

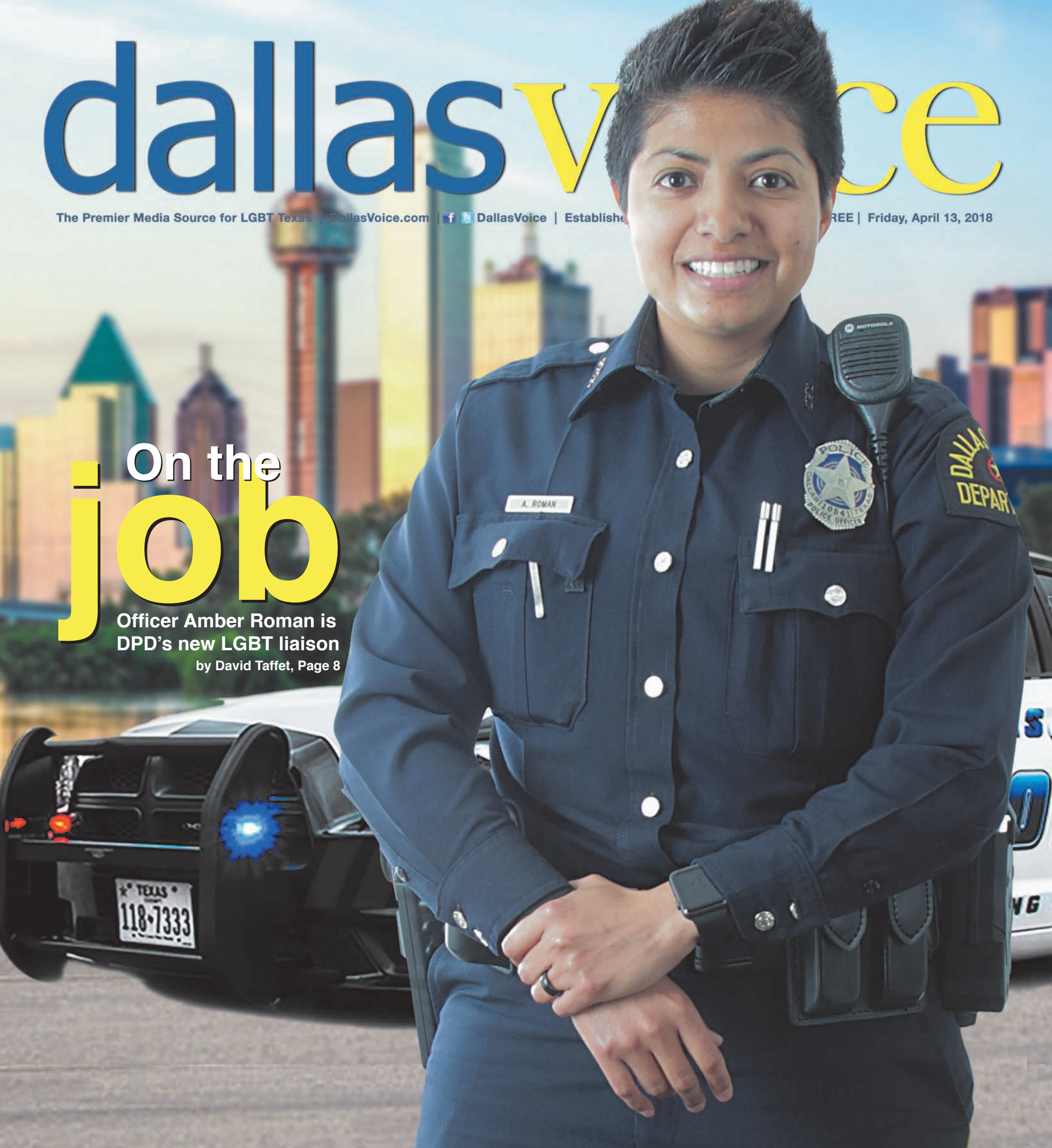
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On the job

Officer Amber Roman is
DPD's new LGBT liaison

by David Taffet, Page 8



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Officer Amber Roman. Photo by
Tammie Nash. Design by
Kevin Thomas



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Texas Gay Rodeo Association hosted its 35th annual Texas Tradition Rodeo at Mesquite Rodeo's Resistol Arena April 7-8. (Cassie Quinn/Dallas Voice)

Texas judge rules LGBT workers have federal protection from discrimination

Judge Lee Rosenthal, the chief judge of the Southern District Court of Texas based in Houston, ruled that federal employment protections based on sex include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nicole Wittmer sued Phillips 66 because, she contends, the company didn't hire her because she is transgender, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Rosenthal ruled against her because she couldn't prove her case, but in the ruling said that had she been able to show gender identity was the reason she wasn't hired, she would have found protection under existing federal law.

While judges in other states have ruled that Title VII includes sexual orientation and gender identity, this is the first time such a ruling has come from a judge in the Fifth Circuit, which includes Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Rosenthal was appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992, and she became chief judge in 2016.

— David Taffet

Houston ordered to pay attorney fees in anti-LGBT discrimination case

A Houston district judge has ordered the city of Houston to pay attorney fees in *Pidgeon v. Parker*, the case filed by plaintiffs that want to prevent the city from offering benefits to employees married to same-sex spouses. The

judge also rejected a motion to move the case to federal court.

Attorneys for the city of Houston argued that equal access to marriage and all of its benefits was decided in the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell* decision on marriage equality and, therefore, the case had constitutional implications and should be heard in federal court. The judge said the city didn't make its argument to move the case.

The case began in 2013 when former Houston Mayor Anise Parker extended city benefits to same-sex partners. Two plaintiffs, an accountant and a pastor, sued claiming there was no fundamental right to taxpayer-funded benefits.

Because the federal marriage equality ruling in 2015 gave same-sex couples the right to marriage and all of its benefits, Houston tried to have the case moved to federal court. The district court ruled against the city saying it hadn't proven that the case had constitutional implications.

The U.S. Supreme Court also refused to hear an appeal of the case after the Texas Supreme Court ruled that a right to marry doesn't necessarily include the right to benefits and the *Obergefell* ruling wasn't clear on the point. The first sentence of the *Obergefell* ruling is actually very clear on the point and includes the word benefits.

Instead, on Tuesday, April 10, the court ruled against the city and ordered it to pay attorney fees for the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs were represented by Jonathan Saenz, who founded the anti-LGBT group Texas Values after his wife left him for a woman.

A spokesman for current Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said the city would continue to defend the rights of city employees to have equal access to benefits.

— David Taffet

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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.

APRIL

• April 13: Compassion Fatigue Symposium

Ed-U-Care presents a program for caregivers from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road.

• April 13: DFW Pride Happy Hour

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Bluffview Growler, 3850 W. Northwest Highway, Suite 1180.

• April 13: FashionCITED

Legal Hospice of Texas fundraiser from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture, 100 S. Houston St. \$55-\$60. LegalHospice.org.

• April 13: UCLSE Murder Mystery Night

The Grand Duke and Duchesses of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire host a Murder Mystery Night at 8 p.m. (lineup at 7 p.m.) at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. in Dallas. Proceeds benefit the Greg Dolgener Memorial AIDS Fund.

• April 14: UCLSE's Drag Bag 6

United Court of the Lone Star Empire and Penny Cilyn host Drag Bag 6, benefitting The Greg Dolgener Memorial AIDS Fund and the SSC Fund at 7 p.m. (lineup at 6 p.m.) at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. All entertainers are welcome to participate.

• April 14: Estate Planning for LGBT Texans

Dallas attorney Lorie Burch presents a program on Estate Planning for LGBT Texans from 2-4 p.m. at CC Young The Point, 4847 W. Lawther Drive. CEU credits are provided. The event is sponsored by Alzheimer's Association Dallas and Northeast Texas, The Senior Source, AARP, Dignity Memorial, The Point and Pavilion at CC Young, Metrocare Services and The Family Place. To register contact Alzheimer's Association of Dallas and Northeast Texas.



Deep Ellum Brewing Company hosts a crawfish boil benefiting OutLast Youth on April 15. See listings for details.

• April 14: Family Fun Day at the Dallas Zoo

Free admission to the Dallas Zoo for residents of Districts 1, 2, 6, and 14 (The 4 Amigos — Griggs, Medrano, Narvaez and Kingston) from 9 a.m.-noon at the Dallas Zoo, 650 S. R.L. Thornton. Parking is \$10 or take the Red Line.

• April 14: HRC Federal Club Spring Luncheon

From 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Tower Club in Thanksgiving Tower, 48th floor, 1601 Elm St. Special guest will be Geoff Wetrosky, campaign director of HRC Rising. Tickets are \$35-55, available at fcspingluncheon2018.eventbrite.com.

• April 14-15: Turtle Creek Spring Arts & Craft Festival 2018

About 100 local artists and craftsmen display their work from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave.

• April 15: Crawfish Boil

Benefit for OutLast Youth from noon-5 p.m. at Deep Ellum Brewing Co., 2823 St. Louis St.

• April 17: 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.

• April 19: The Journey: A Coming Out Workshop

Did you come out recently? Have you been out for a while? No matter where you are on your coming out journey, you will benefit from this six-week interactive workshop open to all LGBT persons, family, and friends. Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Robin Booth, United Methodist Pastor Rev. Jane Graner and Will Fields on six Thursday evenings through May 24 at 7 p.m. at the Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Register at CathedralofHope.ChurchCenter.com/groups.

• April 19: Federal Club Happy Hour

From 6-8 p.m. at Ross & Hall Kitchen and Beer Garten, 3300 Ross Ave.

• April 19: Third Thursday Happy Hour

GALA holds its monthly happy hour from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Plano Kitchen & Bar, 1010 E. 15th St., Plano.

• April 19: Tyler Area Gays dinner

Dinner at The Catch, 1714 S. Beckham Ave, Tyler. For information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

• April 19-22: Main St. Fort Worth Arts Festival

The largest arts festival in Texas spans more than 27 city blocks on Thursday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-11 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. MainStreetArtsFest.org.

• April 20-22: Rainbow Roundup camping trip

Camping trip includes hay rides, crafting, fishing, face-painting and a BBQ dinner. Tent camping at \$30 per day, cabins at \$131 per day and RV sites for \$50-65 daily at North Texas Jellystone Park, 2301 S. Burleson Blvd., Burleson. Promo code is: rainbow18. There's a \$9.25 per person per day entrance fee to the park.

• April 21: Gaybingo of Oz

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• April 21: Chamber Gala

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its Gala from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at a private estate in Old Preston Hollow. Includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and libations. Individual tickets are \$65; sponsorships are available. Contact the chamber at 214-821-4528 for details.

• April 21: Cirque du SoGay

Mayhem Miller joins Ivana Tramp, MayMay Graves and Ryan Tiffin for an Impulse Group party from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

• April 21-22: White Rock Home Tour

The 2018 White Rock Home Tour

showcasing seven mid-century and modern new build homes, is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Purchase tickets online at WhiteRockHomeTour.com or at the Hexter Café at Hexter Elementary. Cost is \$15 through April 20. Tickets on the weekend of the tour are \$20.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink.; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the **Fuse** space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

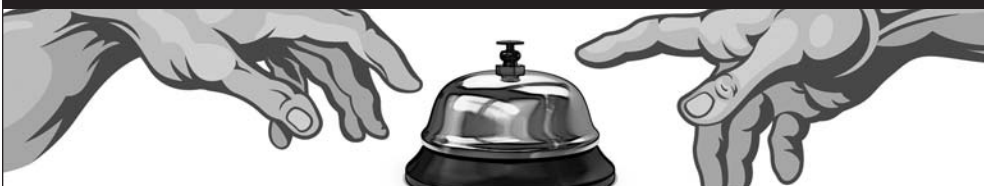
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DPD appoints new LGBT liaison

Amber Roman replaces Laura Martin as the community's connection to the police department

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When Amber Roman was in the police academy, the Dallas Police Department's LGBT liaison officer, Laura Martin, spoke to the incoming class of rookies. And as Martin addressed the group, Roman listened and promised herself: "I'm going to be that one day."

When new Dallas Police Chief Renee Hall did some realigning in the department, Roman got her chance.

Martin's position as liaison had followed her wherever she went in the department. When she was on bike patrol in East Dallas and later when she was promoted to detective, Martin remained the liaison.

But Hall decided the position needed to be in one place, and that place was the Office of Community Affairs where the Asian, African-American and Latino liaison units are headquartered. For Martin, who recently has been spending quite a bit of her time escorting dignitaries around town — including former First Lady Michelle Obama — that would have been a demotion.

So Martin decided it was time to pass the torch on the liaison position, and Roman is delighted she did. Since Martin's still on the force, Roman said, she's been a great mentor for her, helping her figure out how to be the greatest help to the community.

Joining the force

Roman is the youngest of four children and grew up in Oak Cliff. But even being the youngest, "I was never treated like the baby," she said. "I always had a big mouth."

She remains close with her family, and when she was married last year to her partner of 10 years, Roman said she had a "traditional" wedding: Her family threw her a bridal shower and were all there as she and

her wife were married by a judge in a Dallas courtroom.

Roman always knew she wanted to do something meaningful with her life, and for awhile in college, she thought she wanted to be a counselor. "I always had a yearning to reach people, to speak to people," she said.

Her sister, who's a nurse, suggested she become a police officer. But Roman said she didn't want to be a cop and write tickets. Still, on a whim, she applied to the Dallas Police Department, was accepted and went to the academy. And, she said, writing tickets has always been her least favorite thing to do.

Roman has spent her first five years on the force doing neighborhood policing. She engaged businesses and neighborhoods by attending crime watch meetings and finding out what the community needs. Among her many activities was a Share the Shoe Drive.

"Lots of kids don't have a decent pair of shoes," she said. So she got businesses to donate shoes, and she gave those shoes to local rec centers to distribute.

Roman said she found lots of creative ways to connect with the community she served. She did foot patrols because, she explained, she couldn't speak to people when she was in a car. She read to kids at the library. At Christmas she collected food and clothing "for people who don't have access to those things."

When she was told the liaison position was open and her name was on a short list of candidates, Roman said, "I was speechless and honored I was being considered for the job. When it was offered, I didn't have the words. It took awhile to sink in."

She is the first person of color to hold the LGBT community liaison position. "There just aren't that many Hispanic women on the force," she said.

In addition to Martin, Roman said a number of people have been inspirations to her. Former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez is among her heroes. She first met Valdez at the Round-Up Saloon. She said once she got up the courage to walk up to the sheriff and introduce herself, Valdez was delighted to meet her and, she said, was sweet and encouraging.

Lynn Albright, DPD's first LGBT liaison, is another inspiration, Roman said, because lesbian officers weren't welcomed to the force with open arms at the time.



Albright was appointed to the liaison position after the city of Dallas lost a lawsuit brought by Mica England in the late 1980s. England had applied to become a Dallas police officer. She was rejected because she was considered a criminal since she violated section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code that criminalized consensual sexual contact between adults of the same gender.

While the case worked its way through the courts, protesters appeared regularly at Dallas City Council meetings wearing “No Homo Cops” buttons and speaking about preventing gays and lesbians from gaining employment equality. In 1994, after England’s case was settled, the council passed its first non-discrimination ordinance protecting the city’s LGBT employees from discrimination.



Laura Martin, pictured with former Chief David Brown, continues to serve on the Dallas police force, but decided it was time to pass the LGBT liaison torch. (Dallas Voice file photo)

To everyone’s surprise, even Mayor Steve Bartlett, a conservative Republican, said before casting his vote for the ordinance, “I don’t discriminate in my business. I don’t see why the city should discriminate.”

While England never did become a DPD officer, her lawsuit paved the way for otherwise qualified LGBT people to join the force, and the city’s then-new police chief, Ben Click, created the liaison position.

Roman said Albright and England were brave women to have done what they did.

On the job as liaison

Since taking over the position less than a month ago, Roman has spent most of her time getting to know the vast number of groups, organizations and institutions within Dallas LGBT community. She also jumped right in to help when a couple was held up in Oak Lawn while walking from a bar on Cedar Springs Road to Maple Avenue.

She said that incident and a similar attack several weeks earlier immediately brought

to mind the string of assaults that occurred in the neighborhood about two years ago.

What was most frustrating for everyone about those attacks, Roman said, was that there never was a satisfying *Law & Order*-type ending. Because the victims who were assaulted from behind and were blindsided when they were hit in the head, there was no usable description of the assailants. Without tangible evidence, no one was arrested for those violent crimes.

But the attacks ended and, during that period, several people were arrested for other crimes. Roman said the people responsible are probably in jail for other offenses, but police are unable to officially link them to the attacks in Oak Lawn.

Roman said that one thing police learned clearly during the months of attacks was

that the LGBT community wasn’t going to stand for continual assaults.

“It was on everyone’s radar,” she said.

When Take Back Oak Lawn formed, police noticed. When volunteers stepped up to take police training and do VIP — Volunteers In Patrol — shifts throughout the neighborhood, police noticed and worked with the community groups.

Roman also said she is deeply disturbed by the rampant violence targeting the trans community, and she wants the community to know, “I’m somebody they can believe is on their side.”

Roman said she’s there for people who may not normally be comfortable talking to the police, either because the topic is sensitive or because they feel other officers may judge them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Or if someone feels police are ignoring their case or haven’t gotten information back in a timely manner, as liaison, she can assist the community. ■

Roman can be reached by email at amber.roman@dallascityhall.com.

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Candidates prepare for runoffs

Valdez receives endorsements;
Burch stays focused on issues

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Texas Equity PAC has endorsed Lupe Valdez in the Democratic gubernatorial runoff set for May 22. The PAC is the political action committee of Equality Texas.

"We have an opportunity to create a state that reflects our values and priorities," said Chuck Smith, the PAC's CEO. "We must come together and fight for the state we want. Now is the time to act with our vote. It is our civil right and our civic duty. We cannot sit this out."

Other LGBT organizations in Texas that have endorsed Dallas' former sheriff in her bid for governor include Victory Fund and Stonewall Democrat chapters in Austin, Dallas, Denton, Houston and San Antonio.

"I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Texas Equity PAC," Valdez said in a written statement. "My candidacy is in no small part thanks to them and Equality Tex-

as leading efforts in our state to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. With their support, I not only hope to inspire others to break new ground as the first governor of Texas from the LGBTQ community, but I will tirelessly work for a Texas that treats everyone equally, with dignity and respect."

Despite twice as many votes cast in the Democratic primary this year compared to 2014 when Wendy Davis secured the nomination, 50 percent more votes were cast by Republicans in their primary this year compared to Democrats. While many Democrats vying in local races stand a good chance of election, a statewide win will take plenty of work.

Congressional District 3

Lorie Burch received 49.6 percent of the vote in a four-way race for U.S. Rep. District 3 centered in Plano. That put her in a runoff with Sam Johnson, who received 28.6 percent of the vote. Johnson is not related to retiring Rep. Sam Johnson, who has represented that district since 1991.

Despite leading in the primary by more

than 6,500 votes, Burch isn't taking anything for granted. If she wins the primary, her opponent in the fall will be Van Taylor. He received more votes in his primary than the four Democrats put together.

Burch said that in Collin County, a number of people traditionally vote in the Republican primary, because that's where elections have been mostly settled.

Because she was so close to an outright win, Burch said she's going into the runoff



quite confident. But that doesn't mean she is taking it easy. She's been busy block-walking and attending meet-the-candidate events. She's also been scheduling meetings at taco joints in her district for

Ryan White funds delayed

HHS finds 32 problems with Dallas
County HIV funding distribution

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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A March site visit by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Dallas County office that distributes Ryan White funds found 32 areas of concern. A full report is expected within the next month, but among the concerns are problems with the distribution of the funds that might have delayed money getting to organizations providing HIV care.

Members of the Ryan White Planning Council and medical providers expressed concerns. But County Judge Clay Jenkins

said the concerns are not new and reflect findings in other areas around the country.

Dallas County Health and Human Services Interim Director Ganesh Shivaramaier is taking these findings seriously, and his team is working to correct these ongoing issues, according to Jenkins.

According to a Dallas Morning News report, County Commissioner John Wiley Price said some people had to wait weeks for medications as a result of the delay in funding.

Kirk Myers, CEO of Abounding Prosperity, an HIV organization based in South Dallas, said his organization receives Ryan White money in the form of reimbursement grants. Slow pay impedes his agency's ability to provide services to the next client.

He said with the delay, agencies end up serving fewer clients, and Ryan White money that goes unused is returned to the federal government at the end of the budget



Clay Jenkins
year.

Prism Health North Texas Chief Marketing & Development Officer Tori Hobbs said that hasn't been the case at Prism, which is a much larger agency.

"All federal funds get delayed in one form or another," she said.

She said the delays haven't impacted Prism Health, however, because of strong community support.

"We're in a good position," she said, but added that smaller agencies would feel the delay more, and Parkland Hospital, which serves many more clients than Prism, might have also been pinched by a delay in reimbursement.

Another concern HHS mentioned in its report is the composition of the Ryan White Planning Council, which has 26 members. Only 16 members attended committee meetings, and those who attended were not representative of the population receiving services.

In a statement released by his office, Judge Jenkins said he will continue to work with the RWPC to address the board composition to bring it into a more accurate reflection of our population. His office has previously relayed a need to vet and present more prospects from underrepresented racial groups to consider for appointment to the council.

The additional issues will be addressed primarily by DCHHS. ■

Lupe Valdez, left, Lorie Burch, right

a series of events she calls “Taco ‘Bout Change.”

Burch and Johnson are both scheduled to attend an event, sponsored by the North Texas Jewish Democratic Council, along with Lillian Salerno and Collin Allred, who are vying for the Democratic nomination to face Pete Sessions in the race for U.S. House District 32. The event is set for 6-9p.m. at Walnut Hill Recreation Center, 10011 Midway Road. Everyone is welcome.

Both Burch and Johnson are scheduled to attend the Democratic Club at Heritage Ranch on April 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Heritage Ranch clubhouse West Ballroom in Fairview.

Burch said her opponent’s supporters have been claiming that Collin County won’t elect a gay woman. She said she finds that tactic disappointing and points out that in the primary she was the only Democratic candidate who spoke at Prestonwood Baptist Church and got votes and supporters out of her appearance.

“I feel very good about having support from all different walks,” Burch said. But, she noted, in the primary she proved she was the best at getting out the base.

Other LGBT candidates

In other races with LGBT candidates, Jessica Gonzalez won her primary against incumbent Roberto Alonzo and faces no Republican opposition in November. She will be the new state representative for House District 104.

State representative candidate Julie Johnson and state senate candidate Mark Phariss won their Democratic primaries outright and will face off against Republican opponents in November. State representative candidate Finn Jones had no primary opposition, but he does have a Republican opponent in the general election.

In the state House District 115, Johnson has made public education a priority in her campaign. Her opponent, incumbent Republican Matt Rinaldi who authored the House version of the bathroom bill, hasn’t supported adequate funding for education during his time in office. Johnson has the backing of many educators in her north-west Dallas County district.

“Texas teachers are feeling the squeeze due to a lack of state funding for public education,” Johnson posted on her campaign page this week. In response to walkouts by teachers in other states, she said Texas teachers earned about \$6,500 below the national average for teacher pay in 2016 and in 10 years, state funding for public edu-

cation went from 48.5 percent of the cost down to 38 percent by 2019. In state House District 94, Jones faces “family values” incumbent state Rep. Tony Tinderholt who’s been married five times. Phariss squares off against Angela Paxton in November for state senator for District 8. Paxton is the wife of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

While her primary against Philip Huffines turned personally nasty, Phariss said he gets along just fine with Paxton and hopes the race in the fall remains cordial. His campaign strategy is to stick to the issues.



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Hard-core anti-gay

MassResistance continues to fight the gays (while Bolton gets ready to fight everybody)

As I write this it is April 9, 2018 — my birthday. It's also the day John Bolton starts as Trump's national security advisor. Bolton, who was ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush, really wants to go to war with North Korea and Iran. Like, bad. And now we've got him whispering into the ear of the dangerously impulsive and dangerously ignorant man we have as a leader.

And that should make all of us fear that we won't make it to our next birthdays.

And yet, in the face of potential annihilation, there are still people who think that men kissing men is much worse than men killing men. Spoiler alert: It isn't.

Such are the concerns of MassResistance.

No, MassResistance isn't when you pretend you're sleeping and cannot hear your mom hollering that it's time to go to church (something I spent much of my formative years doing, which is probably why I'm gay). Rather, MassResistance is a group battling the so-called homosexual agenda. Because priorities.

It's all the same stuff — and many of the same faces — we've been subjected to for decades. In fact, MassResistance just added notorious homophobe Peter LaBarbera to its staff.

"MassResistance has been expanding, and we have needed someone of his caliber for a while," MassResistance President Brian Camenker said on April 8 of the decision



D'Anne Witkowski

Creep of the Week

to add LaBarbera to the staff.

And what caliber is LaBarbera? Well, he's the president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, an organization that does everything BUT tell the truth about LGBTQ

people.

"It goes without saying that Pete is despised and vilified by the LGBT movement," Camenker added. Which is true! Here I am, vilifying him now: Peter LaBarbera is a villain.

MassResistance prides (not in the gay way) itself on being different from other anti-LGBTQ groups. For one thing, they're based in Massachusetts, a den of sin and hellfire ever since they were the first state in the country to make marriage equality the law. There are no signs on the restrooms, and you have to get gay-married to own property or vote. Only straight people pay taxes. It's a real shame (that Bolton will lead us into a war and untold numbers of people will die).

On the MassResistance webpage they brag that they've been described as a "hard-core pro-family group." They are very clear that they aren't like those mainstream pro-family groups.

"In contrast, rather than being truthful and confrontational, too many pro-family groups are more interested in being viewed

as 'reasonable' and 'not extreme,'" the MassResistance website declares.

So, clearly, MassResistance should be seen as unreasonable and extreme (just like Bolton). Got it.

So extreme are they that they managed to get blocked from participating at the Conservative Political Action Convention this year — even though CPAC is a notorious den of hateful filth — after 2015 remarks Camenker made about LGBTQ people came to light. He said it was totally fine to be "insulting and degrading" toward LGBTQ people because this was a "war" not a "church service" — not to be confused with the literal war/wars Bolton wants to start.

MassResistance was super pissed that the Log Cabin Republicans were allowed at CPAC and they weren't. LCR, a group that continues to bewilder me, is probably the most milquetoast gay organization in existence. So MassResistance's hysterical characterization of LCR as a group that "pushes hard to homosexualize the Republican Party," is, well, hysterical.

So be on the lookout for MassResistance creeps as they pop up in places like public libraries in Texas to fight God's war against LGBTQ book displays. And Jesus wept (after the earth was destroyed by nukes because Trump wanted to distract from his incompetence and his insanely corrupt administration).

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @Ma-maDWitkowski.

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Go (Key) West, gay man

Despite a devastating hurricane season, the legendary gaystination at the edge of the U.S. thrives

Gay businesses in Key West escaped the wrath of Hurricane Irma virtually unscathed. The city's four LGBT hotels, as well as the island's gay bars and nightclubs, suffered only minor damage. As of late last month, tourism officials estimated that 92 percent of the city's hotels (including neighboring Stock Island) were back in business, while the Keys overall linger around 80 percent. Still, the hardest-hit area of the Keys was a 30-mile stretch that began about 10 miles north-east of Key West up to the west end of the Seven Mile Bridge.

If you have thought about visiting Key West for the first time, or are considering a return visit, now is actually the ideal time. Besides having a great time in the gayest of gaystinations, you will be helping support the jobs and the livelihood of not just those in Key West but those who commute from the northern Keys and depend on Key West tourism to support themselves. For

many residents, the happiest sight was the arrival of the first cruise ship to the island on Sept. 24, two weeks after the hurricane. (Key West officially opened for tourists Oct. 1.)

You will find few signs of Irma's wrath today. The city banded together early on to clear out debris. Most homes and businesses that were damaged by the hurricane were quickly repaired. All of the city's landmarks are up and running. The only evidence of Irma I noticed was the observation tower at Shipwreck Museum that appeared in good condition but remained closed apparently until further repairs could be made.

The neighbor-helping-neighbor community spirit for which Key West is famous undoubtedly boosted the city's fast recovery. And with a large gay community, it is no wonder that people simply would not tolerate the city looking unkempt.

Key West is used to pulling itself out of

tight corners. The shipwrecking industry first put the city on the map in the mid 1800s. By 1856, that industry made it the richest city per capita in the United States. The rule of shipwrecking is that you could keep a good portion of what you salvaged from ships as long as you saved the people first.

But better navigation systems that kept ships from crashing on the coral reefs, combined later with the Great Depression in the 1930s, transformed Key West into one of the most impoverished areas in the country. In the mid-1970s, the U.S. Navy scaled back its local presence, causing another big hit to the island's economy. Gays were a big part of the city's revitalization in the '70s as they bought up and fixed up some of the island's abandoned buildings and businesses.

By the 1980s, the city had emerged as one of the most upscale destinations in Florida. The modernization and urban

renewal movements of the 1950s and 1960s passed Key West by, so much of the charming architecture in the city remains.

Gay stays

In truth, Key West has evolved in the scope of its appeal. While many of the former gay resorts here have gone straight or "all welcoming," what the city lacks in quantity, it more than makes up for in the quality of its remaining guesthouses. The Island House justifiably tops many lists as the best gay resort in the world; it stays busy even in the hurricane season. With 39 rooms, it is the largest gay resort on the island, and it's not uncommon for regulars to check in and leave the property only rarely. The clothing-optional, men-only resort doesn't charge a resort fee but offers guests a long list of freebies, including four alcoholic drinks a day during its late afternoon/early evening happy hour. Other

amenities include cafe and bar that never close, a small but well-appointed gym, wet and dry saunas, indoor and outdoor hot tubs, sundeck patio, porn video playroom and a large swimming pool. It's open for day passes so it is a good place to mix it up with locals and fellow travelers alike. If you are on budget, the upscale resort has some rooms that have a shared bath at a cheaper rate than the standard rooms. Island House also offers a deal that if you stay at least four nights over the winter, you get three summer nights free.

The upscale Equator Resort, just down the street from the Island House, is another first-rate property. The 34-room guesthouse is also a men-only clothing-optional resort. A few years ago it combined with the former Coral Tree gay guesthouse; as a result, it offers two pools and two hot tubs. The Equator also includes a continental breakfast, free WiFi, and a free cocktail hour. It does not offer day passes, though, giving it a more intimate feel than the Island House.

Alexander's Guesthouse is an upscale LGBT hotel that is the place to be if you prefer a quieter stay. It is across the street from the Island House and offers discounted day passes, so you can have the best of both worlds. Although its clientele is mostly male, the property has a good share of lesbians and open-minded straight people. One of the hotel's sundecks is clothing optional but the pool and other parts of the property require a bathing suit. It includes a deluxe continental breakfast and a free happy hour. The hotel is open only to those 21 and up.

If you want to experience Key West's lively gay nightlife but don't want to stray too far, the world-famous New Orleans House is a good bet. The 17-room gay men's clothing-optional hotel is on Duval Street, in the heart of the city's gay nightlife block over the Bourbon St. Pub. It includes a continental breakfast. Its pool and hot tub are part of the Garden Bar, which is clothing-optional and right behind the main Bourbon St. Pub. It also includes a well-equipped gym that is free for guests and non-guests alike. The New Orleans House has a patio deck for guests with the best people-watching in town. Drag Queen Sushi descends from the ceiling on giant high-heeled shoe each New Year's Eve in a tradition that is usually covered live by CNN.

Nightlife

The Bourbon St. Pub includes a main open-air bar that fronts Duval Street. It has strippers who can often be seen beckoning customers in from the sidewalk. Depending on the night, you can also see live

shows and karaoke there. The aforementioned Garden Bar is right behind the Pub. Like the name implies, it is an outdoor open-air bar in a garden with an adjacent pool, jacuzzi and sundeck. The Garden Bar space is clothing optional and open to men only.

The 801 Bourbon Bar is kitty-corner from the Pub and is appropriately located at 801 Duval St. It is famous for its upstairs cabaret bar featuring Key West's legendary drag queens. The downstairs bar is always fun, and if you want to walk on the wild side, the One Saloon is right behind the main bar and is popular with the Levi/leather crowd. It has a pool table and is known for its infamous Friday night contests.

A block away on Duval sit a trio of connected nightclubs: Aqua, the Back Bar and the Side Bar. Aqua is famous for drag shows and live entertainment. The Back Bar is so named for its location behind Aqua. You can enter through Aqua or the side alley. It is an open-air space perfect for socializing while enjoying the warm Key West evening breezes.

Key West's newest bar is Side Bar, the modern space on the side of Aqua. With the closure of Pearl's years ago, there are no longer any full time lesbian bars in Key West but Side Bar has a women-popular "Hot Dog Church" on Sunday afternoons that serves up hot dogs for an old-fashioned cookout social. Lesbians take over for a week during Womenfest, which will be held Sept. 5-9 this year. Many of the mostly men's bars will yield to women that week.

La Te Da on Duval, just down the street from the Bourbon Bars, is known for its nightly cabaret and drag shows and is famous for its early Sunday Evening Tea Dance.

The Monkey Bar is on Simonton Street, which runs parallel to Duval. The bar is off the beaten tourist path making it popular with locals who enjoy the bar's nightly karaoke show. A mural on the side of the bar depicts the quirkiness for which Key West is known: It depicts Wilhelmina Harvey's crossing of the Seven Mile bridge into Key West. The late Ms. Harvey was a Key West character who spearheaded a satirical separation of Key West from the rest of the U.S., known as the Conch Rebellion. The mural is patterned after the depiction of George Washington crossing the Delaware River. One of the conch loyalists is shown displaying the rainbow flag.

Attractions

The best place to get one-stop informa-

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■ KEY WEST From Previous Page

tion on Key West attractions, both LGBT and mainstream, is the city's new LGBT Business Guild storefront, which opened this fall, just after Irma. The center at 808 Duval St. includes a list of daily activities related to the LGBT community as well as information on mainstream tours and attractions.

One of the city's newest attractions is a museum dedicated to gay playwright Tennessee Williams. It is at 513 Truman Ave. (U.S. Highway 1). Before the LGBT Business Guild moved its offices to Duval Street, it shared the space with a much smaller Tennessee Williams exhibit. The new museum has taken over the whole space and dedicated it to the author's life and work. It also includes a dollhouse replica of his home on Duncan Street, which is a private home and not open for tours.

Key West's long-running Blu Q is a catamaran touring company that runs a number of excursions marketed to LGBTs, including a sunset tour and all-male,

clothing-optional half-day tours. Blue Q is a great way to explore the waters around Key West with family.

The most photographed attraction in Key West is a buoy-shaped monument at the island's Southernmost Point proclaiming it is just 90 miles to Cuba. But if you want to get precise, the Southernmost Point is 88 miles to Cuba and the actual Southernmost Point is the Naval Station adjacent to the buoy, which is just a little further south but off-limits to civilians.

A good way to get the lay of the land in Key West is through a number of bus or open-air tram tours of the island. The tours start near the beginning of Duval Street, where it meets Front Street along the waterfront. Most of the tours allow you to get on and off at anything you want to see.

East coasters are not used to seeing the sun set over the ocean, so it is not surprising that sunset is a big deal in Key West. People gather at the Mallory Square waterfront promenade every night to watch

the sun go down. The square is lined with street performers and food stands and local artisans.

Of course, aside from Tennessee Williams, Key West's other famous writer-in-residence was Ernest Hemingway. His house is open for tours daily. Across the street from Hemingway House is the city's historic lighthouse. If you don't have vertigo, you can walk up the winding, narrow staircase to the lookout at the top of the tower. The keeper's house next to the lighthouse is a museum that gives great insight on what it was like to live in Key West in the 19th century. The city's old Custom House, now a museum, includes a section devoted to Williams' paintings.

The waterfront is also home to a couple of museums dedicated to the shipwreck industry, but its oldest running attraction is the Key West Aquarium. A much-less traditional museum, the Ripley's Believe It or Not museum includes oddities from around the world and a few from Key West.

Key West's gay community was hard hit by the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s. A touching AIDS memorial stands on the start of the Edward B. Knight Pier where White Street dead-ends into the ocean. It includes the names of residents lost to the disease.

There are a couple of beaches near the



AIDS Memorial, but a favorite is at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park, which gays had dubbed the Elizabeth Taylor Park. The park includes a military fort that dates back to the civil war and has picnic tables and shade trees.

Getting there and getting around

A rental car is more trouble than it is worth in Key West. Parking is sometimes challenging. The best way to get around is by bicycle. You can rent a bike on the island for as little as \$10 a day, and even

less if you rent by the week. Scooters are also popular.

Several airlines run connecting flights from DFW to Key West. You can fly on American or Delta with connections in Miami or Atlanta in about 4.5 hours.

— Ed Walsh



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L+S comedy

Cho 'nuff



The scary, important, relevant role of comedy during Trumplandia and #MeTooism, according to Margaret Cho

If you live long enough, it's said, the venerability factor creeps in. First, you get accused of things you never did, and later, you get credit for virtues you never had. That's ultimately true for politicians, poets ... and even standup comedians.

Margaret Cho should know something about it. In the early '90s, she was the young, disarmingly cuddly comic whose family-centric one-liners — especially about her traditional Korean mom — led the way for her to headline the first-ever American TV sitcom built around an Asian family.

But the series, *All-American Girl*, lasted only one season (1994-95). It would be another 20 years until the next Asian-centric sitcom debuted, *Fresh Off the Boat* in 2015, which is still on the air. And the title of Cho's newest comedy tour, which she brings to the Addison Improv later this month for three nights, was clearly

inspired by that.

Cho began her own *Fresh Off the Bloat* Tour last fall, and that nicely bookends the progression of her career. A protégé of the legendary Joan Rivers, Cho is now herself one of the world's most famous *female* comedians; one of the most famous *Asian*

comedians; one of the most famous *queer* comedians. But the labels don't diminish her real accomplishment: Being one of the *best* comedians in

the world, full-stop.

We chatted with Cho recently about comedic activism, the #MeToo Movement and her brilliant friend Kathy Griffin. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

MARGARET CHO

Addison Improv, 4980 Belt Line road, ste. 250. April 20-22 (five shows). ImprovAddison.com.

Dallas Voice: Your tour is called *Fresh Off the Bloat*, an obvious reference to the sitcom, which I assume you have a great deal of affection for. Margaret Cho: Yes, I think it's great and I also love a good pun. I'm so excited about [the show's] success. It

means a lot. Things have started to change in terms of a sense of diversity and multiculturalism in television. It's not where it needs to be, but it's encouraging.

I mean, it only took 20 years, right? But do you see things getting better in terms of representation? I would like it to be faster and be more significant. But things are very different [with television now]. All the media platforms, especially streaming services, are even bigger [than broadcast TV].

You've been on tour with Fresh Off the Bloat since last fall; how has the act changed over that time? Yes, it's been since September, so you're always going — I don't even know the end of anything. It's a constant thing. But [the material] has changed a lot, especially to include all the stuff with the #MeToo movement and Trump, which is a continual nightmare every day. Standup comedy is a living thing — it's always moving and growing. It changes due to the news — that's always a major factor in what I do.

Is it harder or easier to be a standup in the Trump Era, because a lot of it isn't funny. It's *not* funny — it's horrifying and really scary. In fact, it's amazing that we have survived this long through it. But it is the only way we *can* survive it to find the humor. It's definitely a scary time and it's weird when you think back on how George W. Bush wasn't so bad now — how good we had it for so long!

What are some examples of that change? I think definitely I'm talking more about sexual harassment. For my generation, those who were young in the '80s and '90s, that was terrible in terms of sexual harassment and the injustice that we had to deal with day-in and day-out.

So you have your own #MeToo stories? Of course. It's a big part of my life and something that, when you survive it, is a huge achievement. There's so much to talk about. It's something we can share and everybody is relieved we can talk about it openly.

... Even though, as in the cases of Harvey Weinstein and Woody Allen, the rumors have been around for decades. I know! We are finally taking rape allegations seriously! It's such a weird thing — why do we excuse the bad behavior of these men because of perceived importance around their work? I wasn't a fan [of either man] to begin with, so it's not something that [I had to adjust to].

It also seems like our comedians are the *de facto* political commentators of the day, akin to the Fool in Shakespeare's plays. **Do you feel that?** I do see it [as part of the mission of a comedian]. And it's been the case since Lenny Bruce. It's just the people are more aware of it now than before. I think [comedy] is an important job, especially now.

You've long been an advocate for LGBT and Asian rights, inclusion, acceptance. Does

one speak more to you than the other? I think it's all important, it's all really vital. Activism in the way I do it. Every avenue is motivated by my history.

Many Asian stereotypes are ostensibly positive: Industrious, smart. The same is true for many gay stereotypes: Muscular, fashionable, tidy. As a comedian, I'm sure they prove useful, but is there a downside in the real world to these? I don't know. I think these assumptions that we have are fun to be played with, and used for effect. This is not *just* a stereotype but actual fact about a community. You could make an actual statement about that in comedy, and I appreciate all stereotypes for [that reason].

You, as well as Kathy Griffin, were once the protégé of Joan Rivers. Now that she's gone, you and Kathy are sort of the pre-eminent standard-bearers for her style of no-holds-barred comedy that "goes there." I hope so. I loved her. I aspired to that always. She was really important to me as a good friend and mentor.

Speaking of Kathy Griffin, she got huge blowback last summer for her photo holding the severed head. It bothered me that some people took it as a threat, rather than as a classical reference to Theseus and Medusa. Yes! It wasn't even a threat, it was just this ridiculous artistic reference, Biblical, also, like to Salome, but I really saw it [allude to] the French Revolution — a

Robespierre feeling more than anything else. Why are we suddenly offended by nothing [when] a sexual predator who admits to abusing countless women [is in the White House]? It was meaningless and ridiculous. But Kathy's great. As much as has been said about Kathy and the unpleasantness she has endured, she's still incredibly prolific and has found a way to have a voice when people tried to silence her, which I think is phenomenal.

Did you sense the transition from ingénue to grande dame of comedy, or did you just wake up one day and say, "Wait! I'm Margaret Effin' Cho! I'm revered!" I don't know! It is amazing — what we all aspired to.

Are there things you still want to do? Will comedy always be an essential part of your public persona? I just love the work itself, whatever it is. All of it is appealing to me creatively. But comedy is what I'll always do — it's about trying to figure out what that magical thing is, night after night.

Any interest in pursuing politics one day? I have been interested in politics since I was a kid. I love that Cynthia Nixon is running for governor. I love the *idea* of politics. But all I know is, when I did *Real Time with Bill Maher* we smoked pot and started talking about ISIS. You have no idea what it's like to be incredibly stoned on live television talking about terrorism. I was totally freaked out and I haven't smoked since.



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Take your meds

'Empathitrax' forages through the unintended consequences of quick-fix drug culture

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

A couple of urbanites awkwardly welcome an uncommonly chipper and well-dressed delivery man — really more a concierge of prescription medication — into their small but tasteful flat, shuffling nervously at what he has in a fancy box. In the 1970s, it might be weed; in the 1990s, Viagra; but in the current millennium, the contents are something new: A dozen pills, called Empathitrax. The drug has some mild side effects (arm numbness, dry mouth), but the benefits are the ultimate in couples therapy — swallow one, and for the next 12 hours, you can intimately empathize with the exact emotions

of the person you touch. Wonder whether your wife loves you? You can tell how much. Turned on when your husband does the dishes without you asking? Now he knows exactly how much.

Which is both good and bad, of course. What are the limits of emotional bonding? What if you could know your partner's true nature, and what you discovered frightened you? And how much does our society turn to drugs to solve our problems rather than put in the work required of a relationship?

EMPATHITRAX

Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through April 28. 2TT.co

Those are some of the myriad issues — there are quite a few more — in *Empathitrax*, Ana Nogueira's semi-satire about modern relationships now staged by Second Thought Theatre. The play is at its best in the first half, when the couple known only as Him (Drew) and Her (Jenny Ledel) (an infuriatingly self-indulgent conceit) are obliquely navigating the bumps they have endured recently. They snipe at each other, passive-aggres-



A couple (Drew Wall, Jenny Ledel) meet with a consultant (Christopher Llewyn Ramirez) to take a therapy drug in 'Empathitrax.' (Photo by Karen Almond)

sively but politely — witty, uncomfortable banter in the Apatow vein. But the play swerves into more serious territory when we learn that Her has developed what is referred to as depression, but which sounds more like bipolar or dissociative disorder. Him isn't sure he can live with it. What are the ethics of knowing more about your partner than you wanna share? What are the unintended consequences of

a quick-fix, self-help drug culture?

The dour tone doesn't quite fit well into the first half, but there's no denying the powerful and comic performances by the small, tight cast of Wall, Ledel and Ramirez (especially in an amazingly heart-felt ending). They all do excellent work at making the audience empathize with the anxiety inherent in contemporary society. Ya feel me?



Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



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**Saturday 04.14 —
Sunday 04.15**

Turtle Creek Arts & Craft Festival debuts at Reverchon Park

Despite the recent cold snap, it really *is* spring in North Texas. As evidence? Outdoor arts festivals. The newest, right in the heart of the gayborhood, at Reverchon Park, is the Turtle Creek Arts & Crafts Festival, in which nearly 100 local artists, artisans and craftspeople will be on hand to display and sell the fruits of their disciplines, from painting to photography to jewelry. Admission is free, and is open to all ages.

DEETS: Reverchon Park, 2505 Maple Ave. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. TurtleCreekArtsFestival.com.



**Friday 04.13 —
Sunday 05.06**

Regina Taylor's Dallas-based play 'Bread' gets world premiere at WTT

It would be difficult to conceive a play more timely and relevant to North Texans than *Bread*. Set in Oak Cliff in the fall of 2017,

A middle class African-American family have hopes for the future, until a family reunion brings up buried secrets and puts everything in jeopardy. Award-winning actress (and Dallas native) Regina Taylor wrote this world premiere, whose cast includes Denise Lee, Stormy Demerson, Calvin Roberts Elliot Sims, pictured. Presented by WaterTower Theatre.

DEETS: Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.



**Friday 04.13 —
Thursday 05.31**

Goss-Michael Foundation dips into its collection for new exhibition

George Michael and Kenny Goss spent years acquiring a vast collection of edgy contemporary art, which is one reason they created the Goss-Michael Foundation in the first place. After all those years, the collection has grown, and so Goss tapped art advisor Filippo Tattoni-Marcozzi to curate a special show of more than a dozen artists from the collection. The show, *Beauty and Subjugation*, is in exhibit at the foundation through May.

DEETS: Goss-Michael Foundation, 1307 Wycliffe Ave. G-MF.org.



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calendar highlights



One of the presenters at the Dallas Art Fair, this weekend at Fashion Industry Gallery Downtown.

ARTSWEEK THEATER

Bread. A world premiere play from Dallas native Regina Taylor, set in Oak Cliff in 2017 and concerning a middle class family's need for money. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. April 13–May 6. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Empathitrax. The local premiere of a comedy about relationships, mental health and the drug society. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Reviewed this week. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through April 28. 2TT.co.

Dixie's Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a

Mechanical Bull and 16 Other Things I Learned While I was Drinking Last Thursday. Drag queen Dixie Longate's solo show. McDavid Studio, 501 E. Fifth St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. BassHall.com.

It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues. Jubilee Theatre in Fort Worth presents its local premiere of the jukebox musical celebrating African chant, Delta spirituals and urban honkytonk. *Final weekend.* Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.

OPERA

Don Giovanni. Mozart's dark classic about the lothario and his sinful lifestyle. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 13–28. DallasOpera.org.

FUNDRAISER
FashionCITED. 12th annual runway show benefiting Legal Hospice of Texas. Old Red Courthouse Museum, 100 S. Houston St. 6:30–9:30 p.m. \$60. LegalHospice.org.

FESTIVALS
Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The Middle Ages come to life in the 38th annual celebration of European festivities. Scarborough Fairgrounds, FM 66 off I-35, exit 399B, in Waxahachie. Through May 28. SRFestival.com.

Turtle Creek Arts and Craft Festival. Nearly 100 local artists and artisans will present their varied disciplines, free and open to all ages (and dogs are welcome, too). Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m, Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Free. TurtleCreekArtsFestival.com.

FINE ART
Dallas Art Fair. Dozens of artists and galleries from across the world return to Dallas for the 10th annual Dallas Art Fair. Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. April 13–15. DallasArtFair.com.

Beauty and Subjugation: From the Goss-Michael Collection. The Goss-Michael Foundation presents this new exhibition curated by international arts advisor Filippo Tattoni-Marcozzi. More than a dozen artists' works are represented. Goss-Michael Foundation, 1305 Wycliffe Ave. Through May 31. G-MF.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 04.13
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 04.14
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.

TUESDAY 04.17
FILM
The Awful Truth. Director Leo McCarey won one of his Oscars for this classic screwball comedy with Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. 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.

WEDNESDAY 04.18
FESTIVAL
Thin Line Film Festival. A film, music and arts festival in Denton, that includes the screening of a

gay documentary, *Between the Shades*, on Friday and Saturday. Festival runs April 18–22 in Denton. For a complete schedule, visit ThinLine.us.

THURSDAY 04.19
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.

THEATER
Pompeii. An original world premiere work from local theater artists Cameron Cobb, Michael Federico and Max Hartman, it's a zany vaudeville in the wake of volcanic Armageddon. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. April 13–May 6. KitchenDogTheater.org.

FRIDAY 04.20
THEATER
The Trials of Sam Houston. The legendary Texas governor, hero of San Jacinto and metropolis namesake was actually involved in two trials that formed his legacy. Aaron Loeb's world premiere play, directed by Kevin Moriarty. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. April 20–May 13. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

COMEDY
Margaret Cho: Fresh Off the Bloat. The standup performs five shows. Addison Improv, 4980 Belt Line Road, ste. 250. April 20–22. ImprovAddison.com.

Let's Get Busy Tonight. An LGBT comedy show at Dallas Comedy House in Deep Ellum, 3025 Main St. 9 p.m. DallasComedyHouse.com.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

Cassie asks some hard questions

Hello, my rainbow of friends. I woke up today kind of pissed off with the state of the world. So I am going to vent and probably not be very popular with some of you.

First, I want to run a scenario by you. I voted for Obama. I think he was probably the best president in my lifetime. I was Team Barack from the beginning. But let's say shortly after being elected, he was drawn into a sex scandal. He cheated on Michelle and was vulgar about it. My feelings for him would change, but I was pro-Obama, so I can rationalize some of his awful behavior. I might even say, "What he does in his bedroom shouldn't affect his ability to run the country." I'm less a fan, but still a supporter.

Then say a few months after that, he has *another* scandal — one where, oh, I don't know, more women come forward and name him a sexual predator. Meanwhile, throughout his presidency, he denies everything, tweeting ridiculous things. He even fires a few people through Twitter. I am on the Obama train, and am not happy about his behavior, but I might feel like I am in too deep with this. He's my man. I voted for him. I will continue to support him even though my heart and my brain are telling me, this isn't right.

Then, a year or so into his presidency, he cuts funding to many of the things I hold dear, has another sex scandal with a porn star and

does so many outlandish things that it is just a blur of lies and bullshit. Now in my heart, I know he's a bad guy. I am certain I would jump off of the Obama train and do whatever it took to make sure he is never president again. I would be able to say, "I fucked up by voting for him." The respect I had for him would be completely erased. I would certainly stop making excuses for his behavior. I would be able to see the truth of the matter and stop supporting him.

But none of that happened under President Obama. Regardless of what you thought of his policies, he proved himself a loving family man that could be looked up to and admired for his actual Christian values.

So my question is: Are there Trump supporters who struggle with still supporting him? I know that race plays a huge part in this. I get so confused by people who know that, but make excuses for all of Trump's behavior. One lady even told me that he was sharing the word of the Lord with that porn star. *What?* No, he wasn't. He was shooting his Cheeto dust all over her ... Sorry, I am trying hard to have a conversation, not a fight.

I would like to hear from Trump supporters that can explain their reasoning for still supporting him. I don't want Obama bashing or name-calling. I want to understand.

I actually don't like to talk politics too much because I know that rarely are minds ever



changed. I have my beliefs and you have yours. I try to keep an open mind and ask that you do the same.

On a related topic, yes I am watching *Roseanne*. I have always liked the show. Part of me wanted to boycott it just because Roseanne Barr actually is a Trump supporter. But the truth is, the household on the show is a house divided just like so many households across America. We don't talk politics at my mom's because it will always end with my feelings being hurt and me pissed off.

I am the Aunt Jackie of my family, although I wasn't dumb enough to waste my vote on Jill Stein. I watch the show to try to see the other side of things. I can't claim to have an open mind if I am not willing to see how the other side fares.

Another truth about the show is that although I am enjoying it, I am also reminded of where I came from and how hard I work every day to never be there again. Some may be offended by that, but for me, my truth is that I fear living paycheck to paycheck and always being broke. I am by no means rich or even well-to-do, but being comfortable is enough for me. I have insurance, I save a little, I buy things when and if I want them because I can but I have nightmares of all of that being taken away. This is America and that is a very real possibility. I've seen it happen.

So *Roseanne* feels like a necessary evil. It reminds me of my family. I don't always like how I feel when I watch it but it is a feeling I am used to. My family probably feels the same way when they watch *Will & Grace*. Ha!

Sorry to get all stupid political on you, now let's help others.

Dear Cassie, OK, so I have been with my boyfriend for eight months. He is 39 and I am 35. I love him. I truly do. We are talking marriage and starting a family together soon, but we have two major problems! No. 1: my sex drive is much higher than his. In eight

months we have had sex less than 10 times! No. 2 is that he has never orgasmed with me! He swears it's not me and that I turn him on incredibly. He also says he has gotten off alone thinking about me. He swears that some of it is mental from a woman who really hurt him by lying about her child's paternity.

I have tried talking about it lightly and with increased seriousness about the topic but it doesn't seem to be doing much good. I even realize it could be reduced libido by his age, but I just don't know what else to try to get him to understand that this is a major issue for me. It's not exactly a topic I can ask others for advice on, because I would die if it got back to him. Any suggestions?? Signed, Needing more of my man!

Dear NMMM, Oooh girlfriend, I don't envy you. Eight months — you are still in the honeymoon phase. If the sex is already sparse, it will only get worse. He might need testosterone to boost that libido, but how are y'all gonna have kids if he never cums when you are there?

You need to ask yourself a bunch of questions: Are you sure he is straight? Are you sure he is into you? Is your relationship comfortable and easy for him but he isn't really attracted to you? Tough questions, but it's better to know now than years down the road. You have to communicate and start a real conversation with him.

Ask him to jack off in front of you. See if he does something different that he doesn't do when y'all are together. I knew a guy who could only get off if he masturbated really hard, almost violently. He said he had been jacking off that way since he was a kid and now that is the only way he can orgasm. Try scheduling sex to make sure your needs are met. Not everyone is good with spontaneity. Sex is an important part of a healthy relationship and without it your relationship will suffer. I hope this works out for you both. Good luck!

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

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Faith and Natalie at The Grapevine



Kat at Havana's

Making the SCENE the week of April 13–19:

- **Alexandre's:** *Mi Diva Loca* on Friday. *Vero Vox y Compania* on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. *K-Marie Sings Broadway* on Tuesday. *Anna Fredericka Popova* on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** DeeJay DJ presents the **Divine Miss Divas Show** at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** *Cowtown Leathermen* cookout from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday. *Jason's Birthday Bash* benefiting *King & Queen of the Rodeo* at 7 p.m. on Sunday. *Wall of Food Megashow* on Thursday at 9 p.m.
- **Dallas Eagle:** *United Court of the Lone Star Empire* shows from 6-10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. *Discipline Corps* club night on Friday. *National Leather Association-Dallas* club night on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** *Asia O'Hara* hosts a watch party for *RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10* from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live:** *Brut Dallas*, NYC's sexiest gear party, returns at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Pekers:** *Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System* presents the fundraiser *A Salute to Earth Day* that benefits *GDMAF* and more, with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** *Project Funway with Sassy O'Hara* at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** *Cherry Bomb* on Saturday. *Bella & Darla* at 3:30 p.m. followed by *Bad Habits* on Sunday. *Tuesday Tease* at 9:30 p.m.
- **Taqueria La Ventana:** *Grand Opening Party* benefits *Lambda Legal* from 6-8 p.m. at 3847 Cedar Springs Road.
- **The Rose Room:** *Amanda Nicole* is the special guest Friday-Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** *Lip Sync in a Bag* with *Athena O'hara* on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** *Miss Fort Worth America* at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** *Dallas Woody's Sidebets Extra Innings* from 4-7 p.m. Sunday.

Scene Photographer: *Kay Haygood* and *Chad Mantooth*



Friends at The Grapevine



Patio life at The Grapevine



Song time at The Grapevine



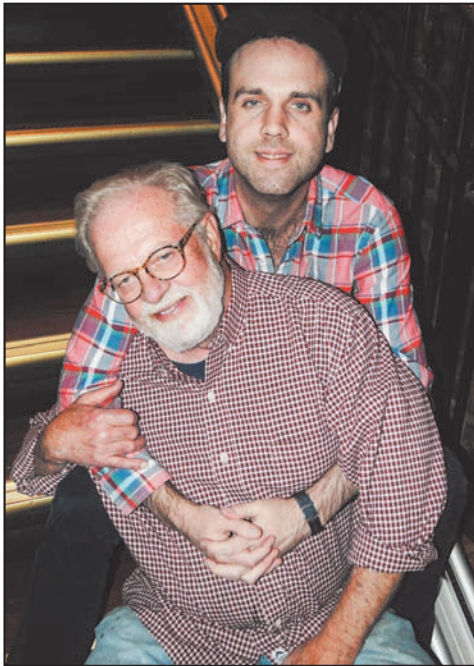
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Guys' night out on The Strip



Aaron Rey on The Strip



Caleb and his incredible father at JR.'s



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Prom posing on The Strip



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Manly men at Woody's



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Time to get your joust on at Scarborough Renaissance Festival

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They're back

Solution on Page 23

Across


- 1 Martin Crane's support
- 5 *The African Queen* author
- 9 Way out of the closet
- 13 Asian inland sea
- 14 Like a muscle Mary's waist
- 15 Thomas ___ Edison
- 16 Drag queen's stocking shade
- 17 *Desert of the Heart* novelist Jane
- 18 Gertrude Stein's *Wars I Have* ___
- 19 She plays a lesbian in the comedy reboot
- 22 Farewell to fifty million Frenchmen
- 23 I, Claudius?
- 24 New York Knicks org.
- 25 *Breakfast on Pluto* actor Stephen
- 26 Bones in the back
- 29 Martin of the Daughters of Bilitis
- 30 In midvoyage, maybe
- 31 Rupert Everett's ___ *Life*
- 32 She just rebooted her comedy series from the '80s-'90s
- 37 Some whistle-blowers
- 38 Colorado neighbor
- 39 Fairy's cousin
- 40 *Frozen* studio

- 43 Rene Auberjonois role
- 46 Flower for Colette
- 47 Army N.C.O.
- 48 Orally pleased
- 50 She plays a late-in-life lesbian mom in the comedy reboot
- 54 Melville's whale hunter
- 55 Place for a Malgieri pastry
- 56 Actress Skye
- 57 Video game name
- 58 Porking noise?
- 59 Set down
- 60 Genie portrayer Barbara
- 61 Adopted son of Adam and Steve?
- 62 Untouchable head

Down

- 1 Many a senator stuck it in him
- 2 Pinball Wizard's game venue
- 3 Realm of C.S. Lewis
- 4 Give the slip to
- 5 Drag queen's blade
- 6 Cowhand's chow
- 7 Atkins, who played Woolf on Broadway
- 8 Come out
- 9 Short run

- 10 Poisonous bush
- 11 Dominate like a hairy guy?
- 12 Tony of *The Odd Couple*
- 20 Ballet ___
- 21 Little black bk. listings
- 27 Prop for *Once Upon a Mattress*
- 28 "At Seventeen" singer
- 30 Numbskull
- 31 Cheerleader's shout
- 32 Smacked one's lips over
- 33 Site of Macbeth's death
- 34 *Sister Act* extra
- 35 Nice beach season?
- 36 Aspirin brand
- 37 PR piece about *Revamp*_, for example
- 40 High-speed connection
- 41 Homes near polar bears, perhaps
- 42 Nicks on a CD
- 43 Peter who played Lawrence
- 44 Sandy of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*
- 45 Beginnings
- 49 Mishima, for one
- 51 Meir contemporary
- 52 Bottled (up)
- 53 Ornament in *Cleopatra*, perhaps



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