

dallas voice

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The *Race* is on

Dallas' Asia O'Hara
competes on Season 10
of 'Drag Race'

Page 10

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What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

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

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

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

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

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

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

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

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

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

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



I'm courageous, not careless.

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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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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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Asia O'Hara. Photo courtesy VH1.
Design by Kevin Thomas

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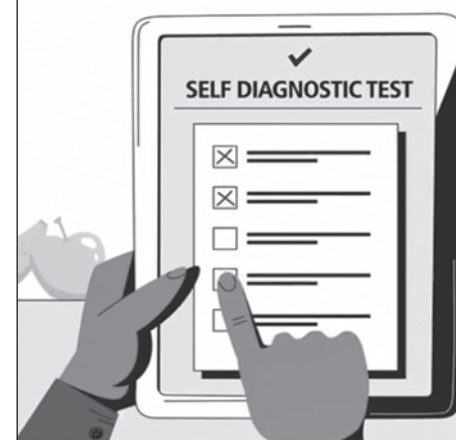
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Abilene Christian University bans student employees from same-sex relationships

Abilene Christian University has banned student employees from being in same-sex relationships. The university had already banned its faculty and staff from being in same-sex relationships.

Despite — and in apparent contradiction to — those new rules, school policy still states, “We affirm the dignity and worth of all human beings, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

In a news article on its website, ACU wrote that it provides this guidance for its administrators:

“We affirm the dignity and worth of every person as created in God’s image. ACU affirms the full humanity and dignity of all human beings, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We recognize there are individuals who identify as

LGBT or who experience same-sex attraction within our community. We strive to love and welcome all individuals.”

Although it recognizes every person is created in God’s image, and it recognizes people have same-sex attraction and the school welcomes these people, that no longer means the school has to put up with gays and lesbians actually having relationships and leading happy and productive lives.

The new policy doesn’t apply to all students, but they surely feel very welcomed on that campus.

Although ACU’s campus is in Abilene, about 150 miles west of Fort Worth, the college’s online campus is located on Dallas Parkway in Addison.

— David Taffet

SMU gives Resource Center a Luminary Award

Each year, SMU honors local, regional and

national organizations that show “an extraordinary commitment to improving lives through education (including)...public policy, research and leadership.” Resource Center is the recipient of this year’s local Luminary Award.

This year’s regional honoree is the Crystal Charities Ball, and the national recipient is the National Geographic Society.

On its web page for the award, SMU says, “Established in 1983, Resource Center focuses on education, service and achieving equality, recognition and equal rights for gays and lesbians in North Texas.”

For more than nine years, Resource Center has been partnering with the Simmons’ Center for Family Counseling at SMU to offer affordable, high-quality mental health counseling. Master of Science in Counseling interns from SMU’s Affirmative Therapy with LGBTQ Clients Program provide specialized counseling for youth and adults in individual, group, and family settings.

— David Taffet

Ruling in probation revocation hearing sets trans woman’s alleged killer free

Activists were planning protests after a San Antonio judge ruled that the actions of a man who pushed a transgender woman into the San Antonio River, thus causing her to drown, did not constitute criminal conduct.

A River Walk barge operator found the ful-



ly-clothed body of trans woman Kenne McFadden in the San Antonio River last April. Last November, Mark Daniel Lewis was indicted for manslaughter by a Bexar County grand jury, based on evidence that he had pushed McFadden into the river while she was “impaired by alcohol,” and then refused to help her out of the water, causing her to drown.

Prosecutors trying to get Lewis’ probation — for failing to register as a sex offender — revoked cited his indictment in connection with McFadden’s death during a hearing in state District Judge Joey Contreras’ court. But instead of revoking Lewis’ probation, Contreras ruled that, although McFadden’s death was a “tragedy,” Lewis’ actions did not “rise to the level of criminal conduct.”

So not only did Lewis not get his probation revoked, Contreras’ ruling created a situation where Lewis now can’t be tried on the manslaughter charges, because it would create a situation of double jeopardy (a person acquitted of a crime cannot be tried again for that same crime).

— Tammye Nash



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metroPCS Presents The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas’ Green Tie for Green Haus to benefit Shared Housing Center

The Greenest event this side of St. Patrick’s Day will be

**Saturday, March 24, 2018
7-10 p.m.**

7 for Parties
150 Turtle Creek Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75207

Green Tie, presented by Title Sponsor MetroPCS, will have guests testing their luck at casino tables, grooving out to the sounds of DJ Jennifer Miller, enjoying delectable bites and drinks, and much more.

Purchase Your Tickets at www.GLFD.org/greentie



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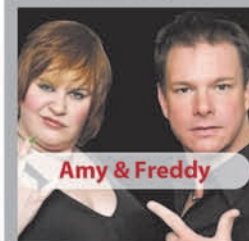
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THE GAY AGENDA



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

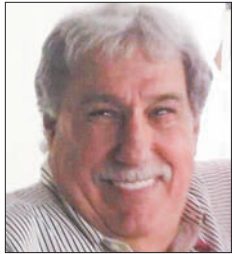
MARCH

• **March 16: Federal Club Mixer**
HRC DFW Federal Club mixer from 6-8 p.m. at Sallio Itallio, 3232 McKinney Ave. #150.

• **March 16: Transpose Screening**
Arttitude presents a screening of the documentary Transpose at 7 p.m. at Center for Spiritual Living, 4801 Spring Valley Road Suite 115. Free but donation requested. TransposeProject.org.

• **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.

OBITUARIES



A memorial service for **Tony Bobrow**, longtime owner of The Hidden Door, will be held Saturday, March 24, from 1-5 p.m., at the bar, 5025 Bowser Avenue.

Bobrow, a U.S. Navy veteran who had owned Hidden Door since the late 1980s, died Feb. 6 following a long battle with cancer. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Teague, Texas, the town where he grew up.

The memorial service is open to the community.



Robert Nelson Pickett Jr. passed away Jan. 17, 2018.

He was a member of Highland Park United Methodist Church and loved life.

Pickett was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Pickett, Sr. and Gloria Louise Wade Pickett; his daughter, Bethany Lauren Fisher, and other family and friends.

He is survived by his partner of 14-and-a-half years, Roy Fisher of Dallas; his daughter, Meaghan Pickett Batzloff, and one grandson, Parker Batzloff, both of Pensacola, Fla., and other family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, March 17, at 10 a.m. at Highland Park United Methodist Church, 3300 Mockingbird Lane, in the Cox Chapel.



Scott Blakely, 57, died on Feb. 23.

He was born in Lowell, Mass., and graduated from New Mexico State University. After graduation, he went to mortuary school in Austin and worked for Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes & Cremation Services in Austin.

After moving to Dallas, Blakely co-owned a catering company in Oak Lawn. Recently, he worked at Restland Funeral Home. His most

recent job was with Ace Mart Restaurant Supply. He volunteered at Genesis Resale Shop. He loved taking cruises and was on more than 40 cruise ships.

He was married last April to Mark Kline.

In addition to his husband, Blakely is survived by his sisters, Lisa Brack of Atlanta and Deborah Blakely of Greeley, Colo.; three daughters, Melissa, Marley and McKenzie; and two grandchildren, Blain and McKenna.

A private remembrance with family and friends will be held in April. Donations in his memory can be made to Genesis Women's Shelter or Resource Center.

• **March 17: Oak Lawn Band**
The Oak Lawn Band presents Feeling Lucky, a celebration of fate and fortune in this St. Patrick's Day concert at 4 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Free.

• **March 18: East Texas P-FLAG**
Begins at 6 p.m. at the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway Ave., Tyler.

• **March 18: Great Gatsby Drag Bingo**
North Texas Drag Bingo presents Great Gatsby Drag Bingo Show from 2-4 p.m. at El Noa Noa TexMex, 1915 N. Central Expressway, #100, in Plano. Tickets are \$25, available online at eventbrite.com/e/plano-drag-queen-bingo-show-tickets.

• **March 20: Grief support group**
LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 6:45-8 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

Comedian and YouTube sensation Randy Rainbow, famous for his videos using Broadway musical parodies to skewer the Trump administration, performs next Saturday, March 24, at House of Blues in Dallas. See listings for details.



• **March 22: Our Stories, Our History: This Is Us**
The Dallas Way and Rainbow LULAC present a roundtable discussion moderated by former Dallas City Councilman Chris Luna with panelists Jesus Chairez, Jose Plata and James Michael Dominguez from 7-9 p.m. at Arts Mission Oak Cliff, 410 S. Windomere Ave.

• **March 22: Legacy's Angels: Season Kickoff**
Season reveal of 2018 events supporting Legacy Counseling Center from 7-9 p.m. at Craighead Green Gallery, 1011 Dragon St.

• **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: Randy Rainbow at House of Blues**
Randy Rainbow performs at Dallas House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St., with doors opening at 6 p.m. and the show at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$27.50. For ticket information visit HouseOfBlues.com/Dallas.

• **March 24: Rainbow Roundup Parents' Night Out**
Rainbow Roundup hosts Parents' Night Out beginning at 9 p.m. at The Round-

Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. For information check the Rainbow Roundup Facebook page.

• **March 24: AIDS Walk South Dallas**
AIDS Walk South Dallas takes place at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. Registration is at 8 a.m., followed by the opening ceremonies at 9:15 a.m. and step-off at 10 a.m. Register at AWSD2018.EventBrite.com. For information visit AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com.

• **March 24: Green Tie for Green Haus**
The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas event, from 7-10 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., benefits Shared Housing Center. For information visit GLFD.org/greentie.

• **March 24: March for Our Lives**
In support of students who have organized a protest for sensible gun control from 1-3 p.m. at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St.

• **March 24: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)**
New Members Open Scramble is the inaugural event of the 2018 season, starting at 10 a.m. at Cedar Crest Golf Course, 1800 Southerland Ave. \$55.00 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org for information.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guests are **Chris Luna** and **Sharon Fancher**; **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 pegasusquares@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.

• **March 28: Town Hall on
Racial Healing**

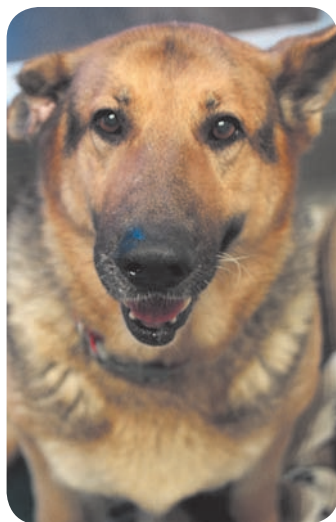
United Black Ellument and Resource Center continue their LGBTQ Town Hall series on the topic of Racial Healing from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Abounding Prosperity Community Center, 1705 Martin Luther

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Start your engines! A Skyy in AsiaO'HaraLand

Dallas' Asia O'Hara takes her talents to TV with the premiere of RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10 on March 22

Asia O'Hara has been a big name in the drag community, especially here in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Now the rest of the world will have the chance to see why when Asia competes on RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10.

The show premieres Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m. CDT, on VH1, and Asia took some time out of her hectic schedule to answer a few questions for Dallas Voice, and help her fans get ready for the show. ■

Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: You have your own business designing costumes and dresses. How did you get started in that? What other jobs have you had/do you have? Asia O'Hara: I used to teach high school color guard and would always design the costumes for my teams. I gradually started designing for other teams, and then I started designing my own drag costumes. Then, all at once, the person that made my costumes for drag moved away, and I took a job working at a costume manufacturing company. I felt that that was the perfect time to sit down and actually teach myself to sew. Before long, I left that job and opened my own business, called Helen of Seven, doing costumes for other performance artists all over the country.

In addition to all of that, I have also worked in insurance underwriting, restaurants, cosmetics, textiles and sales, and I have even worked at a wax museum!

How long have you been doing drag, and how did you get started? What are the titles you have won? This March marks 15 years that I have been making a fool of myself onstage! I am not exactly sure how I fell into drag. I always thought that it was interesting, but didn't have a huge interest in it until I saw my first pageant. When I realized there were these "drag queen competitions," I was hooked. Since that day, I have been crowned All-American Goddess, Miss Gay USofA and Miss Gay America, to name a few.

Tell me about the O'Hara family. How was it born? I see several other performers in DFW using the name O'Hara, although some spell it with a lower-case h — O'ha-

ASIA, Page 12



Brandi and Asia circa Feb. 20, 2011 Burlesque Number

What Asia O'Hara's Drag Race casting means to me and our Dallas drag community

BRANDI AMARA SKYY | Contributing Columnist
brandi@dallasvoice.com

It was the rumor that set all of the Dallas drag scene ablaze.

Asia O'Hara went missing for three months from social media, the Rose Room and her Thursday Rising Star Show, and we all knew that could only mean one thing — she was cast on *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

We didn't know for sure, but we all hoped the rumor was true. And when the hearsay became official news, we in Dallas blew up all our social media sharing our excitement and congratulations. I was fucking ecstatic because Asia ... well, Asia is family.

I've back-up danced for her in numerous pageants and performed alongside her show after show for years at Gaybingo Dallas in the Rose Room. I've judged her in pageants, and she judged me in the one that mattered the most — my herstorical win as the first ever Miss Diva USofA (now Miss USofA Diva) in 2014.

I was even her model when she applied at the makeup department of Tom Ford, and she laughed when her interviewer asked me what my favorite makeup was and I answered "Ben Nye."

But what most people don't know about Asia is that she has always been about the art of drag and pushing the envelope of what drag is and can be. And she's always pushed herself to be and do something more.

SKYY, Page 8

Texas House report: Bathroom bill a distraction from sustaining Texas Miracle

Abbott didn't want bathroom bill despite publicly supporting it, report says

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
james.journo@gmail.com

Following the passage of a Republican ballot proposition last week that makes it all but certain Republicans intend to revive the bill restricting access to bathrooms and other facilities for transgender individuals during the next legislative session, a new report outlines how the bill could do irreparable harm to the Texas economy.

The report, released Tuesday, March 13, is the culmination of hearings conducted last year by the House Select Committee on Economic Competitiveness, a bipartisan committee formed by Speaker of the House Joe Straus, who is retiring. The committee's broad mandate included examining how Texas can remain a competitive economic force in a changing global economy.

The report notes the state dropped to number four in the nation on the America's Top States for Business rankings index, the first time in 11 years the state finished outside the top two spots. Texas bounced back in November 2017, a month after the committee's formation and three months after the special session ended, rising to number two on the Forbes' Best States for Business index.

The committee invited 42 business, non-profit, law enforcement and educational executives, including many from Dallas, to tout Texas' strengths and highlight vulnerabilities. Culled from those findings, the report provides a framework ahead of the 86th Legislature to address challenges such as inadequate school funding, workforce training and outdated infrastructure.

But the state's economy and ability to provide basic services is threatened when lawmakers dabble in manufactured social issues that are unreasonable, unenforceable and harmful to the economy, according to Committee Chairman Byron Cook, R-Corpuscular.

Jessica Shortall with Texas Competes Action, a PAC that lobbied against the Texas bathroom bill last year, agreed. "In 2016, we saw the impact of North Carolina's bathroom bill. Last year during the legislative



Byron Cook


session, CEOs spoke out against the Texas one," Shortall said. "The committee process told us what we know. Yet those who claim to support the issue only used it to divide and win primaries. That said, we saw a deceptively-worded ballot proposition pass for which a small number of people turned out to vote. In 2019 if we see it again I hope opponents will heed the warning in this report."

Cook, who is also retiring, played an important part in killing the bill as chairman of the powerful State Affairs committee. The bill, championed initially by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, was a divisive issue during last year's legislative session, pitting the hard-right state Senate against the more business-friendly House, both of which are dominated by Republicans.

After the bill failed to even get a floor vote in the House, Gov. Greg Abbott called a special session that included the bill among the must pass-items that were overlooked during regular session. He continually expressed public support for the bathroom bill as well, which pitted him against business leaders, activists and many prominent Republicans.

Yet Abbott's staff urged the chairman not to pass the bill last session despite declaring support for it, according to sources that asked not to be identified.

"His actions surprised many because the aides had made it clear, to me and others, during the regular legislative session that



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LGBT candidates fare well as 2018 voting starts

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

This year's crop of LGBT candidates got off to a good start this month, with strong primary victories in a gubernatorial contest and several Congressional races and a mayoral match up in a city with a growing LGBT population.

Dean Trantalis won office on Tuesday, March 13, as mayor of Fort Lauderdale, a mid-size Florida city just 30 miles north of its more famously gay sister, South Beach. Trantalis won the special election despite some tactics by his opponents aimed at deriding him over his sexual orientation.

Here in Texas, as we reported last week, openly-lesbian former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez came out on top in the

nine-candidate Texas Democratic Primary for governor. Four out of nine openly LGBT candidates for U.S. House seats from Texas advanced their races to runoffs set for May 22, while one gay candidate won the Democratic nomination in his race for the state Senate and eight LGBT candidates either had no opponent or advanced to either the runoff or the general election.

Fort Lauderdale

In Fort Lauderdale, Trantalis won his mayoral seat with 64 percent of the vote. He will be sworn in March 20.

Among the nation's mid-sized cities, Fort Lauderdale has, in recent years, become the one with the highest proportion of same-sex households compared to households overall.

But the previous two mayors of that city have been less than supportive of equal



Mark Leno, left, and Dean Trantalis

rights for LGBT citizens.

Trantalis, 64, a real estate attorney and member of the City Commission, was involved with passage of a Broward County law prohibiting discrimination based on

sexual orientation. And then decided to run for mayor.

According to the Sun-Sentinel, the campaign was unusually ugly for Fort Lauderdale. Opponents of Trantalis distributed



ASIA, From Page 10

ra. Are you all part of the same family or are there different O'Hara clans? My drag name comes from a local Texas legend named Sweet Savage from San Antonio. She doesn't actually have a last name, but her husband's last name was O'Hara. So, when she started having drag children, they took that last name.

I officially got the name from Sweet Savage's granddaughter and my drag mother, Josephine O'Hara. Yes, I am related to some other entertainers, such as Phi Phi O'Hara [who was on Drag Race Season 4 and All Stars 2], but not to others such as Eureka [who was on Season 9 and is returning for Season 10]. It all gets a little confusing, even for me.

Tell about working at The Rose Room. That's your home bar, right? Are you a cast member or a regular guest or? What advantage do you have as an entertainer — and on Drag Race — when you have a "home bar"? Yes, The Rose Room is my home bar. I have been employed there since 2005 and have been a full-time cast member since 2009. The biggest advantage to having a home bar, especially one like the Rose Room, is that you have exactly that: a sense of "home." You have people to argue with, to love and to hug, to cry with; people that miss you and randomly show up at your house when you disappear to film a television show! The support has been vital to the growth of my career. I have recently heard one of my fellow Season 10 castmates saying how heartbroken she is that she doesn't have the support of a home bar. It just reminds me how lucky I

am to have The Rose Room.

What made you decide to audition for Drag Race? The leading killer of art is complacency. It was time for me to push myself to a new level and to get down and dirty again in the world of drag. I am always trying to find and push my limits in drag, and the end goal is always a moving target for me.

Was it harder/easier than you thought it would be? What was the biggest surprise? It was a lot harder than you can ever imagine! You have to forget everything you thought you knew about drag and approach everything with an open mind. The biggest surprise for me was finding strengths I didn't know I had, and finding weakness that I had trained myself to forget.

Dallas is known for its outstanding drag queens, in terms of lip syncing and dancing, etc. We are home to LOTS of pageants and pageant winners. But a lot of the challenges in Drag Race aren't centered around dancing/lip syncing. Do you think that makes the show a bigger challenge for the "pageant queens"? Absolutely. The thing about pageants is, they are like a test. You can study and prepare for them. You know exactly what will be expected and exactly what you will be graded on. Drag Race is the exact opposite. There is no true way to fully prepare for it because you never know what they are going to throw at you.

And, just when you think you have studied enough, you realize the test is on chemistry and not on physics.



SKYY, From Page 10

Something different. Something worthy of the cheers. Something worth remembering.

And as a then up-and-coming drag artist, seeing her work and strive for something more than what had traditionally been done, those are the things that influenced my drag the most. Seeing and experiencing first-hand how she took an idea from inside her head to the stage, or from a tiny corner of her apartment to a full blown atelier — those are the things that have made me a better drag artist (Well that and the time she showed me how to apply a fierce set of bottom lashes).

They say it takes a village to raise a queen, and Asia was a strong root in my village, which is why after many years of not bothering to watch the show I am tuning back in. She is the only reason I am tuning back in, because as a friend, apprentice, and long-time admirer of her drag, I'm excited to see what Asia brings to the show.

But more importantly, I want to support someone who has always supported me, her LGBTQ family and her drag community. Because along with herself, Asia has always pushed everyone around her to be something more — to be and deliver the unexpected.

To be the kind of drag stars they all dream of being.

And as a long-time community leader, she has challenged all of Dallas to expect more from drag, their drag venues, the peo-

ple they choose to represent them, and perhaps most importantly, from themselves.

Because "settling," "comfort" and "can't" were never words in her vocabulary, and throughout her decades-long career, Asia has proven that if we want to be the best damn drag artists we can be, those words shouldn't be in our vocabulary either.

That's why I'm excited for the world to see and experience the side of Asia who is just as fierce as a person, an artist, a leader behind-the-scenes as she is on stage.

Since the official announcement was made, I've heard numerous people describe Asia's appearance on the show as "the birth of a star." When I hear this, I can't help but think to myself that these people must not really know her, because if they did they'd know this truth as they do their own bones — Asia has always been a star.

The only thing that's different is that now the rest of the world will finally get to see what we in Big D have always known — Asia O'Hara is an All-American Goddess and a symbol of excellence whose integrity and love of the art of drag pretty much guarantees that she's going to slay RuPaul's stage — and any of the other bitches that get in her way. ■

Brandi Amara Skyy is a writer, drag artists, and host of The Drag Show Podcast. Listen to Episode 01: You Are Born Naked and the Rest is Drag ... RIGHT?!? at DragShowPodcast.com

campaign flyers with images of Trantalis photo-shopped to make it appear he was wearing flamboyant clothing and makeup. Trantalis' opponent in the runoff, Commission Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts, essentially admitted responsibility for the flyers though he claimed they did not convey any anti-gay intent.

The Sun-Sentinel said voters at the polls on Tuesday preferred Trantalis because "they were convinced Trantalis would help guard against further over-development, and would ensure the city is prepared with sewer pipes and other infrastructure to accommodate it."

Another openly gay man, Steve Glassman, won a seat on the Fort Lauderdale City Commission Tuesday, with 61 percent of the vote.

California

The results bode well for LGBT candidates in the rest of the country, including in San Francisco, where an openly-gay candidate is running for mayor.

Among the nation's largest cities, San Francisco has the highest percentage of same-sex households compared to all households.

Mark Leno, a former state senator and former supervisor, is up against seven other candidates, all seeking to fill the remaining two years left in the term of Mayor Ed Lee, who died suddenly last December. The special election is slated for June 5.

Six hours drive south of San Francisco, the incumbent mayor of Long Beach is gearing up for re-election. The local paper, the Press-Telegram, called openly-gay Mayor Robert Garcia's bid for a second term a "fait accompli."

His primary is April 10.

Texas wrap-up

In Texas, Lupe Valdez has been a prominent figure since becoming the first lesbian sheriff of Dallas County in 2005. She was re-elected three times but resigned in December, the day of the filing deadline, to run for governor.

Valdez won 42.9 percent of the Democratic Primary vote, so must face her closest competitor, Andrew White, son of former Gov. Mark White (who won 27 percent) on May 22 to secure the party's nomination.

A second openly-gay candidate in the Texas Democratic gubernatorial primary March 6, Dallas businessman Jeffrey Payne, garnered 4.8 percent of the vote.

Meanwhile, incumbent Republican Gov. Greg Abbott won more votes in his primary than all the Democratic candidates combined.

Four out of nine openly-LGBT candidates for U.S. House seats from Texas advanced in their primaries March 6 and will face runoff contests on May 22. They include attor-

ney Lorie Burch (3rd Congressional District, Dallas), minister Mary Wilson (21st District, San Antonio and Austin), Iraq War veteran Gina Ortiz Jones (23rd District, San Antonio to El Paso), and public affairs liaison Eric Holguin (27th District, Corpus Christi and Gulf Coast).

Four other Democrats and one Republican LGBT candidate for the U.S. House from Texas lost their primaries.

In Texas State Senate primaries, three out of four openly LGBT candidates advanced, as did eight of 11 State House candidates (though five were unopposed). ■

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A black lesbian misunderstood

My identity is not a threat to black masculinity

While sitting alone having lunch at the mall recently, I was approached by an middle-aged African-American man who greeted me and, a bit later in conversation, asked for my name and phone number because he was looking for a girlfriend.

I kindly declined to give out my number. When he asked me why not, I responded, "I don't want to because I'm a lesbian."

Without hesitation and with curiosity in his eyes, he asked, "So, who is the man in the relationship?"

I was taken aback by such an intrusive and sexist question from a stranger. He must have realized by my silence and my expression that I was upset. So he said, "All I'm saying, sister, is that you need a strong black man in your life and not some other woman."

I immediately responded, "You assume that I'm in a relationship with a woman. But I am single, and when I decide to be in



Giselle Wallace
Contributing Columnist

a relationship, it will be a relationship between two women who love and respect each other. And by the way, you are not invited!"

I walked away.

Based on my experience as an African-American lesbian, I believe this type of encounter is, unfortunately,

much more common than we like to talk about within the black community.

There is a gross stigma in that community around being black and being a lesbian, because people think — most inaccurately — that the existence of black lesbians reflects negatively on African-American heterosexual men, suggesting that they have failed us.

And black men have this notion imbedded in their minds that they have to keep their black women to themselves, and if

your woman goes astray, it's because you weren't man enough. They end up with their pride and their ego hurt.

I'm compelled to say that I'm an individual first and foremost. And secondly, I'm not attracted to conformity.

The black family is considered to be a symbol of pride and responsibility, and I respect this concept. What I don't respect the idea that it's a problem to be black, a female and a lesbian. I am who I am, and although I've been conditioned to represent heteronormative standards within the black community, that doesn't mean that I should forsake my identity as a black lesbian.

If you don't understand me, that's okay. You can as to get to know me better if you want. Our interactions don't have to end in intolerance and anger.

We can start new conversations and learn from one another to build up and expand our relationship perspectives, instead of creating relationship barriers that hinders those who have a limited concept about what it means to be black, to be a lesbian and to be a woman in this black construct. ■



BATHROOM BILL,, From Page 11

the governor did not want that bill on his desk," Cook said.

"For me, the genesis of this committee was the contemplation of the 'bathroom bill' and threats to the Texas economy. This report is the product of smart individuals from all walks of life," Cook said. "This is their report with the issues they identified. That's what makes it powerful. The report serves as a baseline for moving forward," Cook said.

Texas needs to look 20 years forward, the report suggests. In 1992, for instance, a Fort Bend County assistant warned that subdivisions were constructed in flood plains, putting homeowners at risk of losing their homes in the event of a major natural disaster such as a hurricane. Last year, many of those homes were destroyed because of Hurricane Harvey.

"The report was ignored. It would have had a profound effect today," Cook said.

Without investments in the future, including lagging infrastructure and an undereducated workforce, Texas will be less desirable for businesses seeking to relocate

or expand their presence here, the report notes. The Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers graded Texas' overall infrastructure "C minus." The state's drinking water, highways, roads and dams received Ds.

Those problems cannot be fixed without a well-trained and educated workforce. Yet the state is replacing its aging workforce with a younger, undereducated workforce.

Without technical training and investment in education, finding labor will be more difficult. Keeping those workers around will also be more expensive.

In the face of these critical issues, businesses are still concerned about the revival of the bathroom bill next session, especially given the passage of the ballot proposition last week. While partisan propositions are non-binding, they are seen as a party's top legislative priorities next session. With almost 90 percent of Republican Primary voters in favor of the proposition, which only called for protecting women and girls in bathrooms, the bill is bound to return.

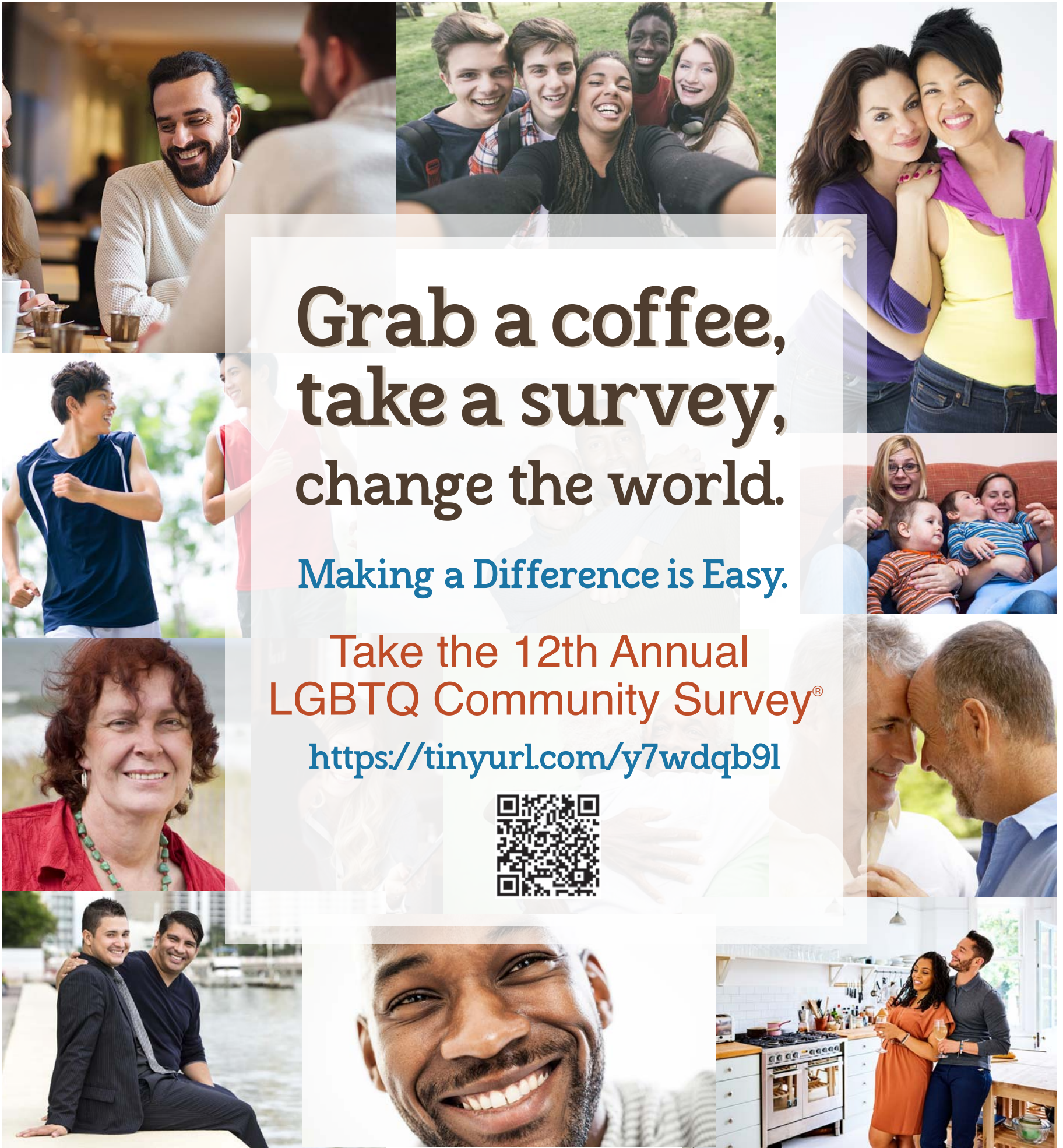
"Business does not like uncertainty. Laws protecting people in bathrooms and changing rooms are already on the books. They are working," Cook said, echoing statements by multiple law enforcement individuals.

But there is nothing preventing it from coming back.

"It's well documented the bill will have a negative economic impact. Businesses value talent and do not like discriminatory policies. Hopefully if this nonsensical legislation is proposed again, House members and the business community will do what is in the best interest for all Texans," Cook said.

To prevent its resurrection, Cook suggested state officials should condemn the bill.

"Unless and until this public commitment is made by the governor, the 86th Legislature may be distracted from addressing issues important to taxpayers that could make Texas even greater — matters such as property taxes, education and the state budget," Cook said. ■



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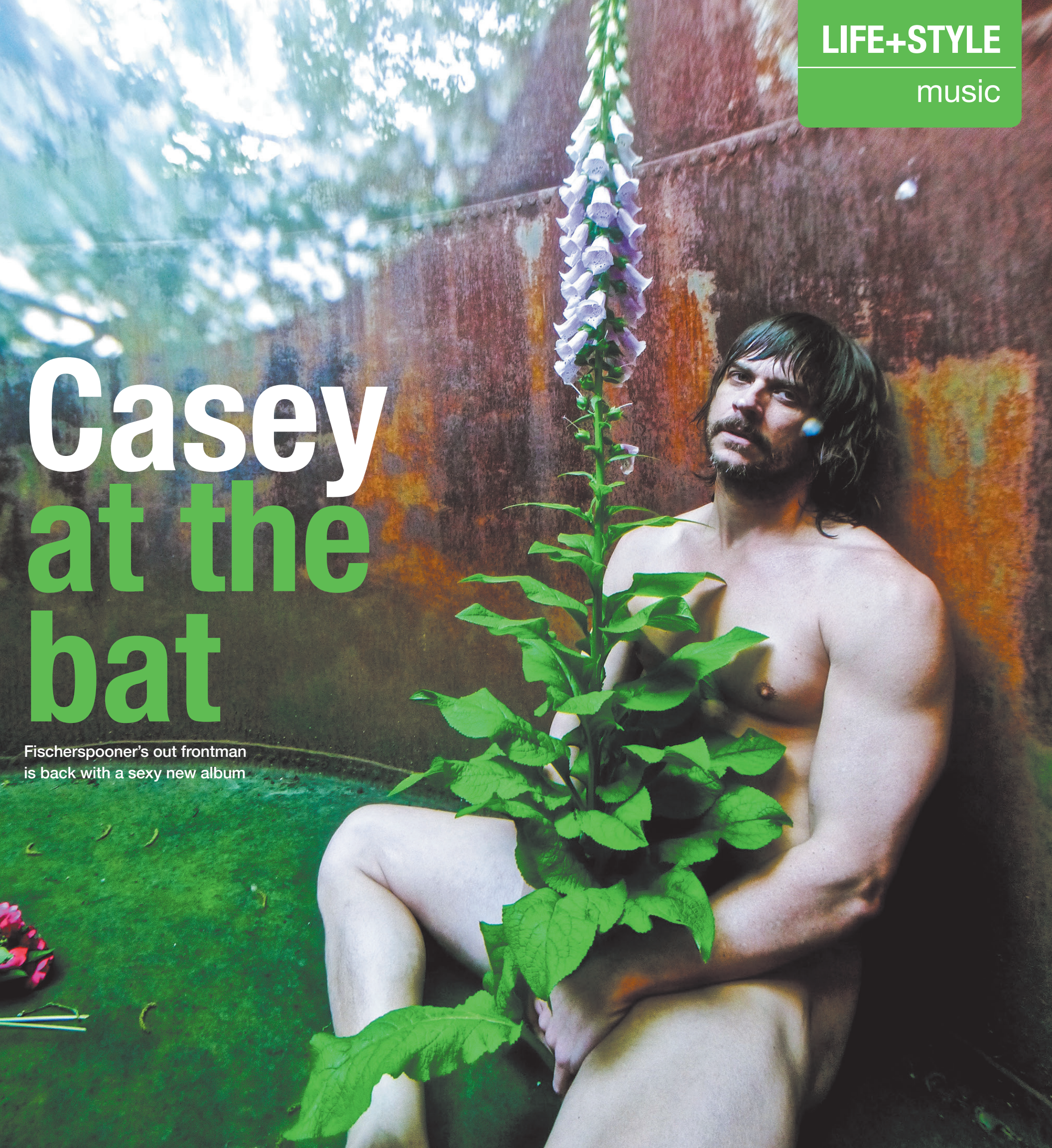
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Casey at the bat

Fischerspooner's out frontman
is back with a sexy new album



Sir, yes sir: an interview with Casey Spooner of Fischerspooner

It's no exaggeration to say that Fischerspooner's time has come. In addition to the release of the new album *Sir* (Ultra), Fischerspooner has been the subject of a museum exhibition, a book and recently appeared in the pages of *Vogue*. The band's first studio album since 2009's *Entertainment*, *Sir* is its sexiest and most personal effort to date. Out vocalist Casey Spooner's long history of creative collaboration with Warren Fischer expands to include Michael Stipe and Andy LeMaster, as well as Caroline Polachek (of Chairlift), Holly Miranda and Boots.

We spoke to Spooner about connecting sex with emotion, his famous tongue and what convinced Michael Stipe to produce his album.

— Gregg Shapiro



Dallas Voice: The name of the band, Fischerspooner, combines your name with longtime collaborator Warren Fischer. You've co-written songs with others, most recently including Michael Stipe and Andy LeMaster. Do you play well with others?

Casey Spooner: I tried to be a painter and it was too solitary for me. And I was an only child. I don't know if that's related, but I just love going to work, going to the studio, going to a rehearsal space and I love working with other people. I also think it's the way I learned. I've always been kind of a bad student. I'm not really good at homework and doing stuff by myself. But if you put me in a room with someone, I love learning how someone else is going to approach something or how they are going to do something. Right out of college, I worked with an experimental theater company called Doorika which was very collaborative. I've been making collaborative work now for 20 years. It's kind of the way I get things done.

In the 15 years since the release of the first Fischerspooner album, as well as the nine years since your last, electronic music has become an increasingly dominant force. As one of the forebears of the "post-electroclash pop revolution," what do you think of the current scene and Fischerspooner's place in it?

It's cool! I've always loved electronic music. To me it's just another tool. We live in such a digital world now. The thing that was exciting for us is that all of a sudden, we had access to these tools and to a network of communication and sharing music that was so easy. That's been an amazing historical thing, to be a part of this huge cultural shift that's now become kind of the way we live. I would never have imagined that I'd be in that place. I thought I was going to be this performance artist/painter/fine artist. I never imagined I would have an impact on pop entertainment so extensively. My idols were people such as Grace Jones and Laurie Anderson. It's cool that I got to be one of those people.

The songs on *Sir*, such as "Everything Is Just All Right" and "Togetherness," are intensely and unapologetically erotic and sexual, but feel extremely personal at the same time. In gay culture, there's a schism between sex and emotion. I think that's tied to shame. One of the things I wanted to do

on this record is create a world where you can be very sexual and very emotional and you can have anonymous sex and it can be valuable and important and respected and romantic. Or you can have a more complex, long-term relationship and it's equally valuable and romantic and respected. I tried to give value and respect to all kinds of queer relationships, whether they are one-night stands or romances or long-term relationships. To represent and respectfully let all those beautiful and amazing queer connections exist in one place and not against a heteronormative fantasy.

The music video for "TopBrazil" is a perfect example of the brazen sexuality of the album. What can you say about the influences for the video? I actually met Tom Brown, the director, on the dance floor at Fire Island. We started our conversation there. There were different things that I wanted to do. There was this idea of lasers that I brought in. There was the idea of these different queer spaces. I love the light on Fire Island, underneath the decks, when it comes through it's super graphic. There were these different architectural and light spaces in which I was interested. The sauna scene felt kind of like where Tom and I first met. It was about representing these queer spaces with beauty and glamour. We were also concerned about having a cool, dynamic New York cast. There was a lot of debate about how there were so many men! In the end, the thing I like about it is that it's kind of a classic cliché of a pop video. You would see women in a video displayed with the same kind of eroticism, but you would never see men objectified in the same way. To me, the thing that's interesting is to put men in a similar situation as women. To see the reactions and YouTube comments alone has been fascinating.

Especially at this point in time with what's happening with the #MeToo movement. Yes, exactly. I think it's an interesting document of the double standard applied to men versus women. Also, the innate homophobia that exists in the culture. When we turned the video in, people were like, "This is so pornographic!" I was like, "What are you talking about? Have you seen a Rihanna video?"

■ CASEY Page 24

"IT'S EASY AS PIE TO FALL FOR WAITRESS!"

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Pop-tastic



Out-and-proud musician Matt Palmer believes in being himself

Matt Palmer's obsession with music began early in life. He remembers at age 8 first hearing Michael and Janet Jackson's pop duet "Scream." The infatuated grade-schooler quickly bought all their releases. Later that year, Palmer heard Mariah Carey's "Fantasy" and added the diva's musical catalog to his blossoming collection. Those albums became the sparks that ignited Palmer's enduring passion for singing.

"I sang in choirs growing up," Palmer says. "I was in the Atlanta Boy Choir. I was singing around the house all the time. I sang in church. My first solo was in church growing up. I sang all throughout junior high and high school, and I went to school for recorded music, so I've been singing for a while now."

Pop icons continue to influence the singer/songwriter even today. Palmer recently dropped his second EP, *Get Lost*, and — à la Beyoncé's *Lemonade* — created accompanying videos for each of its seven tracks. Thematically, *Get Lost* is a collection of songs and online videos that tell the story a gay relationship. Palmer viewed this project as an opportunity to return to his musical roots.

"When I started writing the songs, I wanted to do something a little more uptempo — more dance inspired," Palmer says. "I feel like that is music I grew up loving, and I rarely touched on it in my older music. I wanted to see what it was like to mix all the genres that I grew up with. I thought this would be a cool time to make something that would be fun and listenable but also really personal."

For some, however, Palmer's artistry may prove to be a little too personal. He is frank and unapologetic about his sexuality, both lyrically and in his videos. Ultimately, Palmer believes this candor has helped rather than hindered his professional career, especially when it comes to the quality of his songwriting.

"I feel like the music just connects more because it's not vague platitudes

about love," Palmer says. "I [don't] feel like I have to write around something. It comes more directly from me. I think it's definitely improved my music ... the fact that I don't have to hide. I don't have to tell someone else's story, I can tell my own. It's my favorite kind of art from anyone."

Not surprisingly, Palmer finds that members of the LGBT community are a large part of his listening audience. He is, of course, grateful for the support. Yet Palmer also feels that the subject matter of his songs transcends sexuality and hopes

that his fan base isn't limited only to gay listeners.

"I feel anybody can listen to it and feel like that they can relate to it," Palmer says of his music. "I don't think that falling in love or out of love and dealing with heartbreak is specifically a gay experience. Hopefully a lot of people from any walk of life can find something they feel like they relate to on it."

When it comes to songwriting, Palmer says he never knows when his muse will strike. With one track, for example, Palmer says part of a melody found him as he

sat in a traffic jam. For this reason, he makes sure always to have his smartphone nearby — "the Voice Notes feature always comes in handy" — to capture unanticipated flashes of inspiration.

"I'm inspired by my personal life and the lives of friends and what we are dealing with [such as] stages of relationships [and] life in general," Palmer explains. "I feel like you get inspiration from the strangest places: listening to podcasts, how people interact with each



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Brandon Potter and Shawn Hamilton. Photo by Karen Almond.

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Love lessons

British crooner Calum Scott talks coming out, falling for straight men and learning to love himself

Britain's *Got Talent* finalist Calum Scott, who incited massive swooning on music mogul Simon Cowell's reality show in 2015, once thought he'd be a counselor. He wanted to ease people's troubled minds. Give them hope. But Scott, 29, has discovered that you don't need an office to help heal people — you can do that on a stage.

Following his Cowell-praised show run and a devastatingly gorgeous piano version of Robyn's "Dancing On My Own" that charted at No. 93 on Billboard's Hot 100 (Robyn's original didn't manage to crack the list upon release), the honeyed-voice crooner wants his

new songs, some of which are personal reflections on coming to terms with his sexuality, to serve as a support system for those who also know or are currently weathering the struggle to live openly as a queer person.

With his debut, *Only Human*, he's your out, gay shoulder to cry on. And if you like them as tenderhearted and impassioned as Scott, who exudes a warm optimism in conversation, he's certainly the kind who will make you feel better after a lengthy, enriching talk about the greatest love of all. ■

— Chris Azzopardi



Dallas Voice: What's the motivation for wanting to move people with your music?

Calum Scott: I've always wanted to help people. Since writing an album based on personal experiences, I've realized I can inspire people with my music and reach people on an emotional level. I love the fact that people are moved by my music. It's a dream come true, man.

One of my all-time idols is Michael Jackson, because he said to the press that he wanted to change the world with his music. It kind of sounds a bit corny, I guess, but it's such a beautiful sentiment and I try to live by that. If I can inspire one person to come out and find the bravery and strength to at least confide in one person and lessen that burden on themselves, and inspire them to be who they were born to be, then I feel like everything I've gone through in my life is worth it.

Recently, I went to a conversion therapy protest. There's a lot of conversation about the importance of queer representation for young people, and you are now a part of that team. What do you want the message of the music to be for young struggling queer people? Growing up for me was really difficult. My sexuality ... I went through the phases that I know a lot of gay people have gone through: "If I could take a straight pill, I'd take it." Sort of feeling ashamed and embarrassed, like I had to hide away. Feeling judgment.

Those were all things that held me back from being my true self. That took me all the way through my teens, all the way through my 20s, really, until I got into songwriting.

And when I got into songwriting, the penny dropped for me. I started writing about the fact that I was terrified of coming out to the press. I have a song on the album called "If Our Love Is Wrong" — it's right on the top of the album — and it's all about being terrified of telling people about my sexuality.

It terrified me to the core, to a point where I didn't want to talk about it. I felt sick, like I'd rather be anyone else. I only told my dad three years ago, as a full-blown adult. My heart was in my mouth, and I felt sick. I was upset, and I just didn't know how to tell him. But when I started writing ... that song actually developed into something empowering.

Relating that back to what you said about conversion camps: It's disgusting that you could tell a person that what they feel is wrong, when they don't have any control over what they feel. So, the message behind this album is to embrace how you feel and who you are and who you love and to feel empowered by it. And you don't have to change who you are, and, in fact, you should embrace who you are and love who you are.

Do you think queer public figures have a responsibility to be out for that reason alone? I think it's a difficult one. If that had been said to me when I was in the closet, I'd be really upset. Not that I necessarily was condemning the gay community in any way — I just wasn't ready to come out. So, I feel like maybe that's the case with thousands of men and women. We have a shortage of out football stars, and I think it's because they're terrified of what their peers might think. But as a nation and a globe going forward, we



should be reassuring people there is love in the world, and hopefully with music you can inspire a generation. With music, we've got the power to move people.

I love how matter-of-factly the two men who are casually holding hands in your video for "You Are My Reason" are treated.

Yeah, it meant a lot to me to have that in there. Being a gay man, there needed to be

that representation. I pitched it into the video because it reflects the message of the song, which is "Love is love, and love conquers all and love isn't heterosexual." I said to our director, Frank Borin, "As a gay man myself, I want a gay couple in there because that's a representation of me."

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Do you hear that?



7 albums that will (soon) make the year suck less

That Britney album better come quick — preferably before the world combusts from nuclear warfare. On the horizon for the rest of what's shaping up to be a very gay 2018 outside of Brandi Carlile's recently released must-hear masterwork? New Robyn, new Kylie, new Troye. If only our current political era was as promising as this year's albums-release slate.

thinking her boots — OK, very bedazzled pumps — were made for walking, when really all Kylie wants to do is dance away her relationship woes. Revealing that her new work was influenced by her breakup with former fiancé Joshua Sasse, she told *The Sun* in October 2017, "The songs are very storytelling and story-based." Lovers, will this be the Joni Mitchell album we never knew we needed from our *Golden* girl?

Love, Simon (soundtrack; various).

There's no denying the power of song in a coming-of-age film, from John Hughes classics like *The Breakfast Club*, with "Don't You (Forget About Me)" by Simple Minds, or David Bowie's timeless tune "Heroes," which breathed an even richer tenderness into *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and its YA outsider story. Come March 16, when 20th Century Fox releases *Love, Simon*, with songs from Troye Sivan, Jack Antonoff's band Bleachers and HAERTS and even Whitney's "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)," used to sweet musical-esque effect in the film. It will enrich the experience for queer teens and adults alike of seeing the groundbreaking gay-led romance *Love, Simon*.

Britney Spears, TBD. If hot gay Buzzfeed writers are to be trusted, Britney Spears has a new album coming out in 2018, or very soon, or some day in the next six months to five years. Journalist Christian Zamora took to Twitter to gleefully announce that super-songwriter Justin Tranter gave him a very vague "just wait" when asked about a new Brit album for 2018 while on the Golden Globes red carpet in January. Tranter was Spears' writing partner on her 2016 commercially lackluster but artistically slick standout *Glory*, and they obviously hit it off because he's been an integral part of the creative process for B10, as in Britney Spears, album 10. So, watch for this one. Whenever it comes out.



Kylie Minogue, *Golden*. The cool place to be a gay icon isn't Los Angeles anymore; it's Nashville, y'all. There, Kesha found an empowered state of mind for her twice Grammy-nominated album, *Rainbow*. Cyndi Lauper took a *Detour*, recording Patsy Cline and Dolly Parton classics for the aforementioned covers disc. Now, as the spring release date nears for her 14th studio album and follow up to 2014's *Kiss Me Once*, add Kylie Minogue to the long list of pop princesses who like a little dirt on the dance floor. First single "Dancing" stays true to the Aussie diva's long-established brand of fizzy pop. But before it morphs into a country-lite banger, its opening acoustic guitar licks trick you into



Brandi Carlile, *By the Way, I Forgive You*. Thirteen years into her esteemed career as one of Americana's greatest singer-songwriters, will lesbian crooner Brandi Carlile at last garner a long-overdue mainstream following? She certainly should, as *By the Way, I Forgive You* is an unparalleled piece of work by Carlile's standards, not to mention I haven't heard an album this front-to-back sublime since Lorde's summer 2017 release, *Melodrama*. Aching with raw, lived-in feelings of regret, ageing, empathy, love and — for us queers — the outsidership she sings of on her empowering anthem "The Joke," Carlile's latest collection of tender laments (I will never not cry whenever I hear "Most of All") and explosive alt-rockers perfectly replicate her live sound, thanks to roots producers Dave Cobb and Shooter Jennings. Grammy voters, are you listening?



Kacey Musgraves, *Golden Hour*. Kacey Musgraves followed her trusty arrow last year and ended up drinking Guinness on tap and talking about reincarnation with Sheryl Crow at her Nashville recording studio, situated above Crow's horse stable. In December, Musgraves told Entertainment Weekly those "heady" conversations influenced her latest material (wistful Song of the Year-caliber single "Space Cowboy" among them), partly penned by out country songwriter Shane McAnally and due early this year. Known for suffusing her queer-affirming liberalism into her folk-country music, the Grammy-winning musician revealed to EW there's a colorful cast of characters on this new release: "... there's the lonely girl, the blissful girl, the

new wife, the girl that's missing her mom, the angry girl, the sarcastic girl, the '60s-se-
quined Cruella de Vil with the beehive, the shy girl, the life of the party, the winner, the loser." If we're lucky, and because she made history in 2014 by being the first country artist to perform at the GLAAD Media Awards, maybe we'll get another witty ditty a la "Follow Your Arrow" that sticks it to our president's queer-back-
wards administration.



Troye Sivan, TBD. Looks like we'll blessedly be seeing a lot of Troye Sivan's porcelain-doll face in the coming months — and not just while serving mesmeric, make-a-grown-man-cry poetry on *SNL*, where the Aussie stunned with a new sonic heartbreaker, "The Good Side," from his upcoming album. Eyes closed, arms flung out, he swayed his little gay hips during the synth-y instrumental break. And if you weren't already won over by Sivan's queer coming-of-age debut, *Blue Neighborhood*, released when he was 20, his slip into a pain-shielding meditation on live TV surely captured you. Between "The Good Side" and "My My My," Sivan's sophomore release is looking to be a transcendent shift into his post-teen sexual awakening and the sometimes-devastating consequences that come with growing up.

Robyn, TBD, honey. Call your girlfriend, everyone. And hey, while you're at it, call your boyfriend, your mama, your papa; hell, call your favorite Starbucks barista. Even if it doesn't seem like the best time to be alive, it is actually the best time to be alive if you spent 2012 pretending you were Lena Dunham busting a move to Robyn's "Dancing On My Own" in *Girls* like I did. The maker of songs that make you caterwaul on the dancefloor is gearing up for her long-awaited comeback album (or albums?) — the follow-up to her brilliant anthological release *Body Talk* in 2010 — this year. When an impatient fan spoke for all of us in a tweet, "Who decides your next album release (sic)," the fembot herself sassed with the most glorious of news: "I do. Some time this year, honey (sic)." We're so ready — in fact, we've *been* ready. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

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Have you seen a Nicki Minaj video? There's nothing pornographic here! Just because you're used to devouring women, it's strange that you're not able to look at a man in the same way!"

I was especially struck by the song "Oh Rio," which features a spoken word segment, as well as guest vocals by Holly Miranda. That song is a big thesis for the whole record. Actually, that's the song that convinced Michael [Stipe] to produce the record. That kind of writing and performance is a little bit more of where I'm coming from traditionally as a performance artist. I didn't come from music. I came from storytelling and performance and theater. That song is basically as it al-

ways was. Michael didn't write on that one. It was one of the songs that stayed after he got involved. The title comes from a Bruce Weber book called *O Rio de Janeiro*. When I was growing up in the South in the '80s, there wasn't a lot of access to anything homoerotic. There was a bookstore in the mall that had this Bruce Weber book. The first verse tells the story of me going to the mall and visiting this book. It was in the photography section. It never sold. I would pick it up, look at it and get turned on. I would get confused and freak out and put it back on the shelf. Because of the book, Rio became this erotic fantasy land in my mind. It was someplace I always wanted to go. I was never able to get to Rio until March of 2013. I was working

on the record. I jumped through all kinds of travel and budgeting and scheduling hoops to get to Rio. When I finally got there, I got deathly ill. It was March and I was coming from a deep New York winter; fat, pale, sick. I finally got to my sexual dream come true, and it was not pretty. The second verse is about that moment on the beach where I'm sick and old and tired in a Speedo. It's the end of summer there, and everyone in Rio is hot. They have amazing bodies. Athletes. What I had fantasized about. My dream came true, but it was a failure for me. There was this beautiful, amazing, *sunga* [swimsuit] salesman smoking weed on the beach who tried to pick me up, but it was the saddest moment, where I couldn't even talk to or

even pretend to be able to engage because my self-esteem was so crushed. I was just stuck on the beach, drinking cough syrup.

"Hacking up a lung" as you say in the song.

Yes, sick on the beach. I always visualized that scene a little bit like Dirk Bogarde at the end of in *Death In Venice*. The first half of the song to me is very Bruce Weber *O Rio de Janeiro* and the second verse is me as Dirk Bogarde in *Death in Venice*.

I hope you get to go back again. I went back last month and I shot a video for the song.

The cover art for *Sir* features you sticking out your tongue. A tongue was also featured prominently on the cover of 2002's major-label reissue of Fischerspooner's debut album #1. It's funny; [the *Sir*] cover photo was taken in Madrid two summers ago by a fan named Vincent Claudio Urbani. I reluctantly went to shoot with him more as a personal favor than wanting to do a photo shoot. I just happened to be in Madrid. It was completely his idea. He was like, "I want you to do this, I want you to pose this way, I want you to stick your tongue out." Vincent came up with that idea. I liked the idea that it connected to the continuity of the first record. There was a cool connection and it is kind of a great, classic, iconic image. I can't take much credit for it. Vincent Claudio Urbani came up with that idea.

■ PALMER From Page 18

other, how people fall in and out of love. There's inspiration everywhere."

Palmer's musical portfolio also includes songs he has written for other artists. He has written for boy band Big Time Rush and for actor and recording artist Leon Thomas. While Palmer has concentrated on his own music recently, he says that one day he would like to resume writing for others.

"That's something I definitely would like to do more of," he says. "I've been focusing more on my own stuff lately. There is definitely a time limit on when you can be an artist and how long you are going to have the energy to try to put yourself out there, [but] that's something I want to get back to as time goes on."

Palmer feels one of the secrets to his professional success has been sheer determination. In fact, his advice to anyone with a creative dream is simply to pursue it relentlessly.

"If you are going to do something creative, the way to do it and become successful is just to keep doing it," he says. "Just being persistent and focusing on making good things instead of focusing on what happens with those things; that mindset has brought me a lot of peace. If this is something that I love, then this is what I'm supposed to be doing."

— Scott Huffman

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Saturday 03.22

Dallas Arboretum welcomes top chefs to second Food & Wine Fest

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden hosted its first outdoor Food & Wine Festival last year during the colorful Dallas Blooms fest, and it was such a hit, it's back. Many top local chefs — among them Anastacia Quinones (The Cedar Social), John Tesar (Knife), Josh Harmon (Junction Craft + Kitchen), Stephan Pyles (Flora Street Café), Junior Borges

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best bets

(CBD Provisions), Nikky Phinyawatana (Asian Mint, pictured) and more — tackle one of four styles of cuisine (Pan-Asian, American Bistro, Mediterranean and South American) amid the blossoms of spring. The VIP event begins at 6.

DEETS: Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, 8525 Garland Road. Tickets from \$140. DallasArboretum.org/foodwinefest.



**Tuesday 03.20 —
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Riverdance returns for historic 20th anniversary of step dancing

a world where most people didn't know what Irish step dancing was and had never heard the word "Riverdance." But Michael Flatley's global sensation has entered our public consciousness for 20 years now, believe it or not ... which is why it's back in Dallas for this anniversary tour. If you've never seen it before, this is the time.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

It's hard to imagine, but once there was



Friday 03.16 — Sunday 03.18

Controversial play 'Cradle Will Rock' gets limited run in Plano

Brick Road Theatre is a young theater company in the area but an ambitious one. It's latest production is a revival of *Cradle Will Rock*, Marc Blitzstein's touchstone drama about governmental corruption and anthem for the work man. The original production — directed by Orson Welles and produced by John Houseman — was a cause celebre in 1938, and instrumental in turning theater into something heavily political. It's relevance remains intact. You only have this weekend to catch it, though, as it opened for a limited run.

DEETS: Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. BrickRoadTheatre.org.

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Bruce Wood Dance joins forces with Houston's METdance for a Texas-sized show called Lone Stars on Friday, March 16 for one night only.

She Kills Monsters. A dramatic comedy loaded with fantastical monsters, sexual awakenings and role-playing. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through April 1. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Hitchcock Blonde. A drama that weaves together three stories, with the Master of Suspense at the heart of it. Directed by Benjamin Lutz. Frank's Place inside the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 24. BrownPaperTickets.com.

The Royale. One of the greatest boxers in history faces substantial obstacles as black man achieving fame under Jim Crow. Based on the career of Jack Johnson. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through March 18. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Death/Take: 1! Another Harry Hunsacker play from Pegasus, although rather than presented in its patented Black-and-White make up, this version is presented in RadioVizion, which recreates the feel of an old-style radio show. Harry, Nigel and Lt. Foster track down a killer in an Egyptian pyramid. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. March 15–25. Eventbrite.com for tickets.

DANCE

Lone Stars. Bruce Wood Dance and Houston's METdance troupe team up for a world premiere from former Dallas Black Dance artistic director Bridget L. Moore called Following Echoes, BWD's Lovett! and Red, as well as more works from METdance. One night only. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. March 16. BruceWoodDance.org.

OPERA

Sunken Garden. The modern opera by Van Der Aa, features digital projection and even 3D glasses for audience members! Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 9–17. DallasOpera.org.

FINE ART

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

First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone. An exhibit of found and modified objects from the Paleolithic era of human enterprise. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through April 28. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

Memory Mind Matter: The Sculpture of Eduardo Chillida. The work of 20th century Spanish sculptor and artist. Meadows

Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

FRIDAY 03.16

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 03.17

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

EXPO

The Travel & Adventure Show. Expo for those hoping to travel by air, sea or land, whether on safari or the islands or mountains. Dallas Market Center, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. March 17–18. \$9. TravelShows.com.

TUESDAY 03.20

FILM

Paris, Texas. Wim Wenders' thoughtful meditation on the Texas town; one of the seminal arthouse films of the 1980s. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

DANCE

Riverdance. The Irish step dancing company returns for its historic 20th anniversary tour. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 20–24. ATPAC.org.

THURSDAY 03.22

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

this week's solution

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browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.



submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

It was the same reason why I didn't change the lyrics on "Dancing On My Own." I wanted it to be from the perspective of a gay man. I've fallen in love with plenty of straight men and watched them have a relationship with a girl, and I wanted to make sure when I sang that version it wasn't me doing a straight cover of Robyn. It was me trying to say, "This is me," and I'm sure there are hundreds of thousands of LGBT community members who can appreciate where that voice is coming from. I'm not a flag bearer for the gay community, but I'm definitely an advocate of wanting people to be themselves and giving a voice to the LGBT community.

How do you end up falling for so many straight men? I think it happens to all of us in the gay community. There's no way of telling anybody's sexuality. I have a song called "Hotel Room," about me meeting this guy while I was on the road. Great looking guy. Great personality. Got along really well. All the signs were there, and I was like, "Oh my god, this guy is maybe the one." I really fell for him. And I took it a bit further, and he told me he wasn't gay. I was shocked. It's very much a song about the heartbreak, but it's about trying to put a positive spin on it. "Hotel Room" is one of the heartbreaking songs on the album where I suppose at the time I was like, "You bastard!" [Laughs] But I don't want to write with malice.

How did your song about coming out to your dad take shape? The song you're referring to is called "Out at Sea," which actually didn't make the album, unfortunately. It was definitely one of the songs I wrote initially, and it was one of the triggers that got me into really writing honestly with my music. It was about my fear holding me back, almost drowning me. I was going through that process with my dad, and when I told him, the burden that left me was just unreal. It literally felt like a physical weight had been lifted from my shoulders. And it's so liberating, and I felt euphoric after that. I had pins and needles in my face. I couldn't stop smiling. I was crying. I was on top of the world. It was the most liberating feeling. I wrote that in the song, about feeling tied down and drowned under the walls, and not being able to breathe from the pressure and judgment and fear of disappointing, well, everybody, I guess. But then casting it away and it actually turning out better than I thought it would. It didn't not make the album because it wasn't good enough. It was because I wanted to give variety on the album. I wanted to showcase what kind of an artist I am – and didn't want to write a whole album that would make people cry. There are other emotions! [Laughs] I've written a lot about my sexuality, because it means a lot for me. **Of course — it was your catharsis.** It was

a journey, yeah. And it was something I put my heart and soul into. I wrote "No Matter What," and the chorus is really beautiful. I think I'm gonna play it for my headlining show. It's about my mom saying, "I love you no matter what."

You performed on *Dancing with the Stars* in May with two dancers: one male, one female. On tour, have you given any thought to possibly having two male dancers dance as intimately as that opposite-sex pair did? Makes sense, man. It's something I've thought about, either having two male dancers or running a short film, maybe. I'm always on the lookout to create with the intent of making an impact on my audience. Having two male dancers just shows that it doesn't matter who you are or who you love, you should love yourself, and that being gay, lesbian or transgender is just as normal and just as acceptable as being straight. There should never be a difference. There should never be boundary lines. We're all a human race, and that's what it should come down to.

Would you be open to singing a love song with another man? Yeah, of course.

Well, you're buddies with Sam Smith now, so you two could make this happen. Yeah, and do something. I know Sam is as much a believer in what we talked about as I am. He's very much an activist for letting people

come out, so I would love to collaborate with him and do something like that.

Sam has been very vocal about weight and body image issues, and we talk a lot about body standards and the struggle for queer people to live up to an ideal prototype in the gay community, in particular. What was your motivation for speaking at the National Student Pride event in London on this subject recently? In this industry, there can be quite a lot of body shaming. As soon as I got into the spotlight with my music, you have people all the time saying, "Isn't he getting fat? Hasn't he put on weight?" Instantly, I felt self-conscious and I felt ashamed of my body, and was like, "I'm not gonna be able to eat properly; I'm gonna have to really slim down." It wasn't until I sat back and thought about it. I thought, "Why should I be dictated to by some anonymous hater online about how I should feel about my body?"

Being gay and feeling ashamed at myself, I look back and go, "I should have loved myself a lot earlier," because I tortured myself for so long. Now, I've finally got the confidence to say, "I'm gay and I'm out." I've never felt so much support. The saying, "Love comes from loving yourself first"? It's true. Hopefully this album is inspiring across the globe for so many different reasons. I just hope that people are inspired enough that they can just love themselves a little bit more.

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Cassie Nova

Hey, y'all. Is it spring? It feels like spring. I love these mild, beautiful days and somewhat chilly nights. I look adorable in a light sweater. But this is Texas, so these perfect days will only last about another week ... then all of those people that bitched about it being too cold will start complaining about the heat. So I am going to try to enjoy the now. Where is my wine?

I've always known I was a bit odd, but now I have turned into one of those freaks that feed birds. I live in a house that is right next to a large wooded area, so we get a huge variety of birds in our backyard. Well, recently I bought a bunch of bird feeders to attract more. It worked. We have eight bird feeders around our property, and I have been going through about 15 pounds of bird food a week.

I absolutely love it. Beautiful bright red cardinals with their not-as-pretty harem of little bird bitches. It's like a soap opera. The females always seem on the verge of fighting each other. We have a lot of dove couples that make the rounds. They are so lovely but so clumsy. We have one pair that had used our carport to nest in for the past four years, successfully raising at least seven clutches of eggs.

I've even filled these little fishnet panty hose things that hold tiny seeds to attract finches. It is always covered in chickadees and yellow finches. We've even gotten a few woodpeckers. And yes, they look just like the cartoon. One day last week, I stood on my back porch and watched as at least 60 birds of all kinds enjoyed my backyard. There were birds in the birdbath and covering every possible perch they could find. It's a bird paradise: Food, water and other birds. I like to think our backyard is like a fabulously fun bar for the avian kind. Think JR.'s with feathers.

One thing I didn't realize when I set up this awesome spot for birds was it was gonna attract trouble. A few weeks ago, I was standing on my back porch, trying to be still and quiet so the birds would go about their business as if I weren't around, when all of the chirping and singing suddenly stopped, and they took flight at the same time. I looked up just in time to see a hawk snatch a dove out of midair. It was so violent and quick. I thought, I have made the perfect retreat for birds and in turn have made the perfect place for a hawk to pick up a quick meal. Circle of life, I guess. I feel like I sound crazy. Do I sound crazy? Who cares, I loves my critters.

Now, I gotta tell y'all about another one of my famous trips to Walmart. Let's rewind to last weekend, Wendy Ho performed with us in the Rose Room. She is a hilarious talent, writing and performing parody songs that both offend and excite me. Her song "Fuck Me" to the tune of Oleta Adams "Get Here" is a classic. I am obsessed with her song "Public Place." She took Rihanna's song that says "we found love in a hopeless place," and made it better with "I suck yo' dick in a public place." It's freakin' brilliant and catchy. Actually, it is way too catchy. I heard her sing it live on Saturday and Sunday. I couldn't get it out of my head, so I downloaded it off of iTunes on Wednesday, so by Thursday I was really feeling it. You know you love a song when you catch yourself singing it under your breath all day.



So Thursday my husband and I were in Walmart getting more freakin' birdseed and looking at plants — you know, as the gays do. And I cannot get Wendy's song out of my head. Not realizing it, I am singing I suck yo' dick in a public place in line at the garden center checkout.

I look up thinking I was standing next to my husband, but I was not. I was standing next to and serenading some Billy Bob looking redneck in Midlothian. OMG, the look on his face. What did that look like to him? My no-eyebrow-havin', pale-AF, chubby-gay-ass singing to some rando in the garden center of Walmart about sucking his dick. I immediately busted out laughing and told him sorry, I have a song stuck in my head. He kind of smiled back and shook his head like, "whatever, dude." I had to run for the comfort of my husband, giggling and as red as a lobster. I told Jamie what had just happened, and he gave me the same look the redneck gave me, smiling and shaking his

head. He is used to stuff like that happening. So thanks, Wendy Ho! I will be doing that song in a show very soon.

And now let's check the mail bag!

Hi Cassie, I've been thinking lately about how I act in my own life and if I ever joke around with people too harshly. My question: Do you ever feel like you go too far on stage joking with people? Do you ever say something and go "Whoops" immediately? I'm not saying that you have (that's not for me to judge) but just have you ever felt if you have? When I imagine what it must be like up there in the moment, I think I'd always go too far. Thanks, J.K. P.S. Y'all are killin' it in the Rose Room!

Dear J.K., Thank you for your kind words. I am very proud of what we are doing in the Rose Room, so it's nice to hear that it is appreciated. But hell, yes, I know I have gone too far. I know people that tell me that I have really pushed the envelope after I thought I had just killed it. By the way, to me going too far mostly

means I have hurt someone's feelings, which I very rarely do. I joke and I kid, and most people know it does not come from a place of hate but of humor. I have told many jokes that I immediately regret. Once I told a guy to get out of the fucking isle, "What are you blind?" He was in fact blind. Open mouth; insert foot. Sometimes I will say something that will keep me up at night worrying that it might have been too much or was taken the wrong way, but for the most part I try to stand by my jokes. Once I told a stupid Whitney Houston joke, and some lady told me with a scowl on her face, "Too soon!" My response was to take it even further, I told her, Too soon my ass — I was telling 9/11 jokes on 9/12! She was not amused. Not everyone is gonna laugh, and you might even offend, but like I have said before: It's all about intent. My goal is to show folks a good time. I am not everyone's cup of tea, and I'm okay with that.

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



Fun times at Peacock Theater (above and below).



Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 16–22**:

- **Alexandre's:** *Mi Diva Loca* on Friday. *K-Marie* on Saturday and Tuesday. *Wayne Smith* on Sunday. *Anna Fredericka Popova* on Wednesday. *Chris Chism* on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** *RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10* watch party on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** DeeJay DJ presents the *Divine Miss Divas* show on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** *Amateur Strip Show* at 11 p.m. on *Manic Mondays*. *Dalton Murphy's Birthday Bash* at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** *Bear Lockdown Weekend* on Friday through Saturday. *Cellblock 13 Underwear Show* on Friday. *Beargarten* beer tasting on the patio on Saturday followed by *BearDance*. *Back to the Eighties: Bear Lockdown Edition* with *DJ Blaine Soileau* on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Watch party for the premiere of *RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10*, which features Dallas' own *Asia O'Hara*.
- **Marty's Live:** *DJ Joe Ross Glow Party* at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** *Lost Souls Bachelor Auction* at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** *Mustache Envy* on Friday. *Reckless Angels* on Saturday. *Bella, Darla & Izzy* followed by *Ciao Bella* on Sunday. *Miss Bluebonnet State* and *at Large* pageants on Sunday.
- **The 515 Bar:** *LeQube* performs at 9 p.m. on Friday. *St. Patrick's Day Party* on Saturday.
- **The Rose Room:** *Josephine O'hara* on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** *Chanel LaMasters* with *Same Name New Game Duel Chapter III* at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday. *RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10* premiere party on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** *St. Patrick's Day* celebration with green beer, beads, party and a lucky leprechaun all day Saturday.

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



Love, Simon star Nick Robinson takes a selfie with a fan at Ferris Wheelers Backyard & BBQ

Caven Thank-You Party



Turtle Creek Chorale rehearsal



GLBT Chamber mixer



Royalty on The Strip



Friends on The Strip

Hard Rock Cafe Broadway Drag Brunch



A night on the town



Taking a walk on The Strip



Friends hanging at The Round-Up Saloon



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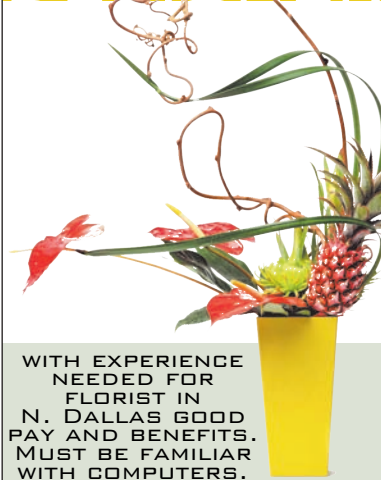
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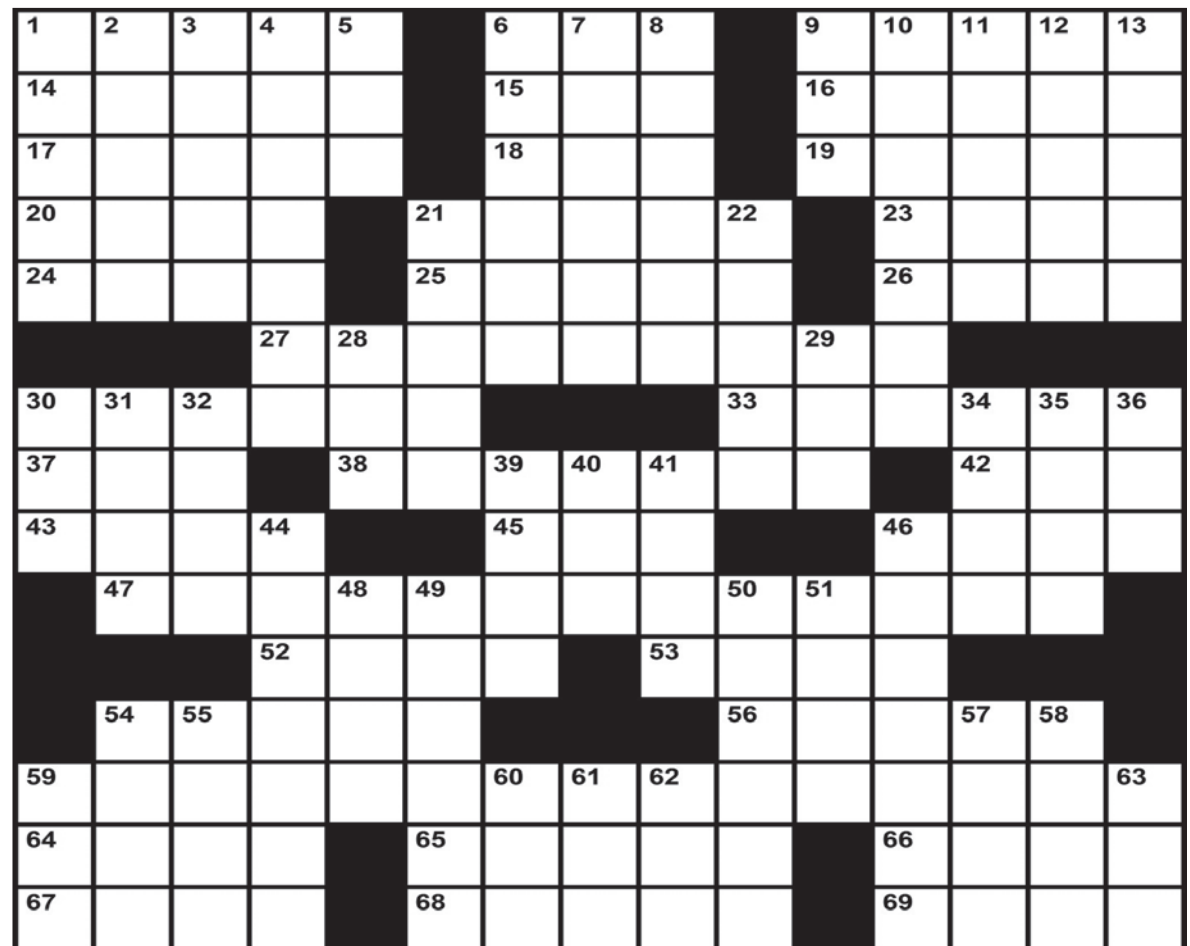


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Solution on Page 27

Across

- 1 With 9-Across and 27-Across, "In the first place, ___"
- 6 Title for Alec Guinness
- 9 See 1-Across
- 14 Isle of the birth state of Bette Midler
- 15 Aladdin's monkey
- 16 She had her hand up Lamb Chop
- 17 Tickle pink
- 18 Hither's partner
- 19 Engaged in, as war
- 20 Eleanor's pooch
- 21 Plumbers go after them with their snakes
- 23 Bone below the elbow
- 24 Cash register part
- 25 Out-and-out nonsense
- 26 Stud poker demand
- 27 See 1-Across
- 30 One you may see in a shower
- 33 Billie Jean's game
- 37 That to Juan
- 38 Olyphant of *The Broken Hearts Club*
- 42 Cole Porter, for one
- 43 Dusting for bottoms
- 45 Suffix in scandal names
- 46 Fruitless
- 47 "In the second place, ___"
- 52 Fairy tales and such

53 Testicles, usually

54 Medium for Frasier Crane

56 Semifrozen soft drink

59 Character of David Ogden Stiers (1942-2018) on *M*A*S*H* and source of this puzzle's quote

64 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry

65 Longtime *All My Children* role

66 Continental disk

67 *The Way We* ___

68 Denis of *The Ref*

69 Type of balls

Down

1 "___ My Heart in San Francisco"

2 Start of a holy name

3 ___ fours (doggy-style)

4 Writer Barney

5 Practice B&D, e.g.

6 *Roma Sub Rosa* series writer Steven

7 Source for Rita Mae Brown, for example

8 Handled at the cash register

9 One-eighty from NNE

10 *The Double Man* author

11 Two under for Sheehan

12 Where to find your favorite boxers

13 Like one that comes on the beach

21 1920 Colette novel

22 "Empress of the Blues" Bessie

28 Pansy's place

29 Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis* ___

30 Came upon

31 Morales of movies

32 Outed, for example, with "on"

34 Songwriter Holly

35 Eurythmics' "Would ___ to You?"

36 Gay-bashing, for example

39 Hang one's head

40 Arena cry, to Frida

41 Canvas covering

44 Customer on *Six Feet Under*?

46 Cause of AIDS, and others

48 Word after film or cafe

49 Tool you can stick in your garden

50 Walk like a man in drag

51 Load of money

54 *Spamalot* review, perhaps

55 Open a crack

57 Phaser setting in *Star Trek*

58 Chaplain Judge of the NYFD, e.g.

59 Small pussy cat noise

60 Land of singer S. O'Connor

61 Peoples of *Fame*

62 "Proud Mary" band, for short

63 Straight line

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J Chester & Associates, Inc., CPA
jchestercpa.com | 214-330-4682

Padgett Business Services | padgettdallas.com
1881 Sylvan Ave., Ste. 105 | 214-272-3823

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ADULT ENTERTAINMENT
Club Dallas | theclubs.com
2616 Swiss Ave. | 214-821-1990

ADULT NOVELTIES
Alternatives | 1720 W. Mockingbird Lane
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AIR CONDITIONING & HEAT
Jade Air Conditioning & Heating
jadeairdallas.com | 214-522-2805

Rescue Air Heating and Cooling | rescueair.com
972-351-8307

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Burch, Lorie | burch-law.com
7920 Beltline Road, Ste. 700 | 972-385-0558

Cole, David | adoptlegal.com | 214-363-5117

Covell, Rebecca | covellpc.com
3710 Rawlins St., Ste. 950 | 214-443-0300

D&N Law Group, LLP | Asma Din | Mai Nguyen
dnlawgroup.com | 972-252-0886

Garcia, Domingo | domingogarcialaw.com
400 S. Zang Blvd., Ste. 600 | 214-941-8300

Hall, Stephanie | ladylawsah.com
4514 Cole Ave., Ste. 600 | 214-522-3343

Johnson, Julie | juliejohnsonlaw.com
12222 Merit Drive, Ste. 1200 | 214-290-8001

Johnson, Stephen | johnsonlawdfw.com
214-373-3770

ATTORNEYS

Olinger, Lynn | LSOLaw.com
3710 Rawlins St., Ste. 950 | 214-396-9090

Seidel, Adam | adamseidellaw.com
214-528-3344

West, Chad, PC | chadwestlaw.com
900 W. Davis St. | 214-509-7555

Wiley, Rob | robwiley.com
2613 Thomas Ave. | 214-528-6500

Womack, Jenny | WomackAdoptions.com
5495 Beltline Road, Ste. 365 | 214-935-3310

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Park Place Mercedes | Nedd Ross
6113 Lemmon Ave. | 214-443-5281

BANKS
Capital One Bank | capitalonecareers.com
4208 Lemmon Ave. | 972-728-3900

BREWERIES
Lakewood Brewing Co.Craft Brewery,
Lakewoodbrewing.com | 972-864-BEER (2337)

CAMPGROUNDS
Rainbow Ranch Campground |rainbowranch.net
1662 LCR 800 | Groesbeck, TX | 888-875-7596

CATERING
Wendy Krispin Caterer
wendykrispincaterer.com | 214-748-5559

CHIROPRACTIC DOCTORS – DC
Auerbach, Lynne, DC | Uptown Chiropractic
uptownchiropractic.com | 214-979-9013

Tutt, Steven J. - DC | drtuttdc.com
4245 Cedar Springs Road | 214-528-1900

CONSIGNMENT
Dulce Interior Consignment Showplace
mydulce.com | 2914 Oak Lawn | 214-219-5656

CONSTRUCTION – RENOVATIONS
Shingles Roofing | dfwshingles.com
214-729-8429

Renowned Renovation
renownedrenovation.com | 972-232-7122

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS
Visit Dallas | visitdallas.com
325 North St. Paul St., Ste. 700 | 800-232-5527

COSTUMES – MASQUERADE-THEATRICAL
Dallas Costume Shoppe | dcshoppe.com
3905 Main St. | 214-428-4613

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Norcostco Texas Costume | norcostco.com
1231 Wycliff, Ste. 300 | 214-630-4048

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CandyMarcum.com | 214-521-1278

Martin, Randy, LPC | martinlpc.com
3626 North Hall St., Ste. 530 | 214-392-8247

Momentum Psychological Services, PLLC
Meador, Christopher, PhD LCSW |214-674-8806

Owen, Jimmy, LPC | jimmyowen.com
3838 Oak Lawn, Ste. 1000 | 214-546-8852

Uptown Psychotherapy | 214-824-2009
Deborah Beckman | Tim Myrick

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4514 Cole Ave., Ste. 905 | 214-521-6261

Allen, Charles, DDS | bleudentist.com
3607 Oak Lawn #250 | 214-699-4976

Sadeghi, Sina, DDS | Royal Dental
dallasroyaldental.com | 972-846-0008

Terrell, Kevin, DDS, PC | terrelldental.com
2603 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 100 | 214-329-1818

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jayfoxproductions.com | 214-725-1203

Video Transfer and DJ Music Sounds
videotransfer4u.net | 469-222-6659

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The Donor Solution | thedonorsolution.com
713-827-0301

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Dallas Electrolysis Clinic
electrolysisformen.com | 214-766-8939

Hair Today Gone Tomorrow
htgtelelectrolysis.com | 682-593-1442

EMERGENCY ROOMS
Uptown ER | uptownerdallas.com
3607 Oak Lawn Ave. | 214-217-1818

FINANCIAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS
Sherman, Judy S., CFBS Nexus Advisors, LLC
1111 S. Main St., Grapevine | 817-366-1119

FURNITURE
j.douglas design | jdouglasdesign.com
3301 Oak Lawn Ave. | 214-522-8100

GLASS BLOWING
Dallas Glass Art | dallasglassart.com
214-741-1442

HEALTH CLUBS
Private Workout 60-Day Boot Camp
PrivateWorkout.com | 214-515-5517

INSURANCE
Alex Long Agency | Allstate Insurance
Allstateagencies.com/AlexLong | 972-570-7000

Allstate - Clements, John | 972-312-1800
2500 N. Dallas Parkway, Ste. 150 |

Irvin, M. Angel | Farmers Insurance
14651 Dallas Parkway, Ste. 110 | 972-367-6200

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Steven Graves Insurance Agency
A division of Abco Insurance | 214-599-0808

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MAILBOX SERVICES
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MORTGAGE – REFINANCE
Caliber Home Loans | Ruiz, Matt
caliberhomeloans.com | 510-305-4245

Ramirez, Armando | Supreme Lending
supremelending.com | 214-263-5507

MOVERS
Fantastic Moves | FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric, Ste. 175 | 214-349-6683 (MOVE)

OPTICAL GOODS
Fashion Optical | fashionopticaldallas.com
3430 Oak Lawn at Lemmon | 214-526-6006

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4560 W. Mockingbird Lane, Ste. 124

PERSONAL TRAINERS
Bells and Barbells | bellsandbarbells.com
469-256-8624 | 214-515-5517

PHARMACIES
Avita Pharmacy | avitapharmacy.com
219 Sunset Ave., Ste. 118A | 214-943-5187

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justinyoderstudios.com | 214-404-7805

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Philips, Kay L., MD | Internal Medicine
Dallas Diagnostic Association | 214-363-2305

Pounders, Steven, MD, PA
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 600 | 214-520-8833

Uptown Physicians Group | uptowndocs.com
4144 N. Central Expressway | 214-303-1033

Daly, Patrick W., MD | Internal/HIV Medicine
3629 Fairmount St. | 214-526-3566

Prism Health North Texas | prismhealthntx.org
351 West Jefferson Blvd. | 214-521-5191

REAL ESTATE
Atkinson, Steve, ABR | 214-334-7404
SteveAtkinson.DavePerryMiller.com

Cohn, Dan, GRI, ABR | Virginia Cook Realtors
214-236-1640

DeuPree, Joe, ABR | Scottwood Realty, L.L.C.
214-683-7224

Durstine Jr., George H. | Scottwood Realty, LLC
214-559-6090

Hewitt & Habgood Group | HewittHabgood.com
Dave Perry-Miller & Associates | 214-752-7070

Hobson, Phil | H Group | Berkshire Hathaway
weknowtx.com/philhobson | 214-659-3624

Jeff Updike | Weston Pugh | updikepugh.com
Dave Perry-Miller & Associates | 214-377-2223

LaPierre, Paul, GRI | Century 21 Judge Fite
4saleindallas.com | 214-564-7741

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susanmelnick.com | 214-460-5565

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jaynarey.com | 972-468-5462

Neal, Jeff, ABR | Keller Williams Realty
214-931-2609

Scarborough Realty Group | 903-263-8443
scarboroughrealtygroup.com

Scott, Danny Alan | Scottwood Realty, L.L.C.
DannyAlanScott@gmail.com | 972-588-8304

Sherman, Diane | 469-767-1823
davidgriffin.com/diane-sherman

Walker, Philip | Keller Williams Park Cities
philipwalkergroup.com | 214-769-4322

RESTAURANTS
Cremona Bistro Ristorante | cremonabistro.com
2704 Worthington | 214-871-1115

nerdvana food + spirits & coffee + shop
nerdvanafrisco.com | Frisco | 214-618-9732

Salum Restaurant | salumrestaurant.com
4152 Cole Ave., Ste. 103 | 214-252-9604

Start Restaurant | startrestaurant.net
4023 Lemmon Ave. | 214-599-7873

SIGNAGE
FastSigns | 2629 Oak Lawn Ave.
fastsigns.com/12 | 214-526-7446

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
Vannier Engineering | 972-867-9750
dvannier@vannierengineering.com

SURROGACY
3 Sisters Surrogacy | 3sisterssurrogacy.com
877-976-9483

TITLE COMPANIES
Lawyers Title DFW | Ruth Darling
lawyertitledfw.com | 214-551-2416

Republic Title of Texas, Inc. | republictitle.com
3131 Turtle Creek Blvd. | 214-528-8916

TRANSPORTATION
DART | dart.org | 214-979-1111

TREE SERVICE
Maya Tree & Lawn Maintenance
mayatreeservice.com | 214-924-7058

VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS
Sundrops Vitamins & Nutrition | sundrops.com
4306 N. Central Expressway | 214-521-0550

WEDDING SERVICES
Christy Matthews Events
christymatthewsevents.com | 805-717-2454

LGBTWeddings.com | 844-899-LOVE x 501

WEDDING VENUES
7 for Parties by Wendy Krispin Caterer
7forparties.com | 214-748-5559

YOGA STUDIOS
Dallas Yoga Center | dallasyogacenter.com
4525 Lemmon Ave. | 214-443-9642

The Business Directory is published once a month. If you are interested in being listed, please contact us at 214.754.8710.

A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt. He is smiling and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is plain white.

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