

A close-up portrait of Karen McCrocklin, a woman with short, light blonde hair and blue eyes, wearing a white button-down shirt. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

daily

The Premier Media Source for LGBT

voice

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KAREN McCROCKLIN

LGBT TEXAN OF THE YEAR

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 courageous, not careless.

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.

GILEAD

Learn more at truvada.com

 **Truvada®**
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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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LGBT Texan of the Year Karen McCrocklin. Photo by Debra Gloria

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This week, Dallas' Lost Souls Rugby Team got the chance to play Santa's Little Helpers when they delivered nearly 700 toys to the students at Adelfa Botella Callejo Elementary School. Lost Souls won the Division III championship at the 2016 Mark Kendall Bingham Memorial Cup.

NOW it's official: Lupe is running for governor



It's official, and this time it's for sure: Lupe Valdez has resigned her post as sheriff of Dallas County to run for governor of Texas. That makes her the second LGBT person running in the Democratic Primary; busi-

nessman Jeffrey Payne announced his candidacy this summer and officially filed in the race on Monday, Dec. 4.

Valdez announced her intention Wednesday morning, Dec. 6) around 6 a.m., saying that she would make the official announcement just before noon at the Dallas County Democratic Party Headquarters. She also submitted her letter of resignation to the Dallas County Commissioners, giving commissioners the chance to start looking for a temporary replacement.

The deadline to file for the primary is 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11. According to Ballotpedia, there are six other candidates who have announced their intentions to run in the Democratic Primary. Valdez's official announcement comes about a week after the has-she/hasn't-she uproar that erupted when someone in the Dallas County Democratic Party told media outlets that Valdez had already resigned as sheriff to enter the race.

In the statement released Wednesday morning, Valdez said: "Like so many hardworking Texans, I know it's tough deciding between buying food, finding a decent place to live, and setting aside money for college tuition. Opportunity in Texas ought to be as big as this great state, but it is out of reach for far too many, that's why I'm running for Texas governor. I'm a proud Texas Democrat. I believe good government can make people's lives better, and I intend to do just that."

Valdez is the only Hispanic lesbian sheriff in the country, and one of few female sheriffs in Texas.

— Tammye Nash

DMA announces lineup for 27th season of Arts & Letters Live

The Dallas Museum of Arts' Arts & Letters Live series, which brings authors, activists, artists and actors to town to read from, about their works and perform, starts its 27th season next month. The DMA just announced a lineup that includes more than 30 celebrities at 25 scheduled events.

Among those planned for public performances between January and June are Pulitzer, Booker, Newbery, Peabody, Tony, Grammy and Emmy Award-winners, including returning favorites like

David Sedaris, as well as the Texas Bound short stories series and a recording of the public radio series Selected Shorts.

Highlights include:

- Selected Shorts: Tales of Marriage featuring Michael Cerveris, Jane Kaczmarek and Maria Tucci. (Jan. 27)
- Jhumpa Lahiri, a Pulitzer laureate for her debut collection Interpreter of Maladies, reading from her work. (Jan. 30)
- Paul Auster, the acclaimed novelist, most recently of 4-3-2-1. (Feb. 11)
- Conspiraire, a Grammy-winning ensemble known for the choral work Considering Matthew Shepard, about the slain gay man. (Feb. 21)
- Texas Bound I and II, two evenings of storytelling, featuring local actors as well as long-time audience favorite G.W. Bailey (Major Crimes). (March 3 and 19)
- David Sedaris, queer humorist revered for his skewed memoirs about his dysfunctional family. (April 30)

For a complete lineup, and the purchase tickets, visit DMA.org.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Robertson joins EqTX

Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith announced Tuesday, Dec. 5), that Rebecca Robertson has joined the organization's leadership team as chief programs officer.

Robertson, who until recently was the legal and policy director for the ACLU of Texas, said: "I have been working for LGBTQ equality since I graduated from law school, beginning with setting up pro bono wills clinics during the scourge of the AIDS crisis in the 1990s, to defending the rights of our community during the 2017 Texas legislative session. I am so excited to have the chance to do that work full time with Chuck and the terrific team at Equality Texas."

Before joining the ACLU, Robertson was a litigation partner at Baker Botts, L.L.P. As a founding member of that firm's pro bono committee, she led the team representing amici curiae in the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark case Lawrence v. Texas, the case that eventually led to the Texas sodomy law being declared unconstitutional and set the stage for other legal victories for the LGBT community.

Robertson received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1995 and was elected executive editor of the Harvard Law Review. She graduated from Rice University, magna cum laude, in 1991, and has received numerous awards for her pro bono work, including the Texas State Bar's Norman Black Award for Service to GLBT Community.

— Tammye Nash

In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? Enough is Enough

Get relief. Pure and simple. Ask your doctor about Mytesi.

Mytesi (crofelemer):

- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
- **Treats diarrhea differently** by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- 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.

Rx Only

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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 guest is Texas House candidate **Julie Johnson**; **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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

DECEMBER

- **Dec. 8: DFW Pride Happy Hour**

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Maracas Cocina, 2914 Main St.

- **Dec. 9: Don't Get Your Tinsel in a Tangle fundraiser**

Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network presents "Don't Get Your Tinsel in a Tangle," a fundraising show starring Sable Alexander, Jeff Germany, Patti Le Plae Safe, Lipps

LaRue, Victoria Weston, Jimmy Henderson and Natasha Marzan, and the Austin Baptist Women perform to benefit the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network in The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. The event is sponsored by North Texas Infectious Disease Consultants.

- **Dec. 9: Winnetka Heights Holiday Home Tour**

From noon-6 p.m. leaving from Turner House, 401 Rosemont Ave.

- **Dec. 9: KNON Toy Drive**

KNON 89.3 holds its third annual Toy Drive from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the KNON Studio, 11311 N. Central Expressway. Toys can also be dropped off at Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St., and Top Ten Records, 338 W. Jefferson. The drive accepts new, unwrapped gifts to be donated to the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. Event at the KNON Studio also includes performances by Joe Pat Hennen, Gregg A Smith and J Mac, and more.

- **Dec. 10: Cowtown Cookoff**

TGRA hosts its annual Cowtown Cookoff, 'Round The Kitchen Table, beginning at 4 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings St. in Fort Worth. Competition categories include appetizers, side dishes, entrees and desserts, with prizes for the winner of each category and a grand prize winner.

- **Dec. 10: No Tie Dinner Wreath Auction**

Wayne Smith hosts the annual Christmas Wreath Auction from 6:30-10 p.m. at Alexandre's, 4026 Cedar Springs Road. Alexandre's presents the auction each year that raises funds for No Tie Dinner, which benefits AIDS Services of Dallas.

- **Dec. 12: Stocking Auction**

Holiday party and stocking auction from 7-10 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Dec. 14: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

- **Dec. 16: The Teddy Bear Party**

Teddy bears for Children's Health from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at Hall of State, Fair Park.



Lipps La Rue, left, pictured with Sister Lawna Jocqui of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, is one of the entertainers performing Saturday, Dec. 9, in the "Don't Get Your Tinsel in a Tangle" show benefitting Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network. See listings for details.

- **Dec. 16: Introduction to BDSM**

Leather Masters and H.O.M.E. sponsor a class covering the basics of the BDSM lifestyle, with topics including history, etiquette, dominant and submissive dynamics and playing safe, sane and consensual. The class takes places from 1-3 p.m. at Leather Masters, 3000 Main St. Cost is \$10, and tickets are available at Leather Masters or online at leathermasters.com.

- **Dec 25: Christmas**

- **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**

JANUARY 2018

- **Jan. 1: Happy New Year**

- **Jan. 2: Classic Chassis Car Club**

Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

- **Jan. 11: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

- **Jan. 12-15: DSGA hosts Sin City Classic**

Different Strokes Golf Association hosts

the golf portion of the Sin City Classic in Las Vegas. The two-day tournament one-day fun round takes place at Bali Hai Golf Club. Pricing and info at SinCityClassic.org. Early registration ends Dec. 15.

- **Jan 20: Slumber Party 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.

FEBRUARY

- **Feb. 8: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

- **Feb. 17: Gold Medal 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.

MARCH

- **March 4: The Women's Chorus of Dallas**

TWCD performs with TWU and DISD singers at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TWCD.org.

• **March 8: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

• **March 17: Leprechaun 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.

• **March 23-25: Turtle Creek Chorale**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents Anthems, the songs that shaped the movements, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **March 24: Green Tie for Green Haus**

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas event benefits Shared Housing Center from 7-10 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. www.GLFD.org/greentie.

APRIL

• **April 12: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

• **April 21: Gaybingo of Oz**

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.

MAY

• **May 10: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

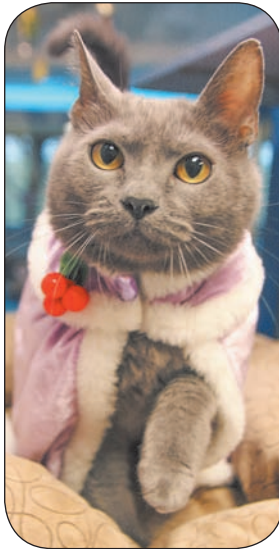
• **May 13: Mother's Day with The Women's Chorus of Dallas**

TWCD performs at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

▪ **pet of the week / Brooklyn**

Meet Brooklyn, a 9-year-old, blue domestic shorthair mix with an irresistibly charming personality. She was surrendered to the SPCA of Texas in October, and she loves attention and yummy kitty treats. She's talkative, likes lounging on her bed in the sun and would love to cuddle up for movie marathons or story time. In her previous home, she adored spending time with her favorite 8-year-old human and did well with kids of all ages. She wasn't a fan of the family dog though, so she would probably do best in a home with no dogs. If you're looking for a darling, affectionate girl to warm your heart, she's the one for you. Brooklyn has been spayed and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Her adoption fee is only \$25. #68518

Brooklyn is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



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The hero of making things happen



Karen McCrocklin's initiative in creating a network to provide disaster relief to flooded areas in Southeast Texas after Hurricane Harvey helped earn her the title of LGBT Texan of the Year for 2017.

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Editor's note: Each year in December, Dallas Voice recognizes some individual, organization or group for outstanding contributions during the year to the LGBT community and the community in general. This year, Dallas resident Karen McCrocklin is our LGBT Texan of the Year.

In the early morning hours of Friday, Aug. 25, Hurricane Harvey made landfall, as a Category 4 storm, near Rockport, Texas, just a short distance away from Corpus Christi. The storm then drifted northeast, along the Texas coast, before settling in over Houston and then dumping unprecedented amounts of rain — up to 60 inches in some areas — onto the Bayou City and the rest of Southeast Texas.

The water continued to rise, stranding

people and animals alike, submerging whole neighborhoods — whole cities — and turning roadways, even an interstate, into raging rivers. But amid the tragic stories of death and loss were the stories of daring and heroism, of men and women who put their all on the line to help others.

Around the rest of the state — and, in fact, the country — people sat glued to their television and computer screens, watching in horror and desperation as the scenes of devastation and disaster unfolded.

Karen McCrocklin was one of those peo-

ple. As she sat in her safe, dry home in Oak Cliff, watching news of the flooding and talking with friends in the danger zone, she knew she had to do something.

That “something” turned out to be a grassroots disaster relief effort that raised thousands of dollars and now lives on in the form of a nonprofit agency dedicated to disaster relief efforts now and in the future.

“It was the strangest set of circumstances that ignited the whole thing,” McCrocklin recalled this week, during an interview set up by Dallas Voice under the guise of gathering information for a year-end review article.

“I was on Facebook, watching and reading about what was happening in Houston,” McCrocklin said. “A friend who lives in Houston posted a photo of herself on a raft out in her street. I commented, ‘I wish I had a boat. I’d come get you.’ Then somebody else said, ‘I have a boat.’”

“The next thing I know, someone is telling me about this woman, Iris Rodriguez, who’s with the Houston Fire Department,” she continued. “They said, ‘Iris needs a boat.’ So I got a boat and a bunch of supplies and, in the middle of the night, drove down there and dumped it all at a Houston Fire Department station. We got down there, and there was only one road open. I had to go around police barricades in my big truck to get to the fire station. I dumped that load of stuff and came home.”

Rodriguez, who is in fact a captain in the Houston Fire Department, called it “really a

serendipity moment. We were in a bad situation, trying to help. I kept hitting the wall, again and again. And then, all of a sudden, the door opened — and there was this crazy woman from Dallas standing there.”

Rodriguez said that she knew a woman who was “having issues getting out of her house” as the floodwaters were rising. We helped her get to safety, and then the next day she calls and says, ‘Iris, I want to help. I have a friend who wants to help. She lives in Dallas. What do you need?’ I said, ‘I need boats,’ and she said, ‘Well, I’ll ask her.’

“It was three or four hours later that I got a text; ‘Your boats will be there soon,’” Rodriguez said. “It was crazy. I mean, I don’t know this lady at all and she’s bringing us boats.”

About 6 a.m. the next morning, Rodriguez said she got a call from a fire station. “They said, ‘You have a delivery of boats and supplies here at the station.’ I’m like, what?!” Rodriguez said. “I go down there and sure enough, there are two boats and a little motor and tons of supplies. I thought, who is this madwoman?! She is amazing!”

Over the next few days, as the flooding continued, Rodriguez said that she and McCrocklin never managed to connect in person, but McCrocklin continued to deliver on the supplies the Houston first responders and rescuers needed.

“She was just nonstop madness, completely focused on getting supplies and getting them delivered to where they needed to be,” Rodriguez said. “I have never seen



Photo by Debra Gloria



At work in Houston Photo courtesy Karen McCrocklin

anyone move that much stuff that quickly. And I am in the military! I've seen them move whole battalions! [McCrocklin] was just phenomenal."

Rodriguez said McCrocklin made trip after trip after trip between Dallas and Houston, even making stops along the way to collect even more supplies and cash donations. "She would ask me, 'What do you need?' I'd tell her what we needed and she'd say, 'I'll get it. We will make this happen.'"

"And then Austin came in. Then San Antonio came in. All of a sudden, there was just this whole bunch of lesbians coming together and making this all happen for the people who needed it," Rodriguez said. "I've really never seen anything quite like it."

McCrocklin spreads the credit around. "Everyone I know gave money," she said of the relief effort. "Everyone in Dallas helped. There were four of us who delivered loads of supplies and cash donations to Houston over the course of that month. We set up the GoFundMe page, and we ended up raising about \$40,000. I had people from all over donating money; I had people from Australia donating money."

"It was all very fast and flexible, with zero overhead," McCrocklin said. "You could give us something in Dallas, and it would be in the hands of someone in Houston who



Karen McCrocklin, left, with activist Vivian Shapiro at The Woman's March in Washington, D.C., last January. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

needed it by the next day."

But filling the immediate need wasn't the end of it. Not by a long shot. After the immediate danger had passed, there were still plenty of people who needed help, and McCrocklin and her network were still in action.

"Five days after the initial flooding, we were taking supplies down and we ended

up finding this neighborhood where no one had been yet," McCrocklin said. "I mean, Houston had forgotten this neighborhood long before the flooding happened. So we created this pipeline of supplies and help into this neighborhood. The first day, we set up in this hot-as-hell strip mall parking lot and started handing out supplies."

"We were constantly finding more and

more people who needed help, connecting them with the resources they needed, helping however we could," McCrocklin continued. "We worked on situations with people with disabilities who were having problems with FEMA. We pulled together crews to wreck the sheetrock out of people's houses where it had been destroyed. There was a lot of mold abatement work that needed to be done."

"I mean, it started with a boat. And then four weeks later, I am down there wearing a respirator pulling moldy sheetrock out of people's houses!"

Rodriguez and Melissa Vivanco used the momentum and donated funds to create a new nonprofit called TxLDRS — Texas Leaders Recovery Squad — and McCrocklin is on the board of directors, Rodriguez said.

"It was because of her that we started this nonprofit," Rodriguez said. "Because she is the one who started this movement, we are able to keep on helping people. We have three houses we are working on right now, people who are still living in awful conditions and need help. It will be years before we are back to normal in Houston, and Karen has not left us. She is an angel sent from heaven. She's my angel, for sure."

HERO, Page 12

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➤ In Memoriam ➤

Daylen Kent Gallman
March 5, 1971 - November 26, 2017

Daylen was born March 5, 1971, in Friona to JeDon and Kitty Black Gallman. He graduated from Friona High School in 1989. In 1993 he graduated cum laude from Hardin-Simmons University with a B.B.S. in Psychology, and a minor in theater and music. In 1996 he earned his M.Ed in Counseling and Human Development graduating magna cum laude from Hardin-Simmons University. In May of 2003, Daylen earned his Juris Doctorate from the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University in Dallas where he was a Nationally Recognized Moot Court competitor.

Daylen practiced law specializing in commercial law and insurance defense in Dallas fourteen years. He earned the recognition of being a Rising Star Lawyer and Super Lawyer for nine consecutive years. He was a member of the Dallas Legal Hospice and Child Advocacy, and was voted Influential Man of Dallas in 2008.

While at Hardin-Simmons, Daylen worked for MHMR supervising a work force of Special Needs and Mentally and Emotionally challenged adults. His first job in Dallas was as a dorm supervisor and then dorm administrator at Buckner Baptist Children's Home. He then became administrator for a Montessori School in Dallas while he attended law school at SMU. Daylen's compassionate heart opened for anyone, especially a child who was challenged by life, whether it was physically, mentally, emotionally, or circumstantially. He was forever doing pro bono work, in his words, "because they just don't have anybody else to help them." That compassion spilled over into every area of his life even to animals. His constant companion and love of his life was Lucy, a rescued American Pit Bull.

Daylen worshipped the God he loved with music. He shared his talent at any opportunity he was given with great joy and enthusiasm.

Daylen is survived by his parents JeDon and Kitty Gallman of Friona, his sister Melanie Braun and her husband Jerry of Clovis, NM, his niece Jessie London of Lubbock, his nephew Oran London of Friona and a large, loving family of aunts, uncles, and cousins. And of course, his dog Lucy.

Because Daylen was touched by the needs of unfortunate children, the family suggests memorials be made to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch or a children's charity of your choice.



HERO, From Page 11



Marla Custard and Karen McCrocklin.

Year-round activism

This wasn't McCrocklin's first go at disaster relief work. In August 2016, parts of Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas were struck by devastating floods, and McCrocklin knew she had to help. She and some friends raised about \$6,000 in cash and supplies and delivered it all to those in need in the Baton Rouge area.

So when she saw the need in Houston, she said, "I thought, surely we can raise that much to help in Houston."

But the disaster relief work helped her, McCrocklin said, as much as it helped those in Houston.

"I spent the first half of this year being so incredibly upset [over results of the 2016 election and Trump's victory], just upset at a level that really wasn't sustainable," she said. "This chance to help in Houston changed my focus. I feel so much better now. I focus more now on what I can actually do, instead of sitting around fuming all the time. Being able to help has been a huge gift to me."

But those who have known her longest and know her best are quick to point out that helping isn't something new for McCrocklin.

Her partner, Marla Custard, pointed out that most people know nothing about many of the things McCrocklin does for others. "She goes to the Sonic on Industrial every day for her iced tea, and every day she talks to the homeless people who are regulars on that block. And regularly, she'll come home and say something like, 'I have to go buy \$60 worth of de-wormer for this guy Mar-

cus. He's obsessed with taking care of the feral cats. He's worried about them. It's all he talks about. This is the best way for now that I can help him, by helping him help the cats. ... I gotta get it right now while I know he's still there.'"

Another story revolves around a woman with multiple sclerosis that McCrocklin met in an online lesbian writers' group. The woman, Custard said, deals constantly with "a ton of life-threatening problems. She's genuinely been about to die for about two years. She's in the hospital, in ICU, about every two months. And she has no one."

At least once a week or so, the woman calls McCrocklin "to cry and to talk," Custard continued. "And Karen is always there for her. Always. Sometimes, I listen on speaker phone when she calls while we are in the car. It's brutal. And Karen has always been there for her, always steadfast."

Custard also talked about a young woman who works the counter at a pharmacy chain store in their neighborhood. One day, Custard noticed that the young woman had a black eye, so she asked if someone had hurt her, if she was in danger and if she needed help. When the woman said yes, with tears in her eyes, Custard told her, "I'll be back." And she went home to tell McCrocklin what was going on.

"Karen dropped everything, jumped in the car and went over there. She talked to the young woman's supervisor and got permission to go in the back office to talk to the girl. She spent several hours there with her, called some places, made some appointments. By the end of the afternoon,

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HERO, From Page 12

she had made a plan, and then she followed up a few days later," Custard said. "Because of Karen, the young woman went to stay with a friend, moved out of her boyfriend's place.

"My point with all the stories," Custard said, "is that there really isn't a week that goes by that Karen isn't deeply, genuinely concerned about someone and how she can help them. She just doesn't go around advertising it."

Laura McFerrin has known McCrocklin since her college days, when she first saw her videoing one of the annual LifeWalk events. "She had a camera that I dreamed of having, and as I watched, I knew that she was someone I wanted to know."

The two met in person when McFerrin won a scholarship from the Uncommon Legacy Foundation and McCrocklin was at the event where the scholarship was presented. Not long after, McFerrin said, the two worked together on the Outtakes LGBT film festival and the Walt Whitman School for LGBT students.

"I always loved how she would walk in, take command and boss everyone around with these beautiful ideas, and they would do what she said," McFerrin said. "She is always excited about something. She is the first person I called when I found out Trump was going to be president, because I knew that she would know what to do about it. In August, I was watching the news, seeing all the flooding in Houston, and I knew I wanted to help. I heard that Karen was collecting supplies to take down there, so I went and bought a ton of bottled water and carried it over to her house. I got there, and all these people are already there, organizing and packing. And then all of a sudden Karen shows up with a boat and some canoes and life jackets and stuff. She says, 'Pack that stuff up. We're taking it to Houston.'"

"While I was sitting around wondering what I could do to help, Karen was already busy doing it," she said, adding that she has always been impressed with McCrocklin's willingness to take a stand. "Before the election last year, when Trump was in Dallas for a rally, Karen got a wig and



Karen McCrocklin, left, and Becky Thompson at a meeting about the Walt Whitman School. (Photo courtesy Marla Custard)

went to the rally. She put on that wig, and she looked just like any other Republican woman. And she went in that rally, and she started heckling Trump. She wasn't afraid to do that. She does the things your parents tell you not to do, the things you wish you could do."

McFerrin and McCrocklin started a video court reporting business, Benchmark Legal Media, together. McFerrin is now the sole owner, but she and her wife and children are still close with McCrocklin and Custard.

"I guess everyone who knows Karen has had a run-in with her at some point, because she's loud and she is insistent. I've had the biggest fights you can imagine with Karen. But I love her. I always will. Because she is amazing."

"Everyone is constantly calling on her for favors, and she always says yes. To everyone."

Dee Pennington has also known McCrocklin for many years, and over those years the two have worked together on many, many projects and organizations. McCrocklin is, Pennington said, "one of my most favorite heroes."

"When I think of Karen McCrocklin, I immediately think, 'brilliantly intelligent, curiously creative and generously big-hearted,'" Pennington said this week. "Everything she does fits into one of those descriptions. On top of what she does for the LGBTQ community, I get to call her one of my dearest friends. And while we are almost always on the same side of stuff, we can still disagree and push each other's buttons. Nonetheless, it will never keep us from being lifelong friends, and that's because she puts the friendship above the politics and ego — and yes, we both have

HERO, Page 20

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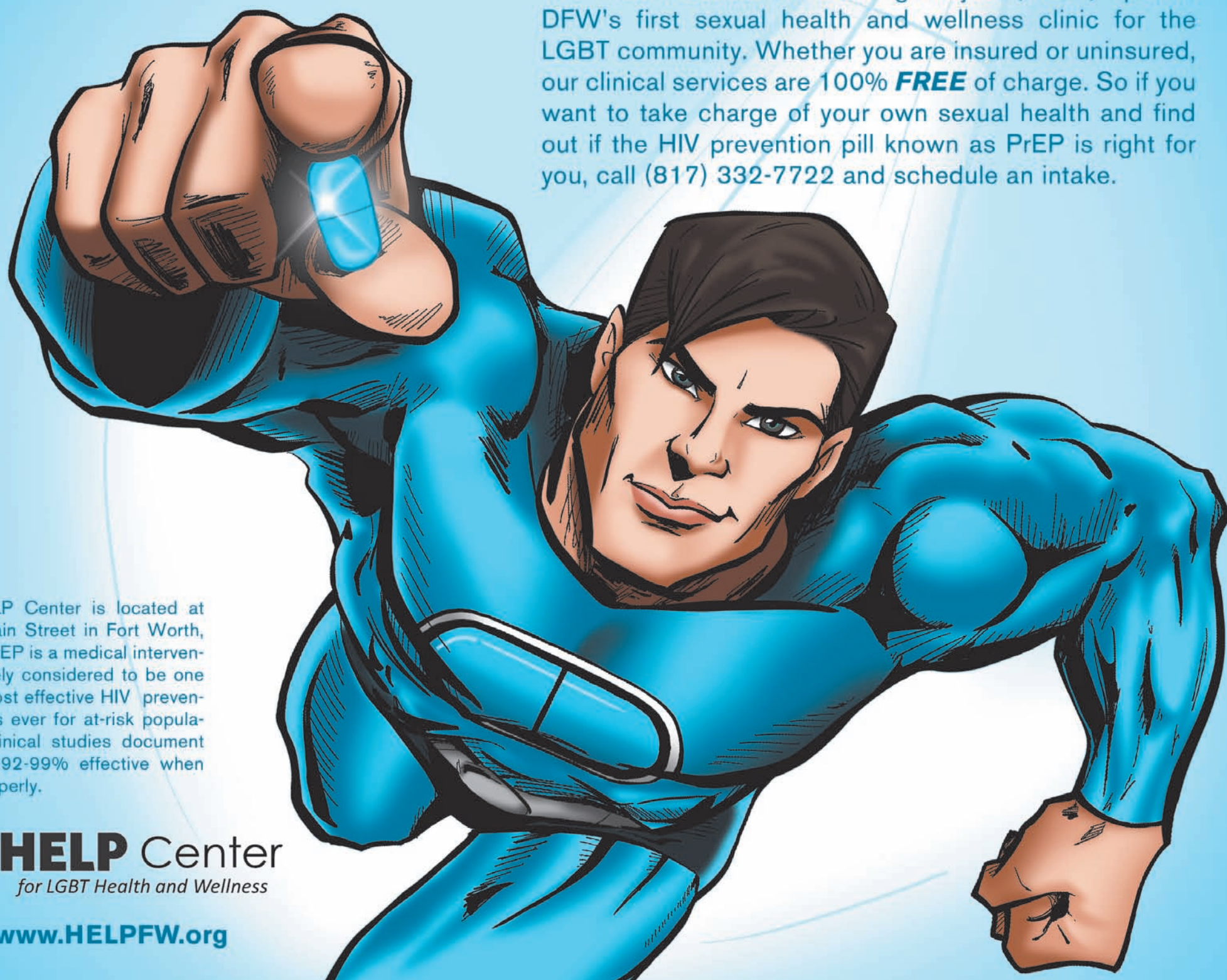
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Black Tie distributes \$1.15 million-plus

From Staff Reports

Black Tie Dinner board members distributed \$1,155,000 to its 20 beneficiaries during its 2017 Wrap Party and Beneficiary Distribution event on Thursday, Dec. 7, at the W Hotel in Dallas.

Beneficiaries include 19 North Texas agencies and organizations supportive of the LGBT community and the national Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

Black Tie's 2017 co-chair Nathan Robbins said the board was "thrilled to once again distribute well over \$1 million to our beneficiaries, who work tirelessly every day to improve the lives of the LGBTQ community," adding a "huge thank you to every sponsor, table captain and supporter, who together allow us to make such an incredible impact."

The largest single donation went to the

Human Rights Campaign Foundation, which received a check for \$555,525. Locally-based beneficiaries and their donations are:

- AIDS Interfaith Network, \$29,349
- AIDS Outreach Center, \$26,787
- AIDS Services of Dallas, \$38,187
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star, \$32,585
- Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, \$29,937
- Celebration Community Church, \$28,362
- Congregation Beth El Binah, \$27,612
- Equality Texas Foundation, \$31,938
- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, \$39,183
- Legacy Counseling Center, \$29,187
- Legal Hospice of Texas, \$28,637
- Northaven United Methodist Church, \$34,181
- Promise House, \$32,559



- Rainbow Roundup, \$42,418
- Resource Center, \$46,462
- Suicide and Crisis Prevention Center of North Texas, \$14,019
- The Trevor Project, \$27,662
- Turtle Creek Chorale, \$29,637
- Uptown Players, \$30,772

Black Tie Dinner also announced on Thursday that BBVA Compass is returning as the presenting sponsor for the 2018 dinner. "We want to say a huge thank you to Ray

Ocanas and BBVA Compass for their continued generous support," noted Black Tie Co-chair David Gifford-Robinson. "Their brand line 'Opportunities for All' exemplifies the shared passion we have to come together and build a better tomorrow for the community."

The 37th annual Black Tie Dinner will be held on Nov. 3 next year, again at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. For additional information about the dinner, visit blacktie.org. ■

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Charlie Craig, left, and David Mullins, the original plaintiffs in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case, wait to address supporters following oral arguments at the Supreme Court on Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Washington. HRC and coalition supporters rallied against a license to discriminate at the court. (Kevin Wolf/AP Images for Human Rights Campaign)

The Kennedy factor

Justice that has authored most of SCOTUS' LGBT rights decisions juggling arguments in wedding cake case

Mark Sherman | Associated Press
editor@dallasvoice.com

WASHINGTON — His vote likely to decide the outcome, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy voiced competing concerns Tuesday, Dec. 5, about respecting the religious beliefs of a Colorado baker who wouldn't make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, and the gay couple's dignity.

Kennedy, the author of all the court's major gay-rights cases, worried early in a riveting argument at the high court that a ruling

in favor of baker Jack Phillips might allow shop owners to put up signs saying "We do not bake cakes for gay weddings."

But later, Kennedy said the Colorado Civil Rights Commission seemed "neither tolerant nor respectful of Mr. Phillips' religious beliefs" when it found his refusal to bake a cake for the gay couple violated the state's anti-discrimination law.

Phillips and the couple, Charlie Craig and David Mullins, were all in the courtroom Tuesday to listen to an argument that otherwise seemed to put the conservative justices squarely with Phillips and the liberals on the couple's side.

The case pits Phillips' First Amendment



claims of artistic freedom against the anti-discrimination arguments of the Colorado commission, and the two men Phillips turned away in 2012.

The argument was the first involving gay rights since the Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that states could not prevent same-sex couples from marrying.

The Trump administration is supporting Phillips in his argument that he can't be forced to create a cake that violates his religious beliefs. It appears to be the first time the federal government has asked the justices to carve out an exception from an anti-discrimination law.

Protesters on both sides filled the sidewalk in front of the court, shortly before the start of the argument.

"We got Jack's back," Phillips' supporters said. Backers of Craig and Mullins countered: "Love wins."

The case's outcome also could affect photographers and florists who have voiced objections similar to those of Phillips.

"Artists shouldn't be forced to express what the government dictates. The commission ordered Jack to celebrate what his faith prohibits or to stop doing the work he loves.



Justice Anthony Kennedy

The Supreme Court has never compelled artistic expression, and doing so here would lead to less civility, diversity, and freedom for everyone, no matter their views on marriage," Kristen Waggoner, the Alliance Defending Freedom who is representing Phillips, said in an email.

KENNEDY, Page 20

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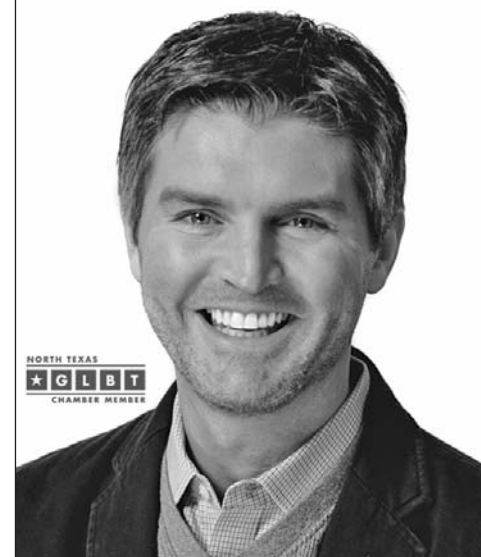
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HERO, From Page 15

egos. That's one of the things we disagree about — who's ego is bigger!

"I should add to my list of descriptors 'compassionately trustworthy, loving and sweet friend,'" Pennington declared.

Besides being her personal friend, Pennington said McCrocklin is a huge friend to the LGBT community, describing her as one of the community's "greatest inspirational leaders, doers, thinks, educators and fighters against injustice. Our community can never repay her or thank her enough for all she's contributed to our progress, for all these things she brings to the effort of making the world a better place.

"Better yet," Pennington said, "her friendship is how she makes my life a better place and me a better person."

Even though she has just met McCrocklin herself, Rodriguez said her contributions and commitment to the community are obvious. "Looking at everything she does for people, year-round, you can see that her empathy for people in general is truly deep. You don't find many people like that."

As for Custard, she is glad she did find McCrocklin.

"There's a group of us that all have our 'ranch names' for when we go out to the ranch or go on trips. Mine is 'Lucky Slim,'" Custard said. "Karen's ranch name is



Karen McCrocklin (Photo by Debra Gloria)

'Deets,' after the character in *Lonesome Dove* who would go ahead of the posse to scope out and assess the situation, determine the needs and make the plans.

"Karen's other nickname is 'MacGyver,'" Custard continued. "That girl can make things happen like nobody else. She can make things happen in hours that would take others weeks to accomplish. She has the glorious combination of compassion, fire and brilliant, creative problem solving.

"She is my super hero."

KENNEDY, from Page 19

But the American Civil Liberties Union and other rights groups that have sided with the gay couple said they fear a ruling for Phillips could allow for discrimination by a range of business owners. They said the court has never recognized what they call a constitutional right to discriminate.

"The question is whether a shop like Masterpiece Cakeshop can put up a sign in its window saying, 'Wedding cakes for heterosexual couples only,'" ACLU deputy legal director Louise Melling said. The ACLU is representing Craig and Mullins.

All eyes were on Kennedy throughout the 75-minute argument. The 81-year-old

Kennedy is the author of the 2015 gay marriage decision and all the court's major gay-rights rulings. At the same time, Kennedy has forcefully defended free-speech rights in his nearly 30 years as a justice.

Colorado native Neil Gorsuch also will be taking part in the most important gay rights case since he joined the Supreme Court in April.

Colorado is among only 21 states with statewide laws barring discrimination against gays and lesbians in public accommodations.

The case, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, 16-111, will be decided by late June.

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A Lesson From Yoda

Katie and I are both big *Star Wars* fans. We have seen all of the movies many times. And we bought our tickets long ago for the newest release, *The Last Jedi*.

Dec. 15 — *The Last Jedi*'s opening day — can't come soon enough!

Now, not everyone is aware of this, but George Lucas is a Buddhist, and there are teachings from the Enlightened One all through the *Star Wars* movies. Even the names "Yoda" and "Buddha" are eerily similar — and I don't believe that's an accident.

Yoda taught patience and discouraged attachment; those things are among the pillars of Buddhist teaching.

Over the last year plus, I've written and spoken about a tool that is being used quite frequently to motivate the unenlightened masses. It's an incredibly effective tool, if only for the short term. It's called "Fear."

In the last year, our president has sought to inspire fear of immigrants — Mexicans, Muslims and Syrian refugees. He has tried to gin up fear of transgender people serving in the military, fear of an attack by North Korea.

Texas' Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick painted transgender people as predators, hoping to make average Texans so terrified of encountering one of us in a bathroom that he could bully the Legislature into passing a law dictating where we pee. It almost worked.

Fear is a powerful motivator.

But what did Yoda have to say about fear?

In the 1999 *Star Wars* prequel, *Episode One: The Phantom Menace*, Yoda told young Anakin Skywalker that "Fear is the path to the Dark Side. Fear leads to Anger. Anger leads to Hate and Hate leads to suffering."

Besides being a very Buddhist thing to say (as eliminating suffering in all living

things is the highest purpose of Buddhism), it also applies here in a Galaxy Far-Far Away. It's pretty easy to see that Yoda's words ring true.

Transgender people were again murdered at an unprecedented clip this past year. Sometimes men afraid of what loving a transgender person says about them express their fear in misplaced anger. That anger turns to a malignant hate, and that leads to widespread suffering.

You need look no further than a Trump rally to see how fear is being used to manipulate people. Trump wants fear to fear and mistrust the media, especially when the media is bringing out some truths he finds inconvenient. That leads to widespread anger at the media. And so it goes.

I'd prefer we exercise even just a little critical thinking. Don't let CNN or Fox do your thinking for you. Look at the facts. Do some research. Put down the phone for a minute, or at least quit using it to watch cat videos.

LGBT people of a certain age remember things like the Briggs initiative. Back in the late 1970s in California, there was a proposition on the ballot — Proposition 6, written by conservative legislator John Briggs from Orange County — that would have banned anyone who was gay or lesbian, or possibly even anyone who supported gay rights, from working in California's public schools. Thankfully, the Briggs initiative failed.

Anita Bryant and her "Save our Children" campaign tried to make people fear gay and lesbian teachers, suggesting that



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

LGBT teachers would somehow harm children. Anyone with an ounce of education or who had done their own research knew better.

Fear infects the intellectually lazy. You can break free, but you have to put in the work. No one can do it for you. "Do, or do not, there is no 'try'" (Yoda again).

Fear lives in the future, and since the future hasn't happened yet, often what we fear never comes to pass. You can't fear the past; you already know what happened, and it can't hurt you.

Rational fear can be useful. If someone is threatening you with a weapon, that situation ought to have your undivided attention. Find a rattlesnake in your kitchen? OK, I'm up on the countertop with you.

But when a cab driver is robbed and dozens of others quit their jobs because of fear, that's irrational. Voting for a bill to tell transgender people where they can go to the bathroom because of fear of predators — even though facts prove that no one has ever been attacked by a transgender person in a public bathroom — is irrational. That irrational fear leads to anger, and that anger leads to hate. And sadly, that hate leads too often to violence and suffering.

Needless suffering.

Buddha said, "Have compassion for all beings, rich and poor alike; each has their suffering. Some suffer too much, others too little."

He also said, "Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned."

But how can we know the difference? How can we tell good fear from bad fear?

Well, Yoda has an answer for that, too: "You will know [the good from the bad] when you are calm, at peace. Passive."

He's a smart guy, that Yoda. He didn't live 900 years by being afraid. ■



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Fish out of 'Water'

Richard Jenkins plays gay — again — in Guillermo del Toro's Oscar-buzzy Cold War thriller 'The Shape of Water'

Director Guillermo del Toro's *The Shape Of Water* is a loving, emotional, witty and sometimes gory homage to old Hollywood creature features and romance with its 1962-set tale of a mute cleaning woman, Elisa (Sally Hawkins), who falls in love with a *Creature from the Black Lagoon*-like monster (Doug Jones, *Star Trek: Discovery*'s alien Science Officer Saru). (See review, Page 25.)

One of the film's pivotal supporting characters is Giles, Elisa's closeted gay neighbor, played by veteran character actor Richard Jenkins, who along with her laboratory co-worker/friend Zelda (Octavia Spencer) helps Elisa smuggle out and hide the creature so it can't be killed by a sociopathic government operative (Michael Shannon, at his most villainous).

Although Giles is the first explicitly LGBT character in one of del Toro's films, Jenkins, 70 — perhaps best known as gay-fave *Six Feet Under*'s Nathaniel Fisher, for playing Josh Brolin's uptight boyfriend (and partner in law enforcement) in 1996's hysterical *Flirting With Disaster* and his Oscar-nominated work in *The Visitor*. Jenkins' prolific career also saw him portray real-life AIDS specialist Marcus Conant in 1993's *And The Band Played On*, while other highlights include 2014 miniseries *Olive Kitteridge* and 2003's gay coming of age drama, *The Mudge Boy*. By phone, the good-humored and humble Jenkins talked being gay in the 1960s, Giles, and onscreen male romances.

Let's get something out of the way. In *The Shape of Water*, Giles wears a toupee and is ashamed of being bald, and in del Toro's FX series *The Strain* they made Cory Stoll wear a toupee. Does del Toro hate on bald people, or what? Richard Jenkins: He hates them. He told me that immediately. Actually, he made me wear a hat on the set. [Laughs] "I don't like to see that, put the hat on whenever you're talking to me."

I'm hoping del Toro's next film will have a bald and proud character. Did you keep

— Lawrence Ferber

QUEER CLIPS: 'The Disaster Artist,' 'The Shape of Water,'
'Wonder Wheel,' 'The Darkest Hour'



The Disaster Artist. It's easy to make a bad movie about a good one, but vice versa? Director James Franco threads that needle with *The Disaster Artist*, his loving dissection of the reputed worst film of all time, a lurid romantic drama called *The Room*, created by the passionate but talentless weirdo Tommy Wiseau (also played by James Franco). If you haven't seen *The Room*, trust me: It's easily as bad as you have heard, a kind of perfect storm of incompetence; it's instant camp. But Franco also turns this oddly specific chronicle of hubris into a universal story about the soul of an artist. After all, nobody said you had to be *good* to be an artist. Franco's performance — perfectly matching Wiseau's own inexplicable Middle European accent, his stilted affect, his otherworldly unusualness — is the best of his career.

The Shape of Water. A mute but educated cleaning lady (Sally Hawkins) is one of the faceless nobodies in 1960s America, along with her black co-worker (Octavia Spencer), her gay neighbor (Richard Jenkins) and, as it so happens, an otherworldly amphibian man-monster (Doug Jones), trawled out of a swamp and subject to vivisection by the U.S. government in a program spearheaded by a creepy right-wing martinet with a sadistic streak (Michael Shannon). Director Guillermo del Toro's political-fantasy-melodrama-horror-parable-period-piece toggles between the winsome, gorgeous reverie of a '50s musical and low-budget B-picture sci-fi; it's as if Woody Allen had remade *E.T.* with a script by Eli Roth. If those sound like impossibly incongruous parts with no chance of coming together effectively as a whole, well, somehow it works (mostly). Hawkins' performance is a delicate study in expressiveness without words. In an age of Weinstein-esque predatory behavior, showing the abusive white male who subjugates and disregards an entire underground world of the dispossessed — disabled, black, gay, outré — has particular resonance.

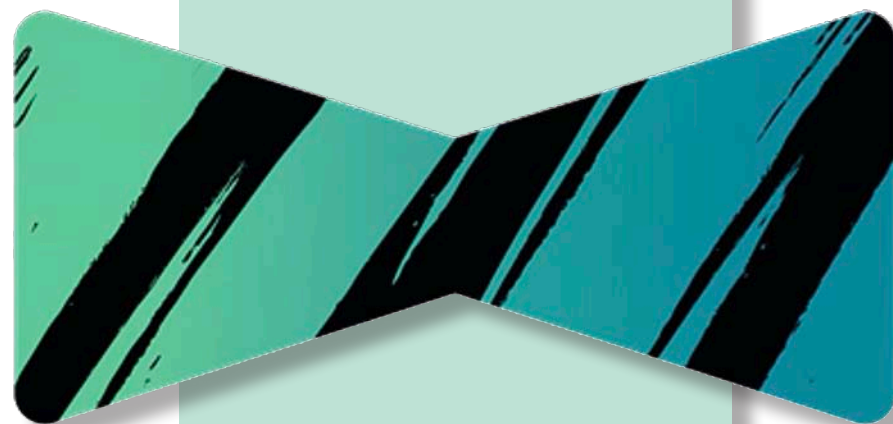
Wonder Wheel. Woody Allen's 40-plus

films generally fall into the slots of screwball comedies (mostly the early stuff), wistful romantic comedies and proto-tragedies. *Wonder Wheel* falls firmly into the last category, but instead of the grim (though effective), Bergman-esque coldness Allen often evokes that way (*Interiors*, *Match Point*), this one is warm and singular; it's clearly Woody, yet in some ways unlike anything he's done before. He conjures the nostalgic appeal of 1950s New York (a signature) with a romantic appeal that sours, but the tone is unlike anything he's done in memory. Kate Winslet, as a slattern housewife with a destructive son, makes for a terrific Allen heroine, but the revelation here is an amazing performance by Jim Belushi (seriously!) as Winslet's befuddled but ingratiating cuckold. His earnest mumbling never devolves into sitcom-y winking. He's just one of the surprises in this inventive slice of Americana.

Darkest Hour. If you watched *Dunkirk* this summer, you saw the boots-on-the-ground side of a knotty wartime debacle as politicians in Britain struggled to find ways to rescue 300,000 soldiers. *Darkest Hour* basically tells that story — and a little bit more — from the perspective of Winston Churchill, the newly-installed but widely disliked prime minister who barked his way through the (wait for it!) darkest hour of his nation, an existential threat that's resolution could allow fascism to spread or be stalled for all time. (Well, until Trump.) The film is a showcase for Gary Oldman, still recognizable under jowly makeup, his voice more Jim Broadbent than Churchill. It's a ferocious performance, full of bluster and self-doubt, the kind Oscar nominations were made for. Yet director Joe Wright never turns up the emotional screws; it's no *Lincoln*. There are too many murky interiors, bland white male Brits and modest ambitions (it takes place over only a month) to grab you and suck you in. It's perfectly respectable, well-intentioned historical drama, but that's as far as it goes.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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■ FISH From 25

Giles' toupee? No. It looks like a bird's nest on my head. It was intentionally not a good toupee!

What do you feel Giles' being gay brings or adds to the film? It's 1962. Elisa is mute, Giles is gay, Zelda is African-American.

These are invisible people in 1962. This whole film, if you want to go back to that time, it was not so great unless you were a straight white man, and that's what Guillermo was saying. In fact, Michael Shannon's character doesn't suspect these people of taking this creature because, as he says when questioning them, "Why am I talking to shit cleaners?" These were all invisible people.

Would Shannon's character get a job in the Trump administration today? [Laughs] Secretary of Defense!

During one key scene, Giles flirts with a handsome young waiter in a diner. Was it a tough or fun scene to shoot? It's one of the first things I shot, maybe on the second day I was there. It was 1962. It was a tough time to be gay. Yeah, it was a lot of fun [because] you don't want to be found out, how far can you go, but to give the guy a hint you were interested. Actually, [the most challenging part was] to pretend like I wanted to eat those pies. It was like eating your foot.

I understand that a gay man you knew, Howard London, was one of the people you thought of when playing Giles. Tell me about him. He was an actor, and always concerned with other people. He wasn't afraid to be gay at a time it was a little scarier, and I always think of his generosity and thoughtfulness and the fact he was an amazing, beautiful man. He never forgot our children's birthdays or important days. He was a selfless man who lived alone. He had lots of friends and nurtured them. That's how I felt my relationship was with Sally in the beginning. And he loved movie musicals. When he died [in the early 2000s], his ex-partner called us up and said, "Howard wanted you to have his record collection," which was from the 1930s through '60s. A lot of showtunes and movie musicals. My wife and I went out and bought a turntable and we play Howard's music every night. Incredible gifts. **Did you and Josh Brolin stay in touch after**

Flirting With Disaster? Yes. He'll give a call sometimes, or I'll call him. Last time I ran into Josh was at the Berlin Film Festival two years ago. He was there with a Coen brothers movie. I adore Josh, a wonderful guy.

Do you think your characters would still be together? I'd love a follow-up. Yeah, I do. I just don't know... did Josh's character become less like he was, or did mine become less like I was? So less conflict between them!

How was shooting with Doug Jones on Water? He's been in a lot of del Toro's films and always under a ton of special effects makeup. I was brutal with him. I'd say, "Doug, how hard can it be to sit in that suit for 12 hours?" He's basically entombed, buried alive in that thing. Holes just for his eyes and his mouth, and sometimes they put the eye things in when they shoot, so he can't even see. He has such a good spirit about him. He keeps going. I asked him, how long does it take in makeup? He said it only takes three hours. *Only?* Are you kidding me?

Have you been offered a job where you'd have to wear a lot of prosthetics? I have turned them down. The question is, how long in the makeup chair? Oh, about three hours. I don't think I'm available.

Is there any big movie franchise you'd love to be a part of? No. I don't think that way. I learned my lesson when I wanted so badly to be in the Coens' movie *Fargo*. I read for it three times, the William H. Macy part. I was really upset I didn't get the part, and then I saw Macy in it and went, oh, OK, I get it now. I wouldn't have cast me, either. You learn fast that there's always a reason you're not in one thing or the other.

That said, let's play casting agent, and you get to choose who plays your man crush in a gay love story. Who would you cast? I have no idea. You cast it and I'll be in it."

Armie Hammer? He's playing gay a lot lately. Armie Hammer wouldn't go for me! He can do better than that!

Patrick Stewart? Him, too! Isn't he like a Sir? And me?

Gary Oldman? They want somebody younger. Not me! It wouldn't work. I can see problems already that you don't see!

OK, so they're out of your league. We'll have to go back to Josh Brolin then. Yeah. ■



Casey (Kyle Igneczi) discovers his inner drag queen, thanks to his boss (Bradley Campbell) and the glamorous and defiant Miss Tracy (Walter Lee). (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

Georgia on my mind

The quirky appeal of ‘The Legend of Georgia McBride’

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Casey (Kyle Igneczi) is a lovable loser. He struggles to make a living in the Florida Panhandle while his wife Jo (Sky Williams) works as a waitress. She tolerates and even encourages his dream of being a performer, but realities are setting in: The rent is due, they are about to have a baby, and he spends more money in his costumes as an Elvis impersonator than he ever hopes of bringing in, working for nonexistent tips at a beachside club run by a sad-sack redneck (Bradley Campbell). Casey loses his gig when the boss hires his cousin, a drag queen named Miss Tracy (Walter Lee) to mount a new show in a last-ditch effort to save the club.

The Legend of Georgia McBride is an apt companion piece to Uptown Players’ most recent production, *The Full Monty*. Both are about financially out-of-luck men who hesitantly but inescapably embark on a course that proves ultimately lucrative, but actually become acts of passion, of defiance, of empowerment. In *Monty*, they strip naked; in *McBride*, Casey is conscripted into becoming a drag queen.

The latter is a better premise, believe it or not, and this show is ripe with great one-liners, engaging characters and the energy of an actual drag show. The playwright, Matthew Lopez, has a sitcom-y sensibility, but that’s not a bad thing; only the complication — when Jo finds out what Casey has *really* been up to — smacks of

predictable contrivance. But the jokes are solid and the production a charming lark.

Director Bruce R. Coleman has cast the show well, with Campbell mining priceless comic bits from minimal dialogue (he goes from glum announcer to flamboyant impresario hilariously), and Chris Herrero as the bitchy diva queen Anorexia Nervosa

captures that oh-no-she-di’nt chica head bop to perfection. But the standouts are Igneczi and Lee.

In the last few years, Igneczi has established himself as

one of the most promising leading-man types on local stages. He’s fiercely likeable as Casey, a bundle of energetic nerves and open-faced vulnerability. His progression from defeated artist to *Tootsie*-like star feels earned and evolutionary. Lee, who not only acts and sings but appears in clubs as actual drag queen Jada Fox, is the go-to talent for cross-dressing roles but has proven over and over his acting chops as well. He sets the tone for the play’s Big Moral Lesson — that drag is not about men prancing around in frocks for fun but borne of a culture of self-realization and the essence of what we call gay Pride — with heart, but not mawkishness.

The show itself delights. While the ending stretches out a tad too long, the finale is well worth it — a *Mamma Mia*-esque hit parade of disco numbers lip synched and twerked with panache. Shantay, you *all* can stay.

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The life of a city in any given year is defined by those who helped shape its pulse, from the arts to the community to the way we perceive our society. The following individuals, all members of the LGBT community of North Texas, made a difference in all our lives last year.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Augustin Arteaga,
The Curator

Barely a year in as the executive director the Dallas Museum of Art, Arteaga has transformed the storied institution, bringing one of the best-attended and most acclaimed exhibitions in the museum's history (Mexico: 1900–1950), giving the famed Keir Collection of Islamic Art a permanent home and bringing one of Yoyoi Kusama's treasured Infinity Room installations (All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins) to rapt audiences. And he's just getting started.

LIFE+STYLE

queer locals

Locals who helped define the arts and life in 2017



Kevin Moriarty,
The Impresario

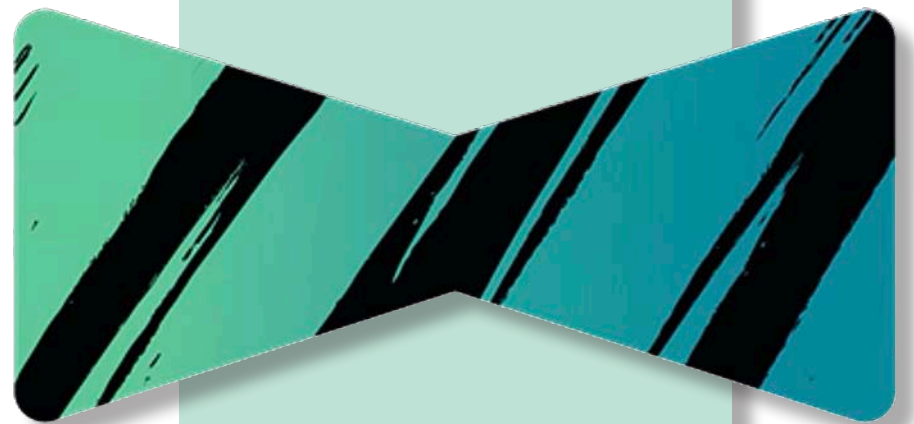
When he was hired as artistic director 10 years ago, I predicted Kevin Moriarty's implicit mission would be to bring a regional Tony Award to the Dallas Theater Center; a decade in, that's exactly what he did. It was his *Electra* that sealed the deal, but his production of *Hair* was almost as impressive. He continues to be one of the theater world's most exciting visionaries.



Tuomas Hiltunen,
The Revolutionary

When he was brought in to lead the Fort Worth Opera as its new general director this summer, Hiltunen raised eyebrows as an unexpected choice (he comes from the world of theater, not opera), but he immediately began some house-cleaning and belt-tightening, while also expanding the company's outreach, especially to the Spanish-speaking community.

THANK YOU!



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Rylee Janus Spire,
The Pathfinder

The rarefied world of the leather community is one of traditions and rituals zipped into ideas of masculinity, so Spire’s anointing as Mr. Dallas Eagle 2017 — and a few weeks later, Mr. Texas Leather — was groundbreaking for an out trans man, breaking a cisgender barrier for all time.



Timothy LeDuc,
The Medalist

In early 2017, this North Texas transplant (pictured with Ashley Cain) became a bronze medal winner at the U.S. Nationals for figure skating as an out gay man— a surprisingly rare situation in a field famed for its flamboyant performers.



Kenny Goss,
The Patron

The death last year of Goss’ former partner, George Michael, brought a major new painting, by the legendary Damien Hirst to Dallas, only reinforcing our respect for Goss (picture with his sister Joyce) as one of the premiere art patrons in the state.

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**Friday 12.08 —
Sunday 12.10**

**David Carl explores a true
American tragedy in 'Trump
Lear'**

Earlier this year, solo performer David Carl (a North Texas native) dazzled audiences with his *One-Man Celebrity Hamlet*, as he impersonated Gary Busey as the Melancholy Dane (complete with puppets). Well, he's back with an even more relevant show: *Trump Lear*, another Shakespeare adaptation where he plays... you guessed it. We don't need to tell you, you'll laugh and cry at this all-too-poignant tragedy of political hubris.

DEETS: Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. \$15–\$20. 214-953-1055. KitchenDogTheater.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Friday 12.15

**Lighten up! 'The Nutty Nutcracker'
makes fun of the holiday staple**

You of course get many chances to see the traditional version of *The Nutcracker*, but once every year, Texas Ballet Theater pulls out all the stops to go more comic than heartwarming with *The Nutty Nutcracker*. Imagine how different Christmas morning would be with Edward Scissorhands rather than the Rat King! This zany parody dances into Bass Hall for one night only.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 8 p.m. BassHall.com TexasBalletTheater.org.



**Wednesday 12.13
— Saturday 12.23**

**Cirque du Soleil retires its
'Varekai' in North Texas**

If you've ever been to a Cirque du Soleil show — and if you haven't, what's wrong with you? — you know that the troupe creates many different productions, each with its own slate of acts and styles. One of the longest-running is *Varekai*, which has been around for 15 years. But *Varekai* is coming to its end, and so the last chance you'll have to see it is for one of 13 performances — seven in Fort Worth, and six in Frisco. Come out and be amazed for one last time.

DEETS: Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth. Dec. 13–17. Dr Pepper Arena, 2601 Avenue of the Stars, Frisco. Dec. 20–23. CirqueDuSoleil.com/varekai.

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calendar highlights



The Danielle Georgiou Dance Group performs the movement/theater piece 'Things Missing/Missed' as part of a year-long residency at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. The play, inspired by the true story of a man who lived as a hermit in the woods for 30 years, will be performed at the library multiple times from Dec. 15–17. All shows are free. DGDGDanceGroup.com)Photo courtesy Trenton Ryan Stephenson

ARTSWEEK THEATER

Act of God. B.J. Cleveland, typecast once again as the Almighty in a regional premiere from David Javerbaum about the secrets of the universe. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 31. StageWest.org.

A Christmas Carol. Brad Leland (*Friday Night Lights*) stars as Ebenezer Scrooge this year. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

A Motown Christmas. A rollicking holiday revue. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 24. JubileeTheatre.org.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical. Max and Cindy Lou Hoo transform the furry green curmudgeon. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Dec. 17. ATPAC.org.

Fade. Lucia, a Mexican novelist, gets a job as a TV writer and realizes she has more in common with the cleaning crew than her fellow scribes in this comic drama from Tanya Saracho. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 7. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Great Distance Home. Kelsey Leigh Ervi conceived of and directs this immersive, multi-discipline theater event about a boy's search for home wherever that may be. Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 17. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Irving Berlin's White Christmas. Stage adaptation of the classic MGM film. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through Sunday. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

The Legend of Georgia McBride. A low-rent Elvis impersonator discovers a new direction when he embraces drag in this regional premiere

from Uptown Players. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Dec. 17. UptownPlayers.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents a Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker! The return of the send-up of the famed ballet. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 26. MBSProductions.net.

Santa Claus: A New Musical. When Santa announces his retirement after a millennium, the North Pole goes crazy. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 23. CasaManana.org.

The Three Musketeers. Theatre Britain's annual Christmas panto, with Ivan Jones returning in the hilarious cross-dressing role in this family-friendly treatment of the Dumas novel. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H. Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 30. Theatre-Britain.com.

BALLET

The Nutcracker. A real version of the Tchaikovsky ballet, presented by Texas Ballet Theater. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 8–24. BassHall.com. TexasBalletTheater.org.

this week's solution

S	T	O	P		G	L	E	S	S		R	O	E	M
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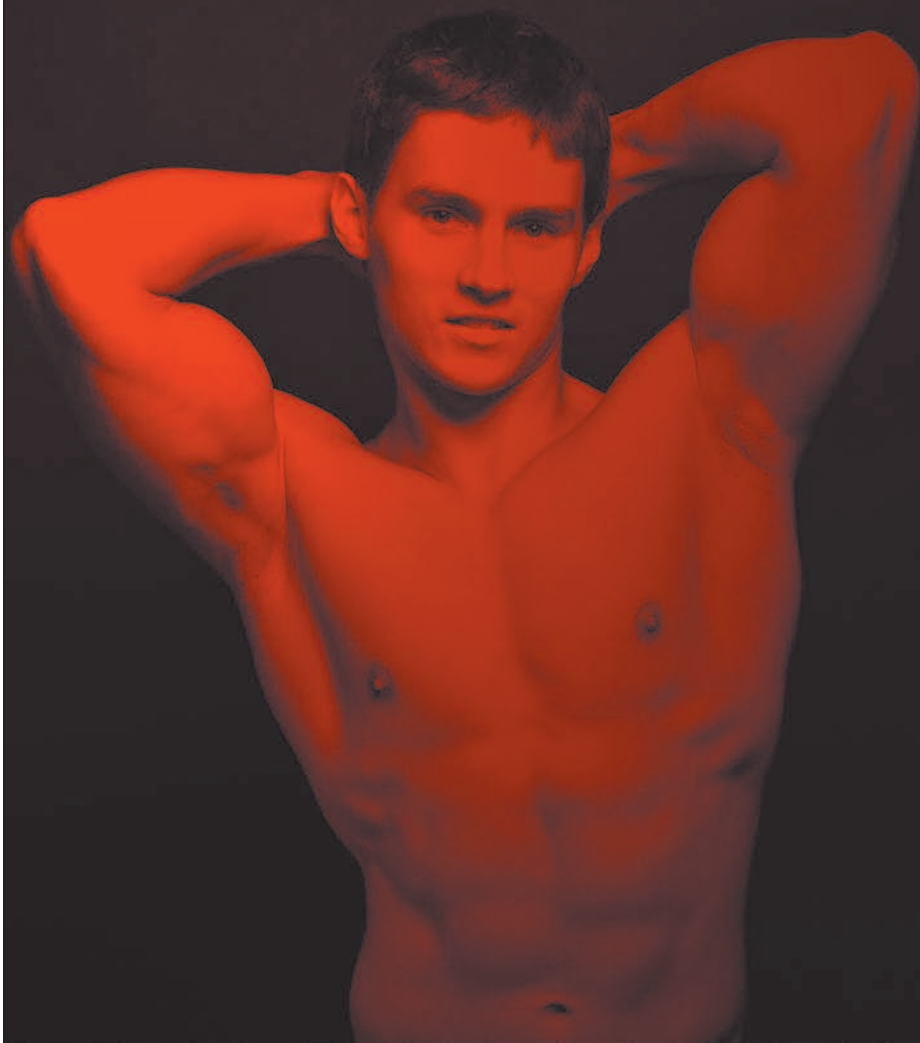
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Cassie Nova

No sex until your wedding day? Are you insane?

Hello, all! Can you believe that it is already December? 2017 is just weeks from being over. This past Thanksgiving night was my 24th anniversary working in the Rose Room. Where has the time gone? It seems like just a few years ago I was a skinny little boy in a dress, but it was more than two freakin' decades ago!

Picture it: Thanksgiving, Corsicana, 1993. I was enjoying a nice holiday with my family. I didn't have a car at the time so my momma picked me up from my apartment in Dallas the day before. I spent the day helping my ma and grandma in the kitchen but made sure my mother knew I was starting a new job that night at the club and it was ever-so-important that I

not miss my first day. She had no idea I was going to be doing drag, otherwise she probably would have handcuffed me to a tree and kept me in Corsicana.

I was excited about my first-ever paid booking in the Rose Room. Rachael Masters, the show director at that time, had started a new show on Thursday nights called New Kids: The Next Generation, and she booked me to work every other week. It featured a rotating cast of girls like Kourtney Wells, Kristina Kross, Jennifer Adams, Paige Saxon and Courtney DeVayne. I was definitely the youngest. I had only been doing drag for about a year at the time, so some of the other girls thought I should

still be doing talent night and wasn't ready for primetime. I had a lot to prove, and I guess I did.

At about 2:30 that afternoon, the weather took a turn, and it started to lightly mist, which turned into a light drizzle, which turned into a full-fledged ice storm.

My mom said, "I don't think I'm going to be able to get you home tonight, the roads are getting bad." I was like, "Tha hell you say! I gots to gets to my job tonight." She was like, "Just call them, I am sure they will understand." I was freaking out. Nobody understood why it was so important for me to get to my new job.

Then like a knight in shining armor, my pawpaw said, "I'll take ya." He had this big-ass Cadillac that acted as our noble steed for the night. So angry mother, my awesome grandfather and I got in the car for a two-and-a-half-hour drive to Dallas. It should have only taken about an hour, but the roads were really bad at this point. He white-knuckled us through the ice storm like a champ. We fishtailed a few times and drove in silence to let him concentrate, but we made it.

I thanked them and hugged them both and they started their horrible trek back through the killer ice storm of '93. They knew they had to call me the second they got home. I started to get in drag and waited anxiously for the phone to ring. My stomach was in knots waiting to hear if they got home safely or if I was the absolute most awful person in the world making them drive through all of that sleet and ice.

Back then, it took me damn near three hours to get into drag. I have no idea why it took so long — I only had one shade of blush, and I used it on my eyes, ears, nose and throat. I put that shit everywhere. I had no idea what I was doing. I got all of my costumes together, my music (cassette tapes) and both of my wigs. I literally only had two decent wigs at the time. I packed my drag bag and waited in full drag by the phone. I was not going to leave to go to the club until I knew for sure they were home safe.

Finally, with only about 40 minutes until showtime, my mother called. I thanked her over and over and told her to tell pawpaw that he was the best. She said, "You are welcome now get your ass to work and don't be late."

I only lived a few blocks from the Rose Room, so I put on my sneakers and my big coat and ran to the bar, only falling and busting my ass three times.

It ended up being an awesome night. Everyone that was booked that night made it, and we actually had a decent-sized crowd. Not even an ice storm was going to keep the gays from going out to drink after a day with the family. All thanks to my pawpaw, who somehow knew how important that job was going to be for me. I sure do miss that man.

Now for some wisdom served with a side of B.S.



Dear Cassie, My boyfriend and I have recently gotten engaged. We have been together for about 10 months and are planning our wedding for May. After he proposed, he got down on one knee and everything — it was very romantic. We decided we were not going to have sex again until after we are married. We want to make our wedding night special. I am just worried we won't be able to go that long without doing it. We basically live together and usually sleep in the same bed. I just want our wedding night to be extra-special and think that not having sex again until that night could be worth it. Do you think this is something we can do, or is it weird? Thanks, Blue Balls till May aka Alex.

Dearest BBTM aka Alex, This is the stupidest thing I have ever heard of. Let me tell you why. Having sex with someone you love is the best thing ever. It is satisfying on many levels. The first few years of a relationship, the sex is almost nonstop if you are lucky. But here is my problem with you waiting: Once you are married or even in a relationship for a while, sex can get put on the back burner. You need to fuck like bunnies while the heat and desire are at their max.

There will be a thousand reasons why you don't have sex after you're married: One of you is tired, the dogs are already on the bed, you wanna watch one more episode of whatever you're bingeing, you had Indian or Mexican food for dinner so you know butt stuff is off the table. I'm not saying that sex becomes a chore, but you do sometimes have to plan it because it is what keeps you both close and satisfied. It reinforces your bond.

Right now, everything is new and exciting. I say, do it every single time you see each other. Bang 'til your bone hurts. The fire and lust you have for each other will hopefully never go away, but, it will dim. Life is the biggest cock-blocker so screw each other's brains out while the fire is hot.

Your wedding night will be special because you have declared your love for one another. Don't put so much pressure to make that night great. Great sex is more than just the anticipation of having it. Y'all ain't nothing but mammals, so do it like they do on the Discovery Channel!

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.



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Cassie's Freakmas Show



Celebrating World AIDS Day with C.U.R.E. at the George Bush Library



Boys' night out at The Tin Room



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Making the **SCENE** the week of **Dec. 8-14**

- **Alexandre's: Annual Christmas Wreath Auction**, hosted by **Wayne Smith** and benefitting **No Tie Dinner/AIDS Services of Dallas**, on Sunday from 6:30-10 p.m.
- **Club Reflection: Cowtown Cookoff — 'Round the Kitchen Table**, benefitting **TGRA**, Sunday at 4 p.m.
- **Dallas Eagle: Red Dress Party: 50 Shades of Red**, Saturday at 9 p.m. Presented by the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence**, and featuring **DJ Rail. We Love the '90s party** Sunday at 5 p.m.
- **Dallas Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Right Choice Promotions** is holding a **Toy Drive** from 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Drop of a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to children in the care of CPS. **Jada Pinkett Fox** performs Thursday at 11 p.m.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show**, Monday at 11 p.m. **Krystal Summers** hosts **Girls Like Us** show Tuesday at 11 p.m.
- **Liquid Zoo**: Monday night is **Steak Night**, with steak, a baked potato and a glass of red

wine for \$14.99.

- **Round-Up Saloon: Holiday Party and Stocking Auction**, 7 p.m. **Sassy O'Hara** hosts **Boys, Boots & Boxer Briefs** Monday at 10 p.m., with cash prizes for the winner and first runner-up.
- **Sue Ellen's: Kristmas with the Karmichaels**, featuring **Melodie, Angela** and **Klaire**, benefitting **Tuckers Gift** and **LifeWalk**, at 7 p.m. Sunday. **Edison** performs Saturday. On Sunday it's **Kathy and Bella** from 3:30-5:30. They'll also be celebrating **Kathy and Mindy's birthdays** from 3-9 p.m.
- **The Rose Room: Don't Get Your Tinsel in a Tangle** fundraiser for **Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network**, Saturday at 7 p.m.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon: Karaoke** from 9 p.m.-midnight on Tuesday.
- **Zipper's: Topsy Tuesdays**, with music by **DJ Rude Boy**.

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

(Photos courtesy Blake Shannahan)

World AIDS Day 2017: Hands Across The Globe presented by Impulse Group and AHF

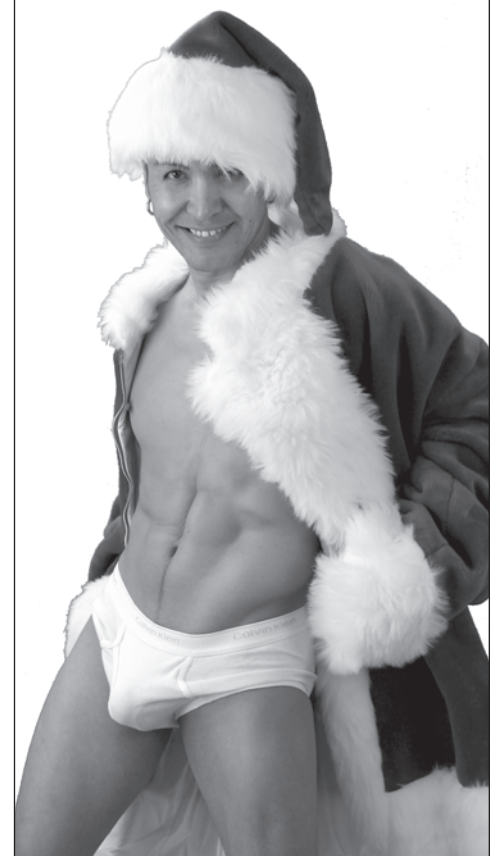


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Juan (standing with the tall soldier) and friends check out Wanderland in Downtown Dallas (Photos Juan Galván)



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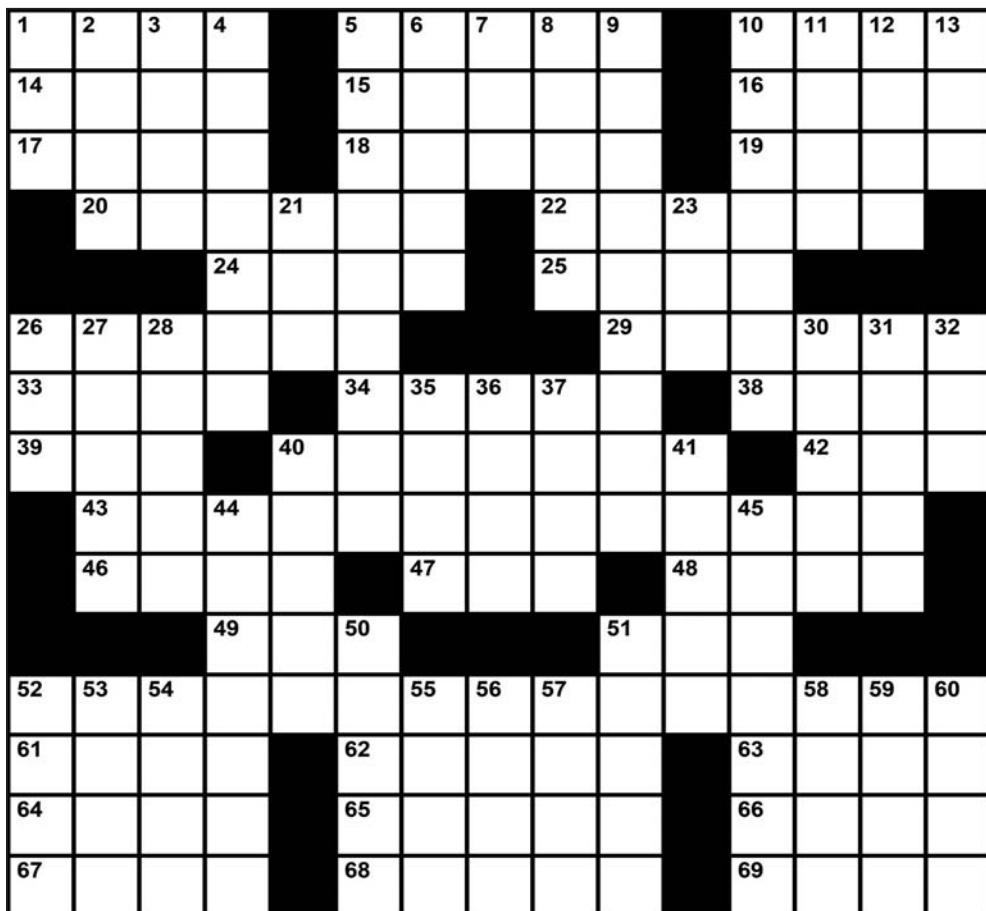


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q-puzzle



Another Transgender First

Solution on Page 32

Across

- 1 Start of a quote from
22-Across
5 Sharon of *Queer as Folk*
10 See 22-Across
14 Ward of *Once and Again*
15 Like some old buckets
16 Picks out, with "for"
17 Soft rock for bottoms
18 *Love Affair* costar Dunne
19 Gets hard
20 More of the quote
22 With 10-Across, the first openly transgender person elected to a state legislature
24 Beat barely
25 Actress Ione
26 "I Will Survive" singer Gaynor
29 Album of Etheridge
33 Mama's boys
34 Make into balls
38 Shakespearean soliloquy start
39 NASA "thumbs-up"
40 Of the body
42 Come out on top
43 More of the quote
46 Since, to J. M. Barrie
47 Gas additive
48 Former Minnesota governor Carlson

- 49 Shine, in some ads
51 Bill written by Alice Paul
52 End of the quote
61 Heavy horn
62 Targets for Patty Sheehan
63 Land of Sinead O'Connor
64 Othello was one
65 Writer Dykewomon
66 Foot fetish target
67 Watched intently
68 Ready for action
69 Vehicle for a snow queen?

Down

- 1 Barrier breaker of old
2 The Seattle Storm, for one
3 Earthen pot
4 Fudge ____ (top NFL team?)
5 Deserting one's post, to Cammermeyer
6 Inevitable online claim
7 Barely make, with "out"
8 Tickles pink
9 Rita Mae Brown's cat
10 Most pink
11 Source of oil-based lubricants
12 Katharine's *Butch Cassidy* role

- 13 Copies of a feminist mag.
21 *The Last King of Scotland* character
23 *Men Behaving Badly* writer Simon
26 Fed. property manager
27 Froot ____
28 Like Benjamin Britten, pitchwise
30 Dubuque denizen
31 Bear
32 Word on a lavatory door
35 Mingo portrayer Ed
36 Nutty as a fruitcake
37 Lone Star State sch.
40 Took part in a bee
41 Danes of *Romeo + Juliet*
44 Fencing phrase
45 Lacking support?
50 Colette's *The ____ One*
51 *A Room of One's Own*, e.g.
52 Melissa Etheridge's "Don't Look ____"
53 Channel marker
54 Penetrating reed
55 "Hi" to Lorca
56 Liberace's style, for example
57 Get better
58 One of Bernstein's strings
59 Gardner of mystery
60 Rank Billie Jean, e.g.



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