

dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas ■ Established 1984 ■ DallasVoice.com ■ Volume 34 ■ Issue 51 ■ FREE ■ Friday, April 27, 2018



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begin!

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- Avengers: Infinity War opens
- USA Film Festival continues
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SCENE

TAKE

Coverage begins
on Page 16

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A scene from 'Avengers: Infinity War.'
Design by Kevin Thomas

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Local Democratic candidate targeted by apparent Russian hackers



Senate District 2 Democratic candidate Kendall Scudder reported hacking apparently by Russians on his campaign website.

Scudder said his campaign "is complying with the FBI's Internet Crime Center instructions after hacking activity targeted and breached the campaign's website and domain URL."

The campaign first noticed a problem in late March when warning messages popped up on Firefox and Chrome attempting to redirect visitors to another site pretending to be Scudder's campaign website.

"My staff immediately took action to find the source of this error, corrected it, and restored access to the site," Scudder said.

In April, the campaign received a Google alert that "hacked content" again was detected. The campaign's webmaster followed instructions to remove the fraudulent files.

On Saturday, April 21, the campaign's communications director saw the message again, so the webmaster performed an extensive search of the site and found fraudulent files that contained references to Russian websites and coding in Cyrillic.

As far as he knows, Scudder said on Sunday, his is the only Texas campaign website attacked by Russian hackers so far. He said he had no idea why he would have been targeted and wondered if others around the state had also been victims and just weren't aware of the strike yet.

Scudder said his team pulled down the website on Saturday afternoon and are rebuilding it with additional cyber security. He said donor information is stored elsewhere, is safe and has not been accessed by a third party. Additional precautionary steps have been taken to protect that information.

Scudder is challenging incumbent state Sen. Bob Hall in a district that includes parts of East Dallas, Mesquite, southern Garland and eight counties east of Dallas that include the cities of Terrell, Sulphur Springs and Bonham. Scudder, who lives in Dallas, grew up in Sulphur Springs. Although he's not one of the LGBT candidates running this year, he was raised by two moms.

While his website is down, his campaign Facebook page is active.

— David Taffet

Judge dismisses Republican lawsuit to remove Democrats from ballot

Civil District Court Judge Eric Moyé has dismissed the Dallas County Republican Party's lawsuit to remove more than 80 mostly minority Democratic candidates from the 2018 general election ballot in Dallas County.

State Representative Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, who was among the candidates targeted by the Dallas County Republican Party, filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit in March.

Republicans charged the Dallas County Democratic Party chair didn't sign the ballot petitions of the candidates challenged. Texas election code doesn't require the party chair's signature or any particular form. The Secretary of State, however, does create forms that include all of the required information that must be submitted to the state before being placed on the ballot.

What is required is a lawsuit must be signed and the Dallas County Republican Party chair didn't sign the lawsuit it originally submitted.

"This frivolous lawsuit was a thinly veiled attempt by the Dallas County Republican Party to take away the ability of minority voters in Dallas County to elect the candidates of their choice," Johnson said. "The Republican Party seems to be doing everything in its power to show minority voters that it has little regard for them at the national, state, and now local level."

"I think the 2018 midterm elections will be a wake-up call for Republicans," Johnson added. "Minority voters now clearly see the GOP for what it is. It isn't the party of Abraham Lincoln anymore. It's the party of Donald Trump."

The Republican Party has to pay Democratic Party attorneys fees for having to defend a lawsuit that "has no basis in law or fact."

— David Taffet

Happy Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Month

Parkland Hospital let us know that April is Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Month. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 110 million Americans already live with a sexually transmitted infection, and 20 million new infections occur every year.

The most common STIs in the U.S. are syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, genital herpes, human papillomavirus (HPV), trichomoniasis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which, if left untreated, can develop into AIDS.

The CDC also estimates that across the U.S., 1.1 million people are currently living with HIV, and 1 in 7 don't know it. Dallas County Health and Human Services data shows an estimated 17,333 people are living with HIV in Dallas County.

Medication has made a huge difference in the lifespan of someone with HIV. Someone diagnosed with HIV at age 20 who takes medication to combat the virus lives, on average to the age of 71. Someone diagnosed at age 20 who does not take medication lives, on average, to age 32.

When medication first became available, people with HIV took as many as 12 pills a day, and those pills all came with a variety of side effects. Most treatments now involve taking just one pill a day.

— 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 27-May 5: Municipal elections**
City council and school board elections in Allen, Frisco, Little Elm, Prosper and Sachse. Polls open April 27 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. April 28-May 1 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. and May 5 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- **April 27: Pride Ball Prom**
Youth First and Cathedral of Hope present Pride Ball Prom for 12 to 18 year olds. Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
- **April 27: The Roaring Twenties**
Join Abilene Allies in the Charleston at 7 p.m. at Swenson House, 1726 Swenson St., Abilene. Free. Valid college I.D. Required.
- **April 27: Pre-Need Educational Seminar**
Scottlyn Colgrove with Lincoln Funeral Home hosts a free dinner and pre-need educational seminar at 7 p.m. at El Fenix Restaurant, 6811 W. Northwest Highway. For information or to reserve your seat, call Scott at 214-398-8133.
- **April 28: TAG Game Night**
Tyler Area Gays meets for game night at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway Ave., Ste. 100, Tyler. For information visit TylerAreaGays.com.
- **April 28: University of Drag Showcase**
Resource Center presents its University of Drag Showcase from 7-9 p.m. at the Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For information call 214-521-5124.
- **April 28: DIFFA benefit**
Donations benefit DIFFA from 8 p.m.-midnight at grand opening party of Taqueria la Ventana, 3847 Cedar Springs Road.
- **April 28: MetroBall day at the casino**
Buses to WinStar World Casino depart Sue Ellen's at 8:30 a.m. and Collin Creek Mall at 9 a.m. \$75 for one, \$125 for 2 and \$175

for 3. Tickets at GDMAF.org.

• **April 29: Pop-Up Photography Show**
Harlowe MXM, 2823 Main St. in Deep Ellum, hosts the Pop-Up Photography Show, featuring the work of LGBT photographers Robyn North, Tiffany Brown and Cindy Higby, in the Atrium from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

• **April 29: Fairway to Equality kickoff brunch**
HRC kicks off its annual golf fundraiser with a brunch from noon-3 p.m. at Full Circle Tavern, 1319 S. Lamar St. Suite A.

MAY

- **May 1: 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.
- **May 3: Bryan's House 30 anniversary**
Bryan's House Modern Pearl Luncheon and Fashion Show celebrates the organization's 30th anniversary from 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at 3015 Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. \$125. Purchase tickets at BryansHouse.org/events. The agency is also selling raffle tickets for a week at a private villa in Cabo San Lucas, including airfare on Southwest Airlines, a white-gold-and-pearl necklace from Bachendorf's and a sports package with tickets to the Texas Rangers' June 8 game against the Houston Astros and a baseball autographed by Nomar Mozara, a basketball autographed by Dallas Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki and a 2019 ticket package to the Dallas Stars games. Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. Email mcavazos@bryanshouse.org for details.
- **May 3: Brewing Up Business**
Grab some coffee and start Brewing Up Business from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Zephyr Bakery Cafe, 4001 Cedar Springs Road. \$10 in advance, \$20 at the door, free to GLBT Chamber members.
- **May 4: Couple Communication Workshop**
Candy Marcum, LPC, and Jimmy Owen, LPC, present a four-part Couple Communication Workshop, taking place

over two weekends, from 5-7 p.m. May 4 and 11, 10 a.m.-noon on May 5 and 12. Designed to help couples understand each other better by learning effective communication skills. Cost is \$450 per couple, which includes two workbooks and eight hours of instruction. Registration is required. For information contact Marcum by phone at 214-521-1278 or be email at candy@candymarcum.com, or visit CandyMarcum.com.

- **May 5: NRA protest**
While the NRA holds its national convention at the Dallas Convention Center, protesters gather at noon at City Hall Plaza.
- **May 5: NAMI Walks Dallas**
The 13th annual walk to raise funds and reduce the stigma of mental illness is chaired by lesbian singer songwriter Daphne Willis. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the walk at 10:30 a.m. at Dr Pepper Ballpark, 7300 Rough Riders Trail, Frisco.
- **May 6: International Family Equality Day picnic**
Rainbow Roundup, Trans Kids and Families of Texas, Equality Texas and Family Equality Council picnic to celebrate International Family Equality Day from 4-6p.m. at Heights Park, 711 W Arapaho Road, Richardson.
- **May 8: Resource Center tour**
Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.
- **May 8: Young Professionals Advisory Council mixer**
From 5:30-7 p.m. at Ferris Wheelers Backyard and BBQ, 1950 Market Center Blvd.



Licensed professional counselors Candy Marcum, pictured, and Jimmy Owen present a four-part workshop for couples on communication beginning May 4. See listings for details

- **May 10: PFLAG Dallas**
PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.
- **May 11: DFW Pride Happy Hour**
From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
- **May 11-14: Purple Party**
- **May 12: House of DIFFA: Alter Ego**
Celebrate fashion, design and philanthropy at the annual black tie gala including runway show and after party at the Omni Dallas
- **May 12: Gray Pride Prom**
Live DJ, dancing, raffle prizes and more from 7-11 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
- **May 13: Mother's Day with The Women's Chorus of Dallas**
TWCD performs at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens,

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. AIDS Outreach Center Executive Director **Shannon Hilgart** and Evening of Hope co-chair **Scott W. Green** are this week's guests; **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.

3601 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

• **May 14: First day of early voting**
Early voting for the primary runoff election runs May 14-18. Vote in any early voting location in your county.

• **May 15: 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.

pet of the week / SIMBA

Meet **Simba**, a 2½-year-old, tan shepherd mix weighing 36 pounds. He's a bundle full of energy and is chock full of potential. He's smart, independent and sometimes a little headstrong. He loves attention from people and enjoys playing with all kinds of toys, going for walks and being outdoors. He hasn't had the time to learn his doggie manners, so he's looking for a human that is ready to help him succeed. Due to his active nature, he'd prefer a home with teenagers or adults only. He is heartworm positive, but his treatments will be FREE at VCA Animal Hospitals once he's adopted. Simba has been neutered and microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. #162093

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Local candidates get national boost

Victory Fund adds Dallas-area candidates to its roster of endorsements for the November election

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Victory Fund, an organization that helps LGBT candidates get elected, has endorsed 11 Texas candidates, named two of them “game changers,” and is considering several other endorsements in the state in this election cycle.

Julie Johnson’s race for the Texas House of Representatives is among the those that Victory Fund finds most exciting and promising.

“I have known Julie Johnson personally for many years and am a big supporter of her run for the state legislature,” said Victory Fund board member Kim Hoover.

Victory Fund Political Director Sean Meloy called her a hard worker and a great fundraiser with a strong field game. What makes her race most promising is that she is challenging Matt Rinaldi, who authored the Texas House version of the bathroom bill and legislation giving medical professionals license to discriminate against LGBT people in Texas.

“He’s clearly out of touch,” Meloy said. What makes so many of the Texas races interesting, he said, is that LGBT candidates “are running against terrible anti-LGBT incumbents.”

Over the summer, Victory Fund will spotlight races around the country. That attracts donors from around the country to support some of the most promising candidates. Johnson’s race may well be among those spotlighted races.

Before receiving an endorsement from the organization, a candidate needs to submit paperwork. Meloy said they’re looking for a strong field game, ability to fund raise and a message that will resonate with voters.

Johnson’s message is her support for public education, while her opponent supports vouchers to send public money to private schools.

“As a mom of two teenage boys Julie believes in the right for all Texans to equal opportunity for a quality education from early childhood through high school graduation and beyond,” according to her website. “Julie is passionate about ensuring that a quality education is available to every child, no matter the circumstances of their birth.”



Lupe Valdez, left, Julie Johnson and Mark Phariss, right

The two game changers from Texas are both in runoffs — Lupe Valdez, who’s running for governor, and Gina Ortiz Jones, who’s running for Congress.

Jones has a strong record of government experience and military service. She’s an Iraq War veteran who served under Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, and she’s running on a platform of affordable health care, quality education and basic environmental protections.

Jones is running in the 23rd District, a gerrymandered seat that runs from San Antonio to El Paso and is currently held by Republican Will Hurd. In fundraising reports released this week, Jones out-raised Hurd \$708,000 to \$620,000. That’s unusual for a challenger, especially before the runoff.

“I met her a year ago and was floored by her,” Meloy said. “She’s been working her tail off.”

If elected, Jones would be the first open-

ly-LGBT person elected to Congress from Texas, only the third LGBT woman elected to Congress and the second openly-LGBT person of color elected to Congress.

Valdez is the other game changer. If elected, she would be the first openly-LGBT governor of Texas, the first openly-LGBT Latinx governor in the U.S. and the second



openly-LGBT woman elected governor in the U.S.

Meloy said Valdez is set to win the runoff and is prepared for the race in the fall.

“She has her team in place,” he said, “and she knows what she needs to do.”

While she’s well known in North Texas, Valdez’s name recognition in Houston isn’t as strong. But her campaign released a list of endorsements from Harris County this week, including backing from state Reps. Ana Hernandez and Carol Alvarado, a former Harris County sheriff, Houston and Pasadena city council members, Houston Community College trustees and two Houston-area Democratic clubs.

Earlier this week, Victory Fund announced new endorsements for candidates including Mark Phariss, who’s running for a state Senate seat in Collin County. It’s a tough district, but Victory Fund doesn’t en-

dorse in races that aren’t winnable.

“They scrutinize the candidate and the campaign, and it’s an endorsement of how I’m running my campaign and the viability of my campaign,” Phariss said of Victory Fund’s nod.

He said he learned from a Victory Fund training session about budgeting, fundrais-



ing, field operations and dealing with the press. He hopes to continue to receive operational advice to run a better campaign and expects “a Victory Fund endorsement will buttress my fundraising.”

Meloy said endorsements would continue through the summer. Texas has the longest election cycle in the country. Some states haven’t even begun their filing period, and the Massachusetts primary isn’t held until early September.

Some candidates, such as Jessica Gonzalez and Celia Israel, are running unopposed for the Texas House. Meloy encouraged them to get their paperwork in, because even though they’re guaranteed their seats this election, the endorsement and affiliation with Victory Fund will get them prepared for the next fight, whether the challenge comes from within their own party or from another party. ■



LGBT rights battles comes to Mansfield ISD

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

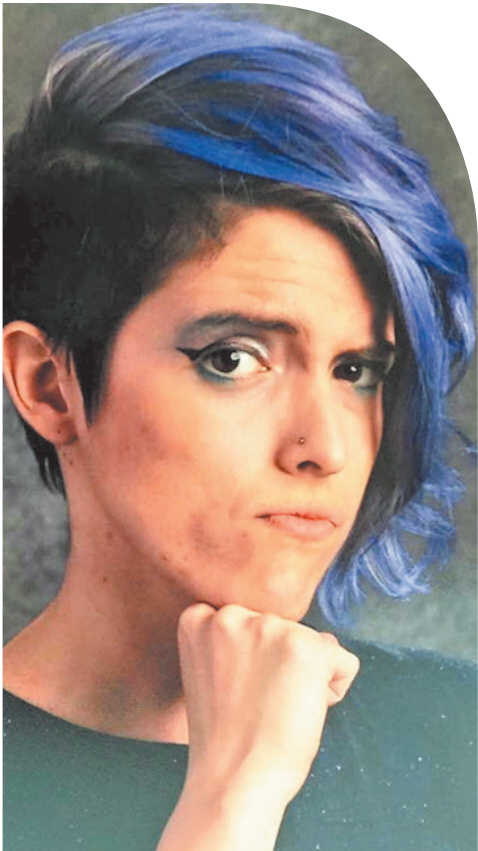
Stacy Bailey, an art teacher at Charlotte Anderson Elementary School in Mansfield, south of Fort Worth, was placed on administrative leave on Sept. 8. On Tuesday, April 24 — 228 days since Bailey was placed on leave — supporters told school district trustees at their monthly meeting that Bailey is a remarkable teacher, an advocate for students, a role model for teachers and a compassionate individual.

She also really, really misses the school, her wife, Julie Vazquez, said.

“All she wants is to be back at Charlotte Anderson teaching,” Vazquez said.

But to others in attendance at this week’s Mansfield ISD board meeting, Bailey was promulgating an extreme agenda by discussing her homosexuality and marriage to a woman.

She was taking away children’s innocence, said Tanika Dean, a parent in the



Stacy Bailey

district.

“I stand with parents of MISD who are supporting the suspension of Stacy Bailey,” Dean said. She also urged the school board not to add LGBT protections to district policies.

The Tarrant County Republican Party forwarded an e-mail to its members, encouraging them to show up at the meeting to speak against the policy changes.

“Mansfield ISD is being pressured to pass a policy that would infringe on religious liberty and allow boys into girls’ shower, locker-rooms and bathrooms,” according to the e-mail.

District officials do not comment on personnel matters. But text messages obtained by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram between Anderson Principal Sheira Petty and district administrators suggested a parent expressed some concern to Superintendent Jim Vaszauskas and the school board about Bailey’s sexual orientation.

The timing was right to also rectify the situation by amending the district’s non-discrimination ordinance to include sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Supporters said they want protections simi-

lar to those in the Fort Worth school district passed in 2016.

Currently the district’s policy prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. It does not explicitly include LGBT protections. But the district does not “condone harassment or discrimination of any kind toward anyone.”

Board President Raul Gonzalez explained the process for considering policy changes.

“Any review of MISD’s anti-discrimination policy would be handled through the normal processes of our policy review committee,” he said in a statement before hearing from the public. “Committee assignments will be made when our new board is in place after the May election. Any recommendations from the policy review committee will be discussed in regularly scheduled board meetings.”

Bailey’s supporters got one wish on Tuesday: Her contract, which was up for renewal along with other employees, was renewed for the next school year shortly after 11 p.m.

But her investigation is still pending. ■

InTown

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Open Sunday 2-4pm

3948 Buena Vista #106 - \$300,000
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Open Sunday 2-4pm

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811 Shady Ln. - \$599,000
Exceptionally Updated 3/2:2 LA Home w Spacious Indoor/Outdoor Space, 2,216 SF/Appx. • Kessler Park

Out and proud in the Pineywoods

21-year-old Justin Mosley is running for public office in Angelina County as an openly-gay man

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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Let's be honest: No one is going to look at the Deep East Texas Pineywoods region any time soon and say, yeah, here's a place that's a bastion of equality for LGBT people. But 21-year-old Justin Mosley is working hard to change that, and he hopes to continue his fight as an elected official.

Mosley is the Democratic nominee for Precinct 2 justice of the peace in Angelina County, a county of about 87,000 people situated in the heart of the Pineywoods, with the city of Lufkin as its county seat. Mosley faces Republican incumbent Donnie Puckett, who was unopposed in the GOP primary, in the general election in November.

Although he has nothing bad to say about his Republican opponent in the race for JP, Mosley said he believes he is the better man for the job. "I'm just more focused on equality and establishing a diverse court in the East Texas area," where most public offices are held by older, white male Republicans, he said.

Despite the area's conservative bent, though, Mosley said so far he hasn't faced any public backlash over his sexual orientation, and his opponent has not tried to make an issue of it.

Mosley's father was in the U.S. Navy, stationed in Whidbey Island, Wash., when Mosley was born. But he was only six months old when his dad decided to return to his roots by moving his family back to the Lufkin area where he had grown up. Mosley said he started school in Hudson — a small town just outside of Lufkin — and except for his third grade year, finished his primary school education there.

When he was in third grade, Mosley said, his parents divorced and he moved away with his mother. But, he said, "I quickly came back to Lufkin to attend fourth grade at Hudson Elementary."

Even though his mother lived away,

she was a source of moral support through the years, he said, and "My grandparents and dad helped get me through the rest of educational career." Mosley said he graduated from the Family Consumer Science Division of Hudson High School, then went on to Angelina College. He plans to transfer eventually to a larger university to major in political science.

"Being a gay man in East Texas hasn't always been easy," Mosley acknowledged. "There were times I didn't even want to get out of bed, fearing for my life and wondering if I would get bullied that day just because I was a happy, out-going queen," he said. He said he has endured numerous homophobic attacks through the years, from having "faggot" spray-painted on his family's driveway to being verbally attacked for his "mannerisms."

Mosley said he knew from a very young age that he was "different." And in eighth grade he finally decided to come out. "I finally said, 'I'm gay, and I really don't care if you like it or not. This is who I am, and I will live my life freely.'"

"That's when I started telling people I was gay," he continued. "Most of my family had just figured it out along the way. But for years, my dad really didn't like the idea, and we had a lot of heated battles over the years about my sexuality. But he's learned to get over the fact that I'm gay, and now he embraces me, loves me and supports me — as a father should!"

Mosley said that when he started at Angelina College, he was "shocked" to discover the school offered no support for its LGBT student community. So he and some other students "took it upon ourselves to organize an LGBTQ and ally support group — POET, Pride of East Texas — for the whole Angelina County area.

He has also, he said, participated in other events and organizations through the years, and hopes in his campaign to spotlight some of those political activism efforts. He participated in the 2017 Women's March to support civil rights for women, LGBTQ people and other minorities, and was "a voice for teachers" during the Texas Legislature's 2017 special session.

"I went to Austin with a county official and an art teacher from Lufkin High School to meet with Trent Ashby, my representative at

the Capitol, to discuss the future for our Texas teachers and public education," he said. "That led me to work for the American Federation of Teachers, and I staged my own protest to oppose the bathroom bills in the Texas Legislature.

"I have also been very active in the local Democratic Party and I will be a delegate to the upcoming Democratic State Convention," he added.

But it was Election Day in November 2016 that really set his course, Mosley said.

"I made the decision to run for office on Nov. 8, 2016," he declared. "After seeing the results [of the presidential election], a flame went off inside me. I knew then I was going to run for public office some day and dedicate my life to public service.

"That day is now, and I couldn't be more proud or happier about my candidacy," he continued. "I've always had a heart for all people. I've always wanted change. It is up to the younger generation, at this point, to start the revolution and it's time for young



Justin Mosley

leaders to step up to lead and to serve the great United States of America."

Mosley said he is being realistic about his chances of winning in November — "I have about a 50/50 shot of winning this office" — but win or lose, it won't be the end of his political career.

"I will most definitely run for office again," he said. "This experience is invaluable to me, whether I win this race or not.

"It is critical that more LGBTQ individuals start running for office in these rural areas," Mosley continued. "We have to start changing and educating these small towns on LGBTQ issues and progressive matters. By doing this, we, as a nation, will be more prosperous."

For more information, visit Justin Mosley's Facebook page, @JustinForJustice, or follow him on Twitter, @JustinForJP2.



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Abbott considers special election to replace Farenthold



Deciding Farenthold's replacement could be significant in which party controls Congress after November

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Gov. Greg Abbott earlier this month asked Attorney General Ken Paxton if Abbott could legally use his emergency powers to schedule an election to replace

former U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold, who resigned from office on April 11 after it was revealed he paid a settlement for sexual harassment charges with taxpayer money.

Farenthold, R-Corpus Christi, represented 13 South Texas counties covered by a disaster declaration as a result of Hurricane Harvey.

Special elections in Texas may be held only on uniform election days, and must be 36 to 50 days from the date the election is called. The only uniform date left is Nov. 6 — Election Day. In cases of emergency, the governor is authorized to order a special election before the uniform date.

"It is impossible to order an election, al-

low candidates to file, print ballots, mail them in accordance with federal law and hold an emergency election within the statutorily prescribed 50-day window," Abbott wrote to Paxton in a letter asking for the attorney general to issue a legal opinion.

In addition, if there's a run-off, a 70-day period between the primary and the election is required by state law.

"I am concerned that the combination of state and federal law makes it practically impossible to hold an emergency special election to



Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, is seen during a dinner at the House and Senate Republican retreat on Jan. 31. (Photo By Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call, via AP Images)

replace [Farenthold] before the end of September," Abbott wrote.

Under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the governor may "suspend certain statutory provisions if strict compliance with those provisions would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster," Abbott noted, asking Paxton to weigh in on whether he could suspend some of the rules in order to replace Farenthold as quickly as possible.

Paxton agreed this week, writing, "If the

governor determines the situation in Congressional District 27 constitutes an emergency warranting a special election [before Nov. 6], a court would likely conclude that section 41.0011 of the Election Code authorizes calling an expedited special election to fill the vacancy in that district."

Because Farenthold had already announced he wouldn't seek re-election, both Democrats and Republicans have lined up to replace him. Two Republicans and two Democrats are in runoffs to represent their parties in the November election. To fill the seat earlier through the end of the current term, the primary and runoff process would probably include, but not be limited to, those four candidates.

Farenthold, a Tea Party caucus member, is the step-grandson of former state Rep. Sissy Farenthold, who ran for governor twice and whose name was placed in nomination for vice president at the Democratic National Convention in 1972.

Blake Farenthold first came to office in 2011 after defeating 14-term Democratic Rep. Solomon Ortiz by less than 1 percent of the vote. After his election, the district was gerrymandered to lean more heavily Republican, but not so heavily that the district couldn't swing back.

The Republicans in the race are both running as fiscal conservatives at a time when Corpus Christi needs federal financial help to rebuild its port, severely damaged during Hurricane Harvey last August.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Lee Daugherty said he believes a Democrat can win the race.

"I'm compassionate about the fact people affected by Hurricane Harvey need representation," Daugherty said. "But emergency funds have already been set aside."

He saw irony in the call for an emergency election from Republicans.

"These fiscal conservatives are proving to be anything but," Daugherty said.

He pointed out that it would cost millions of dollars to hold an election that will give the district representation for just a few months at most.

"This throws a wrench into the entire democratic process," he said. "Candidates would have to file by next week."

Daugherty also said a special election would disadvantage Democrats, who usually gather signatures to enter the race. Republicans pay a filing fee more often than collecting signatures. Despite that, Daugherty pointed out that Democrats have won most special elections since Trump's election and believes the Democrat in this race has a chance to swing another seat to the blue column. ■

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Sounds and sand and going back to a time and place of comfort and calm

The sound of cars driving over expansion joints in a bridge — the distinctive, almost train like, “clack-clack” sound as the cars pass overhead — takes me instantly back to some of my favorite childhood memories. It was the summers of 1971 and ’72; I was a Sea Scout (the Sea Scout Base is still in the same place today, under the 2nd Street bridge, near “Mother’s Beach,” though it wasn’t called that back then) in Long Beach, Calif.

The training I received in the Sea Scouts served me well. I learned knot-tying, sailing, water rescue, how to empty a swamped canoe in deep water and climb back into it, plus a whole lot more. Growing up just a couple of miles from the Pacific Ocean, that was all handy stuff.

What I remember most was just how carefree I felt then. The summer air was cool under the bridge; the feel of sand under my feet. (I was always barefoot, and having sand under my feet was as familiar and comfortable to me as breathing.)



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

Alamitos Bay was salt water, as it was affected by the tides from the Pacific. It was also what people in the South would call “cold” (mid 50s to mid 60s). But I didn’t know any different, so to me, that’s just what water felt like.

And I wanted to be in it or sailing on it.

Some of my most powerful memories of my early teen years are from my time spent under and around that 2nd Street bridge — walking barefoot through the boat, the coolness of the salt air and breeze from the water, the smell of fiberglass resin and lubricants for marine equipment. There was a small speaker that played music from the most popular bands, like The Carpenters, America or Crosby, Stills and Nash.

And then there was the sound of the cars driving over the bridge above — clack-clack, clack-clack — in the background.

One of the first things we had to do in the Sea Scouts was prove we could swim. So on

day one, first thing in the morning, we had to run out into the calm waters of the bay and swim 400 yards down to what is now known as “Mother’s Beach.”

At the far end of the bay, to the north, was Marine Stadium. I used to watch the drag boats there — boats with names like “Mr Ed” or “Panic Mouse.” The guys who drove these incredible machines were my early heroes.

Another boat that captured my imagination was the Robert Fortune. It was a work boat, maybe 35-40 feet long, with an open bed like a pickup truck. The name “Robert Fortune” was stenciled across the transom.

I never saw it going more than about 3 to 5 mph. It was taking guys and equipment out to the Oil Islands off the coast of Long Beach. I recall seeing this boat leave and then return later in the day.

Robert Fortune was a Scottish botanist, best known for stealing tea plants from China on behalf of the British East India Company. He died on April 13, 1880.

I don’t know why the name stuck, but it did. Maybe just seeing it so often burned it into my memory.

The Oil Islands were drilling platforms in

Long Beach Harbor disguised to look like buildings, with palm trees and attractive lighting. They were pretty, but the facade hid the oil drilling equipment.

The islands also had names; Grissom, White and Chaffee. They were named for the astronauts who perished in the Apollo 1 fire on the launch pad at NASA in 1967.

I guess there are a lot of reasons why this time in my life was so special. Mostly though, it was about a place where there weren't any distractions. My body was beginning to do things that were the last thing I wanted, and here was a place I could just be me.

The ocean doesn't judge. Nobody was walking around glued to a cell phone (they didn't even exist). It was just sailing, swimming and learning about how to use the wind to your advantage and what to do when things went wrong.

Using headwinds to help you get where you want to go became a valuable metaphorical lesson for dealing with the headwinds to come in the years ahead.

I miss those days. But whenever I step foot on a beach and feel the sand wrap

around my toes, whenever I hear the sound of cars going over a bridge, especially the echo-y sounds heard from underneath the bridge or when the air is cool and the breeze is light, I get to go back there, to a simpler time, if only for a minute. ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.



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Diary of a Chamberlain

In advance of a tribute at this weekend's USA Film Festival, actor Richard Chamberlain reminisces about his life as a matinee idol and coming out late in life

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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From the 1960s through the '80s, no heartthrob throbbed more heartily than Richard Chamberlain. His exotic, smoldering, but still-boyish looks made him probably the last true matinee idol of the old studio system. Drop-dead handsome from the get-go, he built from his stint as *Dr. Kildare* — TV's sexiest doctor until McSteamy — to movies like *The Slipper and the Rose*, in which he played, appropriately, Cinderella's Prince Charming.

But it was later in his television career that Chamberlain cemented his legend: As the King of the Miniseries (netting four Emmy nominations and a fistful of

Golden Globes along the way). His presence helped invent the genre's juggernaut identity, with *The Count of Monte-Cristo*, *The Thorn Birds*, *Shogun*, *Centennial* and *Wallenberg*; he was even the first-ever Jason Bourne. But while he excelled in many swashbuckling, flamboyant genres (Aramis in *The Three Musketeers*; the villain of *The Towering Inferno*), he stretched his talents in lesser-scene classic works as well (Tchaikovsky in Ken Russell's *The Music Lovers*, Octavius in *Julius Caesar*, as well as many stage roles, including Henry Higgins in the musical *My Fair Lady*). He wasn't just a pretty boy, but an actor of enviable chops.

Perhaps his greatest performance, though, was one he successfully assayed for decades: Hiding the fact he was gay from the public. He came out at age 69, long after his leading man days were behind him, but benefited yet again, enjoying another minor career renaissance playing campy character parts with appearances on *Will & Grace*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Brothers & Sisters*, *Twin Peaks: The Return*

and *I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry*.

Another role in which he takes substantial pride was in the cult classic *The Last Wave*, playing a lawyer (as he has in his film debut, *Twilight of Honor*) representing aborigines in a murder trial. It was one of Peter Weir's first films, a seminal turning point in the Australian New Wave Cinema of the 1970s.

Now 84, Chamberlain will be in Dallas this weekend for a screening of *The Last Wave* at the **USA Film Festival** (see sidebar, Page 17), which continues through Sunday. We chatted with Chamberlain in advance of his visit to learn about being at the fore of Australian cinema, being gay in the days of the studios and his favorite role. (P.S. You won't guess what it is.) ■

Dallas Voice: *The Last Wave* was one of the seminal films of the Australian New Wave, and you were pretty much at the forefront of that movement. What memories do you have of it? They made some wonderful films [in that period]. And it was thrilling working with the crew, because they were new at it

and intensely interested in what they were doing — it was all novel for them — but they knew they were good. Peter [Weir, the director] gave you the impression of being an English choirboy with a sweet manner, but he was so deeply connected to the mysteries of the Aboriginal people.

The ending is famously ambiguous. Do you have an idea of what you think it means? It actually changed every now and then [during editing]. But I see it as a kind of spiritual cleansing that the Aborigines had foretold, having also foretold the general corruption of everything ... which I think we could use right now, but never mind.

Several years later you went back to Australia for *The Thorn Birds*. Yes, that really caught people's imagination, didn't it? But we shot 90 percent of it in Simi Valley and around Los Angeles, with two weeks in Kauai. We didn't go to Australia!

Your career has actually been an interesting mixture of men in suits and costume dramas. Did you have a preference between contemporary and fantasy roles? My objective was always to do something new, something different, and expand my horizons. I loved the costumes and the wigs and swordplay because it was just fun! *The Man in the Iron Mask*, which I thought was a wonderful good show, [posited] a very interesting dilemma [involving twins, which he played]. And I got to play with such wonderful people — Ralph Richardson and Vivien Merchant and Louis Jourdan... my goodness!

You also starred opposite Katharine Hepburn fairly early in your career, in *The Madwoman of Chaillot*... I did! She's a tornado, but so wonderful to work with such a total pro. Once we were setting up a shot in an outdoor park area, and I had my head in her lap for lighting. [It took a while], and she was interested in my hair, eventually worked her way down to my ear and said, "You have little pig ears like mine — small and close to the head. It means we're selfish."

So you got called out by Hepburn! Did you take it as a compliment? I did! I mean she was right. And being tempered by coming from her....

The first movie I ever saw you in when I was a kid was *The Towering Inferno*. You were totally hateable! It was wonderful fun to make that film, because so much of it was shot in that ballroom and all the actors were hanging out there — Steve McQueen, Paul Newman, Fred Astaire, Jennifer Jones, William Holden.... I got to listen into a lot of conversations. But the part I played? He was a pretty terrible person. He caused the entire fire!

Do you have a favorite performance of your own? My favorite role of all time, hands down, was Thomas Mendip in Christopher Fry's play *The Lady's Not for Burning*, which we did in Chichester, England and then a version for PBS.

I'm projecting, but I would have expected you to say *Shogun*. I'm probably more proud of it than anything I have ever done. And the book was marvelous! But it was beastly hard work. I was in practically every scene and my character had *lots* of exposition. But it was thrilling to spend six and half months in Japan and work with Toshiro Mifune and all those British actors.

You did the original miniseries version of *The Bourne Identity*.... I thought Matt Damon was a wonderful Bourne, but they only had a few hours to tell that complex story, which we had more time to tell. And Jaclyn Smith was great in it.

You came out late in life, but how comfortable were you being gay when you were younger, at least among your friends? I

was totally open with my friends and the business itself caught on very early, but the press left me alone. The press was extremely careful in those days unless you really slipped up, and it was very important to me not to slip up, because I was a romantic leading man.

Do you still enjoy acting? I'm not really acting any more. The last play I did, *Sticks & Bones*, was about three years ago — that was my swan song. The last film I did was a five-part horror film made by five different directors called *Nightmare Cinema* [that has yet to be released]. I play a plastic surgeon [who disfigures his patients].

So that role puts the "kill" in Dr. Kildare? Yes! Use that! Pretend I said it.

Do you attend film festivals much? I avoid big public events anymore — I have less fun at them than when I was younger. That said, I am looking forward to [coming to the USA Film Festival]. Everybody I have talked to says [Texans] are the most amazingly charming and friendly people.

What to see at USAFF



Richard Chamberlain isn't the only person (or movie!) appearing at the USA Film Festival (which runs through Sunday) with ties to the gay community. In addition to the already-screened opening night films *Disobedience* and *We the Animals*, about a third of this year's slate of shorts, documentaries, features and programming boast some gay interest. Here's a primer on what to look for this weekend (all screenings at Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station).

FRIDAY

Larger Than Life: The Kevyn Aucoin Story. Aucoin grew up in Louisiana where it was hard being a gay kid, but when he arrived in New York City, he was in his element, becoming the most in-demand makeup artist for much of the 1980s and '90s, though he died mysteriously at the height of his fame. This documentary explores his life and legacy. 7 p.m.

Texas Shorts Program. Contains gay-interest short films with a Texas tie. 9 p.m.

Animated Short Program. Contains

gay-interest cartoons. 9 p.m. Free.

Narrative Short Program. Contains gay-interest short films. 9:30 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY

The Last Wave/Salute to Richard Chamberlain. See feature story, Page 16. 7 p.m.

A Kid Like Jake. Native Texan (and out Emmy winner) Jim Parsons and Claire Danes star as the parents of a gender-non-conforming preschooler in an adaptation of out writer Daniel Pearle's play; Pearle will be in attendance. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

That Way Madness Lies... Queer filmmaker Sandra Luckow (*Belly Talkers*) shows the descent into mental illness by turning the camera on her own brother. 4 p.m.

The Gospel According to Andre. Flamboyant fashion guru Andre Leon Talley, an indelible figure in the *Vogue* documentary *The September Issue*, gets his own full-length treatment as one of the most influential tastemakers of his generation. 7 p.m.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Let the race begin!

Women's films ('Mamma Mia,' 'Oceans 8') and a proliferation of superheroes ('Deadpool,' 'Ant Man') signal the summer season



Alden Ehrenreich as 'Solo.'

.ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The summer movie season kicks off earlier and earlier each year; this week, it arrives in a kind of one-two punch: First, the USA Film Festival returns for its 48th year (see story Page 16); and second, *Avengers: Infinity War* moved into April with its opening (see review, Page 20), meaning even May is no longer the launching pad for popcorn movies. And when we say popcorn, we mean a lot of sequels, prequels, remakes and franchises. Like, *lots*.

So, ahead of USA fest and the Dallas International Film Festival, which begins

its weeklong run next week, here are some highlights to look forward to. (Opening dates are subject to change.)

APRIL 27

Disobedience. Sebastian Lelio, Oscar winner for this year's trans drama *A Fantastic Woman*, returns to exploring sexuality in this story of a woman shunned years earlier for her attraction to a school friend. Rachel Weisz and Rachel McAdams star.

Avengers: Infinity War. See review, Page 20.

MAY
4

Tully. A new comedy reuniting Charlize Theron with director Jason Reitman and Diablo Cody (*Young Adult*). It might be the first of the summer's tentpoles centered around strong female characters.

11

Life of the Party. Melissa McCarthy teams with her real-life husband, director Ben Falcone, for this comedy (surprise!) about a divorcee who heads back to college.

The Seagull. Out stage and film director Michael Mayer directs this adaptation of the Chekhov classic starring Saoirse Ronan (*Lady Bird*), Elisabeth Moss (*The Handmaid's Tale*) and Annette Bening.

18

Deadpool 2. The sequel to the self-referential comic book series with Ryan Reynolds is back with more tongue-in-cheek, very adult action.

Book Club. Oscar winners Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda and Mary Steenburgen, and Candice Bergen, play women whose lives get upended when they read *50 Shades of Grey*.

25

Solo: A Star Wars Story. Ron Howard took over directing this outside-the-series

space opera prequel, with Alden Ehrenreich as Han and Childish Gambino himself, Donald Glover, as a young Lando.

JUNE
8

Hereditary. A hit at last month's SXSW Film Fest, this horror thriller stars Toni Collette, Gabriel Byrne and Ann Dowd.

Ocean's 8. Another entry in the heist series, this time featuring all women, led by Sandra Bullock and Cate Blanchett.

15

The Incredibles 2. It's been more than a decade since Brad Bird's retro deconstruction of the superhero genre amazed audiences, and the whole cast is back for a new Pixar adventure. We can't wait.

Westwood: Punk, Icon, Activist. A documentary about the radical fashion designer Vivien Westwood.

22

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom. Chris Pratt and company are back for the sequel-to-the-series-sequel about an amusement park overrun by dinosaurs.

29

Sicario 2: Soldado. Sequel to the acclaimed drug smuggling hit, once again



'Mamma Mia' returns.

■ RACE Page 24



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Infinite joust

Exhaustingly entertaining, 'Avengers: Infinity War' unleashes hell

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Believe it or not, the thing we now know as the Marvel Cinematic Universe began just 10 years ago *this week*. But that decade has produced three Iron Mans, three Cappies, three Thors, two Guardianses, two Avengerses assorted Spiders, Ants, Doctors, Hulks and some no-account named Black Panther — in toto, by the end of this summer, we will have been bestowed with 20 MCU features... and that's not counting X-Men, Deadpool and a series of aborted Fantastic Fours and webslingers. And when you keep adding heroes, sidekicks and villains to this universe, your world — and your posters, and your above-the-line budget — gets unwieldy.

I counted 31 returning “name” actors spread across the two hour and 40 minutes run time of *Avengers: Infinity War*, from blink-and-you'll-miss-'em cameos by Gwyneth Paltrow (Pepper Potts), Benicio del Toro (The Collector) and General Ross (William Hurt) to scenery-chewing heroics

by the usual slate of Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans and company. And eventually it dawns on you: That's a lot of dialogue to divide, plot to rest upon, action to parcel out and egos to massage. *Game of Thrones* juggles less over 10 hours a season. Can't be done.

But directing brothers Anthony and Joe Russo done done it. Well, almost.

They begin with a cold open that requires some familiarity, then instantly kill off — kill! — two major recurring characters; a third will fall late in Act 2 in the film's mostly cloyingly sentimental yet unbelievable twist; and they aren't finished then, either. Superhero movies have annoyed me for years in their obsession to “raise the stakes” to ridiculous proportions (turning the mission more manageable in *Black Panther* was one thing that contributed so powerfully to its wide appeal). Well, *Infinity War* puts them all to shame: No less than the survival of half the living organisms in the galaxy depends on the outcome.

If you can't imagine a villain whose goal is trillions of deaths, well, you see the

principal failing of the movie: The motivation and endgame of its primary adversary Thanos (Josh Brolin). The second major failing is parsing how a superhero whose skill is moist spider silk competes with the testosterone-fueled id of a Hulk in subduing a god (at least they canned Hawkeye for this one, a hero whose skill-set translates better to the Summer Olympics than world domination). But get beyond those quibbles — you'll have to if you want to approach anything resembling sanity. Accept, instead, the hyperbolic conceits of the genre and enjoy the ride.

Because the ride is darned enjoyable. The Russos imbue this single film (a closely-related follow-up arrives this time next year) with the balletic skills of a juggler. Although the main plot is pretty linear... and *The Lord of the Rings* similarities are unmistakable: stop Thanos from acquiring all six infinity stones that hold the power of the universe (Marvel equivalents to the rings of Tolkein), or he will finger-snap most of us into non-existence. Factions are valued over saving the cosmos. Twice. But

keeping all those balls in the air? That's the impressive trick. Now, catching them when they land...

The Russos thread the needle by taking franchises like *Guardians*, *Iron Man* and *Doctor Strange* — all of which have entirely different tones, styles, looks and ethos — and delivering a unified movie that does justice to them all. (Biggest takeaway: The Guardians are a bunch of ill-mannered dicks who always screw up.) There are many moments that don't make sense, but virtually none that don't sweep you away.

In the wake of the cultural phenomenon that was *Black Panther*, *Infinity War* could hardly expect to set the bar higher than, or even equal to, its hype. The *Captain America* series, *Panther*, *Iron Man* and *Doc S* are all better movies, but they didn't have to play at this level. And when a key battle sees four female superheroes unite to save one of their own against an evil woman, you know that comics, the bastion of male empowerment fantasy, has not only acknowledged that Black Lives Matter, but that the #MeToo generation can stand up for itself. We don't need Hillary; we have Scarlett. ■

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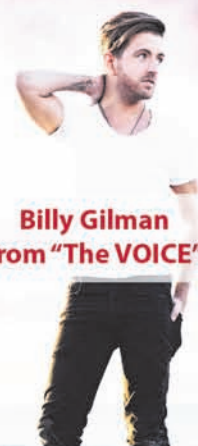
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The do-over

KDT's amazing 'Pompeii' looks to the past to make way for the future



The members of a Vaudeville troupe act out the tragedy of 'Pompeii,' with echoes in the present day.

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The operators manning the Mount Olympus switchboard are gum-smacking dames from a Howard Hawks screwball comedy. "How may I direct your pray-yuh?" they drawl in Brooklynese. They are quickly replaced by two clowns, performing as if in a silent film, pulling faces and fooling around in broad strokes. Then a man in a straw boater and woman dressed for a box social sing a forgettable ditty about love (though the lyrics are more subversion than the Jeanette MacDonald-Nelson Eddy operetta they are clearly satirizing). All the while, an active volcano rumbles and burps six miles away, broadcasting the cataclysm about to happen. Nero fiddled while Rome burned; a decade later, Pompeians put on a Vaudeville.

And two millennia later, we haven't wised up much.

Pompeii!!, an original world premiere music hall cabaret from Cameron Cobb, Michael Federico and Max Hartman now having a short run at Kitchen Dog Theater, puts a troop of third-rate itinerant performers circa 1930 in a goofily historical variety show. Rather than doing Shakespeare or high-kicking chorines, they are telling the story of Pompeii, a Roman city vanquished in 79 A.D. by an eruption so brutal it boiled the residents' brains inside their skulls and swept a thriving culture into oblivion. What could they have done to stop it? Probably nothing. But they didn't even try.

"I appreciate your ability to substitute

attitude for reason," one character nods, sounding suspiciously like a modern-day climate change denier.

That's hardly the only cognate the show draws from the past to today (our current EPA chief wants to add a bible verse to the agency's mission, replacing science with faith). A black man, a woman and an Irishman are given shit jobs (literally) at pennies on the dollar, but told by The Man how lucky

they are to live during a booming economy; prayers only seem to come when people have selfish needs... and too late; demagoguery leads to self-fulfilling prophecy.

All of this is overseen by a demonic-looking ringmaster named Sammy Mulligan (Hartman), who's sardonic and cynical in the tradition of the Master of Ceremonies from *Cabaret* or The Engineer from *Miss Saigon*: He snipes at his bandmates, especially his sweet-natured brother (Ian Ferguson), laughing at mankind's failure to correct its mistakes (his name means "do-over" in golfing, an irony compounded because we seem to make the same decisions again and again). The message of the piece (don't worry, it doesn't beat you over the head with it) is, "Don't just sit there — do something!"

The structure magpies its style. It's similar to another

Federico-penned musical, *On the Eve*, in its circusy atmosphere are unexpectedly profound ending, not unlike *Chicago* or *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* as filtered through Monty Python.

Some bits stand out: A perfectly awkward standup routine (painfully, brilliantly performed by Parker Gray); a drunken magic act stumbled through by Jeff Swearingin; the gospel-tinged delivery of songs led by Dennis Raveneau. But it's the cumulative effect, glued together with a hummable score with smart lyrics, that lingers.

I suspect the creators of *Pompeii* (Cameron Cobb also directs) would appreciate cheeky one-liners in praise — "A Herculeaneum effort!" "It's pyro-fan-clastic!" — but without punning, it's entirely proper to say you should see *Pompeii* simply because it's a blast.

POMPEII!!

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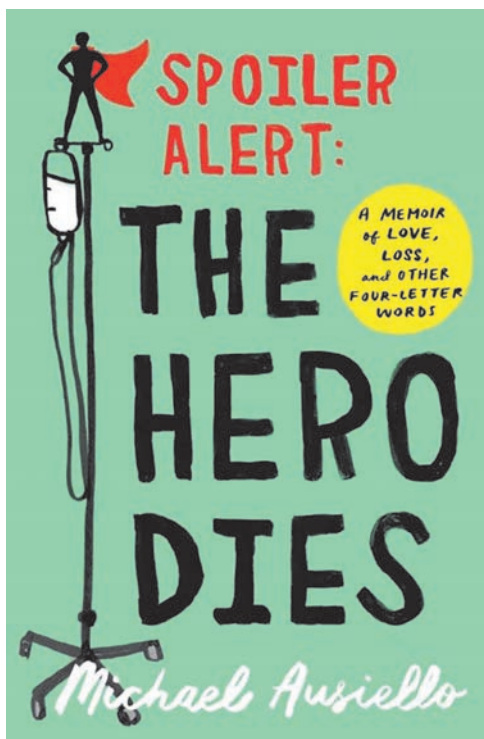
Death becomes him

Memoir of loss and love packs a punch

Spoiler Alert: The Hero Dies by Michael Ausiello (Atria 2017) \$26; 320 pp.

When Michael Ausiello spotted Christopher “Kit” Cowan at a New York event for gay athletes, it was lust at first sight. At six-foot-something tall, bespectacled Kit was geeky-sexy — just Ausiello’s type and, although they kissed and kissed some more that night, their first date was near-disastrous.

They were different in so many ways: aesthetics, family, childhoods and personalities. Ausiello thought Kit had amazing style; Kit could barely get past Ausiello’s Smurf collection. As time passed, they told one another “olive juice” (which looks like “I love you” when whispered), and adopted a cat, endearing nicknames, and



couples-language. Kit helped Ausiello overcome his bullied past; Ausiello learned not to wake Kit too early. They moved in together, conquered relationship crises, moved out together, and sought counseling.

They wanted things to work. This was for the long-term but, just over a decade

into their relationship, there were more challenges to weather: having endured bowel problems for some time, Kit was diagnosed with a fist-sized, cancerous invader in his rectum, yet there was hope. They’d heard neuroendocrine tumors were rare, but responded to treatment.

Their third second-opinion doctor told them otherwise: Kit had a year to live.

How do you advocate for an ailing loved one? Ausiello, a writer and TV critic who’d lost his beloved mother to cancer, learned to be fierce on Kit’s behalf. How do you make every minute count? After being told he was going to die, Kit married Ausiello in a city hall ceremony that came perilously close to not happening. It was followed by a memorable honeymoon, and chemotherapy. How do you watch someone you love suffer? How do you say goodbye?

Of course, you know how this book ends. It’s right there in the title, so you’re probably not surprised. The first thing you’ll want to know, though — especially if you’re prone to cry — is that *Spoiler Alert* is not a book that will leave you howling. Ausiello jumps right in with humor on page one of his story — a sassy, snarky kind of funny that’s endearing because it’s not mean-spirited — and that carries



throughout.

That’s not to mitigate the sadness or seriousness of what happens here, however. The humor sometimes feels thin, as though Ausiello is protecting his readers from the full brunt of the horror of watching someone fade away. There’s an attempt at lighthearted at that point but you’ll see through it, and know better.

In his last pages, gift-like, Ausiello leaves readers with a perfect movie image despite that *Spoiler Alert: The Hero Dies* lives up to its title. Yes, you will cry. No, you shouldn’t pass on it. And that’s a wrap. ■

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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KNOW YOUR STATUS



The women take over for 'Oceans's 8.'

■ **RACE** From Page 19

with Oscar winner Benicio Del Toro (but a new director on hand).

Valley Girl. A musical remake of the 1983 cult classic.

JULY

6

Ant-Man and the Wasp. This is a superhero-heavy summer — dare we call it Marvel-ous? — with Paul Rudd back for his second solo outing as the mighty miniature man.

Sorry to Bother You. While Donald Glover is off in a galaxy far, far away, his Atlanta co-star Lakeith Stanfield headlines his own film, a sci-fi comedy about a magical key to success.

Whitney. A documentary that looks in depth at the life and legacy of the iconic pop superstar.

13

Skyscraper. The Rock's third actioner since Christmas is yet another disaster film, this time set in a Hong Kong highrise beset by terrorists.

McQueen. Just as Vivien Westwood gets a June doc, tragic gay fashion icon Alexander McQueen gets his own.

20

Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again! Cher returns to feature films, once again alongside Meryl Streep (*Silkwood*), in this sequel to the musical based on the songs of ABBA.

27

Mission: Impossible — Fallout. Tom Cruise's latest entry in the *M:I* series — the first one so far to repeat a director (Christopher McQuarrie).

AUGUST

3

The Wife. Jane Anderson wrote this drama, which is generating a lot of early Oscar buzz for star Glenn Close, who plays the spouse of a Nobel laureate who begins to question her life choices.

17

Captive State. Rupert Wyatt (*Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*) directs this sci-fi film about the aftermath of an extra-terrestrial occupation.

Crazy Rich Asians. Kevin Kwan's raved about novel gets its big-screen adaptation as a wedding reveals secrets and wealth among second-generation Asians.

24

Slender Man. The film version of the internet sensation about a spooky supernatural character who stalks children finally arrives in theaters.

31

Kin. James Franco has become persona non grata in recent months, so his latest drama, about an ex-con on the run, gets a late-summer release.

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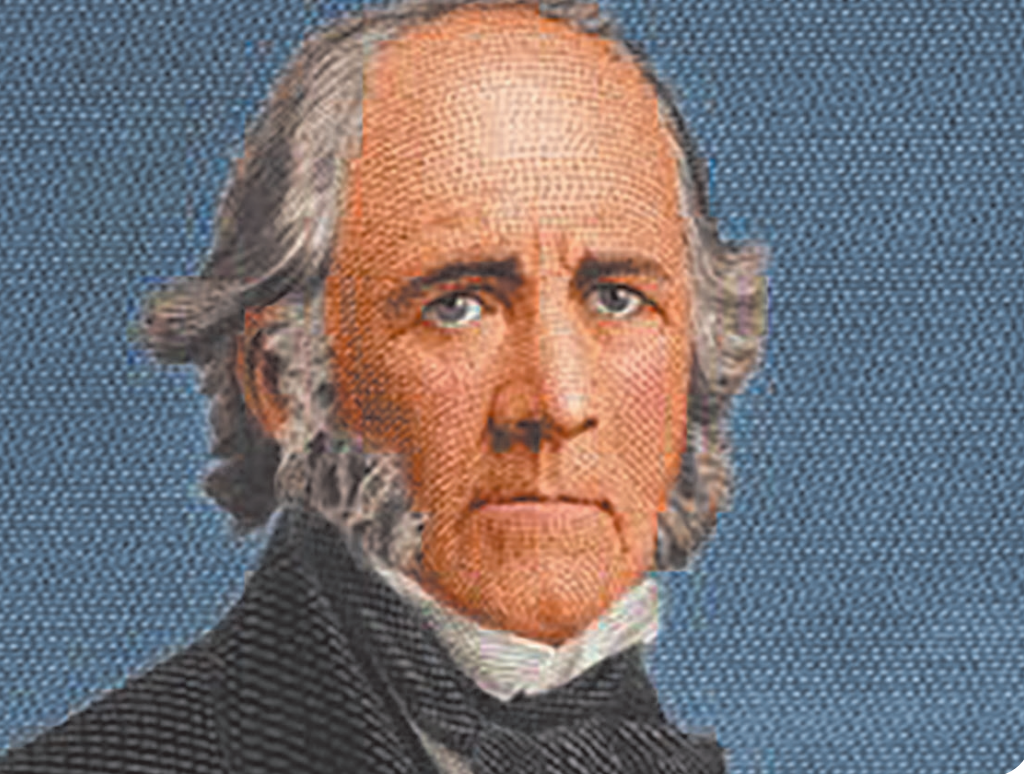
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Friday 04.27 —
Sunday 05.13DTC premieres
'Trials of Sam Houston'

Forget about Alexander Hamilton — for pure drama, Sam Houston was da bomb. He was governor of both Tennessee and Texas, the hero of the Battle of San Jacinto, namesake for a metropolis ... and a participant in two controversial trials. Aaron Loeb has dramatized those events for a world premiere play, *The Trials of Sam Houston*, being debuted by Dallas Theater Center. The official opening is April 27. Kevin Moriarty directs.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.



Wednesday 05.02

Robert Moore to lecture on his second
career as a photographer

To those around the Dallas Voice offices, we know Robert Moore as one of the founders of our company, and until a few years ago, its owner. But many people will probably be familiar with his second career as an award-winning photographer (including his memorable shot of a police officer under sniper fire, pictured). But his international travels have allowed him to shoot many more varied subjects and locales, many in Asia. Moore will conduct a lecture via the Dallas Center for Photography this week about his photographic trajectory and behind-the-scenes details of his journey behind the lens.

DEETS: Dallas Center for Photography, 4756 Aligiers. 7–9 p.m. \$5.
DallasCenterForPhotography.com.



Friday 04.27 — Sunday 05.06

Fort Worth Opera's festival returns with 3 diverse programs

This is the first time the Fort Worth Opera Festival has been undertaken by its newish general director, Tuomas Hiltunen, and the slate of three shows indicates an attempt to diversify its repertoire. The festival kicks off with Piazzolla's surrealistic, 90-minute Spanish-language opera *María de Buenos Aires*, followed by Donizetti's comic masterpiece *Don Pasquale*, and then a unique pairing of short operas about relationships, presented under the banner Brief Encounters. There's literally something for everyone in the lineup, with multiple performances of each.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. For complete schedule and tickets, visit FWOpera.org.

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calendar highlights



A trio of three queer female photographers — Cindy Higby, Tiffany Brown and Robyn North — shows their work for one-day only at Deep Ellum's Harlowe MXM for the Photography Pop-Up Show Sunday.

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. Through May 6. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Empathitrax. The local premiere of a comedy about relationships, mental health and the drug society. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. *Final weekend.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.

Les Miserables. Do you hear the people sing? Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. April 24–May 7. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Murder Ballad. This sexy rock musical was on Off-Broadway hit. Margo Jones Theatre, 1121 First Ave. inside Fair Park. April 27–May 12. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

Pompell!!!. 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. Through May 6. KitchenDogTheater.org.

The Trials of Sam Houston. The legendary Texans 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. Through May 13. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

FILM

USA Film Festival. The 48th annual local film fest continues through Sunday, with numerous films with queer content. All screenings at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station. *See story, Page 16.* For a complete schedule and tickets, visit USAFilmFestival.com.

OPERA

Fort Worth Opera Festival. The company's festival opens with *Maria de Buenos Aires*, as well as Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and the program Brief Encounters. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through April 6. FWOpera.org.

Don Giovanni. Mozart's dark classic about the lothario and his sinful lifestyle. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Sunday. DallasOpera.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.

ArtScape Fine Art and Craft Show. A juried exhibition of art and craftwork for sale and display at the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. April 28–29. DallasArboretum.org.

FINE ART

Beauty and Subjugation: From the Goss-Michael Collection. The Goss-Michael Foundation presents this new exhibition curated



from 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 Sunday. 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 04.27

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

SATURDAY 04.28

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.

SUNDAY 04.29

FILM ART
PUPS: The Pop-Up Photography Show. Three queer female photographers — Tiffany Brown, Robyn North and Cindy Higby — hold an open-to-the-public show of their photographic work in Deep Ellum. Harlowe MXM, 2823 Main St. 11 a.m.— 4 p.m.

TUESDAY 05.01

FILM
The Creature from the Black Lagoon. This year's best picture Oscar winner was inspired by this B-movie classic from the 1950s. 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.

CONCERTS

P!nk: Beautiful Trauma Tour. The diva performs for two nights. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 7:30 p.m. May 1–2.

WEDNESDAY 05.02

FINE ART
Oak Lawn Library Photography Show. Dallas Voice Executive Editor Arnold Wayne Jones is the featured artist at the monthly art show at the Oak Lawn Library, featuring more than a dozen prints of some of his award-winning photography. Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Through May 31.

COMMUNITY

First Wednesday Cedar Springs Wine Walk. Monthly stroll through the gayborhood. Pick up a wine glass for \$10 outside the Round-Up Saloon. 6–9 p.m.

THURSDAY 05.03

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.

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Cassie Nova

Cassie brings drag to the boonies

Hello, my lovelies. Over the many years I have done drag, I have been a bunch of peoples' "first." The first drag queen they saw. The first drag queen to grab Katy Perry's boob. Last week, I got to be a first for an entire college.

Every year, Jenna Skyy, myself and a few other performers go to SMU for their annual drag bingo. It is a lot of fun and there is always a great turnout. What's not to love? Drag numbers, bingo and prizes. So when we were contacted by another university, we jumped at the chance to take our fun little show on the road.

To be honest, I had never heard of Tarleton State University in Stephenville. But then, I haven't heard of a lot of things. I only recently learned that crating a human baby is frowned upon — who knew?

Tarleton is a two-hour drive south of Dallas down I-67. Road trip! I hadn't done one of those in years, so I was excited. I am lucky enough to get to perform in the Rose Room every weekend so I really don't need to travel, but I remember those days fondly when us drag queens would load up someone's crappy car and drive to Austin or Oklahoma for a \$50 booking. The struggle was real back then. So props to the girls that still do that.

Anyway, Jenna and I were chauffeured to Stephenville by my husband. We gabbed like teenage girls (or just a normal gay guy) the entire way, talking trash and shooting the shit — you know, normal stuff. When we exited off the highway and were about half a mile from the school, we noticed a big cemetery beside the road. I love cemeteries, they are like morbid museums with their statues and history. But then we noticed many, many Confederate flags on the graves and I was like, “Oh, shit! Where are we? Did we go back in time?”

In my experience, people fond of the Confederate flag are not usually fond of the everyday flag. I know I shouldn't use that word but it works well near the word flag, so shut up. I got a little tense, not sure what to expect. We parked and went inside the student center and the first thing I see is a Chick-fil-A. I was like FUUUCCCCCKKKK!

I live in my own little bubble. I work in the gayborhood and live in a little town that doesn't force or flaunt their beliefs on me. I know I am the oddball in Midlothian but rarely, if ever, do I feel like it.

So I went into the school ready to strike down any homo haters or Trumpeters. But I never had to. Every person we met was so nice. We were informed that our drag bingo was going to be the first event of its kind. They weren't even sure what to expect. They had posters with our faces on them everywhere and so I started to get excitedly nervous.

I asked how many people they were expecting. The adorable bisexual girl who hired us, Emily, was like, "Not sure." Hopefully at least 50, she said. She showed us to the dressing area and we got in drag. The performance room was right next door to us so we could hear the crowd growing.

I think at last count they had 212 people show up, all with great attitudes and open minds. We truly felt like rock stars. There was



one guy that seemed a little uncomfortable but I applauded him for being there in the first place before I told him to chill out — he wasn't cute enough for any of the gays to be after him. He didn't stay much longer. I think I hurt his feelings.

The whole experience was a very positive one. The students we met were awesome. It was a surprisingly diverse group of young people. When it was over we hung around for another 30 to 45 minutes just taking pictures. Like I said, we felt like rock stars. I hope it becomes an annual event like at SMU.

Jenna and I were a part of the very first drag *anything* at Tarleton State and I am proud of that. Hopefully we showed them that, not just drag queens but gays in general are just people. Fear us not! Well, a little fear is okay! We are like scary, over confident clowns in heels.

Now let's help some folks!

Hey Cassie, I'm a super fortunate millennial with an excellent job/income, house, partner and children (doggies). Lately I've been thinking about how to get engaged with the community — not just the gay community but also the community in general. I don't have the bandwidth to run for public office (which I totally would love to do), and I'm not religious (though I LOVE what Cathedral of Hope does for the community). What's your advice on how a successful gay millennial dude should plug in and get involved with social and civil rights in the community (part-time)? Thanks! Young and eager.

Dearest Y & E, Mutherfucker, ain't you eva heard of Google?

Just kidding. Kinda. What interests you for real? Volunteer to help get someone who aligns with your political views elected. Many of our political figures would love your help,

even part time. Is there someone you think needs a little boost? Like, let's say... Beto. Go help him get elected.

Do you like kids (humans)? They have a volunteer program at the Dallas Public Library. Dog kids? SPCA. Get a team together and do LifeWalk. It's a wonderful event that raises money for Prism Health North Texas and other AIDS service organizations.

The list goes on and on. You are talking the talk but will you walk the walk? Go volunteer, anywhere! Just do it. Thanks, Cassie

Dear Cassie, Will you be my drag mother?
Signed, (insert name here)

Dear whoever, Please choose one of the following answers. 1. No. 2. Who dis? New phone. 3. No No Mizz Nova no home. (as said by Consuela from *Family Guy*)

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



The weenie man on The Strip



Martini time at The Grapevine



Karaoke at Barbara's Pavillion



Time to smile at The Round-Up Saloon

Making the **SCENE** the week of **April 27-May 3:**

- **Alexandre's:** **Sandra Kaye** on Friday. **Bad Habits** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** at 10 p.m. and **New York State of Mind** at 11 p.m. on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **The Divine Miss Divas Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Wall of Food Show** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Texas Gay Rodeo Association Show** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Imperial Court Cookout** at 4 p.m. and **Show** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **23rd Anniversary Weekend**. **United Court Statewide Turnabout** show at 6 p.m. on Saturday. **United Court Match Game** from 6-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday. **Asia O'Hara** hosts a **RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10** watch party from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** **Comedy Night Open Mic** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Glow Party** with **DJ Joe Ross** begins at 9 p.m. on Saturday. \$7 advance and \$10 at the door.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **ManCandy** at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Droo** on Saturday. **Bella & Darla** at 3:30 p.m. followed by **Bad Habits** on Sunday. **Miss Golden Globe State and State at Large** at 6 p.m. on Sunday. \$5 admission.
- **The 515 Bar:** **Tap TV Trivia** from 8-10 p.m. on Thursday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Tommie Ross** on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **DJ Mateo** hosts **Trashy Tuesday**.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Texas State** benefit show with **Sapphire Tallar** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Dallas Woody's Sidebets Swimsuit Auction** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Zippers:** Sunday nights with **Nicole**.

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



Ruben and Josh at Barbara's Pavillion



Tickling the ivories at Barbara's Pavillion



Handsome men (above left) and more handsome men (above right) on The Strip



All smiles on The Strip

Lambda Legal Mixer at Taqueria la Ventana

Photos Courtesy of Paul Jentz





Above, below and at left: An awesome party for an awesome mom at Sue Ellen's



Making a "test run" in the gayborhood



Girls' night out at Barbara's Pavillion



Making the music sound good at The Round-Up



Getting the giggles at Barbara's Pavillion

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Undefinable Cynthia

Solution on Page 27

- Across
- 1 Express pleasure orally

5 Give the once-over in a gay bar

9 It may be grand, to Glenn Burke

13 Chaplin partner

14 Collette of *The Hours*

15 Forfeit

16 Just right

17 Very top

18 Cicero’s singular

19 Start of a quote that follows “I don’t define myself”

22 Queen toppers

23 Made a profit of, in Mauresmo’s sport?

24 Web info source

25 MBA subj.

26 More of the quote

31 By mouth

34 The Gay ‘90s, and others

35 Stone of *Easy A*

39 Revolution opponent

40 ___ in the hay

41 Bellow in the library

42 Homoerotic tail?

43 Two for Sue Wicks, once

45 AAA way

46 River of Gay Paree

48 Sponsorship

50 End of the quote

55 Responder to “Bite me!”?

56 Cruising

57 Black and white sandwich

59 With respect to

60 Went lickety-split

61 Began like Sheehan, with “off”

62 Precious stones

63 David ___ Pierce

64 To be, in Brest

12 Judy Garland’s “___ My Shadow”

20 Starch source

21 Event for George Frenn

27 Designer Wang

28 Aphrodite’s son

29 Result of four balls

30 Wight, for one

31 Miss among Cole Porter hits

32 Sitcom with Sara Gilbert

33 One way to walk in a Gay Pride March

36 Funny Cho

37 Marlon Brando, in *The Bounty*

38 Stein fillers

43 Reno action

44 Eastern philosophy

47 Bernstein’s staff members

49 Ham it up on Broadway

51 Diced meat

52 Catch sight of

53 Robert of *The Brady Bunch*

54 Go in only partway, at South Beach

55 Job for a rock band

58 It may be Sapphic
- Down

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