page 12

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BENEFICIARIES, From Page 10



SUICIDE & CRISIS CENTER of NORTH TEXAS



selling to pediatricians to groups like GALA North Texas, which runs an LGBT youth program.

Recently, Rainbow Roundup held PumpkinPalooza with 125 pumpkins to paint that were donated by Central Market. And last week, a large group went to the Dallas Zoo. Coming up is Rainbow Roundup's Polar Express Holiday Party.

The best way to keep up with events is through the group's Facebook page or its website: Rrup.org.

Kantor said she hears kids say a Rainbow Roundup event is the one place they don't have to explain anything about their families.

"People reach out to us from outside of Texas as well," Kantor said.

That's not surprising, because Rainbow Roundup has become one of — if not THE — the largest LGBT family group in the country. And they've done that with no paid staff.

So what exactly will Rainbow Roundup do with the proceeds from Black Tie Dinner? The board's meeting in a few weeks to figure that out, but Kantor said the money would be used to provide additional pro-

gramming, gain added visibility for the organization and offer more educational opportunities.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Big Brother/Big Sisters is the other family-oriented group participating in Black Tie Dinner for the first time. While Rainbow Roundup may be the youngest group among all beneficiaries, BBBS, founded in 1904, is the oldest.

Bigs (volunteer mentors) are asked to commit to at least a year and spend at least one day a month with a little (the mentee). Most spend more than one day a month. Some spend time together weekly.

After training, bigs and littles are matched. Parents have the right to refuse a match they don't think would be good for their child and volunteers may refuse a match they don't think will work. The goal is to make a good match that will continue for years.

Some bigs help their littles study, but usually they go out for an afternoon outing. The organization is able to help with the cost by offering free tickets to a number of

events.

And one big message BBBS has for the community is LGBT bigs are welcomed and needed and encouraged to apply. Not all LGBT bigs are matched with LGBT youth, but some are. This year, BBBS began working with Out Youth Denton and is trying to match everyone in the group with an LGBT or ally big.

The rest of the beneficiaries

In addition to the four new beneficiaries and the HRC Foundation, 2017 Black Tie beneficiaries are: AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Outreach Center, AIDS Services of Dallas, Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, Celebration Community Church, Congregation Beth El Binah, Equality Texas Foundation, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Legacy Counseling Center, Legal Hospice of Texas, Northaven United Methodist Church, Promise House, Resource



Clockwise: The bigs with their little in the middle. Trevor Project Jonathan Foulk on right. Margie Wright at SS Center.

Center, Turtle Creek Chorale and Uptown Players Inc.

Last year, Black Tie distributed a total of \$1.245 million to 16 beneficiaries. To date, the dinner has distributed more than \$21 million since its inception in 1982. ■



BLACK TIE, From Page 11

called "once in a lifetime opportunity," two tickets to Elton John's Oscar night party in 2018.

Robbins said this year's dinner will be "one of the most content- and story-rich dinners we've had in awhile now. We have four brand new beneficiaries [see story, Page 10], and they will be bringing in all new people, people who have never been to Black Tie before and who will have something meaningful to say this year, and in the years to come."

The special guest speaker this year will

be Eric Fanning, the first openly-gay secretary of the U.S. Army, and Robbins pointed out that he would be "speaking to us on Veterans Day. I think that's a pretty special way to honor all veterans and especially to honor our LGBTQ veterans."

Award-winning playwright Terrence McNally will be on hand to accept the Ally for Equality Award, and the Rev. Eric Folkert, pastor of Northaven United Methodist Church in Dallas, will receive the Kuchling Humanitarian Award. And Judith-Kasen Windsor will accept the Elizabeth Birch Award.

The co-chairs said that the Black Tie board

will also be presenting a brand new award: The Richard Weaver Volunteer Excellence Award, named after longtime activist and Black Tie volunteer Richard "Dick" Weaver. But they said that the name of the new award's inaugural recipient is one of the many special secrets that won't be unveiled until Saturday night.

Actor/singer Grace Stockdale, from the touring cast of the Broadway musical Waitress and Tyler Glenn, lead singers of the band Neon Trees will be performing.

The theme for this year's Black Tie Dinner is "Together," and Gifford-Robinson said that the theme represents "one of the key messag-

es, the thing I love most about this organization and what we are doing with the LGBT community and the broader community here in North Texas. We are bringing together an amazing group of speakers and talent and family and friends and allies to celebrate." Robbins stressed that "having four new beneficiaries who will be bringing in a whole new audience to experience this all for the first time makes this year even more special."

His co-chair concluded, "Black Tie is continuing to evolve. It's not the same dinner it was 36 years ago, and I think that is a good thing. We are growing with the needs of the community." ■

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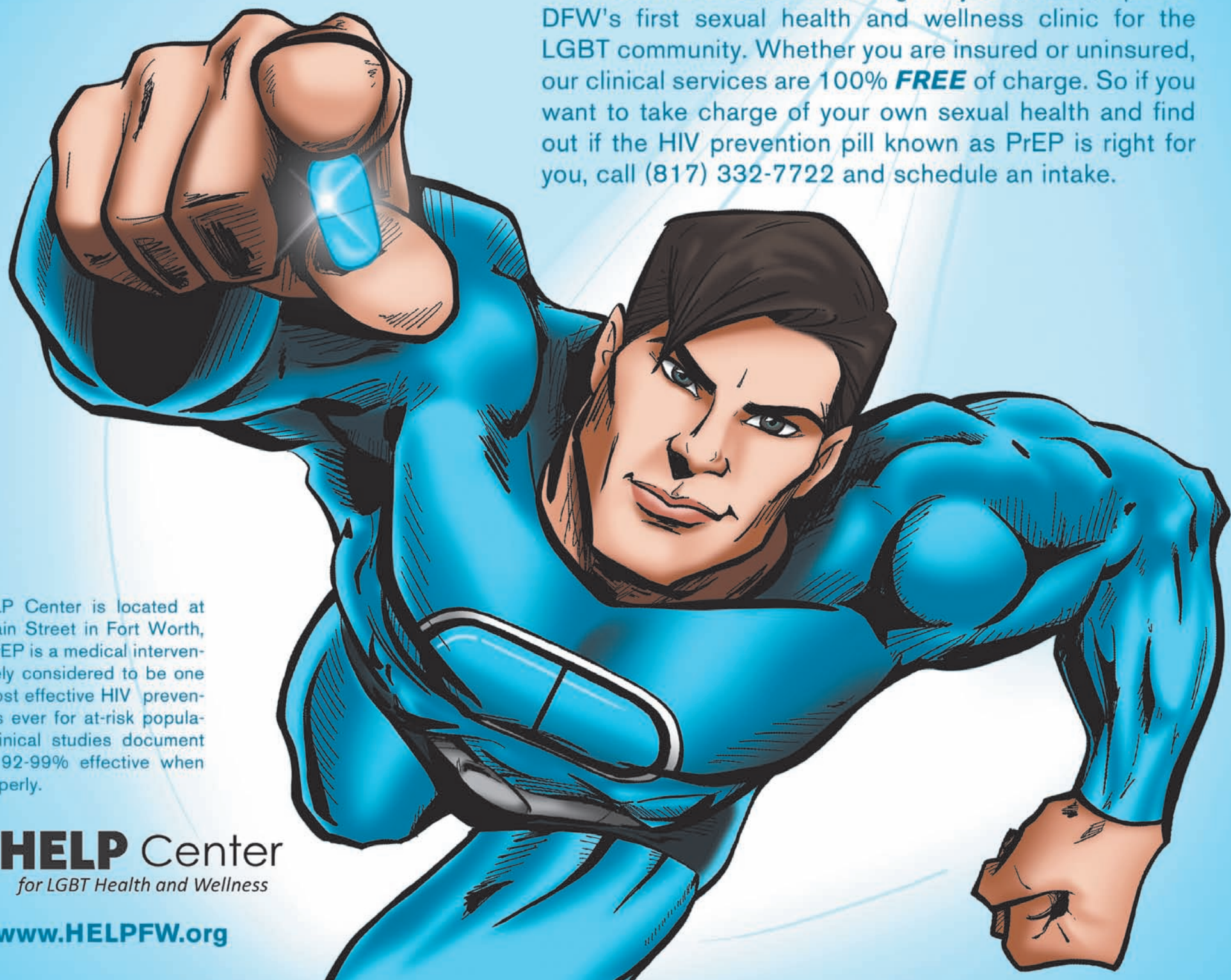
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LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
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Tuesday, Nov. 7 was a good night for LGBT candidates and an historic one for transgender candidates.

There were at least 71 openly LGBT candidates on ballots in 23 states. Of those, 55 percent won, 35 percent lost, and some were still not settled as of deadline.

Seattle

Lesbian Jenny Durkan handily won election as mayor of Seattle, one of the fastest-growing cities in the country and the eighth-largest container port in the U.S. Durkan replaces Seattle's first openly-gay mayor, Ed Murray, who resigned in September after allegations surfaced from five men who said Murray sexually abused them as teenagers. (Murray denied the allegations.)

The Seattle Post Intelligencer said Durkan's opponent tried to link her with Murray.

Though her opponent has not yet conceded the race, results suggest Durkan took more than 60 percent of the vote. She was the first openly-gay person President Obama appointed as a U.S. attorney.

Also in Seattle, lesbian challenger Mitzi Johanknecht, 58, appeared to defeat incumbent John Urquhart in a race for sheriff of King County.

Johanknecht is in charge of one of the sheriff office's precincts and has been on the force for three decades. In campaigning against Urquhart, who had recently been accused of rape by a former female deputy, Johanknecht said he mistreated employees, especially women.

Openly-LGBT candidates performed well, as did progressives overall, on Election Day, but the big winners were transgender candidates who made history in races across the nation.

Virginia

Danica Roem won a stunning victory in her race for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates against a candidate who had made a name for himself trying to ban transgender people from public restrooms. The Republican incumbent, Bob Marshall, has served 26 years in the House of Delegates and has referred to himself as the state's "chief homophobe."

According to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which was supporting 61 of the 72 LGBT candidates, the win in Virginia made Roem the first out transgender person to win and serve in a state legislature and the only out transgender state legislator in the U.S.

A number of sources subsequently have pointed out that Althea Garrison, a Republican from Boston, was the first African-American transgender person to be elected to a statewide position. She won election to, and served a term in, the Massachusetts State House in 1992.

Garrison has never voluntarily identified as transgender, but following her election, a Boston Herald reporter outed her after finding a birth certificate indicating she had been identified as male at birth.

Virginia proved fertile ground for progressives all the way around, with Democrat Ralph Northam handily besting Republican Ed Gillespie, with 54 percent of the vote. Democrats wiped out the Republican majority in the state's House of Delegates, winning at least 15 seats in a stunning upset. Four other races were too close to call at deadline, with control over the chamber hanging in the balance.

Of the 15 seats Democrats flipped, all were held by men, and 11 were won by women. Most of those women made history with their victories. In addition to Roem becoming the first openly trans state legislator, the state also saw the elections of the first open lesbian elected to the House of Delegates, and the first Asian-American woman and the first two Latinas elected to the General Assembly.

LPAC, a national lesbian political action committee supporting candidates that champion LGBTQ equality, women's rights and social justice, noted that in addition to Roem, five of its other endorsed candidates won in Virginia: Peruvian immigrant Elizabeth Guzman, House of Delegates, District 31; Jennifer Carroll Foy, House of

Delegates, District 2, a woman of color who graduated from the Virginia Military Institute; Kelly Fowler, House of Delegates, District 21; open lesbian nurse practitioner Dr. Dawn Adams, House of Delegates, District 68, who lives with her partner of 15 years; and Donte Tanner, House of Delegates, District 40, an Air Force veteran and small business owner.

Council, school board races

• In Minneapolis, Victory Fund-backed transgender candidates Andrea Jenkins and Phillipe Cunningham both won their races for seats on the Minneapolis City Council, making them the first openly-transgender people to win council seats in a major U.S.



Andrea Jenkins, above, Danica Roem, right

city.

Jenkins collected 70 percent of the vote in the race for the Ward 8 council seat, while Cunningham prevailed in a nail-biter that wasn't decided until Wednesday afternoon, defeating the incumbent council president, Barbara Johnson, for the Ward 4 seat.

Lesbian activist Jillia Pessenda fell just short of victory in the race for the Ward 1 seat on the Minneapolis council.

• Tyler Titus became the first transgender candidate to win elective office in Pennsylvania. He won a seat on the school board for Erie.

• Gerri Cannon won a seat on the Somersworth School Board in New Hampshire this week and has reportedly said she intends to run for the state's House of Representatives.

State office races

There were only five LGBT candidates for state legislative offices Tuesday. In addition to Roem in Virginia, three of them were incumbents who won re-election — Tim Eustace and Reed Gusciora of New Jersey and Mark Levine of Virginia — and Luis Lopez advanced to a run-off for a California Assembly seat representing Los Angeles on Dec. 5.

Mayoral races

Of the 72 LGBT candidates Tuesday, 67 ran for local offices — 12 for mayor, 41 for city council seats, seven for local school boards, and seven for various other local positions.

Only five out of the 12 mayoral candidates won Tuesday night: Durkan in Seattle and four incumbents — Alex Morse in Holyoke, Mass.; Sean Strub in Milford, Pa.; Lydia Lavelle in Carrboro, NC; and Patrick Wojahn in College Park, Md.

- In Atlanta, long-time lesbian activist and politico Cathy Woolard came in third among 12 candidates for mayor. Woolard, a former Atlanta City Council president, garnered 17 percent of the vote behind the second place winner. The top two vote getters will battle it out in a run-off Dec. 5.

- In Hoboken, N.J., Councilman Michael DeFusco, 35, failed in his bid to become the city's first openly-gay mayor. The six-person race was marred near the end when



anonymous flyers tried to portray the campaign leader and eventual winner, a Sikh, as a terrorist.

The flyer included De Fusco's name in a way that made it look like his campaign created the ad. But DeFusco's denounced the flyer as racist and "disgusting."

- Paul Prevey, an openly-gay former member of the Salem City Council, came up short in his bid to unseat three-term incumbent Mayor Kim Driscoll of Salem, Mass.

Other city contests

- In Atlanta, Councilman Alex Wan was the top vote-getter in a race for city council president, but he must now face the second place candidate in a run-off.

Lesbian newcomer Liliana Bakhtiari almost won a Council seat from an incumbent. At midnight, she was leading with 54 percent of the vote, but by morning, she had garnered only 49 percent, and the incumbent had enough votes to avoid a run-off. But two gay male candidates, Bill Powell and Kirk Rich, fell short in their bids for Atlanta City Council seats. And Josh McNair came in third in his bid for a seat on the Fulton County Commission.

- In Boston, newcomer Mike Kelley, an aide to former Mayor Tom Menino, came within 500 votes of winning a council seat

against the son of another former Boston mayor, Ray Flynn. The seat represents the district that includes heavily gay South End.

- In Cambridge, Mass., long-time incumbent Denise Simmons, the first openly-lesbian African-American mayor in the U.S., appears to have easily won re-election to her ninth term.

- In Cincinnati, openly-gay Ryan Messer was the top vote-getter out of 13 candidates vying for four seats on the city's board of education. Lesbian candidate Renee Hevia appears to have come in fifth place, just 100 votes behind the fourth place winner. But the vote is so close, there may be a recount after provisional ballots are counted.

- In New Orleans, gay candidate Seth Bloom has won the right to a Nov. 18 run-off against another challenger for a vacant seat. Bloom was the top vote-getter, with 40 percent of the vote. His run-off challenger garnered 27 percent, and four other candidates split the remaining 33 percent.

- In Lansing, Michigan, openly-gay school board member Pete Spadafore won an at-large seat on the city council, while newcomer Jim McClurken lost his bid for a district council seat.

- In Palm Springs, voters gave their two vacant city council seats to a transgender woman and a bisexual woman.

Lisa Middleton's victory makes her the first transgender person to win a non-judicial elective office in California. Middleton and Christy Holstege, who is married to a man but identifies as a member of the LGBT community, were the top two vote-getters in a field of six candidates.

Now, every person on the Palm Springs council is a member of the LGBT community, according to news reports.

- Stephe Koontz became the first openly-transgender elected official in her hometown of Doraville, Ga., when she won a seat on the city council there.

- A gay candidate for city council in Cape Coral, Fla., found a flyer on this front door in August, threatening him with a "nice visit" from the Ku Klux Klan.

James Schneider, 54, said, "I'm a gay, Jewish, German man," and that he considers the flyer a hate crime.

The flyer said, "We know where you live faggot....quit now...." He told the local News-Press that photos of him with gay slurs have also been posted on Facebook in the area.

Meanwhile, another local paper, the Cape Coral Daily Breeze, endorsed Schneider's opponent, who won with 68 percent of the vote.

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■ commUNITYvoices

What we're not talking about when we talk about Kevin Spacey

Dear Rainbow community, you already know what this week's Trending Tea is going to be about — because besides the Astros winning the World Series, Zeke Elliott's suspension being reinstated and Halloween, it has been the only thing we — both the LGBTQ community and the community at large — have been talking about.



Brandi Amara Skyy
TrendingTEA

Yep, you guessed it.

Kevin Spacey.

When the news broke, I told my partner I found it ironic that what Spacey was being accused of was the exact same subject matter of the film that made him a household name, Sam Mendes' *American Beauty*.

In case anyone has forgotten, *American Beauty* was about an aging father who crushes hard on his daughter's high school best friend, played by Mena Suvari. It opened in theaters in 1999 amid a lot of controversy, but that didn't stop Kevin Spacey from winning the Oscar for Best Actor.

I loved the movie — just like I loved Kevin Spacey.

Sure, like every other gay person, I was frustrated waiting for him to come out (kinda like Jodie Foster and Queen Latifah). But we all knew he was family. So when he ill-advisedly picked his public apology to actor Anthony Rapp to come out, I — along with every other queer person in America — knew it wasn't for our benefit. We already knew. It was for the rest of the world.

And his conflation of coming out alongside his too-drunk-to-remember public statement about this alleged sexual assault just made our queer lives that much harder.

Because WE know that those two things don't go hand-in-hand, but in the social-political climate we are currently living in, not everyone does.

And this is just more fodder to the fire.

Between Trump's anti-gay rhetoric, to his being the first sitting president to speak at a hate group (he was the keynote speaker at the anti-LGBTQ Family Research Council), to his "jokes" about how Mike Pence wants



to "hang all gay people," the political climate has not been kind to us. And Kevin made our cause that much harder.

On Nov. 3, a new Rolling Stone article came out that shared the stories of even more male actors claiming that Spacey made unwanted advances toward them while he was the director of London's Old Vic theater, from 2004 to 2015. And as more and more people speak out, the deeper in the hole we all go.

Now, Spacey is seeking "treatment." Let's all hope it isn't some "pray the gay away" treatment because if it is, dear universe help us all.

One thing we are sure of is that everyone in Spacey's camp is jumping ship. Netflix announced this would be the last season of *House of Cards* the very same day news of Rapp's allegations broke. His agent and publicist left him. And he can pretty much kiss his career goodbye.

And we've been talking about all those things.

But here's what we're not talking about.

We're not talking about what any of the men who are coming out and accusing Spacey of sexual assault were wearing. Was it a provocative pair of khaki pants? Or a come-hither pair of tight jeans? We're not writing articles that appear to blame the male victims for the assaults on them, like the essay Blossom-turned-Big Bang Theory star Mayim Bialik wrote for

The New York Times. (She later apologized, but only after feminists called her out on it.) We're not having conversations on the radio about what they, the men who were sexually assaulted, should have done, could have done differently. And we're definitely not blaming them for being alone in the room or questioning their motives for showing up at the Old Vic Theatre alone in the first place.

There's a campaign going around the internet that begs the question: "What if we believed women?" What if we believed women like we do and have done with the men who are speaking out against Spacey?

If we believed women, then Bill Cosby would have been indicted a long time ago. Casey Affleck's career would have tanked like Kevin Spacey's has. And Weinstein would be behind bars the moment the first woman spoke out in the 1970s.

It appears that the myth of the Hollywood casting couch is bursting out of its seams.

Because here's the real tea: We all jumped on board the Kevin Spacey witch hunt, but as one man's career is being burned at the stake, another — Danny Masterson's of *That 70's Show* — hasn't even caught fire, despite the fact that there is hard evidence that he RAPED FOUR WOMEN.

The firestarter that's missing from the Danny Masterson's equation? Gender equality. ■



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Breaking the ice

Many elite ice skaters train in North Texas,
but few have as much promise as
Bronze Medalists Timothy LeDuc and Ashley Cain

On a rare, cool autumn afternoon in North Texas, the air was chilly outside the DrPepper StarCenter in Euless, but inside the arena, things were heating up. Team USA pairs figure skaters Ashley Cain and Timothy LeDuc had just come off the ice and they were sizzling.

That's not surprising considering the hot streak they've been on since winning the 2017 Pairs Bronze Medal at the U.S. National Championships in January — a pretty snappy outcome given that at that time, they had been skating together for less than eight months. Both Cain, 22, and LeDuc, 27, had skated pairs with other partners... and both had less than picture perfect partings. After the 2014 season, Cain skated ladies singles and LeDuc was out of money to pay for training, so he hit the ice on the high seas, skating on cruise ships. Competing in pairs was in the rearview mirror for them.

Or was it? Fast-forward two years. LeDuc's cruise contract was up and Cain wasn't content with singles. In a brush of brilliance, Mitch Moyer — U.S. Figure Skating (USFS) senior director of athlete high performance — suggested they try out together. Within a week, LeDuc had moved to Texas and the team had started training.

They were in sync right away. Though never on-ice partners, they already had a history and a connection: They had known each other since 2009 while competing against each other on Team USA. "I think a big part of what brought us together so well and why we had success right off the bat was because we had an immediate synergy, and that's not something you can force," says LeDuc.

"We just got lucky that our personalities meshed really well and complimented each other's strengths," Cain agrees. "What also helped make it work was that we were very accepting of each other. He was patient with me while I was getting my body back in shape for pairs and being able to do the elements again, and I was patient with him while he adjusted to coming back to competition. We developed an acceptance that allows us to skate with freedom."

So who's the boss of the team? Laughing, they simultaneously say: "We're equal." They take turns motivating each other while picking up on energies that pushed themselves further.

"Equality— that's what we want to present with our skating," says Cain. "Two equally strong, powerful people who don't need to portray a love story where he's the prince and I'm the princess."

"We both want to be princess!" inter-

rupts LeDuc, who is openly gay. Following another howl of laughter, they spontaneously say together: "We both want to be queen."

So just how did LeDuc — an Iowa native — cotton to North Texas and the ubiquitously oppressive heat? No problem. He loves Texas and he loves hot weather.

"When you dock in a port in Honduras in summer with 100 percent humidity and temperatures raging over 120 degrees, this feels great," he says. What is also great is the sense of home the team found in their training camp about 10 minutes from DFW Airport.

Oh. You didn't know there was a high-level training program for figure skaters in North Texas? Well, holy Zamboni there is! Coaches Darlene and Peter Cain (Ashley's mother and father) have built their program into a well-known elite facility attracting top skaters from around the world. Cain and LeDuc train daily with other members of team USA (Timothy Dolensky, Amber Glenn, Jimmy Ma, Alex Krasnozhan) as well as Australia's Brooklee Han and Israel's Aimee Buchanan. It turns out that this feeling of home is something that is integral to their success.

"The atmosphere here is unique," says LeDuc. "I really appreciate this training environment where the athletes come here because they know we've created a really positive atmosphere that helps bring out the best in all of us. It's not only the camaraderie among the athletes but also the facility and team of coaches who keep everyone relaxed yet driven. It's brought success and I think there is more success to come."

Good thing the ambience is positive because the days are long and arduous. The regimen varies depending on where they are in terms of preparation for the next competition, but typically Cain and LeDuc — dubbed The Tall Team because of their surprising heights for pairs skaters (she's 5-foot-6, he's 6-foot-1) — start their training in the morning with two hours on the ice. They follow that with mirror work (in a studio on the second floor of the arena) where they do all their moves in front of the mirror to concentrate on synchronization (legendary skater and TV commentator Dick Button's ageless doctrine comes to mind: "... And two shall skate as one"). Next up is another hour on the ice followed by up to two hours off-ice training: stability, conditioning, BOSU work, resistance bands, weights, treadmill, bike and, of course, lifts.


The workout plan yields obvious benefits. Both Cain and LeDuc have killer bodies. To keep in shape, Cain relies on a strictly pescatarian diet, though LeDuc (groan) has no dietary restrictions and after training ceases for the day, eats what-

■ ICE Next Page

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L+S sports



■ ICE From Previous Page

ever he wants (pizza is a guilty pleasure). Before and during training he hydrates with a sketchy-looking recovery shake that resembles nothing if not a watery yet chunky porridge. (The recipe? Chia seeds, ground flax seed and oatmeal for complex carbohydrates and honey, soy milk, yogurt or pea milk along with two cups of fresh fruit, usually apples.) Sound yummy? Shocker — it smells pleasantly like cinnamon donuts.

After six days of training, what happens on Sunday? Both have perfect answers. Cain sleeps in, has a cup of coffee and then returns to bed to relax and binge-watch TV. (Her favorite show is *Law & Order SVU*). LeDuc prefers to veg. "Sleep," he says simply but with commitment.

Now that they're well-trained and -nourished, it's time to hit the road. So far this season they have had special training sessions with the world-renowned Russian coach Nina Mozer in Moscow and competed in Italy, Germany and, most recently, in their first prestigious ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating assignment, the Cup of China, which took place at the start of the month. (They faced a tough field including Sui and Han, the reigning world champions from China and placed sixth — a respectable showing for such a new team to the international circuit.)

Being elite skaters comes with a pricetag somewhere between an ouch! and a straight-up scream. Costs are as dizzying as the elaborate jumps and spins they perform on the ice. Cain and LeDuc's expenses for just seven months in 2016 topped \$35,000. It's enough to make you pop your lutz. While they receive some financial support from the U.S. Olympic Committee and USFS, Cain and LeDuc's careers are both self-funded. They both coach to pay the bills and both admit it's a challenge.

"I'm always happy when I can pay my rent at the beginning of the month," sighs

LeDuc. "It does require some humility in that skating takes all your available resources in terms of time and finances. But it's a labor of love — we wouldn't want to be doing anything else." (Fans can help fund their training by going to www.gofundme.com/the-cainleduc-dream-fund.)

With the February 2018 Olympic Games from Pyeongchang, South Korea, looming large, Cain and LeDuc are focused on the next step of the journey: The U.S. National Figure Skating Championships coming up in January in San Jose, Calif. "Our goal is to make the Olympic Team," says Cain. That means they have to place first and win gold against challenges from top teams, including three who have previously won the title. The U.S. qualified only one pairs spot for the Olympics (Ice Dance, Ladies and Men's disciplines each have three slots). It'll be a bloodbath, but expect Cain and LeDuc to come out swinging.

And coming out is something LeDuc knows something about. Many athletes, including skaters, come out after they retire from competition. What impact does being openly gay, while competing, have on LeDuc's career? Surprisingly, not that much.

"I have had some homophobic interactions with other skaters," says LeDuc. "But I don't feel like being gay gives me any kind of advantage or disadvantage, it's just a part of who I am. I've wanted my name to be synonymous with being an open gay athlete from the beginning so that wherever my career goes, I don't reach a high level of success and then come out. I want it to be something that's been known all along: That I am a gay athlete."

"As his partner and friend," Cain adds, "I've noticed that there's a sense of freedom that he skates with now — the way he holds himself — that creates a fluidity throughout the sport and the community. He doesn't hold back. He's himself. And I think that's so special."



Cain and LeDuc stretching. (Photo courtesy Robin Ritoss)

There is the perception that figure skating is crowded with gay men. But is that really true? If you subscribe to the “one in ten people are gay” theory, then statistically, there would have to be a good many straight men in figure skating. In the past, many gay men felt that coming out would harm their careers. The sport seemed to agree that this perception was a liability to reaching a broader audience.

“I don’t sense it as much anymore,” LeDuc says, “but I’ve spoken with older gay athletes in the sport who talk about times they were told to ‘butch it up.’”

But times are changing, albeit slowly. “I’m allowed to be who I am and express myself on the ice,” says Cain. “Every skater should be allowed to do that. And once you accept yourself, you create a whole other artist and athlete, and you’re able to go out there and skate with complete freedom. I think the sport needs to see more of that.”

As Cain and LeDuc prepare to battle for the sole Olympic berth at Nationals, a few things are apparent. They’re both

good-looking — he’s tall, dark and handsome with dreamy hazel eyes, and she’s a fresh-faced blonde with a complexion that could have inspired the phrase “peaches and cream.” They have worked tenaciously to improve their skating skills and technical elements and have turned being statuesque from a liability into an asset, exhibiting exquisite long, lean lines and remarkable extensions.

But they are so much more. Cain and LeDuc don’t exactly finish each other’s sentences, but the snappy banter flows easily between them along with lots of laughter. There’s a connection that radiates between the two that seems based on mutual affection, respect and trust. There’s an open, free quality that makes it clear they enjoy being together. You don’t always see that in pairs skating.

It seems they hit the right note when choosing the bluesy music by Joe Bonamassa for their short program. It’s titled “I’ll Take Care of You.”

Clearly, Cain and LeDuc will do just that. ■

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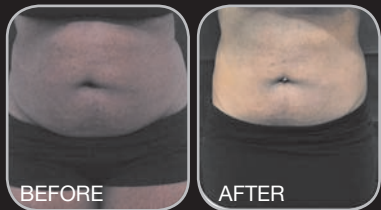
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L+S | dance



Nestor Perez met Bruce Wood only once, but the impact has informed his dedication to dance. (Photo courtesy Brian Guillaux)

3 years after its namesake's death, Bruce Wood Dance thrives in all-new ways

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

It is a few weeks before Rise, the new performance from Bruce Wood Dance is set to open, and the company's producer, Gayle Halperin, is hosting one of her salons. Held before each show, it previews the works that will be presented and gets longtime patrons, recent donors and some newcomers a peek into the creative process. But this time, as she gives her usual pitch, she chokes up. Bruce Wood — the company's founder and artistic director — died suddenly more than three years ago, and the pain of that loss still stings. But Halperin also realizes something while glancing at the current company: Not including the creative team, none of the dancers ever worked directly with Wood himself.

That resonates not only with Halperin, but with all those present. It's a realization just how far the troupe has come against impossible odds.

Bruce Wood was already an established and respected dancer, choreographer and company founder when Halperin approached him, in 2010, to do "a project" — bring his talents back to North Texas stages for a recital. Initially, it was just going to be a one-off, but the success of it triggered an itch both had to scratch. The Bruce Wood Dance Project was born, and it completed

three seasons before Wood succumbed to complications from AIDS just weeks before the start of its fourth season. Halperin and the remaining dancers soldiered on through that production, and decided to see if they could maintain it. Kimi Nikaidoh, who had danced with the defunct Bruce Wood Dance Company during its stint in Fort Worth, was tapped as artistic director; Wood protégés Joy Bollinger and Albert Drake were given leadership positions. And the company grew.

And grew. Earlier this year, the word "project" was officially dropped — it was no longer a temporary enterprise, but a going concern in the artistic tapestry of North Texas. In addition to the two annual concerts, the company performs in festivals and with groups like the Turtle Creek Chorale. But growth also meant some dancers — who tend to have a finite career span anyway — moved on. And on this day last month, it occurred to Halperin that almost everyone dancing under the banner of "Bruce Wood" had never even met the man.

One sort-of exception was Nestor Leonardo Perez. His experience with Wood — which he told at the salon — was met with hushed respect. Perez began studying dance when he attended Texas Woman's University in Denton in 2009. When he graduated, he auditioned in front of Wood... but was passed over for inclusion in the company at that time. But it didn't end there.

Wood took him aside, Perez explained,

RISE

Moody Performance Hall,
2520 Flora St. Nov. 17–18.
BruceWoodDance.org

The wisdom of Solomon Georgio

The out immigrant comedian's 10 year journey to becoming an overnight success

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Standup comedy is a profession of overnight success that takes decades to achieve. That's certainly true of Solomon Georgio. You probably first saw him no earlier than his 2015 appearance on *Conan*, in which he portrayed himself as a gay Italian-African immigrant, providing countless avenues for fish-out-of-water jokes and fake bragging about having the face of an angel.

But if you buy his brand-new full-length

comedy album, *Homonegro Superior*, or see his new special (released the same day) on Comedy Central, you're struck by how much, *much* gayer his comedy is in a long-form format.

"Yes, I'm very much gayer, once you give me free rein," he quips, with a charming but slightly nervous titter. "I tend to always perform the longer [and gayer] set [live]. I tend not to cater to my audiences." In other words: You book Georgio, you get Georgio.

And what you get is amazing. He riffs with this sweet, disarming innocence but can be merciless about it. He and his family immigrated in 1985 when he was a child — first settling in St. Louis, Mo. then moving to Fresno, Calif. — "two terrible cities" he doesn't hesitate to say — "before landing in heaven, i.e., Seattle." Attacking people's towns might be considered tour-date suicide, but Georgio doesn't blink an eye.

"People are aware of where they live — nobody is telling you how glamorous Topeka is, even the people from Topeka, so I'm not going to be the one onstage lying to you," he reasons. "But we [all tend] to present a hard stereotype of an entire city. There are always at least a few thousand opposing [that stereotype]. I don't think I [perform in



front of] an audience that [doesn't get me]."

Georgio will put that thesis to the test Thursday in Dallas, when he serves as the opening act for the indie-folk band Deer Tick. His Dallas performance — on the heels of two shows in Arizona early in the week — will be the first live dates he's done since the album dropped in late October, and his first gig with Deer Tick. ("I don't know what [the band's] opinions of me are, or their process of selecting me... but they certainly made a good choice," he

deadpans.)

It's the culmination of a decade working clubs.

"My first 10 years of comedy, no one new who the fuck I was," he says. "The album [represents] everything I've done in the last 10 years, summed up in one record. It's a great feeling but then there's also the problem you have to keep talking about it afterwards." (Zing! Georgio one, interviewer zero.)

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Silence=mort



ACT UP activist Sean finds reason to celebrate in 'BPM,' above; opposite, Hercule Poirot exercises his little grey cells aboard the Orient Express.

French activists fight to live in 'BPM,' a Belgian sleuth solves a 'Murder'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

If you didn't live through the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and early 1990s — and, sadly, many didn't — hearing about "the AIDS crisis" can feel like an abstraction. Yes, HIV is still a scourge, and yes, people continue to die of its complications, but treatments have altered the landscape. In 1987, "you have HIV" was a death sentence; in 2017, it's a diagnosis.

Which is why in New York in 1987, a group of mostly HIV-positive, mostly gay, mostly men formed ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), an activist organization with the mission, then as now, to unite in anger, to fight complacency, to demonstrate. If you think the Black Lives Matter movement is politically charged, you'd be cowed by ACT UP's tactics.

The members were not silent, or polite, or even diplomatic. For most of them, there was no time for such half measures. Infection was a ticking clock, insidious partly because it struck many men in the prime of life when they were otherwise fit and healthy and sexually empowered. But more than a health crisis, or even a threat to life, it was a political and societal earthquake. People still in the closet — and in the 1980s, that was undeniably the vast majority of gay men — were instantaneously outed, stigmatized, branded, rejected. So frightening was the unknown

of the disease that those afflicted were pariahs in their families, at work. It was a plague. It was mysterious. And the stakes were unfathomable.

I recount all this context because it is essential for fully appreciating the contradictory authenticity of **BPM**, a powerful document about our recent history. It's set not in New York, but in Paris, in the early 1990s, where the French branch of ACT UP was doing there what its counterpart was doing here. The members are outraged that the federal government isn't acting quickly enough, that big pharma won't release trial data and is wasting its time on a lark they call protease inhibitors...

Wait. Wasn't that one of the great innovations in AIDS research?

Which is what makes **BPM** such an unexpected profile of a period of turmoil. Often in films about activism, the heroes are always right, morally superior and flawlessly omniscient. Every cause they champion is the right cause, every tactic necessary, every perceived villain borne out as evil. (It was one of the weaknesses of *Dallas Buyers Club*.) But here, the ACT UP folks aren't always right. They don't have the time or education or even perspective to be right, at least not all of the time. They are, instead, desperate. They are motivated. They are true believers. So, when they hurl fake blood at pharmaceutical suits, or heckle researchers speaking to their group, you sense their passion is earned but their judgment misplaced.

Or maybe not. Co-writer/director Robin Campillo doesn't make it easy to like everyone, or to hate everyone. He does something much more difficult — he makes you



feel for everyone.

And none more than Sean (Nahuel Perez Biscayart), who's HIV-positive, and Nathan (Arnaud Valois), who's negative but gets involved in ACT UP anyway. They become lovers, but the urgency of advances in AIDS treatment means different things to both. Their romance forms the crux of the human element, moving the issues from the abstract to the concrete. The details of their situations are doled out slowly and realistically; *BPM* has the studied interpersonal pacing of *Blue Is the Warmest Color* and the emotional resonance of *Longtime Companion*. It doesn't hit you over the head with its indignation. As a result, while many plot points play out predictably, they don't feel like clichés so much as inevitable truths.

Agatha Christie was the master of surprise twists and cleverly plotted mysteries, but her *Murder on the Orient Express*, while devilish (and infamous), isn't one of the most satisfying of her resolutions. Sidney Lumet's 1974 version is less remembered for its dull pacing and stagey finale than for being a stylish all-star portmanteau — the kind that all but disappeared with the decline of disaster movies, at least until indie films gave stars wanting to slum it for a low pay and high praise a reason to slum it. Then superhero movies created a whole new market for it.

Now, 40 years later, Christie is back, entrusted to the capable hands of Kenneth Branagh. Branagh is one of those directors who has always attracted top stars for his artsy movies (look up the casts for some of his Shakespeare adaptations) and who has directed a Marvel film (*Thor*). So it makes sense that Fox would pony up the salaries and marketing for him to trot out a prestige remake at a time when Christie is hardly considered hot and bankable. But let Branagh assemble one of those casts that will naturally attract a host of movie nerds and middle-brow literary fans, and there's a built-in audience — maybe not one chock full of Millennials, but Gen X-ers and Boomers deserve smart movies with glamor, too.

And then there's learning from Lumet's dry run ... emphasis on dry. Branagh's version both prunes and expands the cast, populating the corners with extras and trimming the running time by about 10 minutes while enlivening the pace and upping both the humor level and the emotional honesty (more drama, less melo). The result is a crackling mystery, talky but visually arresting.

Branagh himself plays the pretentious Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot, who, aboard a snowbound luxury liner in the middle of Switzerland, investigates the murder of a shadowy American (Johnny Depp), repeatedly stabbed in a coach that only 12 passengers had access to. And all of them it seems have some connection to the dead man and wouldn't mind seeing him rot. When everyone with means and opportunity also has a motive, how do you narrow the suspects?

Christie has always concentrated more on internecine plots than character development, but that's where Michael Green's adaptation and Branagh's inherent flair do much of the heavy lifting. His Poirot is prickly and vain, but also endearingly deft, with a dash of showmanship. When Branagh keeps us on the train, the camera glides its wide lens fluidly across the faces of the suspects; when he goes outside it, as in the sunny prologue, the shots are as gorgeous as an adventure travelogue. He'll then slip in a sly visual joke (note the placement of the suspects during the Big Reveal) without losing focus. It's as beautiful as any movie in theaters right now.

But Branagh is equally adept at evincing subtle character work from a cast that includes returning actors (Derek Jacobi, Judi Dench) and welcome newcomers (Daisy Ridley, Leslie Odom Jr.) plus some old hands (Michelle Pfeiffer, Willem Dafoe) relishing the chance to go big yet still hint at mystery beneath. The resolution seems more earned this time, more weighty and more brutal. There's a suggestion that this may be the first entry in a Branagh/Poirot series. I can't say that's a bad idea. In fact, it stimulates my little gray cells. ■

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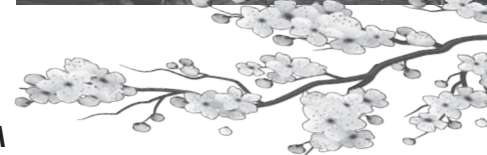
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Thursday 11.16

DIFFA gets into the Christmas spirit with annual Wreath Collection

DIFFA Dallas became famous initially for its denim jacket auctions for charity, but that has grown into all manner of fashions, including soft goods, pet items, dresses and smoking jackets and even décor. Chief among those: The 22nd annual holiday Wreath Collection and silent auction. Celeb designers create one-of-a-kind wreaths for your bids, as you wander, schmooze and enjoy cocktails and bites. Get into the holiday spirit early!

DEETS: Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. 7–10 p.m. \$50. DIFFADallas.org.



Tuesday 11.14— Sunday 11.19

'White Christmas' comes to the stage of Bass Hall (for now)

Still not in the holiday mood? Well, this is our final pitch: The stage adaptation of the holiday classic *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*. The Broadway show settles in for just one week at Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall. But if you're not convinced to see it yet, you can also catch it in December when the tour returns to North Texas for a stint at Fair Park Music Hall. So don't be a Grinch!

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

Sunday 11.12

HoneyPot lets the holiday fur fly at Round-Up

It's the time of year where being a bear is an advantage: That extra layer of fur and flesh keeps you warm as the chilly weather begins to set in... at least until you take it off to dance away the afternoon at the HoneyPot Bear Fest, returning to the Round-Up. The tea dance and fundraiser will feature a vendor market, a live musical performance by Joseph Veazie and lots of socializing with guys like Kenny Crist, pictured (courtesy Mike Jackson).

DEETS: The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 3–7 p.m. \$5 minimum donation requested.

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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Application Pending. Janelle Lutz (*End of the Rainbow*) stars as 40 characters, including a kindergarten assistant thrust into the cutthroat world of upper-class pre-school admissions. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 18. CircleTheatre.com.

Evita. The musical that made stars of Patti LuPone, Mandy Patinkin and authors Webber and Rice, about the Argentinian first lady, style icon and political opportunist. *Final weekend.* Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. CasaManana.org.

Ironbound. A dark comedy about a new immigrant searching for love and success. A regional premiere and the season opener for Kitchen Dog Theater. *Final weekend.* Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway, ste. 180. KitchenDogTheater.org.

John. Undermain Theatre presents this play by Pulitzer Prize-winner Annie Baker, set in an eerie B&B the weekend after Thanksgiving. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Dec. 3. Undermain.org.

Lear. An adaptation of Shakespeare’s tragedy, told wordlessly. A co-production of Theatre 3 and Prism Movement Theater. Theatre Too, 2800 Routh St. Through Nov. 19. Theatre3Dallas.com.

OPERA

La Traviata. Verdi’s tragic masterpiece about Violetta. Nov. 10 and 12. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasOpera.org.

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.

FILM

Sheed Persian Film Festival. Second annual festival of Iranian films and filmmakers (last year’s screened the subsequent Oscar winner for best foreign film, *The Salesman*). Twelve films will screen. Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5231 E. Mockingbird Lane. Nov. 10–12. SheedFilm.com.

FRIDAY 11.10

COMMUNITY

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

FOOD

French Wine Festival (formerly the Beaujolais



The inaugural Turtle Creek Arts Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday at Reverchon Park.

Festival). Annual celebration of French wines, sponsored by the French-American Chamber of Commerce Dallas/Fort Worth. Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. 6:30 p.m., VIP champagne reception; 7:30–10 p.m. festival. FrenchWineFestival.com.

DANCE

Malpaso Dance Company. The Cuban contemporary company makes its Dallas debut. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

FILM

CineWilde presents *The Women*. Director George Cukor’s classic comedy — a film in which no men appear. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 7:30 p.m.

BENEFIT

Night of Stars Gala. Fashion Group International’s annual celebration of the arts, this year recognizing Joyce and Kenny Goss of the Goss-Michael Foundation as Art Patrons of the Year. Hall of State at Fair Park. FGIDallasNightOfStars.eventbrite.com.

SATURDAY 11.11

FUNDRAISER

36th Annual Black Tie Dinner. Annual fundraiser, dinner, awards ceremony and performance, featuring Terrence McNally, Eric Fanning, Tyler Glenn, Emily Koch and more. Sheraton Hotel Dallas, 400 N. Olive St. BlackTie.org.

FESTIVAL

Turtle Creek Arts Festival. Inaugural, gay-run two-day arts festival featuring approximately 100 artists. Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Free admission; pets welcome. TurtleCreekArtsFestival.com.

SUNDAY 11.12

COMMUNITY

Drag Brunch at Hard Rock Cafe. This month’s theme: Celebrity Illusion. 2211 N. Houston St. \$5 cover. 12:30 p.m. 469-341-7625.

HoneyPot. Round-Up Saloon,

3912 Cedar Springs Road. 3–7 p.m. \$5 donation at the door requested .

MONDAY 11.13

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 11.14

FILM

The Deer Hunter. Winner of five Academy Awards, this film set in, and during the aftermath, of the Vietnam War, helped define a kind of 1970s post-Watergate angst. 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.

THEATER

Irving Berlin’s *White Christmas*. Stage adaptation of the classic MGM film. Plays in Fort Worth, then moves to Dallas. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Nov. 14–19. BassHall.com. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Dec. 5–10. DallasSummerMusicals.org

THURSDAY 11.16

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.

HOLIDAYS

DIFFA Dallas Wreath Collection. Celebrity designers create one-of-a-kind Christmastime wreaths for auction. A fundraiser for DIFFA. Cocktail attire. Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. 7–10 p.m. \$50. DIFFADallas.org.

THEATER

Texas in Paris. A musical by Dallas’ Alan Governar, starring Tony Award-winner Lillias White and directed by Akin Babatunde. Eisemann Center for the Arts 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Nov. 16–19 (five performances). EisemannCenter.org.

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and put his hand on his shoulder to give him advice and support. He encouraged the young man to keep at it. After Wood passed, Perez auditioned again; he is now in his third year as an apprentice with the company.

"Where I come from was very horrible," Perez, a native of the southern tropical region of Mexico, explained at the salon. "I was not accepted for who I was." Wood was an inspiration and guiding light; not entering the company on his first audition wasn't an impediment but a challenge to succeed. (For her part, Halperin expressed

amazement at Perez's accomplishments and dedication.)

Two of the dances to be performed at Rise — *The Only Way Through Is Through* (originally from 1998) and *Lay Your Burdens Down* (performed only once before, and now making its Dallas debut) — were original Wood works; the third is a world premiere, *Hillside*, created by Bollinger, who cannot help but be influenced by her mentor. The pieces themselves continue Wood's legacy, but it's in the dedication and commitment of dancers who never worked with Wood that his spirit remains. ■

■ GORGIO From Page 23

That 10 years meant developing his act, his style ... and deciding what his comedy should be about, including all the gay stuff.

"There are always going to be people out there who have ideas of what you should be doing and what you shouldn't, and they can go fuck themselves," he says brightly, following quickly by a chuckle. "I always feel weird when people say I am speaking in a taboo manner [about my relationship with my boyfriend], but we speak very openly with each other. There's a lot of shame we immediately associate with [private activities], even going to the bathroom, which is something we literally all do. We treat common things as weird, and people who try to shame someone for using the bathroom..." — he's clearly referring to a certain infantile President of the United States — "...What is wrong with *you* that you feel bad about that? I always say, 'Oh relax — you've done far weirder in your personal life.'"

He was buoyed by his interest in comedy by role models like Maria Bamford, Margaret Cho and George Carlin — his personal triumvirate of comedians who spoke their minds from a unique perspective and without apology, while still conveying a genuine vulnerability.

Comedy was also essential in helping a strange little foreign kid for understand American culture. "It was like a peephole into what was really happening," he says. "Growing up, I wasn't intentionally funny, so it wasn't something I did in any way. But comedy is a better form of communication — you get to your point so

much better." But it's also something of an aphrodisiac for him. "What I needed was to get a laugh — every time I do a TV taping, I feel like I'm having an entire-body orgasm."

Such frankness probably doesn't ingratiate himself to his parents, to whom he came out at 18. "I think there were plenty of hints I gave them my entire life, but they were surprised by it; my siblings, on the other hand, weren't in any way," Georgio says. "I'll just say [my parents] aren't openly upset about [my comedy] anymore, though I'm pretty sure they don't like it. My siblings feel differently — they love it."

He hopes the audiences for the Deer Tick show are equally open. They are, after all, mostly there to listen to the band, not see some queer African talk about gay sex. "Some people *could* be there to see me, but in the end they are there to hear music," he says. "It will be fun for me — you want music, but I can get a little more mental with you beforehand." So he just gets to show up, be funny, and look pretty. No pressure. ■



this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

Smoking: One kind of drag this queen does without

Hello, my lovelies. Can you believe it has been eight years since they banned smoking inside of nightclubs? I, for one, am thankful for the switch. I've worked in the clubs since the early '90s and can tell you, back when you could light up at the clubs, everything stank! If you were a drag queen, the awful, stagnant smell of a hundred smokers would foul up your wigs and every piece of clothing you owned. Since the ban, my drag smells like it's supposed to, like ball sweat and regret. Thank God for Febreze!

Growing up in my family, basically everyone smoked. My mother, my dad, even my grandmothers smoked. One of my grandmas

smoked unfiltered Pall Malls. It was the most masculine thing I had ever seen. Even my little sister smoked from the time she was 13, and by the time she was 14 my mother was buying them for her. We classy!

That is why it amazes me that I have never smoked, I have always been grossed out by smoking. I remember being about 5 years old and asking my mom to crack a window in the car. "You are killing me!" I would cry. You'd think that by seeing everyone around me smoking that I would just naturally pick up the habit, but I was the complete opposite. I was told quite regularly to stop nagging everyone about smoking, just please shut the fuck up.

I vowed as a kid that when I grew up, I would never date a smoker. Well guess what? I fell



for a smoker. It wasn't my fault — my now-husband hid the fact that he smoked from me until I was already in love with him. He was so good at hiding it. He never smelled like smoke and he never had smoker's breathe. The first time I saw him light up, we were at JR.'s, and I could have killed him, but he gave me warm and tinglies, so I accepted it.

He was very respectful with his smoking. He never smoked in the house or around me. He would say things like, "I need to go check the weather," and go outside to smoke. Please don't think that because I accepted it means that I was not constantly on his case about stopping, because I can be a relentless bitch. I nagged a lot in the beginning, but I know better than most that when it comes to addiction, you won't stop till you are truly ready to stop.

In 2008, Jamie told me to give him one year and to stop nagging him, and he would stop on his own. I said OK. At the three month mark, I gently reminded him that he had three months left before I became a fucking bitch about it. He said, "I know!" and then the subject was dropped.

The next month they banned smoking inside the bars, and on New Year's Eve of that year, Jamie had his last cigarette. He used the patch for a few weeks to help with his cravings but said that part of the problem was what to do with his hands. Smokers tend to have a hand to mouth thing they do, and Jamie needed something to help with that. So I bought a huge bag of Dum Dum suckers. He was a tow truck driver at the time and said he would usually light up when he got in his truck, so now he opened a sucker and stuck it in his mouth.

He, of course, was a little moody for a few weeks, but he didn't give in to temptation, although he was keeping Dum Dum suckers in business. He only used the patch for about two-and-a-half weeks, and by the third week, he was done with smoking all together. To get him to give up the Dum Dum suckers was easy — I started buying sugar-free Dum Dums and didn't tell him. He almost immediately said, "These don't even taste good anymore. I'm done with these, too." I was and still am very proud of him. He has even turned into one of the annoying anti-smokers like me. We are so good together.

Now I wish I could get the other people in my life to stop smoking. My mom actually stopped smoking for close to a year around 2002. I was so excited for her. She said her grandbabies asked her to stop so she stopped. I was working at Sound Warehouse/Blockbuster Music at the time and, to celebrate the fact that she quit smoking, I would buy her just about every movie on DVD when it came out. I started to drive to Italy, Texas, where she lived

at the time, more often. We would have movie night every chance we could.

Then one day, I walked into her house and she was sitting there smoking a cigarette. I asked why, and her response was that she missed it. She said, "I just like to smoke; if it kills me it kills me." Major eye roll. So I went back to being the annoying nagger I used to be. What could I do? You can't change the people you love. If that was the case, I'd be straight.

To tell the truth, and I hate to say this, but I usually don't visit my mom for very long because of the smoking. And now of course my niece and her boyfriend that live with my mom all smoke too. Since I am never around smokers anymore, I literally can't be around it. I know they all think I am being a snob about it, and maybe I am being a bit snobbish about it, but I just can't stand it, and one great thing about being an adult: If you don't wanna do something you ain't gotta. I love my family, I just wish they didn't smoke. Oh Em Gee — I can get awfully preachy when I want to. Sorry. Not sorry!

Now let me give some solicited advice!

Dear Cassie, What are your thoughts on drag queens wearing breast plates? I feel like it is cheating somehow. What are your thoughts on trans girls in the shows? They have it so easy. They already live as women, so where is the challenge to dress up and do shows? Thanks, T-Dog.

T-Dog, you are an idiot! First of all, breast plates — or tit bibs as we call 'em — are just one more way to customize a look. They are really no different than pads. I say use 'em if you got 'em.

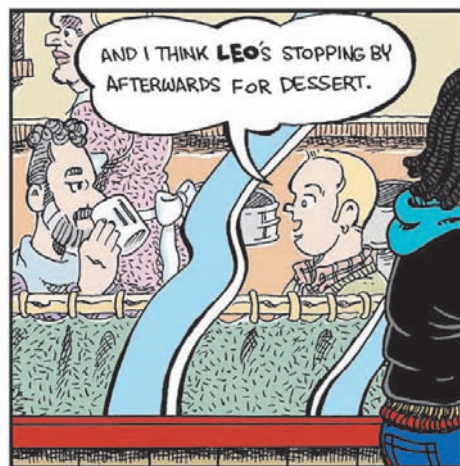
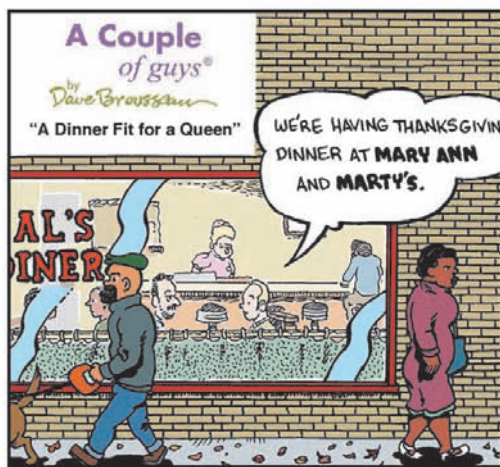
Second, to say that transwomen have anything easy is just stupid. The transwomen I know that do shows are entertainers and put just as much into a show as drag queens. They live as women but become showgirls for the show. Being an entertainer is more than just how long did it take to get ready.

As far as what are my thoughts on transwomen in a show, I fucking love them. Some of my favorite entertainers are transwomen. Krystal Summers is a sexpot showgirl. Aurora Sexton slays the game every time. Erica Andrews will always be one of the all-time greats, may she rest in peace. She was a transwoman that took showgirling to a whole notha level.

Expand your horizons T-Dog! Open your mind and judge a showgirl by whether you were entertained, not by your antiquated idea of what's easy. *Sheesh!*

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.





Headed out for a night on The Strip with a friend



Friends' night out on The Strip



Caption

Kicked back and chilling at Dallas Eagle

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Nov. 10–16:**

- **Alexandre's:** **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** sings Broadway on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Chicken-fried steak or chicken-fried chicken with mashed potatoes every Monday.
- **Club Changes:** **Wall of Food Veterans Show**, buffet at 4 p.m. and show at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Cowtown Leathermen** cookout from 4-6 p.m. and **Texas Gay Rodeo Association Prince of Rodeo Show** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **LoneStar Littles** night out showcasing their budding organization, recruiting new members and preparing for future events from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. **Discipline Corps** club night on Friday. **NLA–Dallas** club night on Saturday. **United Court Holiday Show** benefits the **Resource Center Nutrition Program** from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Krystal Summers** hosts **Miss Missed America**, featuring bar staff from **JR.'s**, **Sue Ellen's**, **TMC** and **S4** to benefit the **Caven Employee Benevolence Association** at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Steak and potato night from 6:30 p.m. until sold out on Monday.
- **Pekers:** **The Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System** presents **Thanks for Giving Show, A Salute to our Troops**, with **Mayra D'Lorenzo Lauren** and **Contessa Piranha**, with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Honey Pot Bear Fest 2017** with live music and a vendor market from 3-7 p.m. on Sunday. **Project Funway**, a fashion game show with judges, an emcee and a roomful of admiring fashionistas, hosted by **Sassy O'hara** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Mr. Texas and Diva Pageant** on Friday. **Abisha Uhl** on Saturday. **Tyla Taylor** from 2-4 p.m., **Marisela "The Voice"** from 5-7p.m., and **Brooke Graham** from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday. **HRC mixer** on Monday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Imperial Court Show** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Community garage sale** from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Dallas Cowboys play Atlanta at 3:25 p.m. on Sunday.

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



JR.'s cutie



All smiles at The Round-Up Saloon



Looking good on The Strip

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Classic Chassis Car Club meeting



Izzy playing at Sue Ellen's



Ladies' night on The Strip



Cocktail time at Liquid Zoo



North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts a ribbon cutting for Lure Salon



Hanging with Glitter Beard at Woody's



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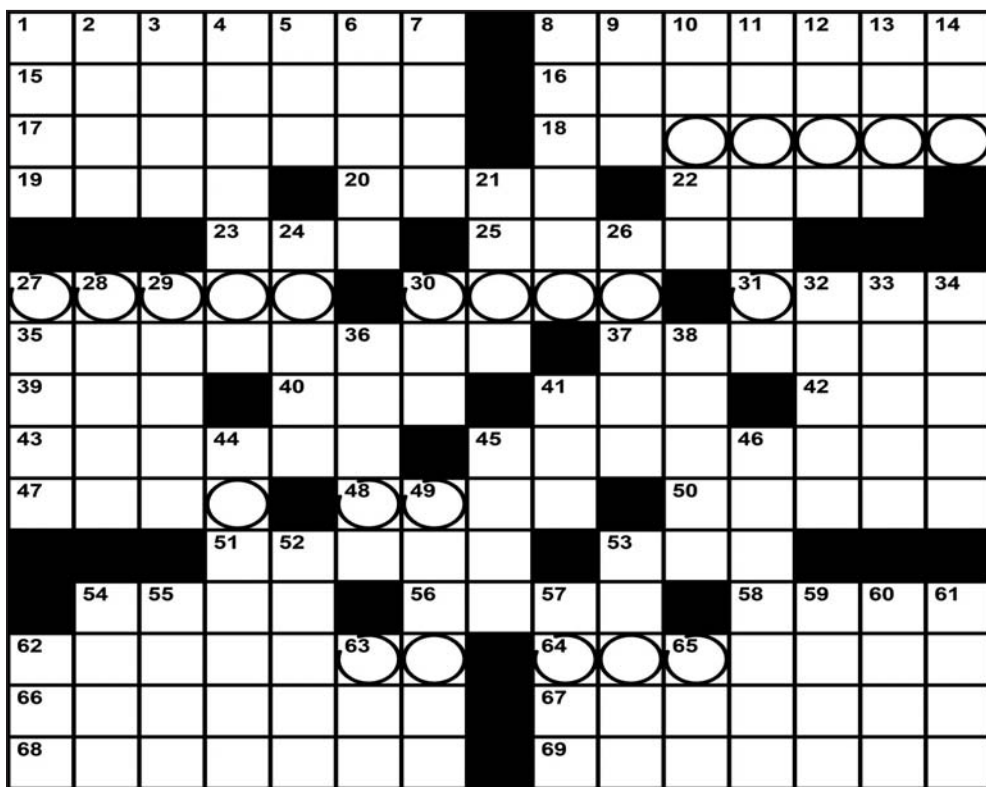
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Hidden Quote

Solution on Page 29

ACROSS

- 1 A bit of dialogue from this movie is hidden in the circled letters of this puzzle
 8 Frida's celebrations
 15 Emulate Dr. Kildare
 16 They may penetrate your enemies
 17 He rubs you the right way
 18 Remove a light bulb
 19 Painting and such, to da Vinci
 20 By ___ of (owing to)
 22 Craig Claiborne's gumbo pod
 23 Maiden name preceder
 25 C'est Moi, to King Arthur
 27 "That's the pot calling the kettle beige," e.g.
 30 Bones in the pelvic area
 31 Picks up
 35 Position firmly
 37 "Our" to Pasolini
 39 From ___ Z (the whole shebang)
 40 Inventor's monogram
 41 Pre-Epstein Beatle Sutcliffe
 42 NATO turf
 43 Electrifying speech
 45 Carol of Broadway
 47 Member of the opposition
 48 Distribute sparingly

- 50 One that ought to be paddled
 51 Poke in the backside
 53 In an excited state, perhaps
 54 Actor Johnson and others
 56 Shakespeare's Othello, for one
 58 Soprano Gluck
 62 Gertrude Stein portraitist
 64 Frilly mats
 66 Michelangelo, for one
 67 Game divisions for Pallone
 68 Good fortune that comes on you suddenly
 69 Proded

DOWN

- 1 What you might be in when you're out
 2 On ___ with
 3 Top
 4 It goes with old lace on Broadway
 5 Charlotte of *Facts of Life*
 6 Piece for Liberace
 7 She played Lois to Dean's Clark
 8 Tutti's partner
 9 McKellen of *Gods and Monsters*
 10 Coarse salt in the tub
 11 Reacts to homophobia, perhaps
 12 Ariz., once
 13 Drama, to Tennessee Williams
 14 One-eighty from NNE
 21 *Aida* backdrop
 24 Hog the stage
 26 He comes once a year
 27 Ben Stiller's mother Anne
 28 Chekov in the *Star Trek* movie
 29 Strikes through
 30 Dick Button's milieu
 32 Had oral sex at home?
 33 "Versace On The Floor" singer Mars
 34 He drilled Gomer Pyle
 36 Elaine ___ (*Taxi* role)
 38 Pound portion
 41 Cyndi Lauper's "___ Bop"
 44 Traffic lights, e.g.
 45 African queen
 46 Writer Barney
 49 Donny of *Dreamcoat*
 52 Davis of *King*
 53 Mr. ___ (1996 DeGeneres film)
 54 *The Celluloid Closet* author Russo
 55 West Point, e.g. (abbr.)
 57 Garfield's whipping boy
 59 Swedish soprano Jenny
 60 "Let ___ Lover"
 61 Grp. or org.
 62 One in a fairy tale threesome
 63 ___ Francisco
 65 Having one sharp, to Bernstein

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