

dallasvoice

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2017
*Holiday
Issue*

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
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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.

NP-390-25

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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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for Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. San Francisco, CA 94105
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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.



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Teddy Bear Party collects 1,100 bears

More than 500 people partied in the Hall of State at Fair Park at the Teddy Bear Party and brought 1,100 Teddy Bears that volunteers delivered to Children's Health on Harry Hines Boulevard. Children going through major medical procedures each get a bear at the hospital.

The Perry Twins DJed through the night and Kristine W performed a 30-minute set. She joined the group that delivered the bears to the hospital on Sunday morning.



Donations collected and ticket sales benefited Family Equality Council, Trevor Project, Stand Up to Cancer, Equality Texas and Rainbow Roundup.

— David Taffet

Bermuda repeals marriage equality

Six months after enacting marriage equality, Bermuda has repealed it and replaced it with domestic partnerships.

Bermuda is the first territory to take away the right to marry from same-sex couples.

Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory, an island located about 950 miles east of South Carolina in the Atlantic Ocean.

The LGBT community in Bermuda considers the move "backward" and "patronizing." They argued domestic partnerships are not recognized around the world.

Those who were married while it was legal will continue to be married.

The bill that passed was not as extreme as one originally proposed that would have banned same-sex marriage and given no rights whatsoever to same-sex couples.

In May, Bermuda's Su-

preme Court ruled the ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. In July, a conservative party came to power. The new law has not yet been signed by Bermuda's governor.

— David Taffet

Commissioners tap Marian Brown as interim sheriff



Marian Brown

Dallas County Commissioners have named Dallas County Sheriff's Office Deputy Chief Marian Brown as interim sheriff, to replace Sheriff Lupe Valdez, who is stepping down to run for governor.

Brown is one of the candidates seeking to complete the unexpired term of Valdez.

She will face Constable Roy Williams for the Democratic nomination. Republican candidates are Deputy Aaron Meek and Detective Chad Prda.

According to the DCSO website, Brown grew up in Dallas and began her career in law enforcement in 1988 as the first African-American female hired by the Duncanville Police Department. She began working for DCSO in 2014 and is currently chief deputy in charge of general services.

Brown is married to Fox 4 reporter Shaun Rabb and is said to be Sheriff Valdez's choice to replace her.

Brown will be officially sworn in at midnight on New Year's Eve.

— Tammye Nash

Mark Phariss running for state Senate

Texas marriage equality plaintiff Mark Phariss



Mark Phariss

has announced his candidacy for state Senate District 8, which covers part of Collin County including Plano, Allen, McKinney and part of Frisco. In Dallas County the district includes Sachse, Richardson and part of Far North Dallas.

Phariss decided to run for the position a few weeks ago and registered toward the end

of the filing period. In the first two weeks of his campaign, he has raised more than \$25,000. As of this afternoon when he called to talk to Dallas Voice about his candidacy, he had already taken in at least an additional \$3,000 on ActBlue.com.

Phariss has been endorsed by former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro and by state Reps. Mary Gonzalez and Celia Israel.

Phariss and his husband, Vic Holmes, sued the state of Texas in 2013 for the right to marry. Co-marriage equality plaintiffs Cleopatra De Leon and Nicole Dimetman sued to have their out-of-state marriage recognized by Texas.

The couples won in federal district court and had a hearing in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. That court never issued a ruling, but after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its marriage equality ruling, the 5th Circuit affirmed the lower court's decision and Phariss' victory stands.

Phariss has an opponent in the Democratic primary named Brian Chaput. On the Republican side, Phillip Huffines, brother of Dallas state Sen. Don Huffines, is running against Angela Paxton, wife of Attorney General Ken Paxton.

The primary election is on March 6.

— David Taffet

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM** with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink; **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. 24: Christmas Eve services**
Celebration Community Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. at 908 Pennsylvania Ave, Fort Worth. Northaven UMC 4th Sunday Advent service at 11 a.m., impromptu adult and handbell choir Christmas pageant and 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service at 11211 Preston Road. Oak Lawn UMC

Christmas Eve services at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. at 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. White Rock Community Church Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. at 9353 Garland Road.

• **Dec 25: Christmas service**

Cathedral of Hope Christmas Day worship at 10 a.m. in the Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec 26: GALA Family & Friends**

Social evening with 10 percent of proceeds going to GALA Youth from 5-8:30 p.m. at Durkin Pizza, 8930 TX121, McKinney.

• **Dec 30: Game Night**

Food drinks and games provided for Tyler Area Gays Game Night from 6-9 p.m. at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N Broadway Ave. #100, Tyler. 903-312-2081.

• **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**

• **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve @Nerdvana**

AMD sponsors a New Year's Eve party @ Nerdvana, 5757 Main St., No. 112, from 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

• **Dec. 31: NYE event to benefit HELP**

Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., hosts a New Year's Eve party with a portion of proceeds benefitting the Health Education Learning Project (HELP). The event includes a show at 10 p.m. featuring Laganja Estranja, Gia Gunn, DJ Adam Joseph, Raquel Blake and Chanel LaMasters. General admission is \$20; admission to the meet-and-greet is \$10. VIP tables on the stage are \$150; tables off the stage are \$100, and all tables include a bottle of champagne and party favors.

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. 3: Wine Walk**

Cedar Springs Merchants Association presents the monthly first Wednesday Wine Walk. Buy glass in front of the Round-Up Saloon from 6-9p.m.

• **Jan. 8: Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats**



Numerous LGBT-affirming churches in the DFW Metroplex are having special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. See listings for details.

Monthly meeting with Ag Commissioner candidate Kim Olson speaking at 7 p.m. at Tommy's Hamburgers, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth.

• **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. 18: Toast to Life mixer**

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zatar Lebanese Tapas Bar, 2825 Commerce St.

• **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.

• **Jan 20: Stonewall Goes Hollywood**

Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats holds a fundraiser, Stonewall Goes Hollywood with QCinema founder Todd Camp speaking at 7 p.m. at First

Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Tickets at tarrantstonewall.org/hollywood. \$50.

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. 10: Love Equality**

Benefit for Equality Texas at 8 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd Suite 107.

• **Feb. 14: Valentine's Day**

• **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.

• **Feb. 17: Krewe to Cure Arthritis-Mardi Gras Ball**

From 6-11 p.m. at The Hall on Dragon Street, 1500 Dragon St.

• **Feb. 20: Early voting begins**

Early voting for the March primary runs Feb. 20-March 2. Vote at any early voting location in your county.

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 6: Democratic and Republican primaries

Vote in your precinct polling location only.

• 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 7: No Tie Dinner

Benefits AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. \$75-150.

• 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.

• April 25: Woman to Woman luncheon

Jill Biden is the keynote speaker at the Jewish Family Services luncheon at 10 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Reunion Blvd E. Tickets at jfsdallas.org/woman.

pet of the week / sky

Meet **Sky**, a 6-and-a-half-year-old, chocolate pit bull mix weighing 72 pounds. She's one big hunk of laidback, easygoing, affectionate and well-mannered love, looking for a nice family to share her sweetness with. She loves cuddling, getting lots of attention and going for walks. She does great in the car, is housetrained and does well with children. Sky has been spayed, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today. #138187

Sky 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 gift of life

Gary Garcia is alive because of a change of policy that allows people with HIV to receive organ transplants

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When Gary Garcia was diagnosed with HIV in 2007, the original anti-retroviral medication was, he said, “harsh.”

A year later, he began having issues with his gall bladder. So he had it removed. Doctors warned him then to watch out for non-alcoholic liver disease since, without a gall bladder, every toxin in his body would be filtered through his liver.

“I couldn’t sleep,” Garcia said. “I was put on meds to help me sleep, and two weeks later I was not feeling well.”

Instead of starting him on 10 mg of the medication intended to help him sleep, doctors prescribed 100 mg. It was too much for his weakened body to handle. “With all the meds, it put me into liver failure,” Garcia said. “I woke up one day, and I was yellow.”

He went to the doctor, who was sure Gar-

cia must be using drugs. But Garcia insisted the only time he “shot up” was when the nurse gave him an IV. “You have two weeks to live,” the doctor told him.

At the time, Garcia and his husband lived in San Diego. Their medical coverage was through a Kaiser HMO, and they could only seek treatment through a Kaiser physician and only go to a Kaiser hospital if they wanted insurance to cover it. That specific hospital did not offer transplants, Garcia said, and to get the surgery he needed elsewhere, he had to get a referral.

Garcia was told he had to “go through the process,” something that would take months, even though his doctor gave him only weeks to live. “The process” included Garcia going to AA, even though he didn’t drink.

“They look at you like you’re a drunk and an addict,” Garcia said. “I learned to be an advocate for myself.”



Gary Garcia before his transplant, left, and after.

Garcia’s doctor told him he needed a transplant, but “they don’t give transplants to people with HIV.”

“Who made you God?” Garcia demanded of his doctor before insisting on getting a second opinion.

The second doctor asked him, “Why aren’t you on the transplant list?” Getting on the transplant list would take about six months.

Then his life was disrupted again: Garcia’s husband was transferred to Texas. The move turned out to have both advantages and disadvantages.

Among the advantages: His insurance switched from HMO to PPO, allowing him more flexibility in choosing doctors, and the waitlist for a liver transplant was shorter. On the downside, he had to start the process of getting on the transplant waitlist all over again.

In October 2014, Garcia and his husband bought a house in Haslet, just north of Fort Worth, and Garcia went to Baylor All Saints Hospital in Fort Worth for care.

By January 2015, transplants were becoming more common for people with HIV. Often the donor organs were coming from other people with HIV. Dallas Methodist Hospital was the first in the area to perform those transplants, and Baylor quickly followed. Many of those early surgeries were kidney transplants, because early medications for HIV affected kidney function more than anything else.

But with Hepatitis C running rampant and drug usage high in the gay community, liver transplants were also becoming more common. Garcia had neither problem.

In order to get on the transplant list, he needed his HIV to be undetectable.

When he met with his transplant team, his doctors diagnosed him with a bile backup that caused Garcia to often be confused. He began going to All Saints every other day, having as much as 14 liters of bile



drained each visit.

While they got his HIV under control and he got placed on the transplant list, his team of doctors told him, “We don’t do HIV transplants here.” He’d have to go to Baylor in Dallas.

Although he lived in Haslet, when Garcia got the call that a liver was available, he’d have to be at Baylor within an hour. That meant always keeping a bag packed and a full tank of gas in the car, ready to go at a moment’s notice.

Garcia’s MELD score — the Model for End-Stage Liver Disease that prioritizes people on the transplant list and goes from 6 to 40, with a higher number indicating more severe illness — got as high as 37. That score would have placed him high on the transplant list.

Then Garcia went to the doctor with a stomachache. He thought it was his appendix. Doctors thought it was his gall bladder. When he told them his gall bladder had already been removed, they decided it was just a stomachache but did an ultrasound that proved Garcia right.

Garcia said he wasn’t sure if his doctors appreciated how in tune he was with his body and what was wrong or if they were more annoyed that he could tell them precisely what was going on.

After recovering from his appendectomy, he was finally on the transplant list and in September 2016, was No. 2 on the list.

In October, he got a call from Baylor Dallas. They had a liver from a 19-year-old and were flying it in.

But a liver needs to be taken from a body quickly. If the liver’s valves close and the organ loses oxygen, it can’t be used. Garcia said the doctors told him this donor had died too slowly to use his organs.

In November, doctors called to tell him they had a 45-year-old man’s liver. But

100

Insurance companies putting up barriers to PrEP



Rep. Rafael Anchia

Resource Center enlists Rep. Anchia's help to get TDI to require PrEP prescriptions be filled like all others

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Blue Cross requires its insured customers to order Truvada through its drug service, using the mail rather than picking it up at a local pharmacy. United Healthcare has been accused of refusing to cover the drug at all for some customers.

Truvada has become the most common medication prescribed to people with HIV because of its success in keeping viral load counts undetectable with minimal side effects. But the drug has also been found effective in preventing transmission of the virus in more than 90 percent of cases of

people taking it as pre-exposure prophylaxis, the transmission prevention method better known as PrEP.

Because of the high cost of the drug, insurance companies are balking about covering Truvada, especially as a means of preventing HIV infections. According to Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell, his agency has also heard of one case of United Healthcare refusing to pay for Truvada for a client who is HIV-positive.

Since Resource Center opened its PrEP clinic earlier this year, McDonnell said they have placed more than 150 people on the preventive therapy. The clinic is run at the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic on Cedar Springs Road. A contract doctor sees people Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and a nurse practitioner is available for clients on Saturdays.

"We knew there would be demand," McDonnell said, adding that the agency is evaluating if it can see more people in an effort to meet actual demand for the PrEP

treatment.

In most cases, insurance covers Truvada. But the co-pay for the drug is high, so Gilead, the company that makes Truvada, runs an assistance program to partially cover the co-pay and to cover the cost for people without insurance.

McDonnell said that while he hasn't heard of Blue Cross refusing to cover Truvada, clients have told him they must order it through the mail, and they're not eligible for a refill until the 90th day of their 90-day prescription. That means that they will go for several days or a week without the medication.

But Truvada is only indicated for daily use, and lapses in treatment — in other words, missing scheduled doses — can affect the drug's efficacy, both as a treatment for those who are HIV-positive and as a method of preventing infection.

Trials have been conducted to see if a lower dose of Truvada may be used for PrEP or if someone with HIV who is un-

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Consent is key in child support case

Woman says she did not consent to having kids with her then-wife, who got pregnant while she was deployed with the military

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER | Associated Press

AKANE OHE, Hawaii — Attorneys for a divorced lesbian couple fighting over child support in a closely watched case agreed Dec. 14 that consent to having a baby together is a crucial issue but disagreed over whether both spouses gave it.

A woman wants to sever her parental rights to a child her ex-wife gave birth to while she was deployed with the military and is asking the Hawaii Supreme Court to overturn a family court ruling denying that request.

The justices heard arguments Dec. 14 and seemed troubled by considering consent. Associate Justice Sabrina McKenna said that could lead to treating same-sex couples differently from opposite-sex couples.

McKenna is the first openly-gay judge to serve on the Hawaii Supreme Court and is one of nine openly-LGBT state supreme court justices currently serving in the United States.

National gay rights advocates are watching how the dispute plays out, likely the first such case before a state supreme court, experts say.

The woman seeking to end her parental rights didn't agree to her then-wife getting

pregnant through a sperm donor, wasn't there for the baby's birth and never had a meaningful relationship with the child, her attorney, Rebecca Copeland, told the justices.

The dispute reflects the "changing landscape" of families in Hawaii, Copeland said, adding that the state's laws need to change.

But Peter Renn of prominent LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal, which is representing the woman who gave birth, argued that the two women "jointly made a choice as a married couple to bring him into this world."

When discussing consent, the justices explored a variety of hypothetical situations, including a woman who stops taking birth control without her husband's knowledge and a man disputing his parental rights after finding out his wife had a child by having an affair with another man.

Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald said the court will issue a ruling later.

The couple, who are not identified in the confidential family court case, married in Washington, D.C., in 2013 and moved to Hawaii because of military orders for the woman seeking to end her parental rights.

Throughout the marriage, the couple talked about the possibility of having a child together, the court said. While the woman was deployed between January and September 2015, her wife got pregnant. The woman filed for divorce in October 2015, and the child was born while the divorce was pending.

The family court denied her petition because it found that Hawaii's Uniform Parentage Act and Marriage Equality Act presumes that a legal spouse of a woman who gives birth to a baby is the parent of that child, regardless of the spouse's gender.



Lambda Legal attorney Peter Renn

"This is a very important and of-the-moment question in the LGBT community right now, which is how are states going to treat parents of children where they are a same-sex marriage couple," said Cathy Sakimura, family law director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which is not involved in the case.

"Are they going to give them the same kind of recognition that any other couple would get or are they going to have a different rule applied to them?" Sakimura said.

There are a handful of similar cases nationwide, but the Hawaii dispute is likely the first involving a same-sex married couple with a child support case before a state's highest court, she said.

Most same-sex parental rights cases involve a spouse who didn't give birth to a

child and wants custody, Sakimura said. "It doesn't happen that often in the same-sex parenting world, but there are few cases where they are trying to avoid child support," she said.

In such cases, conception is a key question, Sakimura said.

"Did the spouse consent to the procedure and know about it? And that is what triggers them being a parent," she said.

The case will test marriage equality, Renn with Lambda Legal has said.

"This is unusual in that biology is being used as a shield to evade parental obligation," he said. "Equal rights come with equal responsibility."

Arguments were held in a high school auditorium because the case is being used to teach students about courts. ■



Juan Galván

Business brief

Downtown Dallas Inc. has one main goal: to help create and sustain a vibrant and culturally inclusive urban center that makes Downtown Dallas — with its 15 distinct and unique districts

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The organization's program areas include public safety, capital improvements, maintenance, economic development, public policy, planning/transportation and marketing.

For more information about what's happening Downtown or about Downtown Dallas Inc., visit DowntownDallas.com or contact Galván by phone at 214-744-1270 or email at Galvan@downtowndallas.com. ■



Raphael McDonnell

detectable may skip the medication one or more days a week or month. Those trials are ongoing and doctors may not prescribe lower than daily dosage.

McDonnell contacted state Rep. Rafael Anchia's office to help with breaking through the roadblocks to access to Truvada some insurance companies have created. McDonnell said he asked that Anchia's office encourage insurance providers "to fill PrEP like all other prescriptions."

Anchia's legislative director, Abel Mulugheta, spoke to Carolina Name, a government relations specialist with the Texas Department of Insurance.

"TDI is taking a close look at the [independent review requests] received in the last six months from United Healthcare, Aetna, and Cigna," Name wrote to Mulugheta.

Mulugheta passed along McDonnell's plea: "Time is of the essence. Missing a dose of Truvada could lead to decreased protection in HIV-negative people and can potentially lead to medication resistance in HIV-positive people. The insurance companies' capricious decisions jeopardize the general public health of Texans."

TDI promised an update in January. ■



when they looked closer, they found pus under the gall bladder. So that liver couldn't be used, either.

"On Dec. 4, I got a call at 3 a.m.," Garcia said. He had to be at the hospital in an hour. The doctor told him they had the liver from a 33-year-old male.

"We think it's a go," they told him.

Surgery took eight hours. His transplant was the first one done by an all-female transplant team at Baylor, he noted proudly.

"My husband waited next to my bed," he said.

Although still heavily sedated, he remembers his husband telling him, "You made it through."

Garcia recently passed a year with his new liver. Most rejection takes place in the first six months, so he passed that milestone. His doctors changed his HIV medications to ones that work better with the anti-rejection meds that all transplant patients must take.

He did have one setback — a hernia — in September this year. Doctors told him later that hernias are common with liver transplants.

Garcia said recovery from the hernia operation was more painful than recovery from the transplant. ■

"I prayed a lot," he said, adding that his pastor, the Rev. Carol West, prayed with him. "I feel blessed for that second chance."

He wrote a letter to the family of the organ donor thanking them for saving his life. "I want them to understand his legacy," Garcia said.

The transplant organization would have delivered the letter to the family after six months, and it's up to them if they would like to meet. Garcia said he hasn't heard from them yet.

He also wants people living with HIV to know that, when needed, organ transplant is an option available to them. While not every hospital has experience with transplantation to people with HIV, it's becoming more common.

And people with HIV can donate their organs, too. Organs taken from people who had HIV are transplanted into people living with HIV. With anti-rejection medication and the right HIV meds, the person receiving the organs can recover from organ failure and remain undetectable.

Since recovering, Garcia has been devoting his life to telling his story to make a difference.

"I want people to know they can live a normal life," Garcia said. ■

Happy Holidays!



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In search of peace

“Peace on earth, good will to men.” It’s from one of my favorite Christmas carols, “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,” and in writing the poem/song, Edmund Sears used a variation of the words of the angels as they announced Jesus’ birth to the shepherds in the fields.

There is apparently an ongoing argument about the exact translation of the original text. According to some, it should be “on earth, peace to men of good will;” others insist it should be “on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Does it make a difference? Well, yes, it does. The words of the song are a blessing, offering peace and good will to everyone. “Peace to men of good will” narrows the field a bit. And when you offer peace only to “those on whom his favor rests” — well, I don’t imagine all of us would even agree on whom that actually is.

And that is, I guess, the question at the very heart of my unrest this holiday season.

Let me pause here for a minute to note that, yes, I understand I am talking about the words of a Christian Christmas carol, taken from the words attributed to angels in the Christian Bible. And I understand most clearly that this is the holiday season, that not everyone is Christian, not everyone celebrates Christmas and that not everyone even believes in any kind of god, in any religion or denomination.

But surely everyone — at least, most everyone — would like to have a little peace and good will?

These days, it seems that the “powers that be,” whoever they are in your neck of the woods, want to reserve the peace and good will for only a select few. They only offer the best for a very select few on whom favor rests.

Congress hasn’t managed to pass any legislation worth noting except for a tax scam that takes from the poor to give to the rich, and that undermines health care for those who need it most.

The man in the Oval Office keeps bleating on about building walls to keep out people whose skin is a different color, who follow a different religion or who speak a different language. At the same time, he’s wasting time and taxpayer dollars playing golf,



Tammye Nash
From Where I Stand

calling people insulting names and counting the bodies at events where he speaks.

The Texas Legislature this year certainly had no good will for the LGBT community. They painted an especially large target on the backs of our transgender brothers and sisters, trying to, in essence, ban them from public life by banning them from public restrooms.

Preachers of all religions and denominations constantly declare that only they have God’s ear, that only they hear God’s voice, that only they are worthy of his favor. Want examples? Look no further than Joel Osteen in Houston, who closed the doors of his megachurch — not to mention his mansion — to the refugees fleeing Hurricane Harvey’s floodwaters. And here in Dallas, Robert Jeffress over at First Baptist Church continues to confound and dismay with his never-ending stream of bigotry.

They make no bones about on whom their favor rests.

There has been no peace on earth this year — from the bombing at the Ariana Grande concert last May in Manchester, England to the mass shooting at the Harvest Music Festival Oct. 1 in Las Vegas.

A list of terrorist attacks in 2017, compiled online at StoryMaps.esri.com — beginning with a bombing Jan. 1 by Islamic State in Istanbul that killed 39 all the way to a bombing today (Wednesday, Dec. 20) by Islamic State in Baghdad that killed one — includes 93 attacks this year that killed 458 people.

And that’s not even beginning to count attacks like the shooting in Las Vegas, which claimed 58 lives and the title as the



worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, and the Nov. 5 shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, in which 26 were killed.

No peace. No goodwill.

And yet, I still have hope.

I think back to the Texas Legislature’s regular session when lawmakers of good conscience on both sides of the partisan aisle took a stand and said no to anti-transgender hate in the form of a bathroom bill, and I have hope. Not only did we fend off that discrimination in the regular session, we did it again in special session.

I think back to Election Day in November, when transgender candidates were elected to office not just at the local level, but at the state level, around the country. And I have hope. I think back just a couple of weeks, to Dec.12 and the special election in Alabama, where Doug Jones beat Roy Moore and years of ingrained partisan politics. And I have hope.

Perhaps there is a shortage of peace and good will on the world stage, in our politics and in our religions. But I know that I still have hope; I know that others still have hope. And I believe that with enough hope and enough hard work, we really can, one day, find that peace on earth and good will to all of us. ■

Tammye Nash is managing editor of the Dallas Voice. She is also a proud member of The Resistance

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Martha, Martha, Martha!

Lifestyle icon (and holiday décor goddess) Martha Stewart talks the joys of same-sex weddings and how gays ‘up their game’ in her midst



Photo courtesy Facil Berisha

You don’t have to tell Martha Stewart that gay men love her like their own mother.

The influential entrepreneur and domestic diva’s deep-rooted connection to the LGBTQ community goes beyond special appearances on *Ugly Betty* and *Ellen*, when she appeared as herself in a 1995 episode of the groundbreaking sitcom. Stewart, throughout her half-century-long career, has long embodied a quality near and dear to the queer community: perfection. After all, before “live your best life” was a meme, it was Stewart’s honed methodology.

Could that affinity for precision and flawlessness — for the perfect Christmas ham, the perfect vegetable garden, the perfect dating persona — be why Stewart is very clued into the fact that many gay men perceive her as a mother figure?

It’s a relationship worth exploring, and during my tight 15 minutes with Stewart I dove into the lifestyle maven’s personal affiliations with many LGBTQ people: her nephew, Christopher Herbert, as well as her dearest gay friends, whom she hosts at her various homes. While “in a car, so any confusion, blame the cell service,” Stewart, now, astonishingly, 76, was reflective and laid-back as she served up a savory platter of gay talk: Her age-appropriate philosophy on equality, gays who host Stewart at their get-togethers (she jokes, though she can’t possibly be kidding, that it “ups their game”), and her memories of transforming, unforgettably and stunningly, into ‘40s film icon Veronica Lake for late, gay makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: I've really appreciated the inclusivity on VH1's *Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party*, with guests ranging from LGBTQ icons like Patti LaBelle and Kathy Griffin to gay TV personality Ross Mathews and also Laverne Cox. How aware are you of being LGBTQ inclusive when it comes to this show and also your career as a whole? Martha Stewart: Oh, thank you. Well, we're kind of in the showbiz world and being inclusive, that just sort of goes with the terrain. I don't care who the person is; I care about what the person does, and how they do it.

Martha Stewart Weddings magazine famously introduced same-sex couples into its pages in 2009, with Jeremy Hooper and Andrew Shulman sharing their vows with family and friends in Litchfield, Connecticut. Why was it important to be at the forefront of marriage equality in that way,

and what did that moment mean to you? I believe in “all men are created equal.” I think I go back to the 1860s, and before! And I don’t think any compromise is necessary. I think it’s absolutely a fact that all men are created equal, and so I just treated people like equals my entire life. Equals in every single way, no matter what their proclivity is or what their sexuality is, or their color or their race. It doesn’t matter to me.

That wedding issue was a big deal as it was one of the first mainstream wedding magazines to have featured a gay couple's wedding, and then there was another in 2011. I know! And that was my nephew. That was Christopher Herbert marrying a Native American man [Timothy Long].

Seeing as though gay marriage wasn't even recognized legally coast to coast then, were Martha-worshipping housewives open to displays of same-sex affection? It was legal in Massachusetts, where they actually got married. I went to their wedding. They had a pre-wedding in Massachusetts, which was the legal wedding, and then they had the family celebration at my farm, which was another tying of the knot. The ceremony and that Celtic tying of the knot was so beautiful.

Was that the best same-sex wedding you've been to? I'd say it's one of them — I've been to a lot! I mean, I have a lot of gay editors, both male and female. One of our style directors at Weddings got married and he had a fantastic wedding at a nightclub in Brooklyn. That was so fun, and that was also

featured in the magazine. And I've been to several female weddings. You know, every wedding is special to me.

Is it intimidating for people to host Martha Stewart at their wedding? I don't know if it's intimidating, but I think it ups their game a little bit!

What do you look for at a same-sex wedding? I like to see what the couple is wearing. I like to see how they handle relatives. But I don't differentiate a gay wedding from a straight wedding. I just don't differentiate. I just went to Steven Gambrel's wedding. That was so beautiful! He's a very famous, very wealthy interior designer, and he married his longtime partner at their beautiful home in Sag Harbor, Long Island. It was an extraordinary evening. The father of Steven's partner got up and said, “This is our family's first gay wedding,” and he said, “It's a momentous occasion for our family and we embrace it.” It was one of the nicest father speeches I've heard at a wedding. Everybody sort of wanted to cry because he was visibly uncomfortable and yet accepting at the same time. It was very moving.

You also attended out Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld's A-list tribute party in October. Oh my god, that was a fantastic party! Mariah Carey singing! She sang a couple of songs for Karl dressed in a Chanel sequined dress that was, you know, perfectly clinging. It was beautiful, and Karl was so thrilled.

Growing up in New Jersey in the '40s and '50s, what was your introduction to the LGBTQ community? In my class, I knew

that several of the boys were gay. It wasn't talked about, and nobody made fun of them. Nutley High School was a pretty liberal but also quiet school, so there were some gay boys that we knew, and I think one or two girls. But they hadn't come out, and the boys really were not out, if you want to use that word. But they were definitely gay.

And then in our own family, I had one cousin who was gay who lives in Buffalo and then my nephew is gay, and I think even though he didn't come out until college, we all sort of knew he was gay. My daughter who has radar like crazy, Alexis, who I'm sure you know, she knows. And my mother didn't have a clue. It wasn't part of her lifestyle. She just didn't have those friends.

Snoop Dogg has said that you love to get him drunk. Do you have a gay friend who's especially good at getting you drunk? I don't like getting drunk, so not necessarily, no.

Tipsy? If I get tipsy, it's probably because I haven't eaten anything. I don't get up saying, “Oh, I'm gonna get drunk today.” I just don't do that.

Is entertaining a group of sophisticated gay men the ultimate challenge? No. Again, I don't differentiate if I have a group of gay men [over]. I just don't ever think that way. I don't differentiate. [Artbag business owner] Christopher Moore came to my house recently with four gay friends just to look at the gardens and I gave them cappuccinos

Holiday viewing

Reviews of three new film releases: 'Call Me By Your Name,' 'Downsizing,' 'Molly's Game'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com



A handshake leads to something more in 'Call Me By Your Name.'

Call Me By Your Name. In a remote village in Northern Italy in the summer of 1983, an archaeology professor (Michael Stuhlbarg) hosts a grad student, Oliver (Armie Hammer), in his home for a six-week externship. He's done this every year, though this time his 17-year-old son Elio (Timothée Chalamet) shows a particular interest in the strapping student. But is their interaction that of rivals or a hidden flirtation?

Director Luca Guadagnino specializes in sexual curiosity expressed in moody pieces (*I Am Love*, *A Bigger Splash*), but the delicate dance he conjures in *Call Me By Your Name* — adapted by the legendary queer film director James Ivory — is something totally unexpected. The plot is fairly linear: A month in the country and the restlessness that leads to longing and forbidden love; it's downright Chekhovian. But the woozy, tactile sensuality elevates it to high art. The ancient *kouros* statuary of muscled athletes preserved for centuries; the conflict of being the outsider (Jewish, gay) while fitting in; the tension between attraction, pleasure and desire ... all of these elements, so subtly handled, form a kind of European *Brokeback Mountain*. More is said with silences, camera angles and the lush score by Sufjan Stevens — as well as the in-

teraction between Chalamet and Hammer — than is said in dialogue (although one monologue by Stuhlbarg will steal your breath away). Like *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *Call Me By Your Name* stakes its ground at the intersection of intellect and instinct, of passion and judgment. It's pure cinematic. (*Now playing*)

Downsizing. Alexander Payne has staked out a claim as the snarky poet of Nebraska; most of his films are set at least partially there, his home state; he uses the clichés of Midwesternism as both a shorthand and a mirror on which he reflects his ironic take on peculiar characters. Payne usually keeps the objects of his barbs close to reality, or at least recognizability, but he takes his first venture into sci-fi with *Downsizing*, even if only tangentially. The premise is that technology now allows human beings to be shrunk to the size of caterpillars — an advance intended to save the world from global warming and extend the value of money, turning the middle-class into relative millionaires, living in communities of Barbie Dream Homes on pennies.

Paul Safranek (Matt Damon) and his wife (Kristin Wiig) decide to take the leap,

■ MOVIES Page 20

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Country legend Reba McEntire talks gays at Christmas, her new album and the politicization of her faith-based music

Reba McEntire has released a beautiful new Christmas album. The melancholy spirit of her friend Dolly Parton's 1982 holiday staple "Hard Candy Christmas" is preserved on McEntire's new reading, and her sparse version of "Mary, Did You Know?" featuring Christmas mainstays Vince Gill and Amy Grant engenders a spirited hopefulness even the secular population may find comfort in.

But it is two weeks after the Las Vegas shooting, and nearly a month before the CMAs, which emotionally honored the victims during its In Memoriam, when I connect with McEntire to talk about the new album and her holiday plans. Sticking to casual banter seems malapropos given the recent series of tragic and divisive events that eventually led to McEntire pledging to love you the best she can during the all-star musical opening of the CMAs.

How do you *not* talk about issues affecting all of us, even McEntire?

After all, the Country Music Hall of Famer performs in Vegas regularly during her residency, *Reba, Brooks & Dunn: Together in Vegas*, which recently announced additional 2018 dates. Moreover, the icon has wielded great influence as an entertainer — singer, Broadway, film and TV actress, gay favorite — during her four-decade career, and so when she pledged her support for marriage equality in 2014 to me during our last conversation, it felt especially groundbreaking. At the time, she spoke lovingly about her dear friends, Michael and Steven, who didn't have the same legal protections as heterosexual couples. "It was not fair," she pointedly said. More than a year after our talk, Michael and Steven's relationship was legally recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Now, any artist with clout is being called upon to take on other hot topics, as evidenced by the pre-emptive decision by CMA producers to enact a no-politics stipulation on journalists during the event (the provision was overturned by the time the show aired). But the pressure to weigh in on political issues can be felt



Photo courtesy Bob D'Amico

even within the country music community, as Rosanne Cash pleaded for the genre's influencers to speak out against the NRA in a Oct. 3 New York Times column called "Country Musicians, Stand Up to the N.R.A." (Faith Hill and Tim McGraw recently called for sensible gun laws in an interview with Billboard after Cash's call to action).

In addition to talking about her personal struggles with religion and being true to her musical roots, McEntire, 62, told me she looks to God for guidance on addressing the world's affairs. Strikingly, she did clarify that her track "Back to God," featured as an acoustic version on *My Kind of Christmas*, is purely a faith song despite various sites and social-media memes associating the song with President Donald Trump.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Do you have gay people in your circle of family and friends who you'll be seeing for the holidays? Reba McEntire: Probably so, yeah. I'll be in Nashville before we go out of the country after Christmas, so I've got a lot of friends in town that we'll be seeing.

What special something do your gay and lesbian loved ones bring to your holiday festivities? Friendship. And we hang out throughout the year, so it's not much different around Christmas than it is through-

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out the year.

Just more eating. A lot more eating, true! And lots of just hanging together and the reason for the season, which is the birthday of Jesus and we all celebrate that. It's more of the same, just being great friends at Christmas like we are throughout the year.

Please tell me all of our favorite country gay icons — yourself, Dolly, Faith, Martina, and so on — have some kind of Secret Santa. [Laughs] No, we don't. Wouldn't that be fun, though?

Do you do White Elephant exchanges? Oh yeah, we do it with my RBI Firm team and we used to do it at Starstruck. Dirty Santa or White Elephants are really a lot of fun.

What's the craziest gift you ever received during a White Elephant exchange? Oh my gosh, probably an old dirty sweater!

I just spoke to your daughter-in-law, Kelly Clarkson, with whom you collaborate on "Silent Night." As I'm sure you know, she finally has creative control. Was there a time in your career when, like Kelly, you struggled to make the music you wanted to make because of label heads? You know, I was very, very lucky to get to work with people who are open-minded. It wasn't a situation of not getting to sing the music I wanted to and make the music I wanted to; it's that when I got started I didn't know, other than I had been raised with, what I wanted to sing, and then when it got a little more contemporary with the orchestras, I had to go to the head of the label, Jimmy Bowen, and say, "I really wanna go 'back to my roots,'" and he said, "What's that?" I said, "Steel guitar and fiddle." He said, "All right, you can do it." And I said, "Well, how do I do it?" And he said, "Well, you need to go start finding your own music." So Jimmy was totally 100 percent for me doing what I wanted to do and I was very grateful for that.

Kelly is bold when it comes to expressing her social and political beliefs, and I understand her stepdaughter and your grandchild, Savannah, is really political. Do you have political debates within the family? Nope. I don't talk politics because I think there are a lot more things I can contribute to the world without arguing with somebody about politics.

My family has this rule, especially during holiday gatherings: no political discussions. I think that's very healthy. I just don't do it. When somebody wants to talk politics, I let 'em know that and we change the subject.

There seems to be a lot of pressure on public figures to take stances on some important issues concerning our country. During our last interview, in fact, you pledged your full support for same-sex marriages for the first time. A lot has happened since, including the recent shooting at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas, and recently, Rosanne Cash penned a column in the New York Times encouraging the country music community to speak out against gun violence. For you, when is a potential-

ly divisive issue important enough to talk about? I think I'll know it when it comes to me. I think I'll know it when that happens. So, I can't say it's gonna be tomorrow, or what the topic is gonna be. I'll know it — I think it'll be told to me. I rely on God a lot to let me know what I need to be doing and I ask him for guidance, totally, all the time, every day. So when that's needed, I'll be the spokesperson.

How has what is happening in the world become personal for you? It always has been. When you have children and people you love and care about, it's not only your children or your grandchildren, it's your whole family. It's your friends, it's your community, it's your country, it's your town, it's your neighbors. You deal with all of it and your concern is for all of them, so yeah, it's been going on for a long time. It's been going on since — long before we ever got here. It just seems like because of the media we know about what's going on a lot more than we did when we were kids. When I was growing up, we only had the 6 o'clock and 10 o'clock news and what you heard on the radio and that was it.

Do you think we would benefit by going back to just the 6 and 10 o'clock news? I really don't know which is best. Are we overloaded with press? Do we need more? Do we need to know all of this? I remember that song that Anne Murray had out, "A Little Good News." That's what I like to watch — good news.

What does it mean to be an artist who can, in one night, bring together gay fans, conservative right fans and drag queens? It means a lot to me because what we're there for — my job is to entertain and to lighten the load off your back, and I hope when everybody walks through that door to come into a concert they leave their troubles at the door and they come in and join together and listen and enjoy and take away something that will brighten their day. Give them somethin' to think about and improve their lives, hopefully.

Maybe there's a message in those songs. I have always said, Chris, that I'm the conduit, I'm the water hose. I'm singing these songs because there's a message in music, because it's so healing, and so when I sing it, I sing songs that touch my heart. Hopefully when you're in the audience and you listen to those songs it touches your heart — and in a way that I have no idea how it's gonna touch your heart, but I hope that it does.

How did you feel about ABC passing on your TV project created by out *Desperate Housewives* writer Marc Cherry? I couldn't believe it. I was devastated. I thought it was the greatest show. Everybody who I played it for was like, "Oh my gosh, I can't wait to see more," and I said, "Well, unfortunately, you're not gonna get to because they didn't take it." Marc did a wonderful job.

 **ONLINE EXCLUSIVE**

To read more of Reba's interview, visit DallasVoice.com.



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L+S screen



Hong Chau (with Matt Damon) gives one of 2017's best performances in 'Downsizing.'

MOVIES From Page 15

but a complication ensues, and Paul finds himself broke and alone, irreversibly minimized, a sad-sack in middle age, starting all over. He meets a flamboyant upstairs neighbor (Christoph Waltz) who convinces him he's missing out, but also a Vietnamese refugee (Hong Chau), unwillingly minimized by her dictatorial government, who thinks finding a true purpose is more important than hedonistic pleasures.

The point of the film — and Payne usually keeps his points near the surface — is that we can't minimize our problems by minimizing ourselves, that, in a pure Buddhist sense, life is suffering and suffering is desire and we might as well make the most of it.

The visual effects employed by making full-sized human look small hasn't advanced substantially since the days of *The Incredible Shrinking Man* (possibly that's intentional), but the sci-fi is merely a gimmick for commenting on society, the survival of humanity and starting over. It's not entirely successful — the irony sometimes wears on you — but *Downsizing* contains one of the not-to-be-missed performances of the year. Hong Chau, as the abrasive, defiant, pushy woman who transforms Paul's life, delivers such an exquisitely nuanced and powerful performance that she makes you gasp. Never has someone so annoying been so beautifully rendered. She buoys the film just when it seems to run out of steam and pushes it past the finish line. (*Now playing*)

Molly's Game. It's said that stage is an actor's medium, film is a director's and TV a writer's. That's probably why Aaron Sorkin has long been a big name ... in television. While he's met some success in film (*A Few Good Men*, *Steve Jobs*, an Oscar for writing *The Social Network*), his unmistakable style — rat-a-tat dialogue

from smug, over-educated urbanites, walking-and-talking their way through politics and sex with his kind of issue of the week approach — are ideally suited for episodic TV. He's never ventured into directing, turning over his scripts to others to realize, until now, *Molly's Game* is his directorial debut, and he starts at the top: A feature starring Jessica Chastain, Kevin Costner and Idris Elba set for a Christmas release. But rather than vanity boondoggle, the film is the perfect expression of his aesthetic — dizzyingly fast, smart and unexpected.

Chastain plays Molly Bloom, a real-life ski champ who suffers a debilitating injury and changes gears from world-class athlete to administrative assistant. Only her casual office job includes running an underground poker game, populated by some big names in Hollywood, business, politics. She keeps it all legal, eventually branching out on her own and upping the game to an exclusive blue-chip experience until she screws up, gets involved with the wrong people and becomes the target of an FBI investigation.

Although partly a crime procedural and partly a courtroom drama, *Molly's Game* is, at essence, an Aaron Sorkin study in character told with great panache. Chastain is well-suited for the lickety-split, hair-trigger dialogue and smart-ass intelligence. Elba has a more cooling influence (is there anyone cooler?) that pairs well. And the supporting cast is peppered with fine work of lowlives, playas and assholes. It might not be the first way you'd think to spend the holidays, but it snaps like great jazz. (*Dec. 25*).

Also opening this week: *All the Money in the World*; *I, Tonya*; *Father Figures*; *Jumanji Welcome to the Jungle*; *Pitch Perfect 3*.

Coming soon: *The Post* (Jan. 5); *Hostiles* (Jan. 5); *The Phantom Thread* (Jan. 12).



Friday 12.22 — Sunday 01.07

Fair Park lights up with Holiday Wonder

Lanterns have come a long way from when we were camping during Cub Scouts. In fact, you won't believe what's in store at Holiday Wonder, at the Fair Park lagoon through Jan. 7. Millions of bulbs, 17 acres of space, dozens of illuminated scenes, plus international foods, acrobats, dancers, live music and more make this a colorful, family-friendly way to spend the holidays.

DEETS: Lagoon at Fair Park, 1318 S. Second Ave. \$12–\$20. HolidayWonder.com.

Friday 12.22 — Sunday 05.06

Blast off higher than Santa's sleigh with 'Journey to Space'

The holidays are the best time to give back, especially to our earth and what lies beyond it. The Perot Museum of Nature and Science keeps you from spacing out this winter and provides a hands-on exhibition to explore the environment beyond our planet in *Journey to Space*. Including Neil Armstrong's actual helmet and gloves, the exhibit gives many things for parents and kids to marvel over this year.

DEETS: Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. PerotMuseum.org.

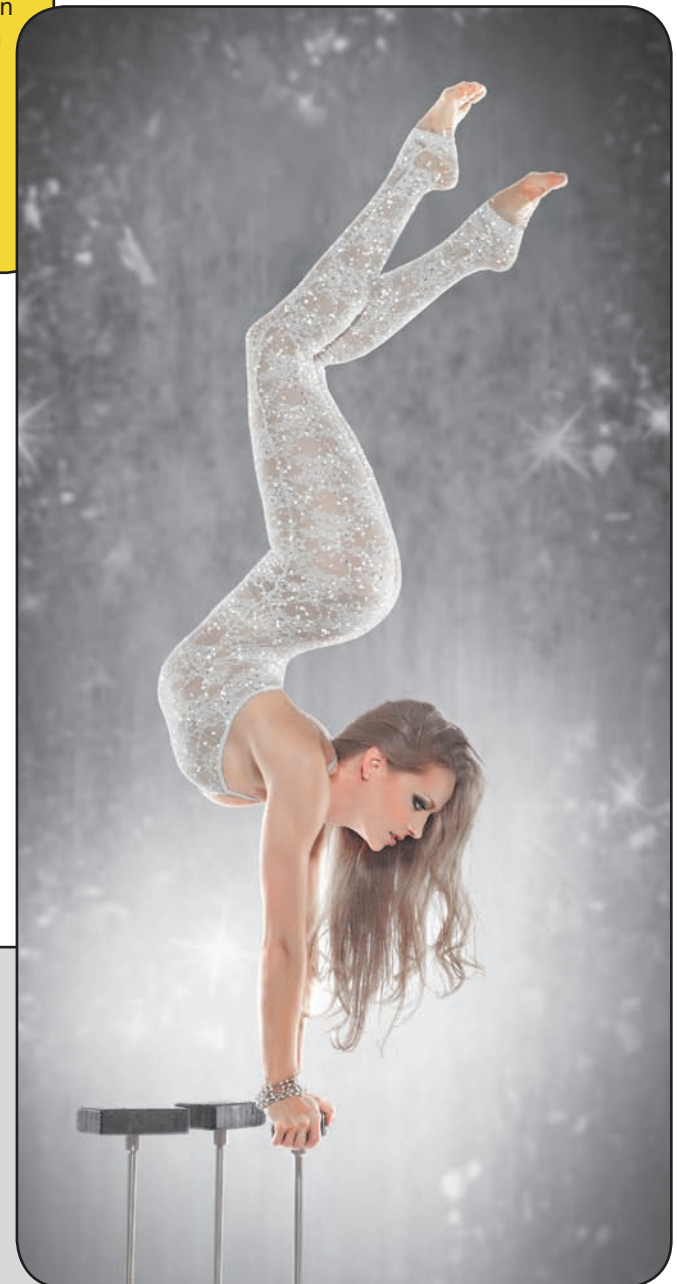


Thursday 12.28 — Monday 01.01


Celebrate the 'joyeux' of the holidays with Lone Star Circus

Breathtaking aerobatic balancing and mesmerizing juggling take the circus ring by storm as the Lone Star Circus' annual holiday spectacular — this year called Cirque Joyeux — returns, thanks to the Dallas Children's Theater's Rosewood Center. It's a great time to feel like a kid again with the legendary Ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson (formerly with Ringling Bros.) and the joyous magic of the circus.

DEETS: Rosewood Center for Family Arts 5938 Skillman. \$22–\$48. LoneStarCircus.org.



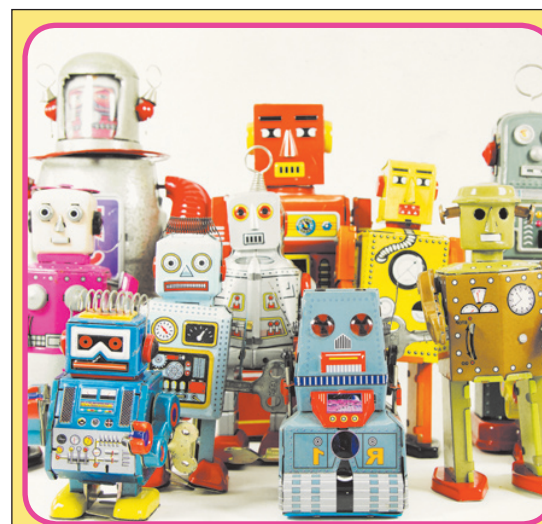
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ARTSWEEK

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.

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 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.

The King & I. Rodgers & Hammerstein's adaptation of Anna and the King of Siam, featuring classics like "Getting to Know You" and

"Whistle a Happy Tune." Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Dec. 31. ATTPAC.org.

Santa Claus: A New Musical. When Santa announces his retirement after a millennium, the North Pole goes crazy. *Final weekend.* Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Blvd., Fort Worth. 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. *Final weekend.* Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com. TexasBalletTheater.org.

CIRCUS
Cirque du Soleil: Varekai. The final tour of the display of derring-do with a forest setting arrives in North Texas. DrPepper Arena, 2601 Avenue of the Stars, Frisco. Through Saturday. Cirquedusoleil.com/varekai.

■ **MARTHA** From Page 14
and they were happy. I actually didn't have any food in the house, so I couldn't give them anything to eat, but they were perfectly happy. I just don't ever think that way. I don't differentiate.
Wait, let's back up, Martha. You didn't have any food in your house? Well, nothing except eggs. I could've made them scrambled eggs. I thought after, "I probably should have

fed them something"... but I didn't. [Laughs]
Is it true that Cher was the one who convinced you to work with famous late, gay makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin when he photographed you as Veronica Lake for his 2000 book Face Forward? No, I knew who Kevyn Aucoin was, and he was such an amazing makeup artist. And I like doing things like that. I have a face that can become other people. And I just thought,

"Oh, god, what an opportunity." He did such an amazing job.

In the gay community and beauty world, those photos are quite legendary. Oh, I know who it was! It was the guy who worked for me [Alex Peruzzi]. He's Linda Evangelista in the book — he was head of merchandising in my craft department. A very handsome boy.

How do you reflect on that shoot? I didn't know that Kevyn was suffering from a pretty hideous disease, but I did remark on the size of his hands. He had that disease that enlarged appendages. His hands, his feet, everything was oversized. And I couldn't believe that someone with such monster hands — these big hands — could do such delicate makeup work, but he did. He did amazing, amazing work. It was an art form of his to see a structure of a face and turn it into another face.

Looking back, have any gay people influenced your fondness for decadence or even your path to becoming a lifestyle icon? Not really. Although when I was catering [Stewart launched a catering business in the '70s], many of the young men who were my waiters were gay, and they still are. The gay community works a lot in the catering business in New York; they are either actors or artists and they need to make money, so they make money in catering. But they were all chosen on skill and aptitude for the kind of job they were doing, and they were all great. But my daughter and I both have lots of gay friends. My closest friend is Kevin

Sharkey and he's also like the surrogate uncle to Alexis (and her family) and he lives in their same building, and he's Tio Kevin to them. I even introduce him playfully to friends as my gay son.
I want to be Martha Stewart's gay son. Lots of his friends would like to be Martha's gay son!
How does one achieve Martha Stewart "gay son" status? He's worked for [me for] 18 years, that's how! He worked his way up!

this week's solution

A	C	T	S		E	L	B	O	W		E	B	B	S
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Jose Llana and Laura Michelle Kelly in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King and I*. Photo by Matthew Murphy.

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Cassie Nova

Suffering loss over the holidays

Happy Holigays, everybody. 'Tis the season for overindulgence and bad choices... or as some of us call it, a way of life. Christmas stresses me out every year. My partner and I have been together almost 15 years, and every year I try to get him the perfect gift. I want the gift to be equal parts something I know he wants and something meaningful.

The problem is, we usually buy whatever we want when we want it. If I say I want blah blah blah in July, he buys it for me in July. Which makes buying a gift in December that much harder. So you try the old "What do you want for Christmas?" approach, which always receives the answer: "I don't care." Or even worse: "I'm sure I will love whatever you get me."

No, dammit! Tell me exactly what you want so I don't have to use my brain. Ralphie from *A Christmas Story* made it easy for his parents. He was very clear about what he wanted: An

Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle! He knew what would make him happy.

To be honest, I tell Jamie the same thing he tells me. It's the same back and forth. He actually tells me all the time things he wants, and if I were rich, I would get them for him. He wants one of those 4X4 golf cart-looking trucky things. He wants one of those weird-looking tricycles with two wheels in the front and one in the back, the ones you see occasionally on the freeway being driven by some mid-life crisis asshole. He wants a Corvette, the Delorean from *Back to the Future*, a pristine '57 Chevy, almost any old-school muscle car. So I buy him Hot Wheel versions of those cars and put them in his stocking. My man gets what he wants... at least a version of it.

I hope he likes what I got him this year. Actually, I know he will. After almost 15 years, we know each other pretty well by now. But it still

stresses me out. Come on Christmas, hurry up and get here.

Now let's act like Santa and give out some gifts... of wisdom (and/or bullshit).

Dear Cassie, Hey gurl! I am new to Dallas and want to know how to get booked in the Rose Room. I was very established in my home state, but here, no one will book me. I don't get it. I am professional and am sickening onstage. My costumes cannot be touched and you can trust that I bring it every time I hit the stage.

I've asked you before about booking me and you told me to do the amateur show on Thursdays. Trust and believe, I am no amateur. So I guess since I don't have a crown no one will book me. I just want a chance to prove myself because once you see me, you will not forget me.

Signed, New to Big D but not new to the game!

My dearest New to Big D, Oh your poor little ego. I apologize if I called the Thursday night show an "amateur show" — it is a *talent* show. Open to all types of talent. You don't need a crown to get booked. Trust me, I got bookings without ever holding a major title. The truth is, pageants help performers get seen by the people that do the bookings. Talent night serves the same purpose. Any booger off the street can walk up to me and say they are flawless in the show. You need to be seen somewhere first. Plain and simple. You wouldn't walk into a job interview without a resume.

Volunteer to work for free at a benefit show. If being a showgirl is your dream, perform whenever you can for whoever will watch. If you truly are as good as you say you are, people will talk. The show directors of the clubs will pay attention when they hear your name and tune in. You need to develop a fan base. Saying you are great and showing you are great are two completely different things.

I get it: You worked hard in your home town to grow your fan base, but your fans didn't move with you so it is like starting all over again. Even in a talent show, the crowd can sense a seasoned queen. Even if you don't win, you are getting seen by the powers that be. Girls talk and reputations grow. Sometimes good and sometimes bad. You can be the most talented drag queen in the world, but if you have a stank-ass attitude, you won't get booked. Let your talent speak for itself, but you need to be seen. Don't let your ego get in the way of you performing. Egos can be a drag queen's biggest obstacle to overcome.

I see a lot of younger queens getting frustrated when they don't move up or get booked like *right now!* Dallas is a mecca for great drag, and you can't throw a heel without hitting a



hard-working, deserving queen. So let your talent speak for you, without attitude getting in the way of you succeeding. Good luck, Cassie.

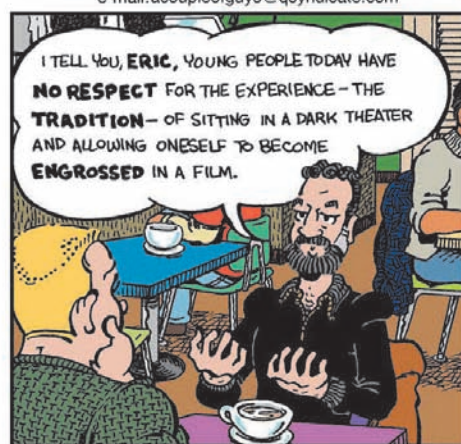
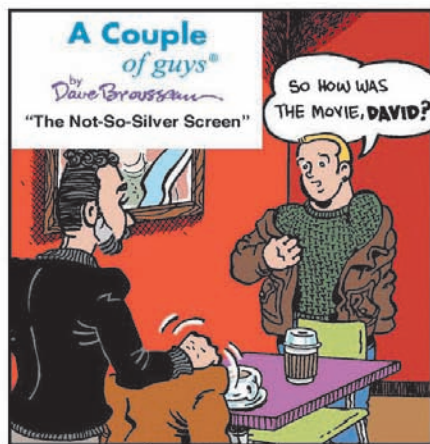
Dear Cassie, I lost my father last month to cancer. From the time he found out to the time he died was only about seven months. It came quickly, but I was thankful I was able to say what needed to be said before he left us. I wanted to have him buried so I would have a place to go to visit and pay my respects, but my sisters outvoted me and we had him cremated. We split his ashes up and we all have some of whatever is left of him. I keep his ashes in an urn like you are supposed to. The urn sits on a shelf in my living room, but I don't feel anything from it. I thought it would bring me peace having it in my home but it doesn't. I feel lost without him and hate that we didn't bury him. What's wrong with me? Thanks, Chad.

Dear Chad, I am so sorry for your loss. There is nothing wrong with you. We all experience grief in different ways. There is no guarantee that had you buried him and had a place to go visit him that you would feel something different. Your father is gone. He is not in the ashes on your shelf. He wouldn't be in the grave had you buried him.

I lost my grandmother years ago. She is buried near Cedar Creek Lake somewhere, but I have never been to visit her grave. I talk to her almost every day, though. It is cliché to say this, but they live on through your memories. For a while it hurts, but eventually you will feel close to him just by remembering him. Let yourself smile when you think of something he would have laughed at. The loss will always be there, but the good memories will always help. Stay strong, my friend.

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.





Melissa and the crew at the dedication of the new garden at Legacy Founders Cottage

Beth El Binah Hanukkah Party



Making the **SCENE** the week of **Oct. 7-13**:

- **Alexandre's:** Terry Loftis on Friday. **Holidays with Walter Lee** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Wall of Food** meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court** presents **No Show show** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **DJ C-Rail** presents **Diva Night Jingle Ball Holiday Special** at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Opens at 8 p.m. on Christmas Day.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Robin Lore** on Saturday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Athena O'hara** hosts Wednesday nights.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Monkey & The Bee** holds its first pop-up shop in Fort Worth on Friday. **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Seattle at Dallas at 3:25 p.m.
- **The 515 Bar:** **Sunday Funday**, with drink specials from 3-6 p.m., and happy hour til 11 p.m.
- **1851 Club:** **Karaoke with KJ Tasha** every Thursday from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

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



Teddy Bear Party

Photos Courtesy Of Kevin Lofgren

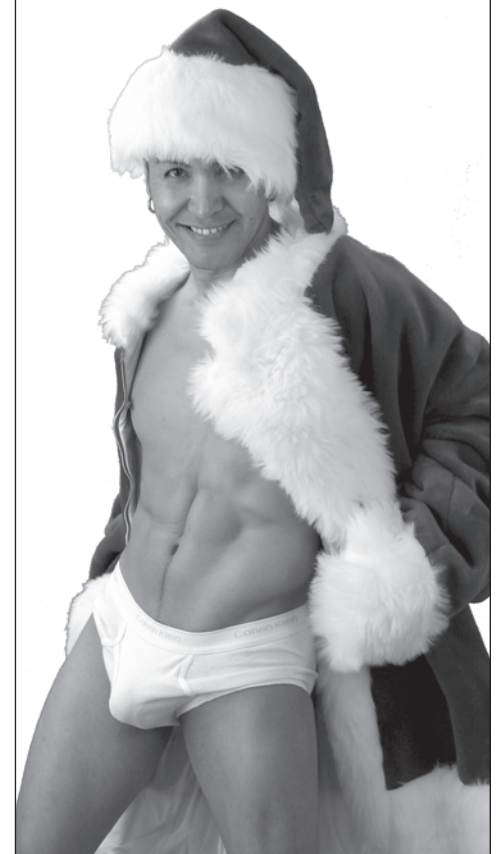




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Oliver!...and Elio

Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 *The Glass Menagerie* segments
- 5 Where two bones touch
- 10 Peters out
- 14 The Indigo Girls’ “___ Line”
- 15 Half sib of Liza
- 16 Angelina’s tomb-raiding role
- 17 Clothing designer Chow
- 18 Gay rodeo target
- 19 Passed with flying colors
- 20 Cause winter isolation
- 22 With 24-Across, actor who plays 17-year-old Elio
- 24 See 22-Across
- 27 Made of rough wool fabric
- 28 Kneeler before a queen
- 29 Made oneself hard to find
- 30 Playwright Orton
- 31 Jason of *Chasing Amy*
- 32 Serenaded
- 34 Alfred Douglas’ title
- 35 Actor who plays 24-year-old Oliver
- 38 Manhandle, with “with”
- 40 Former editor of *Lavender Magazine*
- 41 Capt. von Trapp’s home
- 42 Octave ends for Bernstein
- 44 It means nothing

- 45 What Tim might call Tyne
- 48 Sisters of Greek myth
- 50 With 52-Across, film about summer love
- 52 See 50-Across
- 54 Spilled one’s seed
- 55 Not impotent
- 56 Intense sounds of lovers
- 59 Shoot off a flare, e.g.
- 60 Goes to seed
- 61 International Male’s business, e.g.
- 62 Lake of Ohio ferries
- 63 Part of GPS (abbr.)
- 64 Deviate
- 65 World War II turning point

Down

- 1 Top floors
- 2 LaRue of gay porn
- 3 Metallic organ?
- 4 One who comes slowly
- 5 Some commuter trains
- 6 Sodomite in Genesis
- 7 Somers of *The Match Game*
- 8 “Tell me ___ haven’t heard!”
- 9 Start to like
- 10 Tickle pink
- 11 James Buchanan, notably
- 12 Straight

- 13 Looking heartbroken
- 21 Old Testament prophet and book
- 23 Get behind
- 25 It reveals a drag queen’s thighs
- 26 They cut leaves of grass
- 30 *Into the Woods* Tony winner Gleason
- 32 MTF operation
- 33 Cole Porter’s “All Through ___ Night”
- 34 Was out in front
- 35 Presidential sexual activity
- 36 Chains around a knight
- 37 Considers carefully, with “over”
- 38 Budapest dwellers
- 39 Gay porn site
- 42 Bear lair
- 43 Bitter fruits
- 45 William of Lincoln’s “Team of Rivals”
- 46 Peninsula where the rain falls mainly on the plain
- 47 Waterside opera house location
- 49 Wave top
- 50 *The Gay Caballero* star Romero
- 51 Shortened leaves of grass
- 53 *South Park* co-creator Stone
- 57 Zadora of *Hairspray*
- 58 Cunning



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